



# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

## Message from Head of School

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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The end of the first quarter is an opportune time for reflection. As a school, we must constantly realign ourselves to our core mantras. The first, is that whilst what we do is important, the manner in which we do things is equally so.

Our children are safe, happy and engaged within a highly international community. They are being supported by professional, committed educators who are delivering consistently outstanding teaching and learning opportunities every day. Children have a wonderful learning environment, surrounding them with an exhaustive range of educational tools and resources. Most importantly, the culture of kindness in which children and teachers interact is having a positive influence on their levels of respect, understanding and empathy.

For parents, our open-door policy ensures that there is ready access to teachers and leadership. Staff are responsive to emails, enjoy face-to-face conversations, and are regularly on the phone providing updates and responding to queries. Our parent cafe continues to be a hub for parents to meet and, in some cases, use as a mobile office for extended periods. The parent engagement sessions once a month, the curriculum nights and most recently the family picnic, enable all parents to have regular access and conversations with all staff.

In quarter two, students, parents and staff will have additional opportunities to be engaged in GWA life. For students, the recent ECA survey has enabled families to provide input and feedback, enabling our ECA team to enhance offerings for season two. Parents will have the upcoming teacher-parent conferences to talk face-to-face about the development of each child. Staff will continue to have input into the GWA programme development and professional development opportunities available to each member of the GWA team.

We have so much to be very grateful for. From the school, our tone will remain incredibly positive and our doors always open to receive feedback, to discuss your children, and to support families, many of whom are away from their home country. From parents, we ask for constructive feedback, we look forward to your engagement, and to supporting the development of GWA. To achieve this, we recommend that as a parent community the informal communication channels which are being utilised are areas where positive, respectful interaction takes place.

Parents, students and staff are a combined unit, which must engage together with positivity, support and clarity of purpose. We have an opportunity to build an extraordinary school in Singapore and the year ahead is an important development time.

With the week of holidays upon us, please take the time to reflect with honesty, calmness and clarity, on the many extraordinary opportunities that are being provided to each person, in this our second year as a school. Reflect personally on what positive contributions you can make to the enhancement of the school and in spreading encouraging messages internally and externally.

With around 700 parents, 340 students and 110 staff, imagine what could be possible if we consistently praise the great GWA achievements, and work together with our collective experience, to develop the school further?

David Edwards - Head of Education

[d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg)



## Message from the Deputy Principal

Grade 10 students met with Secondary Years teachers to review the IB Diploma course options available for Grade 11 and to discuss specific content for each course. Students are required to take six core courses, three of which must be taken at the higher level and three at the standard level. Students are also required to take Theory of Knowledge (TOK), write a 4000 word Extended Essay (EE) and complete the requirements for Creativity, Action and Service (CAS).

Teachers also reviewed assessment requirements for their specific courses. The DP uses both internally and externally assessed components to measure student performance.

Internal assessment refers to work initially marked by the teacher and externally moderated by IB to ensure consistent standards are being met. Most of the internal assessments take place during year two of the programme. Some courses can choose to schedule their internal assessments in year one of the programme.

External assessments include final DP Exams. Diploma final exams take place during the month of May of the senior year.

Each of the six subject courses receives a grade from 1 to 7. Students can also be awarded up to 3 additional points for their combined results in Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. A minimum score of 24 is needed to receive the IB Diploma.

Universities around the world recognise that IB Diploma Programme graduates have completed rigorous coursework and assessments. Success in the IB Diploma Programme inspires confidence leading to success in college and beyond.

If you have any questions about the IB Diploma, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Arnelle Grundhoefer - Deputy Principal/DP  
Coordinator

[a.grundhoefer@gwa.ed.sg](mailto:a.grundhoefer@gwa.ed.sg)

## ECA and Sport Update

Fresh off their successful outing last week, the cross country team were excited at the prospect of repeating their performance. They felt better prepared and were ready to race. However, the rising PSI levels hindered their plans, and once again they were left inside and frustrated. Hopefully, the haze levels will continue to improve over the break, and when we return the runners will have their chance in the final race of the season on **October 28th**.

