

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

## Message from Head of School



The past two weeks have provided the school community with wonderful opportunities to engage in the balanced programme on offer at GWA.

Last Friday we held our second GWA Sports Day, which was a fantastic showcase of student physical activity in a fun, competitive team environment. It was interesting to watch just how quickly the students formed their teams and began chanting slogans as they competed. This bodes well as we work on a project exploring the development of a House type structure at GWA. The core goals of this project are to explore how we can continue to promote such strong student connections across the grade levels, as well as

supporting stronger identity creation at the school. Once finalised, information will be shared across all stakeholder groups for feedback and discussion.



Last night, we hosted the Solo and Chamber Concert in the auditorium. For many of the 30 musicians, it was their first time performing in front of such a large crowd. With a black and white theme, the assembled guests enjoyed the many outstanding displays of musical excellence. The development of the Arts programme at GWA over our first 15 months has been impressive, and last night it was extraordinary to witness the significant development of many of the performers since the previous concert. Our tireless Music Department of Chris

Brandt and Daniela Rodnite continue to work very closely with the children, instilling a love for music and providing many opportunities to perform.

November has seen the commencement of Education Leadership recruitment for 2016-2017. Next academic year we will function in a more traditional school division model, with a leadership team in place for the EY/ PY and an additional team overseeing the development of the SY. Our current School Principal, Mr Neil White, will be taking on the role of EY/PY Principal for next school year, and is in the process of interviewing internal and external candidates for the EY/PY Deputy Principal position. We are hopeful of having this role confirmed prior to the December holidays. Neil remains PreK-G10 School Principal through until July 31st, 2016, after which time the new education leadership model will commence.

As Head, I have been short-listing candidates and commenced interviews for the incredibly important position of Secondary Years Principal. The goal is to put in place an inspirational leader with a track record of high standards and development of superior learning programmes in the Secondary Years context. They will be ably supported by a Deputy Principal, Curriculum Coordinators and Academic Advisor. It is likely that the awarding of this position will occur in the early new year.

The development of the division specific leadership model is in anticipation of continued enrolment growth, and to ensure that we put in place a model of distributed leadership, which enables GWA to drive forward towards our strong aspirations.

**David Edwards**  
Head of Education  
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## Message from Deputy Principal

This week we had our IB DP Consultant visit us at Gems World Academy (Singapore ) as part of our IB Diploma pre- authorisation process.

IB Consultants provide support and mentoring to candidate schools seeking authorisation as an IB School. Each candidate school is assigned a consultant by the IB Regional office who will conduct the mandatory consultation visit. The purpose of the visit is to understand the preparedness of the school in order to move onto the next phase of DP authorisation.

Over the two day visit, our consultant had the opportunity to meet at length with all of the DP teachers, Grade 10 students, the Educational Leadership Team and parent representatives. He also had a tour of the school led by our Grade 10 students.

Our consultant reviewed our documentation and provided support and guidance as we move towards authorisation. As a result of this visit, a report will be issued summarising the progress made by the school in its work towards meeting the requirements for authorisation and identifying the school's preparedness to apply for authorisation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the IB Diploma Programme.

**Arnelle Grundhoefer** - Deputy Principal/DP  
Coordinator

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## ECA and Sport Update

Season Two of the ACSIS Conference kicked off for the Jaguars on Monday. Our 11U boys football team made the trip to Canadian International School to play their first round of games.

The boys were impressive and showed great promise in their first game despite going down to a strong Nexus team. The disappointment of the loss was short lived as the boys put together impressive back to back wins against AIS (5-1) and AGS (4-0). The team played well, spreading the ball wide and playing an attacking style of football. They are definitely a team to be watched as the season progresses.

Talking of home games, our 14U boys began their quest for the title on Wednesday at GWA. Not to be outdone by the 11U team, the boys put together a strong defensive performance to defeat Tanglin Trust 3-0. The team has only had a few practises together and while their skills are a little rusty, their desire to compete was not. Coach Gilmour is confident that the team's attitude will take them a long way this season.

The 11U boys will be the next to play on the hallowed GWA pitch. It would be awesome to see a big home crowd out to support our boys in their first home game of the season. Their first game kicks off at 4:30pm on Monday 30th November.



**Tony McMullen**

Activities Coordinator

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## EY/PY Curriculum Update

The aim of an IB education is to create internationally minded students. The learner profile is central to the PYP definition of what it means to be internationally minded. One of these profile attributes is *Balanced*. To be balanced, students need to understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others. Teachers encourage all students to display balance in their life with academics sport, arts, technology <https://www.common sense media.org/screen-time> and family life.

In last week's homeroom class newsletters, Ms. Meline shared information on the importance of sleep for students in the primary years. This is a very important factor in the development of every child.

We want our students to participate in a range of activities that they are interested in so that they form a holistic view of the world. Each week, your child has homework set, this will come home in a variety of ways - hard copy in their folders and homework diaries and for Grades 4 and 5, online in Managebac . Homework has been created by teachers to support what is happening in the classroom. The tasks are designed for students to complete independently. The time taken to complete tasks will depend on each child and each family. In Primary, homework is set to be completed over the week and will cover a variety of areas - Mathematics, Literacy and Unit of Inquiry. The tasks will also encourage students to make connections between what they are learning in class and what is around them. We also know how important it is for families to spend time together, so some tasks will require assistance from an adult at home. Creating a balance in the very busy life of a student is so important for their personal well-being and for fostering a life long love of learning.

**Olivia Burke** - PYP Coordinator  
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## SY Curriculum Update

Students in Grades 6-10 are currently busy preparing for the Middle Years Programme Semester One examinations which run from 30th November to the 4th December. In addition to the support and guidance students have been receiving from their subject teachers, the homeroom programme has helped students prepare for these forthcoming assessments.

Students in Grades 6 and 7 have taken time to look at good study skills, from organisation and time management to setting goals and developing a balanced weekly schedule. In addition to this, all students in Grades 6-10 have investigated methods and tips to help plan and prepare their study schedule, considering strategies to aid revision, keep focus and maintain a positive approach to their work. Attention to these areas assists our students in the development of their Approaches to Learning skills, bringing wider benefits to them beyond the assessment week.

We would like to give thanks to one of our parents, Mrs. McKeering, who has given her time to come into school and support our students within this programme. Additionally, we look forward to celebrating the success of our students in the work they complete during these examinations.

If you have any questions about the Semester One examination week then please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Mark Gardner** - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator  
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### UPCOMING PARENT EVENT

**10 December, 7:30pm** Christmas Potluck dinner at the GWAPA President's home. (contact Judy for the address)

Please contact our PRE, Judy Lee, if you would like more information about our GWA parent socials.

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