

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Message from Head of School

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We continue to live in troubled times, with 2015 having approximately 300 reported terrorist attacks with seemingly no boundary to location, reason, age or race of the victims. Whilst the media is eager to promote events in the major cities, and certainly they should highlight these great issues, as global citizens we cannot ignore the ongoing conflicts continuing to take place around the world.

As a leading international school in Singapore, it is our role to ensure that we answer student questions with sensitivity and continue to develop their individual skills in researching, reasoning and forming opinions. GWA does not align itself to a nationality, religion, culture or government and it is for these reasons that many families have chosen our school.

In taking the time to carefully respond to questions and utilise these conflicts as teaching moments, we are reminded of the fundamental importance of international education in shaping the future. Our students are global citizens, surrounded each day by more than 40 different nationalities. They are encouraged to share all the wonderful facets of their culture and countries, whilst demonstrating equal respect to those around them.

As international children undergoing contemporary education, GWA students are developing skills and concepts that enable them to become independent learners, examining the world around them with eyes wide to possibilities and minds open to different opinions and beliefs.

To the many GWA families and extended communities enduring conflict abroad, our support and thoughts are with you. Walking around GWA and hearing the stories of outstanding learning opportunities from students, teachers and parents, should give us great hope for the future.

David Edwards

Head of Education

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Classical Solo Music Concert



On **November 26**, the Music Department will present an evening of solos and chamber music beginning at **6:30pm in the auditorium**.

GWA musicians will present classic works of the great composers as well as a student composition. This will be the first performance featuring our new black and white concert dress code. Please join us for an evening of great music.

Message from our Principal

The final weeks of the semester provide an opportunity for teachers, students and parents to reflect upon the great progress that has occurred this semester.

Shortly after the semester examinations, students will review their work with their class teachers, so that they have a greater understanding of both their strengths and areas for development in Semester Two. Reflection of this nature is a key approach to learning that leads to improved student development, and which is central to the assessment philosophy of the Middle Years Programme.

Please note below some key upcoming events that are taking place over the remaining weeks of the semester. A reminder to Grade 6-10 parents of the respective initial camp information meetings. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

23-24 November - IB Diploma Programme pre-verification visit

26 November - Classic Solo & Chamber Concert

30 November - 4 December - SY Semester Exams (9:30-11:00am)

2 December - Gr6 camp information evening for parents (6:30pm start) - School Auditorium

3 December - Gr7-10 camp information evening for parents (6:30pm start) - School Auditorium

10 December - PY Musical - EY/PY assembly and an additional performance at 6:30pm in the school auditorium

18 December - Semester academic reports sent to families

Neil White - Principal
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ECA and Sport Update

We are now into the second week of the new ECA block and all is going swimmingly, pun intended. I did not know that Jaguars are the only big cat breed that enjoys the water. However, now I realise why we have more than 100 students enrolled in swimming this block.



The initiative of offering three levels of swimming from beginner to competitive appears to be a success. While our youngest students are developing their aquatics in the learner pool under the guidance of Mrs. McMullen, our competitive team are training under the watchful eye of Mr. Betts.



Things are also looking healthy in the other sporting arenas as well. This season GWA will be represented by three football teams as they vie for the ACSIS championships.

The 11U boys and the 14U boys and girls are training hard and eager to hit the park for their first game. The fact that GWA will be hosting 10 games at home is added incentive for our teams to perform. It is also a great opportunity for the GWA community to come and support our teams in their quest for ACSIS gold.

If you have any questions regarding the ECA's please don't hesitate to contact me.

Tony McMullen
 Activities Coordinator
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EY/PY Curriculum Update

Over the weekend, GWA hosted the DEEP Learning conference. Many of our educators and education innovators led workshops that focused on a vast array of ICT based learning initiatives. These ranged from immersive media, coding, social media in the classroom, digital art creation, iBook creation, flipping the classroom and digital literacy. All of these workshops focused on ICT as a tool for enhanced learning.

In the PYP at GWA, ICT significantly supports students in their inquiries, and in developing their conceptual understanding. It is best considered as a tool for learning, albeit with its own set of skills, as opposed to an additional subject area.

The IB Learner profile highlights that students need to be principled and caring in their interactions with everyone. This includes their interactions online. The world our students live in is highly digitised and we have a responsibility to help them interact appropriately in this world.

One of the resources we use at GWA to assist us with this is from Common Sense Media. This online non-profit organisation aims to assist teachers, parents and students navigate digital media. Please take some time to visit the following site and make use of the Parent concerns and Family guide sections. It also provides updates and reviews on books, TV Shows, movies and online games.

Link: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator

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UPCOMING PARENT EVENTS

24 November - Singapore Art Museum **10**
December, 7:30pm - Christmas Potluck dinner at the
 GWAPA President's home. (contact Judy for the
 address)

Please contact our PRE, Judy Lee, if you would like
 more information about our GWA parent socials.

pre@gwa.edu.sg

*Images: GWA Parent outing in Little India on Wednesday this
 week.*



SY Curriculum Update

As GEMS World Academy (Singapore) moves towards full accreditation of the IB continuum of programmes we welcomed our Middle Years Programme (MYP) consultant into the school this week.

Our consultant was with us in the SY for two days and during this time they visited classes to view the teaching and learning experiences of our students, spoke with subject teachers, specialists and coordinators and also meet with the Educational Leadership Team. Communication and discussion with students was a key aspect of the visit and our consultant spent time speaking to them as part of a student focus group, giving them an opportunity to share their experiences and develop their communication skills. The process also included parents with a representative group meeting with the consultant as part of the visit.

Thank you to all the parents and students who were involved in the visit over the two days and we look forward to receiving the report from our consultant as we progress to full authorisation of the MYP.

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

Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

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