

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

## Message from Head of School

### Family BBQ

Enjoy a great BBQ, cold drinks and fun games for the young and old at our first family BBQ hosted by the GWA Parents Association.

**Date:** 6th June 2015

**Time:** 3pm-6:30pm

**Venue:** GEMS World Academy (Singapore)

**RSVP:** GWA Parents Association  
[gwapasingapore@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:gwapasingapore@gwa.edu.sg)

### GWA AWARDS NIGHT



#### Friday 12th June 2015

A formal event in which the school showcases high performing student talent and formally recognises outstanding student achievement across sports, arts and academics.

**Please note:** This event is compulsory for Grade 1-8 students.

**12 June, Friday, 6:30pm, GWA Auditorium**

### POP CONCERT

The Music Department would like to congratulate all performers in Thursday's Music Assembly and Pop Music Concert. Every performer did a great job to contribute to a highly eventful musical day. It's been a great year for musical performances of all types and GWA vocalists and instrumentalists have made a huge impact on the artistic life of the school.

**Well done, music people!**

It was a great honour to have Mr Tony Little visit GEMS World Academy (Singapore) on Tuesday. As Headmaster of Eton College, Tony holds the most visible and high pressured leadership role in the education world. Tony's morning presentation to the general public and GWA families reviewed the notion of excellence in education and explored how parents may best choose the school most appropriate for their child.

A key pillar of Tony's presentation was that educators generally over-complete the fundamentals of education. These fundamentals centre around the child and look at meaningful ways that parents, teachers and students must engage to ensure effective teaching and learning. In a reassuring follow-up to the key point raised by last week's visitor, Mr Vikas Pota from Varkey Foundation, Tony outlined that excellent teachers are crucial to the success of a child's development and for parental engagement.

On Tuesday afternoon, Tony spent time with all GWA staff, applying the notion of excellence to more specific areas for the assembled teaching and non-teaching staff. The central premise of Tony's staff presentation was that the child must come first and all organisational decisions must centre around the entire purpose that a school exists. He added a number of reassuring comments surrounding the excitement, challenges and commitment needed by staff in the establishment of a new school. For leadership, he used the term "cheerful resilience" in describing the most important requirement when leading the start-up of a school such as GWA.

This visit by Tony is the start of Tony's ongoing involvement with GWA, as he moves from Headmaster of Eton College to the role of Chief Education Officer at GEMS Education, which he commences in September 2015. Tony's appointment is another fine example of the commitment of GEMS to ensure global leadership is of the highest calibre, supporting the push for excellence across all GEMS Education schools.

Next week we undergo our third education review by an external organisation, this time as part of the GEMS Education Review of Education Standards. In our two previous inspections by outside agencies, we have demonstrated a very high level of educational quality and organisational rigour. We anticipate that this third inspection will provide further affirmation of the excellent work our educators have done in our first academic year, as well as confirming the appropriateness of the pathways we have mapped out in our revitalised School Strategic Plan and various departmental action plans.

David Edwards - Head of Education

[d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg)

## Arts Update



In Art Smart this quarter students have been learning about the finer art of doodling, specifically Zentangles. The process of creating a Zentangle is a form of "artistic meditation" as you can become completely engrossed in making each pattern, deliberately focusing on 'one stroke at a time'. Zentangles are miniature pieces of unplanned, abstract, black and white art created through the ensemble of simple, structured patterns called tangles on a small square paper tile.

The basic definition of Doodling is to 'make spontaneous marks to help yourself think'. Students have allowed their inner creativity to take over to create some great Zentangle boxes. Their outcomes show how they have been expanding original ideas and allowing each pattern to morph and explode into the next, in intricate and imaginative ways. This week we moved on to creating Zentangles of life size figures and small hand held puzzle papers.

Zentangles are not only exquisitely beautiful, they are fun and relaxing to create. The creativity options and pattern combinations are boundless.

Claire Rimmer - Visual Arts  
[c.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:c.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg)

## Sports Update

After our 8U Football team was rained out during their final tournament last Thursday, we invited the schools back this week so the students could have a more fitting end to their season. After so much hard work and improvement throughout the season, the small friendly tournament was a nice way for the students to finish off.

The 14U Boys Basketball team had their qualifying game in the knock out rounds of the ACSIS league on Monday at SAS. In a close fought game, where the lead kept changing our boys just lost out in the last quarter to SAS.

If we reflect on their achievements throughout the season it has been an extremely successful one. We are all looking forward to next year and building upon the success of this season. Congratulations to all involved, players, parents and Coach Ryan.

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

Ken Barker - Athletics Director/ECA Coordinator  
[k.barker@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:k.barker@gwa.edu.sg)



K2 Students during their climbing wall ECA

## EY/ PY Curriculum Update

The Grade 5 students have been very busy preparing for their PYP Exhibition which will be presented to parents on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7pm.**

The central idea for the exhibition is '**People can face challenges, risks and opportunities throughout their lives**'.

A successful PYP exhibition keeps the following statement at the forefront of planning: '*students are required to engage in a collaborative, transdisciplinary, inquiry process that involves them in identifying, investigating and offering solutions to real life issues and problems*'.

*Primary Years Programme Exhibition Guidelines (2007) p. 1.*

**Identifying** real life issues and problems can include:

- A focus on case studies
- Reflecting on their own challenges
- Collecting newspaper articles
- Talking to primary sources

**Investigating** real life issues and problems can include:

- Experiments
- Guest speakers
- Survey/ interviews
- Artefacts
- Excursions
- Collecting data

**Offering Solutions** to real life issues and problems can include:

- Petitions
- Letters
- Making a pledge that offers change
- Fund raising avenues
- Raising awareness/ education
- Change to own behaviours/ choice

Jacqueline McNalty -  
Head of Early Years/PYP Coordinator  
[j.mcnalty@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.mcnalty@gwa.edu.sg)

## SY Curriculum Update

Secondary Years Semester Examinations which will take place from **June 2-8, 2015**. Teachers are spending time in class guiding students on the areas to be assessed, as well as helping them best prepare for these examinations.

The preparation time provides students with the opportunity to create their own study plans and prepare for the examinations in a manner most appropriate to their learning style. Please note that with academic programmes on-going in all subject areas during semester examinations, there will be no examination leave for students to return home after they finish their examinations each day.

Please find below the Secondary Years Examination Schedule. The exams will take place between 9:30-11:00am each day.

Date	Subject Area	Time
<b>Tuesday 2nd June</b>	Language & Literature	9:30-11:00am
<b>Wednesday 3rd June</b>	Individuals & Societies	9:30-11:00am
<b>Thursday 4th June</b>	Mathematics	9:30-11:00am
<b>Friday 5th June</b>	Language Acquisition	9:30-11:00am
<b>Monday 8th June</b>	Science	9:30-11:00am

Neil White - School Principal  
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