

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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CALENDAR UPDATE

8-12 February - Chinese
 New Year school holiday
22 February-25 February -
 Book week
26 February - Pupil-free
 day

METASPRINT SERIES SINGAPORE

Once again GWA is proud to be an official sponsor of the Metasprint Series for 2016. If you would like to sign up for any of the races click [here](#)

GONG XI FA CAI!

The Chinese New Year of the Monkey is approaching. The GWA Chinese New Year Celebration Assembly is scheduled for Thursday, 4th of February at 9:10am in the auditorium. Every student is encouraged to dress in Red and/or Chinese New Year dress for the day



Message from Head of School

This weekend we are delighted to host a conference for school admissions leaders from across Asia-Pacific. This conference is being delivered in partnership with Faria Systems, a provider of cloud-based school support systems. Whilst our involvement includes being active participants and co-organisers, we have also accepted the opportunity to be the key note presenter at the opening session on Saturday morning.

The keynote is going to address "Why all schools should behave like start-ups", with a central argument being that early stage schools have the advantage of being agile, responsive and more adaptable to client needs. The presentation will explore the importance of purpose, vision and mission in delivering sincere education, spending time exploring examples of the importance of having appropriate people within the start-up organisation.

One other central premise, especially given the audience, is that the Admissions team is a crucial department in ensuring that families are well-supported, that they are guided with sincerity through the admissions process, and that the admissions team connects to other relevant departments when needed during the enrolment process.

For many of our families, especially those who have joined this academic year, you will have spent much time working closely with Kellie and Stephanie from the Admissions office. They are two great examples of staff at GWA (Singapore) who work tirelessly to ensure families are provided with all necessary support, information and clarification as they make the emotional decision of placing their child at an international school, in a foreign country.

In so many ways, it is the interaction with the Admissions team which directly influences the decision-making of parents to join a school and we are fortunate to have such committed staff.

David Edwards

Head of Education

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Message from the Deputy Principal

In addition to the six core academic courses taken in the IB Diploma, all students are required to write a 4000 word Extended Essay as part of the programme. The Extended Essay, often called the "EE", allows students to explore a topic in an area of study of interest to them. According to the IB, the "participation in this process develops the capacity to analyse, synthesise and evaluate knowledge". The range of topics that can be pursued is generally related to one of the main subjects.

Researchers at the University of Virginia explored the ways in which the Extended Essay helps to prepare students for their studies in terms of academic performance, retention, willingness to engage in more research, and future plans. As part of the study, researchers questioned 1045 IB DP alumni. The key findings of the study were:

- Students felt prepared for college level research
- Research skills allowed for success on college essays
- Students who successfully completed an EE had grades that were statistically better than their counterparts who did not complete an EE

If you have any questions about the IB Diploma Programme or the Extended Essay, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Arnelle Grundhoefer - Deputy Principal/DP

Coordinator

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John Wilkinson joined the Jaguar Girls as a guest coach during their training session on Wednesday this week. John is an ex-Singapore National player. He is also the main pundit for Singtel TV's live football production. Despite a busy schedule, he took some time off to instruct our girls team on some soccer techniques and gave them tips on passing, shooting, and dribbling.

ECA and Sport Update

Football again took centre stage this week with our 14U boy and girls competing in the ACSIS semi finals. The 11U boys also had a hectic week playing three games on Monday and then backing that up with a further four games on Wednesday.

With a home field advantage and a previous win over their opponents, NSP International School, the girls were feeling confident. However, due to a variety of reasons the Jaguars' went into the game with a depleted team. Though the girls played valiantly, they were unable to repeat their regular season result to secure the win. Despite the loss the girls are still in medal contention and will play for bronze next week at home.

The 14U boys travelled to UWCE on the same day and unfortunately met a similar fate. UWCE scored two early goals, which put our team under early pressure from which they were unable to recover. As a result, the boys will be our second team vying for a bronze medal next week. However, this time they will have a home field advantage, which they are hoping will prove to be the difference.

