

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

## Message from Head of School

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Reception:** +65 6808 7321

[info@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:info@gwa.edu.sg)

**Division Office:** +65 6808 7313

[n.white@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:n.white@gwa.edu.sg)

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

**Curriculum Office:**

**MYP/IGCSE:** +65 6808 7363

[m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg)

**PYP:** +65 6808 7362

[o.burke@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:o.burke@gwa.edu.sg)

**Bus Enquiries:**

Mr Tan (HDT): 9777 4838

[gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg](mailto:gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg)

GWA (Singapore) has achieved great success in our 21 months of existence and we should all be incredibly proud of the collaborative efforts that have brought the school to its current level. At our annual awards night last Friday, we came together for one final significant event to reflect on the year that has been, as well as to recognise student success across Sports, Arts and Academics.

In addition to the more than 100 academic awards distributed, five division and school-wide awards were presented. For these, students needed to display not only specific excellence, but also demonstrate a commitment to the four GWA (Singapore) core values and to embody the IB Learner Profile Attributes. We congratulate all award winners and recognise again the below outstanding students:

- **Primary Years Artist-Of-The-Year:** Shiori Moroo
- **Secondary Years Artist-Of-The-Year:** Avaana Harvey
- **Primary Years Athlete-Of-The-Year:** Charlie Rimmer
- **Secondary Years Athlete-Of-The-Year:** Emma Middleditch

Our final school-wide award was for the GWA (Singapore) Student-Of-The-Year. Our recipient in 2016 achieved excellent academic results across multiple subject areas, as well as being a key member of the school cross-country, basketball and football teams. They took on a lead position in the Secondary Years play and outside of GWA, competed in regional competitions, obtaining national selection for Indonesia in baseball.

A dramatic performer, academic award winner, and noted athlete, our recipient is highly regarded across grade levels, recognised by staff and celebrated by their peers. It has been a pleasure to announce that the **Student-Of-The-Year for 2015-2016** is from Grade 9, Helmi Yatim.

On behalf of the team at GWA, I want to thank you for the continued support, feedback and significant contributions to building an outstanding school. We wish all families a wonderful summer holiday, safe travels and exciting adventures.

**David Edwards**

Head of Education

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

### CALENDAR UPDATE

**17 June** - School year ends

**17 June to 15 August** - School holiday

**15 August** - Semester 1 commences



Wishing all Students,  
Staff and Families a  
Safe and Enjoyable  
Summer.

## Message from School Principal

As we come to the end of this academic year, there is much to look back on and celebrate. Whilst it is impossible to list every individual event or achievement, I would like to recap what I consider to be some of my highlights across the different divisions of the school.

In the Early Years, the children have shown a level of confidence during their assembly performances that have surpassed all of our expectations. This year also saw the students showcase their enthusiasm for sport in their very own Sports Day and Swim Gala.

In the Primary Years, the students started their camp experience from Grade Two with the excitement of an overnight stay in the library. Our Primary Musical gave our budding singers, musicians and actors their first experience of a stage production. The second PYP exhibition showed how far our Grade 5 students have come in their PYP journey and how they put their own stamp on this years process.

In the Secondary Years, 'A Thousand Cranes' showed the GWA community the level of emerging talent we have in the older grades. Community Action Service was a key focus on our Week-Without-Walls overseas trips with students gaining a greater insight into how they can make a difference through their own personal action. The Grade 10 students were our first cohort to sit external IGCSE examinations and also to share their MYP Personal Project.

We have much to be proud of. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for their continued support throughout the year. I wish you safe travels, happy holidays and look forward to seeing the students return for the new academic year in August.

**Neil White**

School Principal

[n.white@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:n.white@gwa.edu.sg)

## Sport Update



Last week we had two big swim events, with the EY Swim Gala on Wednesday June 8 and the G1-G10 Swim

Gala on Thursday June 9. Swimmers were placed on teams and there was a lot of fierce and friendly competition going on.

