

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

## Message from Head of School

Assurance of the quality of programmes and offerings of GWA (Singapore) is something that the school team takes very seriously. This past academic year, we have undergone four external audits, ranging from curriculum, staff, facilities, finance and operations. This past week, we underwent our first GEMS Education Inspection, which was a thorough review of the education product at GWA.

In preparing for the two day inspection, the Education Leadership Team compiled an exhaustive set of written evidence and supporting documents and forwarded these to the visiting team in advance of the site inspection. This written evidence included, but was not limited to, the written scope and sequence of learning from Pre K to Grade 8, all school policies and procedures, through to examples of student assessment outcomes.

The two day on-site inspection was conducted by the Group Senior Director of Education, Margaret Attack and Director of Standards, Alan Marshall. The inspection included 19 classroom observations, meetings with the Education Leadership Team, as well as interviews with students, parents and teachers.

We are rightly proud that, whilst being measured against standards applied to well-established schools, GWA (Singapore) met every one of the 8 GEMS Education Standards and 37 Standard Components. To achieve this in the first year of academic operation is rare and a fine reflection of the considerable work undertaken by all GWA staff. With the school foundation solidly in place, we are excited to move forward into the next academic year with a very clear direction, excellent group of staff, and a growing school community committed to excellence.

At the parent coffee morning on Wednesday 3rd June, I will be presenting to families an overview of the strategic direction for GWA from 2015-2018. Key discussion points will be areas covering people, our education product, value-added programmes and the multiple external accreditation agencies we must report to. The morning presentation will firmly outline our absolute commitment to ensure that all school stakeholders are provided with outstanding learning opportunities.

David Edwards - Head of Education

[d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg)

### Family BBQ

Enjoy a great BBQ, cold drinks and fun games for the young and old at our first family BBQ hosted by the GWA Parents Association.

**Date:** 6th June 2015

**Time:** 4pm-6:30pm (Please note start time changed to 4pm)

**Venue:** GEMS World Academy (Singapore)

**RSVP:** GWA Parents Association  
[gwaparents@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:gwaparents@gwa.edu.sg)



### GWA AWARDS NIGHT

**Friday 12th June 2015 - 6:30pm -  
GWA Auditorium**

A formal event in which the school showcases high performing student talent and formally recognises outstanding student achievement across sports, arts and academics.

**Please note:** This event is compulsory for Grade 1-8 students. Students are to wear their school uniforms on the night.

### PARENT COFFEE MORNING - 3 June 2015

The Parent Coffee morning next week will be an opportunity to gain some insight into the exciting future of GWA Singapore, David Edwards will be giving an overview of the draft Strategic Plan for GEMS World Academy (Singapore) so please come and join us.

**Date:** 3rd June 2015

**Time:** 09:00am

**Venue:** Auditorium lobby

### Arts Update

Students in all grades have been very busy with their hands this month creating sculptures of all kinds.

Influences have ranged from cultural, carved African masks and the bronze, shadow like castings of Giacometti, through to the constructivist style of Gabo and the contemporary style of Haring. Some are finished but most are still a work in progress.



Claire Rimmer - Visual Arts  
[c.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:c.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg)

### Sports Update



Last Friday was our inaugural swimming gala. This event involved every student in the school with Pre K - K2 having a mini gala in the learners pool, and Grades 1 - 8 swimming in the main pool. Students were once again split into the eight teams of Huskies, Ducks, Dolphins, Sharks, Tigers, Leopards, Roosters, and Lions, scoring points for their team throughout the day. In the end the top three teams were as follows:

	<u>Team</u>	<u>Score</u>
★1st Place	Huskies	778
★2nd Place	Ducks	754
★3rd Place	Lions	745



Congratulations to all our swimmers for making the day such a huge success. The event ended with a freestyle relay race featuring a selection of teachers and parents swimming against each other.

A list of the school swimming records for the major



strokes will be displayed in the pool area.

We are looking forward to the next swimming gala being even bigger and better, so keep swimming!

Ken Barker - Athletics Director/ECA Coordinator  
[k.barker@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:k.barker@gwa.edu.sg)

## EY/ PY Curriculum Update

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Our Early Years curriculum at GWA develops children's transdisciplinary skills such as communication, social, thinking, research and self- management. Our Early Year's programme is focused on giving our youngest students a great start to their learning journey.

We offer an inquiry and play-based, developmental and inter-disciplinary Early Year's programme that caters to the individual needs and learning styles of young children. Children are guided through the curriculum and are encouraged to ask questions, make connections and construct their own understandings.

Children explore and inquire into a range of concepts, knowledge, attitudes and skills through units of inquiry that give foundational academic understanding in the areas of mathematical and literacy skills, science, social studies and technology, providing a meaningful context to build understanding. The Early Years are an important time where children develop their sense of autonomy and identity, supported through a focus on the Learner Profile and Attitudes.

We would like to invite you to our **Early Years Awards Assembly on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> June at 9am** in the **GWA Auditorium** as we celebrate our Early Years students and their successful school year.

Jacqueline McNalty -  
Head of Early Years/PYP Coordinator  
[j.mcnalty@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.mcnalty@gwa.edu.sg)

## SY Curriculum Update

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A reminder that the Secondary Years Semester Examinations commence on **Tuesday 2nd June, through until Monday 8th June**. The semester examinations are a significant formal period for checking student progress. Teachers will be spending time in class guiding students on the areas to be assessed, as well as helping them best prepare for these examinations.

The final weeks of the school year will also be an opportunity for teachers, students and parents to reflect upon the great progress that has occurred this year. Shortly after the semester examinations, students will review their work with their class teachers, so that they have a greater understanding of both their strengths and weaknesses. Reflection of this nature is a key approach to learning that leads to improved student development, and which is central to the assessment philosophy of the IB Middle Years Programme.

Please be aware that there will be a final Secondary Years assembly on Wednesday 17th June, starting at 9:10am in the auditorium.

A reminder to Grade 8 parents if you have not already done so, to please return your child's course selection form for Grade 9 to Mr. Burke by Tuesday 2nd June at the latest.

Should you have any questions regarding end of year curriculum matters, please don't hesitate to contact me

Neil White - School Principal  
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