

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

Message from Head of School

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome new and returning families to GWA (Singapore). We hope that the summer break provided all with the chance to re-energise, reflect and look forward to the commencement of a new academic year.

During the summer break, our Operations team was busy overseeing a number of site projects. When you next visit the campus, do come to level three adjacent the library to see our new STEM labs, visit Block C to see the work done in the Design and Science rooms, as well as walking the campus overall to view new signage and freshening of the campus aesthetics. The student-created GWA mascot is being painted on the indoor gym wall this weekend, and we are currently trialling different materials on the football pitch bleachers. The GWA Jaguars design looks fantastic. We look forward to the finalisation of these smaller projects in the coming week.

On Monday we introduced the teaching faculty, which has expanded to 65 educators. We remain committed to engaging high quality teachers, who are passionate about educating children and contributing to the profession of teaching. With our enrolment more than double from this time last year, and continuing to grow, we look forward to strengthening and expanding the learning opportunities provided to students, parents and staff at GWA.

The expanded Education Leadership Team (ELT) was presented to the school community and I encourage you to view the profiles of these highly credentialed leaders: <http://www.gwa.edu.sg/School-Leadership-Team.php>

Beyond the opening of the school, our team has also been busy with various marketing, sales and media events. There has been some interesting comments about a certain sporting profile in the newspaper earlier this week and shared via our Facebook page, and on Monday afternoon we had the pleasure of joining a distinguished panel for the filming of Channel News Asia (CNA) Perspectives Programme. Whilst the episode will not go to air until early September, information is currently available via: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/tv/tvshow/perspectives> Click the '2' button above the slideshow to learn more about the panelists, who will be discussing the topic of "Schools in the Cloud? Globalisation, Innovation and the Future of Learning".

Over the next two weeks there are multiple opportunities to learn more about the programmes at GWA, as well as meeting with the ELT and teachers. We look forward to welcoming you to the campus very soon.

David Edwards - Head of Education

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Experiential Learning Programme



Message from our Principal

This has been a busy week with students getting to know each other and their teachers across the different grade levels. The buddy system we have in place has ensured that new students have been welcomed and supported in their new learning environment.

On Wednesday and Thursday all students participated in our Experiential Learning Programme coordinated by Mr. Paul Rimmer. The purpose of the programme is to make authentic connections to the curriculum through onsite activities and external field trips. This has been a great opportunity for students to develop communication and team building skills.

A gentle reminder that next week we are holding Curriculum Nights for both the Early Years/Primary Years on **Wednesday 26th August** and Secondary Years on **Thursday 27th August**. Information about both of these events has been communicated via email to all parents. If you have any further questions please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Neil White - Principal
n.white@gwa.edu.sg

Message from the Registrar

Reminder: If you have not already, please remember to return your Parent-Student contract to our Registrar Ms Kellie Hammond at the Admissions office.
(k.hammond@gwa.edu.sg)

Message from our Deputy Principal

As Deputy Principal, I look forward to working with our staff, students, and parents to continue the wonderful school programmes and activities that contribute to our excellent school environment.

As DP Curriculum Coordinator, I will be working towards the implementation of the IB Diploma programme to be launched in 2016-2017. The IB Diploma programme is a rigorous pre-university course of study that leads to examinations, for highly motivated secondary school students. It is a comprehensive two-year curriculum that generally allows students to fulfill requirements of various national education systems.

I anticipate an exciting year as we collectively strive to foster a culture of learning.

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

Arnelle Grundhoefer - Deputy Principal
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Stay up to date with our detailed Events Calendar via the following link:
<http://www.gwa.edu.sg/docs/GWAS-Event-Calendar.pdf>

EY/PY Curriculum Update

Welcome to the new school year!

This week has been extremely busy with teachers and TA's working hard creating inspiring learning environments and experiences for our students.

At the beginning of the week expectations and essential agreements were set to help establish a positive and supportive working environment in each class. New friendships were beginning to form and have been strengthened over the past two days while the classes participated in their Experiential Learning Programme (ELP).

Students were taking part in scavenger hunts around the school, participating in team building exercises, they experienced the zoo and discovered more about the learning smarts at West Coast park. All of these activities help establish a positive team bond within classes both between the students and also between the teachers and the students.

Please note that on **Wednesday 26th August 2015**, 6:30pm to 8pm the EY/PY curriculum night will be taking place commencing in the auditorium.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

The first week of school has been a fantastic start as we have welcomed students for the new academic year. The week began in homerooms, giving students the opportunity to work together to get to know new friends, familiarise themselves with school routines and expectations, explore aspects of the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and students were also introduced to all teachers in the welcome assembly.

In the classroom, students have begun to explore their first units of study across all eight subject groups of the MYP. Students in Grades 9 and 10, whilst following the MYP framework, will also undertake IGCSE examinations at the end of Grade 10 in a range of subjects.

This week students have also taken part in our Experiential Learning Programme, with activities both on the school grounds and off campus designed to help the students develop a better understanding of each other, support team cohesion and help students demonstrate the different aspects of the IB Learner Profile.

On **Thursday 27th August** from 6:30pm to 8pm we are hosting the SY Curriculum Evening and I look forward to welcoming you to this event.

Mark Gardner - MYP / IGCSE Curriculum Coordinator
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2015-2016 ECA'S

Please note students will receive information on the 2015-2016 ECA's on **Friday 28th August** with student sign up due by **Tuesday 1st September**.

Commencement of season one will be **Monday 7th September**.

