

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

## MetaSprint Series

Join us for a fun day out to connect with family, friends and the community at the MetaSprint Triathlon on Sunday, April 19th at Changi Beach Park.

Remember to use your unique code **GEMS15** to enjoy a 10% discount

For more information visit [www.metasprintseries.com](http://www.metasprintseries.com)

## Music News

The ECA Pop Band presented the inaugural "Lunch of Rock" yesterday to a vast crowd of students, teachers, parents, and staff. GWA musicians rocked the house in fine style with renditions of "Venus," "Spooky," and, naturally, "I Love Rock & Roll."

A huge congratulations to the students involved! Further rock band ECAs are planned- Grade 5 will be jamming next.



Christopher Brandt - Music Teacher  
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## Message from Head of School

The passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew this week has been a significant time of reflection for Singapore and its friends. A well-known political figure, considered the founding father of Singapore, for 50 years Mr Lee has been a source of study and comment by political observers.



What few can argue with is the clear passion and commitment by Mr Lee to guide Singapore to become a world-leading society and economic powerhouse. The many documentaries currently playing on TV highlight well the troubled times of the 1960s, a period of social unrest and economic uncertainty. With a willingness to make great personal sacrifice, possession of clarity of purpose, and the resolve to lead significant change, Mr Lee has been a wonderful reminder that one person can truly make a difference.

History will allow us to study further the strategy and techniques utilised by Mr Lee and his founding ministers. For the leadership team at GWA, Mr Lee provides us with a local context for ensuring that our strategy is strong, our commitment to developing significant educational opportunities is unwavering, and that the eagerness to become a world-player is tempered against the focus on what is needed now and next to build a strong platform for future school development.

As foreigners living in Singapore, we are fortunate to provide our families with a lifestyle that is privileged, an environment that is safe, and opportunities that are endless. GWA exists because of our commitment to provide families with access to quality education. It is because of visionaries such as Mr Lee that we are in a position to support further educational development in Singapore and within the region.

We remember Mr Lee and his legacy. We celebrate his entrepreneurial initiatives and commit to contributing greatly to the increasing strength of Singapore as the regional centre for learning.

David Edwards - Head of Education  
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## Arts Update

Grade 6 have been having fun with paper sculpting whilst inquiring into masks from different cultures. They have been identifying how and why masks are used and would like to share how they have been inspired by what they have discovered.



Claire Rimmer - Visual Arts  
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## Arts Week May 4-8, 2015

Come one, come all to a week long celebration of the Arts!

Our Arts Team is working very hard to prepare a celebration like no other. GWA-S will be showcasing numerous arts experiences for all of our students - from Visual Arts, Dance, Drama and Music - this week will have it all. The celebration will include performances, an Artist in Residence, workshops, a gallery showcase, and we will be ending the week with selected students attending a Drama festival.

Stay tuned for more information!

## Sports Update

This week we had our first "external provider showcase." The showcase allowed parents to see the great ECA opportunities our external providers offer, to get a real feel for what the activities involve and if they would be beneficial to their child. A huge thank you to those parents who came. The providers did a great job making their areas look appealing and promoting the activities on offer.

Registration for the final block of ECA's that start the week of April 13th is now closed, and I am in the process of sorting through the information and allocating slots to the students. Confirmation of the specific ECA's for your child will be emailed to you upon the week of our return after the holiday. If you did not manage to register your child and still wish to do so, please email me directly and I will look through the opportunities available.

With both our 8U Football team and our 14U boys basketball teams well into their respective seasons, we would love for both students and parents to come and support the home games and add to the exciting atmosphere. Each week I will list the home games for the upcoming week in the newsletter. Please note that students staying to watch a fixture are expected to watch from the designated seating areas and to have transport arranged for them after the game. Students should only be staying after school if they are attending an ECA, watching a sporting fixture, or supervised by a parent or guardian.



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

Ken Barker - Athletics Director/ECA Coordinator  
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## GWA-S Sports Day

Do join us for the GWA-S Sports Day which will be held on Friday, April 10th

## EY/ PY Curriculum Update

**Personal, Social and Physical Education (PSPE)** in the Primary Years Programme aims to develop the students' understanding of communication, feelings, choices, health and perspectives within society.

PSPE at GWA (Singapore) aims to be more than just student participation in sport - games and development of fine and gross motor skills. Our PSPE program aims to develop a combination of **transferable skills promoting physical, intellectual, emotional and social development**. Students are encouraged to make choices that contribute to **long-term healthy living**.

The PSPE program includes athletics, swimming and water safety, games, ball skills, movement composition, adventure challenge and health related fitness.

In the Personal Social and Physical Education Scope and Sequence (2009) the development of overall well-being is defined through three common strands: **Identity, Active Living and Interactions**.



Jacqueline McNalty -  
Head of Early Years/PYP Coordinator  
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## SY Curriculum Update

This week we announced the winners of the school mascot design competition.

We would like to congratulate Diyor Parpiev in Grade 4 as the Primary Years Logo winner, Austin Mitchell in Grade 7 as the Secondary Years Logo Winner and Lucas Kim in Grade 8 as the School Design winner for their fantastic GEMS Jaguar designs.



The process of creating a mascot for GEMS World Academy (Singapore) has involved all students, led by the Student Council. Students were asked to vote on the animal which they felt would best represent the spirit of our school and then had the opportunity to submit their designs for consideration. Many great ideas were submitted from the younger grades right through to the secondary students. The winning designs incorporated both the Jaguar and the school logo.

We look forward to seeing these mascot logos around our school over the coming weeks.



Neil White - School Principal  
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