

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Message from Head of School

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Reception: +65 6808 7321

info@gwa.edu.sg

Division Office: +65 6808 7313

n.white@gwa.edu.sg

a.grundhoefer@gwa.edu.sg

Curriculum Office:

MYP/IGCSE: +65 6808 7363

m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg

PYP: +65 6808 7362

o.burke@gwa.edu.sg

Bus Enquiries:

Mr Tan (HDT): 9777 4838

gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg

This past week, the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting has been taking place in Davos, Switzerland. As an industry partner, GEMS Education continues to be a significant contributor to the discussions surrounding the importance of education in responding to an uncertain future.

One particularly interesting topic from the forum has been 'Educating The Masters Of The Fourth Industrial Revolution'. In conjunction with the publishing of a study into the challenges facing the future of education, the panel discussed in length the issues which will impact the employment prospects of our children. Of note, was the function of technological, socio-economic and geo-political factors which will push significant societal change within the next five years. Mentioned continuously was the importance of skills development and the need of a cycle for re-skilling within curriculum development, in ensuring that students of today are capable of adapting for the job market of tomorrow.

On the technology side, there has been much commentary on the emergence of intelligent systems which are leading to the automation of jobs. Finance is one industry where the cheaper cost of implementing artificial intelligence (AI) is leading to significant reductions in positions available. With AI comes an even greater need to ensure that education systems create a culture of creativity and imagination, as well as embedding methodology such as design thinking into the practice of learning.

The change needed for our children is well supported by the IB framework, and as an early stage school with an agile 'start-up' mentality, we are well-positioned to be adaptable. We must also continue to be a leader in developing international curriculum which best prepares our families for the skills and mindset needed now, next and later.

Last week we spoke of our project surrounding the importance of capturing big data at the school, and how we may best use large quantities of useful information to positively impact teaching and learning. In the coming months, we will be reaching out to our corporate contacts within the region to establish a think-tank, enabling GWA to have a direct pipeline to industry in ensuring that the opportunities on offer to our students truly are outstanding.

To learn more about the discussion surrounding the fourth industrial revolution, please start your journey via this World Economic Forum link: [World Economic Forum Panel Video](#)

David Edwards
Head of Education
d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg

CALENDAR UPDATE

26 January - Grade 4 Camp

Parent Information Evening

27 January - Grade 5 Camp

Parent Information Evening

8-12 February - Chinese

New Year school holiday

22 February-25 February -

Book week

26 February - Pupil-free

day

METASPRINT SERIES SINGAPORE

Once again GWA is proud to be an official sponsor of the Metasprint Series for 2016.

If you would like to sign up for any of the races click [here](#)

Message from the School Principal

The start of Semester Two has been an exciting time with students returning to school with lots of news to share from their break. As they settle back into their classroom routines, this is a great time of year to set goals for the remainder of the semester. These might be academic goals but they may also be personal and social goals. Students might reflect on an attribute they feel they could develop. Reflecting on achievements to date and setting goals helps keep motivation levels high and maintains focus.

At our first Early and Primary Years assembly of this semester, we welcomed the many new students who have joined us. It has been wonderful to see the interactions taking place in class and on the playground between our returning and new students. Many students have volunteered to be buddies to those who are new to the school and are showing how responsible and caring they can be.

Families are encouraged to review the school calendar and take note of important upcoming events this semester. Next week we have parent information evenings for the Grade 4 camp on Tuesday 26th January and the Grade 5 camp on Wednesday 27th January. Both events will start at 6:30pm in the auditorium lobby. Finally, our Chinese New Year assembly is scheduled for Thursday 4th February and will be a whole school event, starting at 9:10am in the school auditorium.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Neil White- School Principal

n.white@gwa.edu.sg



ECA and Sport Update

Sports Update

On Monday our 14U boys played against UWCE at home, while our 11U boys travelled to Nexus for their round of games. The 14U girls team rounded out the week when they ventured to St Josephs for their final game of the regular season.

