

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Message from Head of School

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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CALENDAR UPDATE

30 May to 3 June - SY Exams
 1 June to 2 June - Grade 5 PYP exhibition
 8 June - EY swim gala
 9 June - PY/SY swim gala
 10 June - GWA Awards Night, 6:30pm (compulsory for grades 3 and above)
 15 June - EY Awards Assembly

Upcoming Parent Social Events

28 May - Picnic at Botanic Gardens, 4-6pm (Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage)
8 June - Farewell Coffee Morning with Parents leaving GWA, 9.30am at School.



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This week we have closed out our final round of IB inspections for our Diploma and Middle Years Programmes. The visiting teams representing the IB have been impressed by the significant amount of work completed by our wonderful team. Next week sees the final IB inspection of the Primary Years Programme and we hope, closes out the candidate phase of accreditation. With 11 education audits taking place at GWA in 2015-2016, we are looking forward to completing certification elements so that we may move firmly towards the launch of our certified 'Future School'.

In delving into the future of education, we have spent much time exploring the evolution of learning in the past century. It has, in some ways, been a saddening voyage of discovery. The review has continued to deepen the concern that only incremental efforts have taken place in most education systems around the world.

As an aspirational candidate school providing the three IB programmes, we are fortunate to surround your children in a framework of learning which develops skills and concepts for the present and the future. Indeed, part of our commitment as we launch the notion of 'GWA: The Future School' is to ensure that we future-proof every one of our students. In doing so, we have established a programme for the Secondary Years which targets significant goals. These include, but are not limited to a programme which:

- Is academically rigorous and internationally certified programme
- Develops and enhances skills needed for now, next and later
- Surrounds every student with multiple educators and classmates, providing a network of support and engagement to deepen and excite learning
- Places GWA (Singapore) students ahead of their peers, through experience in a model of education which best supports success now and in the future

Our upcoming launch is an incredibly exciting initiative which will best place our students in a rapid world of change. They will have access to global educators, guided individually by excellent GWA teachers, interacting with international and local students. The learning environment will be far more data driven and supportive of the development of every student. This significantly enhanced model for learning will connect our students in Singapore with other GEMS Education students in Dubai and Switzerland, as well as expanding the classroom setting to include students from around the world.

We know that by surrounding every student with multiple experienced teachers, in a learning environment which brings together like-minded students from a variety of settings, and utilising a learning management system which provides significant data, we are ensuring that a GWA (Singapore) student is being given every opportunity for success. This has and will always be our commitment to every family.

David Edwards - Head of Education
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Message from School Principal

The final few weeks of this semester see many exciting and important events. Families are encouraged to review the school calendar which can be accessed via the website to stay informed of what's coming up.

Next week the Grade 5 students will share their PYP Exhibition journey with our school community. The PYP exhibition is the culminating event in the Primary Years programme which involves students working collaboratively to conduct an in-depth inquiry into real life issues or problems. Students collectively synthesise all of the essential elements of the PYP in ways that can be shared with the whole school community. The exhibition launch will be held on Wednesday 1st June at 6:30pm in the school auditorium.

Our students will be demonstrating their swimming skills in our upcoming Swim Galas. The Early Years Swim Gala will take place on the morning of **Wednesday 8th June** in the learning pool and the combined Primary and Secondary Years Swim Gala will be held on **Thursday 9th June** in the main pool. This is wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their ongoing development and compete against one another in teams across both the primary and secondary years.

A special event which celebrates the achievements of our youngest learners takes place at **9:10am on Wednesday 15th June** in the auditorium. The Early Years Awards assembly is an opportunity to recognise how our Early Years students have been displaying the PYP attitudes throughout the year. Our Early Years families are encouraged to attend what is sure to be a wonderful celebration. Further information will be provided in the coming week from the Early Years team about this event.

Neil White

School Principal

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ECA and Sport Update

Friday signalled an end to the ECAs and Sports at GWA this year. Please ensure that your child's transportation requirements are adjusted to reflect the end of the ECAs.

This year, the ECA programme steadily progressed in response to the growing enrolment. The more popular activities for the PY students continued to be lego club and climbing. For the SY, the recently introduced Badminton ECA consistently drew large numbers.

On the sports front, the Jaguars had an impressive season to say the least. We collected individual medals at the Primary and Middle Years cross country meet, at various swim meets and the Middle Years track and field championship.

Our girls' sports teams also experienced a very successful year by collecting a a sliver in the 11U basketball, a bronze medal in the 14U football and gold in the 14U basketball.

Tony McMullen

Activities Coordinator

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GWA Under 8 Football team received medals at Thursday's assembly.

EY/PY Curriculum Update

Next week, our amazing Grade 5 students will be presenting all of the inquiries, challenges and achievements they have been discovering over the past 7 weeks.

Their Exhibition this year will showcase the 'Journey' they have been on. This journey is not just for this last unit of inquiry, but also the entire learning journey that they have been on through their Primary years of school.

Through exploring how 'actions create change that can affect people, the environment and the world,' they have explored many different issues that affect us locally, nationally and globally. They have consolidated skills, achieved greater knowledge and developed understandings about their issue, about each other and most importantly about themselves.

On **Wednesday 1st June**, Grade 5 will launch the Exhibition in an evening event with their parents and on **Thursday 2nd June** the Exhibition is open for all of our school community to visit.

Olivia Burke

PYP Coordinator

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SY Curriculum Update

This week in the SY we have seen two important milestones in our school journey with both the Diploma Programme (DP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP) verification visits having taken place. The MYP visiting team, comprising two IB representatives, has taken the time to speak with students and parents, in addition to speaking with all MYP teachers and making visits to classrooms, to find out more about our programme here at GWA (Singapore). During the process they have also been given a guided tour of our facilities by students and met with all members of staff in the school who contribute to the planning and delivery of the MYP.

The purpose of the visit is to consider the evidence presented to determine how we are delivering a programme which meets IB requirements for authorisation. It is the team's task to identify those practices which go beyond the requirements in addition to giving guidance to contribute to the effective implementation of the MYP. The team will provide feedback to us in the form of a written report within two months.

A big thank you to all students and parents who have been involved with this visit and a special thank you to all the teachers and staff at school who have worked tirelessly in the development of our MYP.

Should you have any questions about the MYP or the verification process please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

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