

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

The performance of the Secondary Years Play was a powerful example of just how talented teenagers are. Every element of the show was led by the Secondary Years students, with great guidance by our fantastic teachers. From the wonderful stage performers, through to the stage crew, musical support and lighting staff, our students brought to life the emotional story of '1000 Cranes'.

The story brings the audience to Japan in the 1950s, with the main character Sadiko coming to grips with the passing of her grandmother and her own illness, caused in the wake of the bombing of Hiroshima. It is a deeply emotional story and one which has encouraged our students to ask questions about violence, war and the impact of actions on others.

The timing of the Secondary Years performance is poignant, given the terrible events that have taken place this week in Brussels. The thoughts and best wishes of the entire GWA community are with our Belgian families. Our teachers and school counsellor have been available to talk with children, many of who have been continuing to ask questions, much of which surround the fundamental concept of "Why?"

As we enter a well-deserved holiday period, it's important that we support our children in understanding their role in the world, to open their minds to the stories of the past and present, and encourage them to help us create an exciting future. Our '1000 Cranes' performance was an opportunity for so many to understand the impact of the past and for our children to use the concepts of this story to delve into the issues of the present.

As has been stated by our Chairman and Founder, Mr Sunny Varkey "There is no problem in the world that cannot be solved with education". The holiday period presents an opportunity to rejuvenate, reflect and to spend time as a family talking about the world around us. By working together to educate each other, we can make the future exciting, safe and full of possibilities.

David Edwards

Head of Education

d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg

CALENDAR UPDATE

25 March - Good Friday

28 March-8 April - School Holiday

11 April - Start of Quarter 4

16 April - GWA Open Day

21-22 April - Parent-Teacher Conferences

GWA PARENT EVENTS

Tuesday 19 April - Chinese Calligraphy

Duration : 90 minutes

Time: 10am-11.30am

Location : 130 Cairnhill Road Singapore 229717

Tuesday 3 May - Wellness Talk by certified holistic nutrition coach

Time: 9am-11.00am

Location : GWA Training Room (Floor 3)

To Register: Send your name and mobile number to : headwayhealthandfitness@gmail.com

Judy - j.lee@gwa.edu.sg

gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg

Message from the School Principal

The upcoming Parent-Teacher conferences provide another opportunity for ongoing communication between home and school. The purpose of these conferences is to keep parents informed about their child's progress including their academic, social and emotional development; to set new goals and to discuss any necessary support strategies that may be needed. The aim is to begin and maintain a dialogue between home and school that will ultimately benefit every student.

The GWA Parent-Teacher conferences will take place between **9:00-4:00pm on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd April, 2016**. The booking system is provided via an online portal, which allows you to better manage the conference schedule to suit your personal availability. Further information regarding the online book system will be communicated to all families in the week commencing April 11, 2016. Please note that the 21st and 22nd of April are student-free days. Students will be provided appropriate work via their student ManageBac accounts.

A gentle reminder in addition to the information that you have already received from class teachers (Grades 3-10) regarding the MAP standardised testing. This tool provides additional external information related to current skills development in reading and mathematics. Testing will take place week commencing **April 11-15**. Should you require further information, kindly contact Ms. Meline at m.meline@gwa.edu.sg

Wishing all families an enjoyable holiday break.

Neil White

School Principal

n.white@gwa.edu.sg

ECA and Sport Update

The 14U Girls Basketball Team extended their winning streak to three games by defeating UWCD. Unlike their previous two matches, the Jaguars had to dig deep for the victory.

During the warm up it was evident that UWCD were going to be the most challenging game to date. The visitors were well drilled and displayed better skills, and more athleticism than GWA's previous opponents. Beginning the game with only five players was a further hurdle the Jaguars needed to overcome.

At the end of the first quarter GWA held a slender two point lead in a low scoring affair. The team's trademark, uncompromising defence was the foundation for their early success. The defensive pressure continued into the second quarter as the Jaguars extended their lead to six points. The turning point came when Samrudhi was forced to leave the game due to an injury.

With only four players on the court, the girls continued defending tenaciously against UWCD, who now had a one player advantage. Through the third quarter the girls managed to hold onto their lead narrowly. However, early in the four quarter fatigue began to take its toll and the Jaguars relinquished their lead.

Led by Charlotte Jaguar offensively, the team rallied again. Claire and Weronika worked tirelessly to defend their basket at all costs, while Gabrielle chimed in offensively to keep the scoreboard ticking over. By the time the final whistle blew, the Jaguars were back in control of the match with a scoreline of 18 - 12. It was a well deserved, hard fought victory. Well done girls!

Tony McMullen

Activities Coordinator

t.mcmullen@gwa.edu.sg

EY/PY Curriculum Update

Late last week, we received notification that as a school, we may proceed to the next step of our process to become an authorised IB school for the PYP. We need to complete our application for authorisation to deliver the Primary Years Programme and provide supporting documents that show evidence of the school's progress in the authorisation process and of its readiness to become an IB World School. We will submit specific documents showing our understanding of the programme and its implementation. Through these supporting documents, we need to demonstrate that we understand the IB philosophy, understand the programme requirements, meet the major objectives to ensure the successful implementation of the programme and meet the requirements to become an IB World School as outlined in the IB standards and practices.

In late May, we will have our verification visit by two experienced IB educators who have been trained according to global IB policies to become site visitors. The purpose of the visit is to ensure that the educational principles, standards and practices on which the IB programme is founded will be maintained and furthered. At the conclusion of this two day visit we will be presented with commendations and recommendations for our further development.

The IBO have created a new page dedicated to helping parents understand, and make the most of, the programmes in partnership with IB World Schools. On this site you will find information and FAQs about the four programmes, plus recommended resources, research and advice. Link to new Parent IB information page: <http://bit.ly/1HoMutg>

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
o.burke@gwa.edu.sg

SY Curriculum Update



As students progress through the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) they not only develop their disciplinary understanding, but additionally nurture a wide range of skills and abilities which support their individual growth. An overarching element of the MYP is about students making links in their knowledge, skills and attributes and the MYP Personal Project in Grade 10 provides students with an opportunity to explore this.

The Personal Project encourages students to practice and strengthen their approaches to learning skills, to consolidate prior and subject-specific learning, and to develop an area of personal interest. Our Grade 10 students have been working on their Personal Project through the year and this week witnessed the culmination of their efforts with the MYP Personal Project Exhibition.



Grade 10 students took the time to showcase their work to the school community, describing the processes they have been through, reflecting on their journey and answering lots of questions for the visiting classes and parents. Thank you to all those who took the time to visit the exhibition and congratulations to the Grade 10 students for the work and commitment shown to this aspect of the MYP.

If you would like further information about the MYP then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator



An exceptional performance by our Senior Year students in '*Sadako And The 1000 Paper Cranes*'. Thank-you to Ms O'Rourke, Ms Walsh and Mrs Rimmer for all their hard work.

