

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

Message from Head of School

GWA AWARDS NIGHT 12 June 2015



The first GWA Awards Night, held on 12th June, was a wonderful event in which student excellence across sports, arts and academics was showcased. In total, 80 awards were presented to students from G1 to G8. In all cases, high performance outcomes were joined with the four GWA core values and the attributes of the IB Learner Profile, in making a final judgment for each award recipient. The night included fine music collaborations between GWA students and Robert Fernando, a Singaporean singer with a remarkable career. In conjunction with the Early Years Awards Assembly held on the Thursday, the two events brought together over 600 members of the GWA community, providing a fitting finale for families and staff.

With the holidays now upon us, we take the opportunity to again thank you for your commitment and high engagement to GWA. As has been stated many times, what defines an outstanding school is not facilities, but rather the people within it. Our students have undertaken a broad range of activities and at all times have been provided excellent opportunities. Parents have engaged throughout an exhaustive range of school events. Staff have contributed energy, passion and a resolute commitment to launch a leading international school in Singapore.

The 2014-2015 academic year has been an overwhelming success. In the next two days, staff will be spending time reflecting on the successes of the year, as well as identifying areas where improvement should occur. The recent school-wide surveys sent to students, parents and staff form one component for the leadership team to use during the coming quieter weeks at the campus, to review the year and feedback in earnest.

We are very much looking forward to the opening of the school again on August 17th, with communication on uniform sales and the many start of school year matters being sent via email in the first week of August.

Wherever your travels take you in June, July and August, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.

David Edwards

Head of Education

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Arts Update

This past ECA block, students in Grades 3 to 5 have enjoyed exploring movement, gestures and some fun music during our Dance Fun ECA. Not only did we explore moving along with our favourite songs, but we also explored the use of props in dance, and played some dramatic games that focused on coordination and spacial relationships to those around us.



It has been a pleasure to have our younger friends engage in Dramatic Arts and Dance through this ECA this term. Thanks for being a part of the fun!

Keriann O'Rourke - Drama
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It's been a great first year for the Arts at GWA. On behalf of the Visual Arts team we would like to say a big thank you to all the students for their creativity, open-mindedness and resourcefulness throughout the year. Here's to a summer filled with new experiences and inspiration and another exciting school year to look forward to in August.

It's been a fabulous and action-packed year for GWA musicians. A huge amount of activity has taken place in and out of the classroom and we've had some great concert performances. The Music Department would like to congratulate every performer and to wish everyone a splendid summer. We can look forward to even more music next year.

Sports Update

The first year of any programme is about building the foundations to continue within the years to come. I believe what we have managed over the course of the past 9 months is a real achievement for the school, and is what many established schools are still striving to get to:

- ★ Just over 90 matches/events attended
- ★ Hosted over 30 matches/tournaments
- ★ Over 60 ECA's offered throughout the year
- ★ Participation by every student in at least one activity.

The performances of our teams against other schools within Singapore have really helped put GWA firmly on the sporting schools list within the country. We have a reputation of hosting excellent events, with top of the range facilities, with students and coaches that exemplify not only the IB learner profile but also the GEMS core values within their performances. The future is an exciting one, as we begin the academic programme next year, and further expand both the ECA and team offerings as our population increases.

It has been an amazing journey and one of which I feel privileged to have of been part of. Of course none of this would have been possible without the support of the entire school, from teachers to admin staff, students to coaches, and of course you the parents. Thank you all and I look forward to hearing about all our future success in the coming months and years ahead.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday!

Ken Barker - Athletics Director/ECA Coordinator
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EY/ PY Curriculum Update

The GWA Semester Two School Reports will be sent home on Friday. These reports give parents a concise overview of how your child has progressed in their different subject areas and units of inquiry.

The PYP Semester Two report offers insightful comments and feedback on areas of strength for each student and areas where students can focus a little more attention, in order to grow and develop further. We congratulate our PY students for their hard work and commitment this year. The children have grown in confidence and continue to demonstrate the attributes of the IB Learner Profile.

We thank our GWA Primary Years teachers for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to the children and families of this school. It has been a busy and demanding year but the Primary School continues to flourish due to our teachers' talents, professionalism and care.

Thank you to the parent community for your continued support and we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Jacqueline McNalty -

Head of Early Years/PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

This final week of school saw a couple of key events in the Secondary Years. On Wednesday the staff and students held a "Year in Review" assembly where student learning and achievement was celebrated. On Thursday the Grade 5 students had their transition visit to the different subject areas. They worked in groups alongside Secondary students to complete a series of different activities. Secondary Years students also visited Grade 5 classes today to help answer questions and provide further insight into the Secondary Years from a student perspective.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secondary Years staff for their fantastic work this year. I would also like to thank our Secondary Years students for the commitment and enthusiasm they have shown. To those families and students who are leaving, I wish you the very best for the future and to those returning in August I wish you all a very restful and enjoyable holiday.

Neil White - School Principal
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School Uniform Notice

To assist with planning for next school year, please note that from August 2015, black leather lace up dress school shoes will be required by all students. Sneaker-type shoes worn this year, will no longer be permitted. The summer holidays present a great opportunity to buy appropriate school dress shoes, as in many cases families travel back to their home country.