The 11U Jaguars have maintained their march towards the final this coming Saturday with impressive matches on Monday and Wednesday. In Coach Rimmer's words, "the boys are playing an expansive, free flowing brand of football that is impressive to watch". The team will close their season on Saturday at GWA. The young Jaguars will have home field advantage as they take on 12 other teams in their quest for ACSIS gold. The games begin at 8:30am and will conclude at 12 noon.

ECA Update

The registration process for the sporting teams participating in the ACSIS third block is now complete. Students numbers are gradually increasing and as a result we have been able to form two 8U football teams, 14U boys and girls basketball teams as well as track and field teams for both primary and senior years students.

The registration for the third season ECAs is currently open and will close on Monday. After Monday, no further registrations will be accepted. So please get in early to secure a spot for your child.

Tony McMullen - Activities Coordinator

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EY/PY Curriculum Update

Inquiry based learning is a fundamental component of our taught curriculum. It is the leading pedagogical approach of the PYP, is recognised as allowing students to be actively involved in their own learning and to take responsibility for that learning. Inquiry allows each student's understanding of the world to develop in a manner and at a rate that is unique to that student.

"The questions young people ask remind us that the search for meaning is fundamental to what it is to be human. The urge to inquire activates thinking on many levels and in many forms. When we seek to make sense of the world around us, we wonder, we plan, we analyse, we create, we reflect. At its very heart, inquiry is all about thinking - thinking in order to make meaning." (*Kath Murdoch: Inquiry learning - journeys through the thinking processes.*)

This week, Grade 5 displayed for the whole school the end result of their inquiries into renewable energy sources and what innovations we could see in the future. They created models and tested theories. Each member of every group confidently communicated the process of inquiry they went through. This event will serve as an excellent introduction to the requirements of the PYP Exhibition that our Grade 5 students will be conducting later in the year.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

The forthcoming Chinese New Year provides another opportunity for our SY students to explore and celebrate cultures, perspectives and ideologies from around the world. These are fundamental aspects of global engagement which the Middle Years Programme (MYP) strives to develop in our students.

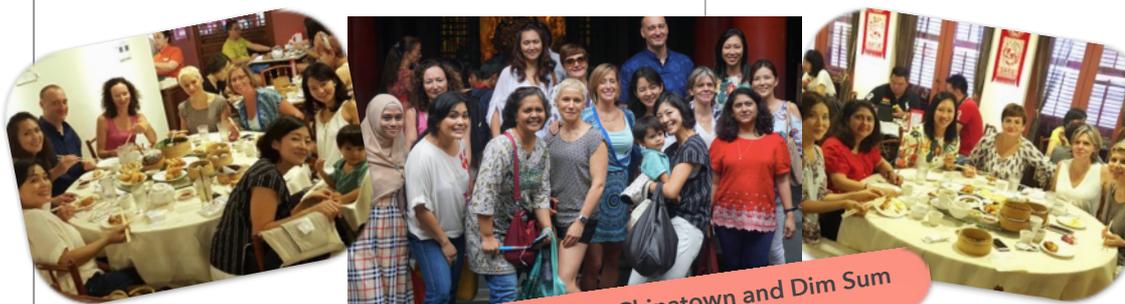
Whilst next week's celebrations provide an area of focus, global engagement also represents a commitment to address humanity's greatest challenges in the classroom and beyond. MYP students explore global and local issues, including aspects of the environment, development, conflicts, rights and cooperation and governance. Globally engaged people critically consider power and privilege, and recognise that they hold the earth and its resources in trust for future generations and the work our students undertake nurtures their appreciation of these issues.

The MYP aims to develop the awareness, perspectives and commitments necessary for effective global engagement and empowers students to be active learners who are committed to service with the community.

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

Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator
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GWAPA UPDATE



27 January - Chinatown and Dim Sum

Next event :
 Wine Evening
 19th of February, 7pm
 Contact our PRE (Judy) or
 GWAPA for address
 details
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