

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

## Message from Head of School

### Reminder

Please remember that Tuesday 21st October will be an early departure day, due to the school holiday. There will be no ASA's or team training on that day.

Bus services will operate from 1.40pm on Tuesday 21st October.

School recommences Tuesday 28th October.

### 'Think Pink' update

Our aim as a school is to raise understanding and show our support for Breast Cancer Awareness. The Secondary Year students have done an excellent job with the displays on level 3 in preparation for our 'Think Pink' Monday on the 20th of October.



As a new school, every week provides us with the exciting opportunity to undertake a series of 'firsts'. This past week we held our first parent coffee morning, followed by the first Parent-Association meeting. We spent time discussing the ongoing processes and daily meetings with our bus provider, as well as the steps taken to continue to improve travel time, communication and overall quality of this external service.

The coffee morning also provided time for the leadership team to outline the next stage of facility handover, which is set to occur on 31st October. Once handed over to the school, our team will rapidly work on the final preparation of spaces, enabling us to commence school operations from 10th November in these additional areas. Stage 2 areas include, but are not limited to:

- \*The first floor reception/lobby area
- \*Additional library space
- \*50m pool and spectator area
- \*Early years pool and offices
- \*Undercover car park
- \*Symphony Hall
- \*Cafeteria, inclusive of full kitchen
- \*Full size football pitch

Families will get the chance to view and play amongst these facilities on Saturday 22nd November at the GWA-S family Olympics.

With almost seven weeks of the school year now completed, a well-deserved holiday is upon us. We wish all a fantastic break, and a happy Deepavali to our Indian families.

David Edwards - Acting Head of School/CEO

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### Arts update

EY and PY students have been creating art through the exploration of different mediums and media. Grade One have been working well conceptualising the difference between 2D and 3D shapes through drawings and sculptures. They are now in the process of constructing 3D shape sculptures to display in the hallway outside of

the art room. While they learn art skills the students have also



strengthened their skills as collaborators. They have worked very well together and helped support their own and other groups, offering wonderful ideas and words of encouragement. All are welcome to view our sculptures once they are on display.

Beth Roberts - Visual Arts

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### The Gruffalo visit!



Today at school we had a visit from the world famous 'Gruffalo' from the well-known story by Julia Donaldson. GEMS World Academy (Singapore) supports the performing arts and is a major sponsor for KIDSFEST Singapore, providing world class theatre for young children.

The Pre-K to Grade 2 students were delighted to hear the story, which was narrated to them. The students enjoyed joining in with some 'Gruffalo' movement activities and games.





## EY/ PY Curriculum Update

Inquiry is the pedagogical approach to our curriculum at GWA-S. Inquiry is the process initiated by the students, enabling them to progress to a new and deeper level of understanding. In an inquiry-based classroom students are actively involved in their learning. They formulate questions, investigate widely and then develop new understandings, meanings and knowledge. That knowledge may be used to answer a question, to develop a solution or to support a position and point of view. The knowledge is presented to others and often incorporates students taking action.

An inquiry approach emphasises 'learning how to learn' and 'how to find out', using both traditional and contemporary methodologies. There is a place for drill and practice in an inquiry classroom, however at GWA-S we believe that teaching about central ideas that are concept-based, leads to the most substantial and enduring learning.

Jacqueline McNalty - Head of Early Years/PYP Coordinator

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## SY Curriculum Update

In last weeks newsletter, I referred to Holistic Education as one of the three fundamental concepts in the Middle Years Programme. This week, the focus is on the second concept, **Intercultural Awareness**. This concept is central to GWA-S and true international schools strive to encourage students to consider a variety of issues from multiple perspectives. Intercultural awareness is an integral part of life on our school campus as students interact with each other every day. Intercultural awareness is concerned with developing students' attitudes, knowledge and skills as they learn about their own and others' social, national and ethnic cultures. By encouraging students to consider multiple perspectives, intercultural awareness not only fosters understanding and respect, but may also lead to empathy.

Neil White - MYP/DP Curriculum Coordinator

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### Upcoming Events:

**22 October - Public holiday (Deepavali)**

**23 to 27 October - School holiday**

**28 October - EY meet the teacher night**

**29 October - PY meet the teacher night**

**30 October - SY meet the teacher night**