

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Message from Head of School

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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CALENDAR UPDATE

26 January - Grade 4 Camp
Parent Information Evening

27 January - Grade 5 Camp
Parent Information Evening

8-12 February - Chinese
New Year school holiday

22 February-25 February -
Book week

CALENDAR CHANGE

Please note that due to GWA hosting a teacher training conference for up to 700 educators in February, a pupil-free day has been declared for **Friday 26th February, 2016.**

We have been delighted to welcome back our returning students, as well as to introduce our many new families to the GWA (Singapore) community. The holidays have provided all with the chance to re-energise for what will be a hectic four weeks in the lead up to our Lunar New Year break.

A small team at GWA have begun a project looking at the role and function of data-driven education within our international school setting. The call to action across the industry states that data-driven education is the 'only' way to truly ensure that child-centered curriculum may be developed. Whilst there can be no doubt that our ability to gather and represent data has been greatly enhanced through technology, this call misses out a fundamental point. Regardless of device and/or application, it is the outstanding teacher who has and will remain a key resource in developing differentiated learning opportunities for students.

The human approach, when delivered through commitment and engagement, leads to the greatest development of children. An application may indicate an area to address, yet it is the empathetic teacher who knows how to coerce the student into taking action. It is the teacher who can monitor those many subtle non-verbal signs during a class to adapt the programme and better respond to the needs of children.

What our project team are likely develop is a series of methods and tools which enable us to align the best-practice of our teachers, with the tools and systems that allow us to reinforce learning, visually represent progress, and indicate a pathway for next steps in development. The teacher and technology will collaborate in planning, executing and communicating teaching and learning in an international school context.

We look forward to working internally and with our growing list of external partners in ensuring that the programme on offer at GWA remains highly personalised, delivered through engaged educators and utilises the data-based adaptive technologies that are at our disposal.

Should you wish to learn more about this topic, please review the below links:

- <http://www.edudemic.com/how-adaptive-learning-technology-is-being-used-in-online-courses/>
- <https://www.knewton.com>
- <http://www.govtech.com/education/How-Data-Driven-Learning-is-Changing-Education.html>

David Edwards
 Head of Education
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Message from the Deputy Principal

Welcome back to the start of a new year and a new semester! I hope that everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our new students and their families. I am excited to begin this new year of learning with each of your children, and anticipate a wonderful second half to the school year.

As the new semester has begun, it is a great time to reflect on a successful first semester. I would like to congratulate our students on all of their academic, sports, arts, and ECA successes this past semester.

By now, our students should have settled back into the routines of school life and are looking forward to the activities of the semester ahead. As we move forward, the academic team and support staff continue to focus daily on improving student achievement. This is a good time to sit with your child and reflect on their progress to date and help them to set achievement goals for the rest of the year.

I look forward to a productive and fun second semester!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Arnelle Grundhoefer- Deputy Principal/DP
Coordinator

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ECA and Sport Update

Sports Update

The 14U girls football team kicked off the second semester in style by recording an impressive victory against Chatsworth International School.

Going into the match the team was concerned that the three week break might affect their fitness and overall performance. However, their fears were quickly dispelled early in the match when they took a commanding lead and finished the game strongly. The final score of 10 - 0 was an accurate reflection of the difference between the two teams.

Two days later our 14U boys team took to the park for their first match since the break. Spurred on by the girls' crushing victory, the team were eager to replicate the performance. However, the German European International School would be no pushover. The Jaguars started the game strongly and were matching their highly skilled opponents in all departments. Their hard work paid off early in the first half when some good team play resulted in a goal.

Despite the early setback the visitors fought back and by half time were leading 2 - 1. After some inspirational words from Coach Gilmour, the team hit back strongly in the second half. Our boys levelled the scores mid way through the second half and the stage was set for an exciting finish. Not to be denied on home soil the Jaguar slotted the winning goal with 5 minutes remaining. The team defended strongly for the remainder of the match to secure a well deserved 3 - 2 win.

ECA Update

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and their families. I hope that your transition has been a smooth one.

I am aware that many of our new students are eager to become involved in our ECA programme. As we are currently approaching the end of our second ECA block, I ask that you remain patient for a few more weeks.

We are currently preparing new activities for the third and final ECA block for the year. Within the next two weeks registration information will be sent home, along with descriptions of the activities available. At this time all new students will be able to register for activities that will run until the end of May.

If you do have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Tony McMullen

Activities Coordinator

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EY/PY Curriculum Update

This semester promises to be another exciting and extremely busy one. Our Grade 5 students will be preparing for the Grade 5 PYP Exhibition, which is the culminating event for students in the Primary Years Programme. Our Experiential learning programme will be continuing, with various camps and over night experiences for specific grades in the primary school.

All classes are settling back into their routines quickly. The next few weeks would be a perfect time for students to be thinking about what they want to achieve by the end of the semester. Setting realistic and achievable goals and targets will help to focus students on what they want to achieve by the end of the school year.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
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MESSAGE FROM GWAPA

Happy New Year from your GWAPA! It has been nice to see familiar faces as well as new ones this week. We welcome all those parents new to the school, and we look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events. Please reach out to your GWAPA Committee if there is anything we can do to assist you in 2016.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

21 January - Coffee at Habitat Café - 11am-1pm
 223 Upper Thomson Road, Singapore 574355

27 January - Chinatown walk/Dim Sum lunch - 11am-2pm
 Yum Cha Chinatown - 20 Trengganu Street #02-01,
 Singapore 058479

Watch your email for additional details! If you have any questions, please feel free to email the GWAPA team at gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg

SY Curriculum Update

This week during the homeroom lessons all students in the SY have spent time evaluating the progress they have made towards the goals set in Quarter Two and planning targets to attain as we begin a new semester. The goals identified range from academic to social and emotional and all students have looked at determining interim milestones in order to track their progress and review and adjust their targets as the semester progresses.

The review of feedback given in the Semester One Reports is a key element to help students understand their strengths and look at areas to focus upon for future development. Should parents have any questions or concerns in regard to the report comments then do contact subject teachers for further clarification and discussion.

We look forward to building upon the achievements made in Semester One and to supporting the continual development of all of our students within the Middle Years Programme (MYP).

Should you require any further information about the MYP please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mark Gardner - MYP / IGCSE Curriculum Coordinator
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