The 14U boys knew that they would be in for a tough match against UWCE but were confident that they could measure up and come away with the victory. The team started slowly and at half time were trailing 2 - 1. The Jaguars rallied in the second half to add a further two goals to their score. Unfortunately, the visitors were able to keep their nose in front throughout the match to secure a 4 - 3 victory over the Jaguars.

On the other hand, our 11U boys continued to show why they are real contenders for the title this year. On a rain soaked pitch the boys played three energy sapping games. The Jaguars dominated their opponents in the first two games. They accounted for CIS to the tune of 4 goals to 2 and back that up with an equally impressive 4 to 1 win over AGS. In the final game the boys simply ran out of energy against Nexus and went down 3 - 1.



Despite a less than ideal preparation, our 14U girls finished the week in fine style. They took to the field with no chance to discuss strategy or even warm up. Not perturbed by the

lack of preparation the team quickly swung into gear. Playing inspired football the Jaguars hit the lead early in the match and were never challenged. The final score of 7 - 1 was the perfect way to finish their regular season.

ECA Update

As mentioned previously the new ECA block will begin first week after the Chinese New Year break. The Sporting Team sign-ups began this week and will close on Monday morning at 10am.

Parents and students will be notified if we have sufficient students to form teams prior to the ECA sign-up being released. Then prior to the break parents and students will be notified of their third season ECA selections.

Tony McMullen - Activities Coordinator

t.mcmullen@gwa.edu.sg

Arts Update



Grade 10 Art students are currently showcasing their reactions to the work of African artist Kevin Cole, who works in a range of mediums, using repetitive forms and vivid colour to create three dimensional neck tie structures.

Students explored mixed media, focusing on colour, rhythm and texture and made their own paper tie sculptures. Each of the ends of the ties are facing different directions to symbolise different choices, journeys and pathways in life.

Cole's work celebrates history, survival, and a personal memory of a time and place. In response to this, students were given the task of taking a real tie and creating an artwork that made a statement, told a story or sent a message.

Please enjoy looking at each unique outcome and take time reading the young artist's statement of artistic intent, all displayed in the main Foyer.

Claire Rimmer - Visual Arts and Design
c.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg



GWAPA UPDATE



21 January - Coffee at Habitat Café

27 January - Chinatown walk/Dim Sum lunch - 11am-2pm
 Yum Cha Chinatown - 20 Trengganu Street #02-01, Singapore 058479
 Watch your email for additional details! If you have any questions, please feel free to email the GWAPA team at gwapasingapore@gwa.edu.sg

Message from the Academic Advisor

It has been a busy start to the year for university visits. On Thursday 14th January we hosted 11 Canadian universities, together with representatives from the High Commission of Canada and the Manitoba Regional Government. It was a great chance for parents and students to explore the courses and opportunities offered by this increasingly popular destination for university studies.

Wednesday 20th January saw Grade 10 visit Yale-NUS, one of the most exciting and forward thinking universities in the world. Now in their third year, this small Liberal Arts and Sciences college (with highly prestigious parents!) provides unparalleled opportunities for research, travel and professional experience as an integral part of its 4 year degree. The students were particularly excited by the amazing accommodation and recreation facilities provided by the college and the surrounding University Town!

On Thursday 21st January The American University of Rome visited. Another small Liberal Arts school offering American degrees from the heart of Italy, with opportunities to take semesters in their other campuses around the world.

Dates to put in your diary for the next couple of months are:

- January 25th** - Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne, 3.30pm
- January 27th** - University of Durham, lecture: 'The Law of Necessity' (G9 & 10), 10am
- February 3rd** - University of the Arts, Bournemouth, 3.30pm
- February 20th** - Embry Riddle at the Singapore Airshow
- February 24th** - Oxbridge Programs, Summer schools across Europe & the US, 3.30pm
- April 20th** - Australian University Fair, details to be confirmed



Jonathan Cox - Academic Advisor
j.cox@gwa.edu.sg