

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

CONTACT NUMBERS

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REMINDERS

7 October - GWA Parent Coffee morning and GWA-PA meeting
10 October - GWA Family Picnic 9:30-12:30
15 October - PY Strings Lunch time concert
19 October - 23 October - School holiday
29, 30 October - Parent Teacher conferences

GWA PARENT COFFEE MORNING



*An exploration of
GWA programmes*

Date: 7 October, 2015
Time: 9.00am
Schedule: Q&A time; Series of workshops on PYP, MYP, DP and university applications
Venue: GEMS World Academy (Singapore) Auditorium Lounge

GWA FAMILY PICNIC



Date: 10 October, 2015
Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm
Venue: GEMS World Academy (Singapore)

Message from Head of School

As the first GEMS Education school in South-East Asia, GWA plays a key role in laying the foundations for future growth of the organisation across the region. This past Sunday and Monday, a small team from GWA (Singapore) visited the new GEMS International School of Pearl City- Penang (GIP), to be supporters of the opening of this new school in Malaysia.

GIP is another fine example of the GEMS Education commitment of putting quality education into the hands of families within the communities we serve. GIP is a very different school to GWA, from price-point to curriculum, to student population. For example, within this British curriculum school, citizens of Malaysia are permitted to enrol. This broader admissions policy has enabled the school in Penang to open on time at their facility, with a founding student enrolment of just under 200. To explore GIP further, please visit the school via this link: <http://www.gemsinternationalschool-pearl.com>

GEMS Education continues to explore areas in South-East Asia that are under-served by quality international schools. Malaysia represents a fine opportunity, and ground works for our second international school in Malaysia, located at Subang Jaya, are underway. The facility is scheduled for completion in Q1 2017.

For our team in Singapore, these growth plans present opportunities for extensive collaboration and sharing. For example, through the GWA Connect Initiative, students in Grade 1 will soon be connecting with their peers at GWA (Chicago). For teachers, the GWA LinkedIn group has recently launched, providing an initial platform for connecting, collaborating and sharing. These are wonderful starting points from which deeper collaborative learning opportunities will be presented to students, parents and staff.

David Edwards - Head of Education
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University visit update

This week saw a flurry of activity with visits by University College Roosevelt (Netherlands), The University of Calgary (Canada), Northeastern University (USA) and University of Canterbury (New Zealand). October is set to continue the trend with new visits coming in almost daily!

Of particular note, in terms of new bookings, is the University of Kent. This college based in a beautiful semi-rural setting outside the mediaeval city of Canterbury, has steadily climbed the rankings over the years and consistently come in the top 20 in terms of student satisfaction. They make flexible offers, which allow students to gain entry based solely on the scores from their Higher Level IB Diploma subjects.

Upcoming visits include:

- October 5th** University of Bristol (UK Russell Group College), 1.30pm
- October 7th** University of Kent (UK), 3.30pm
- October 7th** University of Durham (UK Russell Group College), 12.30pm
- October 12th** Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HK), 3.30pm
- October 14th** Leeds College of Music (UK), 3.30pm
- October 27th** ie University (Spain), 3.30pm

Jonathan Cox - Academic Advisor

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Update on Air Quality Monitoring at GWA

- The Education Leadership Team conducts hourly reviews of the government PSI readings for the north of Singapore
- Should there be a clear trend of the PSI rising to 101 or above, all outdoor physical activities are brought indoors, as appropriate.
- In the event that an activity cannot be brought indoors, it is cancelled and an alternative proposed, should it be suitable
- In line with announcements made by the Singapore Ministry of Education, school will be optional for GWA students should the PSI reach the hazardous level of 300 and above.

Email and SMS alerts will be used as the key communication tools in keeping families well-informed.

ECA and Sport Update

While the haze is continuing to play havoc with GWA's outdoor sporting teams, it hasn't dampened the spirits of our 9U girls basketball team.

On Thursday afternoon the girls took to the court once more. It was clear from the outset that the team had benefited greatly from their previous experiences. All players were more comfortable and composed on the court. As a team, they showed greater cohesion and followed Coach Burke's game plan to perfection.