The cancellation of the cross country meet meant that it was left to our 9U girls basketball team to fly the flag for the Jaguars. They did not disappoint and turned in two stellar performances. In their first game against Avondale Grammar School, the Jaguars displayed great confidence from the opening tip and jumped out to an early lead. Through a combination of controlled offence and tough defence, GWAs lead was never threatened as they dribbled their way to a 12 - 9 victory.

It was more of the same in the girls' second game against International Community School. The Jaguars once again proved that they are serious championship contenders with a clinical display that resulted in an 11 - 7 victory. Having only lost one game this season the girls are looking forward to completing the regular season and then heading to the finals tournament on **October 31st**.

Registration for second season sports has now been completed. While there has been a strong interest shown in the swim team and the boys' 11&U and 14&U football teams, we are still struggling for numbers with girls football. It is a similar situation for the 16&U boys and girls basketball teams. At this stage it is highly unlikely that we will field 16&U girls basketball or an 11&U girls football team. However, we are hopeful that we can encourage some more girls to come out for the 14&U girls football and the 16&U boys basketball.

Tony McMullen - Activities Coordinator/PE Teacher  
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## MAP TESTING

A gentle reminder to follow-on from information provided in previous newsletters. MAP testing provides additional external information related to current skills development in reading and mathematics. The goal is for teachers to then use this data to differentiate and adjust instruction so that all students work at levels appropriate for each individual.

Secondary Years (Grades 6-10) testing will take place during the week commencing **October 26 - November 2**. Homeroom teachers will also be providing information in their respective weekly newsletters.

If you have any questions related to the MAP testing, please contact Ms. McKenzie Meline (MAP Coordinator)  
[m.meline@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:m.meline@gwa.edu.sg)



## Experiential Learning Programme

The Experiential Learning Programme (ELP) is a dynamic programme of active, hands on, and motivating learning experiences for students.

As we move into our second year at GWA, we look to develop our ELP to provide a greater range of experiences that support students making connections to the real world. These experiences could be abroad, in and around Singapore, and within the school environment. They will also provide opportunities for students to connect with different communities, local and overseas, in which they can provide a service to support others. ELP also fits with the GEMS Core Values of Global Citizenship, Growing by Learning and Leading through Innovation.

For this year we are currently planning trips abroad for Grades 7-10 to Thailand, Grade 6 to Australia and Grade 5 to Malaysia.

More information will be coming out to parents shortly about these experiences and we will be hosting information evenings in November, where more will be learnt about the different programmes on offer.

**Paul Rimmer** - ELP Coordinator/Grade 5 Teacher  
[p.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:p.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg)

## A message from GWA Parent Association



We had a great turn-out at the Family Picnic on Saturday. The kids were entertained with face painting, balloon sculptures and fun family games. It was a great opportunity to meet

and mingle with the other parents as well as teachers and the rest of the school community.



Another wonderful event is coming this November as we celebrate our cultures and diversity. Children, teachers and parent volunteers are now busy working on the preparations for the UN Celebrations **on November 5th**. It promises to be an even bigger and more festive event this year. Time to dust off your national costumes hanging in your closets!

If you're interested in helping-out you may email Ms. Lei at [r.lei@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:r.lei@gwa.edu.sg) or Judy at [j.lee@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.lee@gwa.edu.sg)

Looking forward to another great event with you!

**Cathy Lawrie**  
GWA-PA Event Coordinator  
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### Upcoming Calendar Events

16 October 2015 - Quarter One reports out

19 October - 23 October - School holiday

28 October - Halloween dress up day

29, 30 October - Parent Teacher conferences

3 November - Parent engagement morning

5 November - Uniting Nations

*Advance Notice: Please note that there will be an early school day for all students on 5th November. Buses will depart at 1.30pm, due to the UN Celebration preparations. The normal 1.30pm end time will also be in place for Friday 6th November.*



**GWA 'THINK PINK' FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**