Pre-K, KG1, and KG2 students were divided among five teams and each grade level had a 45-minute event in the Learner Pool including kicking relays, swimming relays, noodle relays, and inner tube relays. Students showcased their talents for parents and had a great time.

G1-G10 students were divided among eight teams and battled it out in the Competition Pool.

We went all out with the electronic timing touch-pads and scoreboard. Students raced others in their grade level in the 25-meter Freestyle, Backstroke, and Breaststroke events as well as the Inner Tube Relay with mixed grade levels. The weather unfortunately did not cooperate and we were forced to stop early, without completing all of the events. Team scores were tabulated and students gathered in the auditorium at the end of the day for the awards presentation. It was a fun, competitive and spirited event and the top four teams were within a four-point range with the winning team scoring 158 points, runner up 156, third place 155, and fourth place 151. The Elephants took home the gold medals, Falcons won silver, and the Armadillos captured the bronze. It was a great day with 33 meet records broken out of the 48 swimming events.

It was great to see so many parents cheering on their children and enjoying the fun. Be sure to keep your children swimming during the summer!

**Steve Betts** - Aquatics Coordinator/PE Teacher

[s.betts@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:s.betts@gwa.edu.sg)

## EY/PY Curriculum Update

This week has been a time for celebration, transition and farewells. On Wednesday this week, the whole school had the privilege to be invited to celebrate the Early Years awards. The awards presentation was a beautiful showcase of all the work that the Early Years students have done over the year. They have blossomed into amazing individuals who celebrate and identify their own unique talents.

Thursday, the Early Years and Primary Years held their 'Moving Up day'. This was an opportunity for the students to visit their new Grade level space for an hour in the morning. During this time the students met the current grade level teachers, became familiar with the areas they will be working in and discovered more about what next year will hold for them. While EY and PY were taking part in a small transition, our Grade 5 students will be participating in their Grade 5-Grade 6 transition day. During the course of the day the Grade 5 students discovered more about the MYP programme, how classes and timetables work, the life of a Grade 6 student and also had the opportunity to participate in some Grade 6 lessons with grade 6 buddies and their teachers.

This time of year is about transition and change. We unfortunately need to say farewell to many friends and families at GWA. Mrs. Henning has been talking to the students about transitions and farewells in her sessions with students. A great strategy to help with the transition for those leaving and those who remain is 'building' a RAFT. RAFT is an acronym that David C Pollock developed to help people transition. **R = Reconciliation:** Reconciling with people, making the relationships right. **A = Affirmation:** Is to let people know how much you appreciate them and what they did for you and for your family. **F = Farewell:** Saying good-bye to people, to places and things as well. This really helps to bring closure. **T = Think Destination:** Think about the next place or where friends are moving to. How will it be different from where you are now? How will it be the same? Research it.

Wishing everyone a very happy and safe holiday and looking forward to a new school year which promises to be just as great as this year.

**Olivia Burke**

PYP Coordinator

[o.burke@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:o.burke@gwa.edu.sg)

## SY Curriculum Update

Through the Middle Years Programme (MYP) our SY students have been exposed to many different experiences and engaged with a variety of teaching and learning activities in which they have continued to grow as individuals throughout the year.

This year has seen many significant milestones in our MYP. In August we expanded our programme with the introduction of Grade 9 and 10 to deliver the full five year MYP. Through the year our arts programme was developed with the introduction of the SY play and numerous students involved in musical productions. The Experiential Learning Programme was expanded to include trips to Australia, Thailand and students were also involved in an in-country programme. Our Grade 10 students were the first to complete the MYP Personal Project, culminating in the Personal Project Exhibition in March and they were also the first students in school to undertake Cambridge IGCSE examinations.

Additionally, we have continued to develop and refine our MYP curriculum to ensure excellent teaching and learning and have completed all aspects of the verification process with the International Baccalaureate in pursuit of becoming an IB World School.

May I take this opportunity to thank all students and parents for your contributions to our school community throughout the year to make it the exceptional place that it is and wish you a happy and health summer break.

**Mark Gardner**

MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

[m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg)



## EARLY YEARS AWARDS