In the first game of the afternoon the Jaguars played inspiring end-to-end basketball on their way to an impressive victory over St. Joseph's. The second match against Nexus was a nail-biting affair with the GWA girls running out winners by two points after trailing by two with less than three minutes to go.

The girls are already looking forward to their next round of matches which will be held at GWA on **October 15th**. While the team had strong support from their peers and parents this week, there is still room for more spectators. The girls would love nothing more than to play in front of a packed house before heading off on their October break.

Season Two ACSIS Sports Registration

The commencement date for the ACSIS second season sports is rapidly approaching. Previously, students have been asked to sign up for ECAs and sporting teams concurrently. This will no longer be the case. Students will have the opportunity to tryout for sporting teams prior to ECA registration.

This procedural change will give students the chance to sign up for an ECA if they are not selected for their preferred sporting team. Additionally, as all sporting teams are a compulsory two day a week commitment, students will be able to avoid clashes when selecting other ECAs.

On Monday morning **October 5th** each family will receive a description of the sports on offer. Families will also receive a link to the registration form. Please read the specific requirements for each sport to be sure that your child meets the age and grade requirements. Registration will close at **4pm on Friday October 9th**.

Tony McMullen

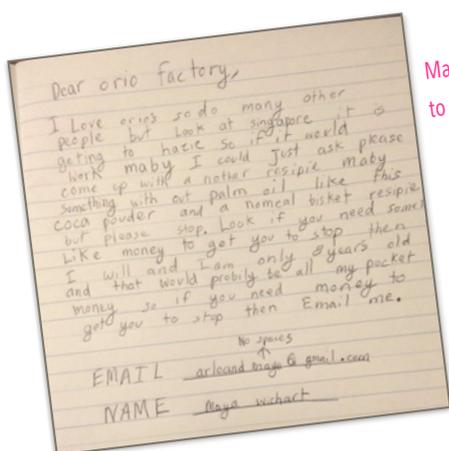
Activities Coordinator

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EY/PY Curriculum Update

American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer John Dewey stated "We do not learn from experience ... we learn from reflecting on experience." One of the IB Learner Profile attributes is to be reflective and give thoughtful consideration on our learning and experience. We are then able to assess and understand strengths and limitations in order to support learning and personal development.

This past week one of our Grade 2 students Maya Wishart, has been thinking about the Haze and what she believes and values for her families health. This is a direct connection to the unit of inquiry that she has been exploring in her class. From reflecting on the situation, Maya was inspired to do something to change it. She researched the reasons behind the haze and discovered the link between the haze and the palm oil production industry. Maya has written a letter to many companies who use palm oil products urging them to reevaluate their use of this oil in their products so Singapore and other countries can enjoy clear skies and clean air again. Her letter has travelled around the world through different social media and this has inspired other students to take action on their learning.



Maya Wishart's letter
to palm oil factories

We congratulate Maya, for her determination to make this world a better place.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

For our students, getting into the habit of reflecting on one's performance and the performance of others is of paramount importance to their ongoing development as learners. However they learn best, whether that be visually, auditory or kinaesthetically, students will reap rewards by spending time reflecting on their experiences. Effective reflection is a tool by which our students can improve their capacity for problem-solving through a greater ability to organise and execute a course of action to attain targets.

Within school, reflection takes place regularly throughout the day with activities including the consideration of prior learning at the beginning of a lesson, reviewing progress in assessment activities, evaluating the performance of others in class and reviewing understanding at the end of a lesson. Additionally, students reflect upon summative assessment tasks, gauging their performance against MYP assessment criteria. Each of these activities allow our students to develop and refine their evaluative and problem-solving skills through reflecting upon their experiences.

Whilst reflection is a tool our students use on a daily basis, the forthcoming Quarter One reports, which will be distributed on **Friday 16th October**, will also be a significant opportunity for all students to take time to reflect, evaluate and plan for further development as learners.

If you have any questions about assessment and reflection please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mark Gardner - MYP / IGCSE Curriculum Coordinator
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