

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Message from Head of School

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Reception: +65 6808 7321

info@gwa.edu.sg

Division Office: +65 6808 7313

n.white@gwa.edu.sg

a.grundhoefer@gwa.edu.sg

Curriculum Office:

MYP/IGCSE: +65 6808 7363

m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg

PYP: +65 6808 7362

o.burke@gwa.edu.sg

Bus Enquiries:

Mr Tan (HDT): 9777 4838

gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg

This week we have completed the final round of IB accreditation, through our PYP verification visit. This two day on-site review of the school was in addition to the five days last week we had IB representatives on campus conducting reviews of our planned IB Diploma Programme for Grades 11 and 12, as well as our IB Middle Years Programme for Grades 6-10. These three final reviews are the culmination of years of work, with the initial requests sent to the IB in late 2013.

Our teaching staff are incredibly hard-working and as you will attest to, completely dedicated to ensuring wonderful opportunities are provided for your children. As educators, they have developed every lesson, every unit of work, the extensive resources and a variety of platforms for the delivery and support of high quality education. They are to be commended for their tireless efforts in getting the school so quickly developed, in readiness for great teaching and learning, as well as the external recognition from the IB through these accreditation visits.

On Monday we were very happy to receive confirmation that we have been accredited as a member of the Council of International Schools. COIS is a highly sought after international school authority, who provides extensive recognition of programmes, certification of schools, and support of education development. This acceptance marks an clear achievement of GWA in being recognised as a significant international school within Asia.

Across the 10 education reviews held this year, each visiting team has spoken of our excellent teachers, our excellent community and our excellent programmes. This notion of excellence is a key focus for our upcoming GWA (Singapore) Awards Night, taking place on campus from 6.30pm on Friday 10th June. Whilst active participation is encouraged at the school, excellence is a goal that all students at GWA are striving towards. Excellence for every member of our community may look different, however the desire to achieve personal success is a common aspiration. Excellence in many ways is not simply an outcome. By clear definition at our school, excellence is a mindset, one that can be supported, cultivated and developed. Excellence is the desire and action to do our very best, whether this be in sports, arts and/or academics.

The GWA (Singapore) Awards Night is a key event where we gather as a school community to celebrate excellence across the school. Awards are provided to recognise student success in sports, arts and academics. This compulsory, formal school event is a significant point of reflection and recognition of wonderful achievements from the academic year. We look forward to welcoming all to our final large gathering as a school community for 2015-2016, and in celebrating the remarkable achievements from across GWA (Singapore).

David Edwards

Head of Education

d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg

CALENDAR UPDATE

30 May to 3 June - SY Exams

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

17 June - School year ends

Upcoming Parent Social Event

8 June - Farewell Coffee
Morning with Parents
leaving GWA, 9.30am at
School.



Message from Deputy Principal

Last week we had our IB verification visit for the Diploma Programme. The purpose of a verification visit is to ensure that the educational principles, standards and practices on which the IB programme is founded will be maintained and furthered. Over the two day visit, our IB visitors, had the opportunity to meet at length with all of the DP teachers, Grade 10 students, the Educational Leadership Team and parent representatives. Our visit team also had a tour of the school led by our Grade 10 students. The visit team was impressed with our school community, the supportive parents, motivated students and our hardworking and passionate DP teaching staff. Following the visit, the relevant IB office will produce a report regarding the authorisation process. This report will be based on the findings of the verification visit.

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and students who were involved in the visit over the three days. We look forward to receiving the report from IB as we progress to full authorisation of the IB Diploma programme.

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

Arnelle Grundhoefer

Deputy Principal/DP Coordinator

n.white@gwa.edu.sg



Sport Update

The **Early Years** Swim Gala will happen in the Learner Pool on **Wednesday June 8**.



We will have chairs set up around the pool for parents, please come and watch your children splash and play. All Pre-K, KG1, and KG2 students should come to school wearing their swim suit underneath their PE uniform.

- Pre-K will swim from 9:15-10:00
- KG will swim from 10:30-11:15
- KG2 will swim from 11:45-12:30

Students will take part in fun relays involving swimming, kicking and walking both individually and with a partner. Please come and dress casually, because you might get splashed!

The annual GWA Swim Gala will happen on **Thursday June 9** - get ready for some splashing and screaming! Over 300 students from G1 through G10 will be racing in individual and relay events. Mr. Dempsey will be announcing and getting the crowd excited, Mr. Brandt will be playing some upbeat music to keep the crowd energised, and the students will be racing and having fun. There will be chairs placed on the pool deck for parents, so put on some casual clothes and watch the fun!

The first event is scheduled to start at 9:30 and we expect the event to finish by 12:30. All students should come to school wearing their swim suit underneath their PE uniform. Students should bring a snack and a towel. After the competition students will change and eat lunch, spend a little time with their classroom or homeroom teacher, and then everyone will meet in the auditorium at 2:30 for the awards presentation.

Steve Betts

PE Teacher

s.betts@gwa.edu.sg

EY/PY Curriculum Update

Congratulations to our Grade 5 students who launched their Exhibition on Wednesday night and then on Thursday showcased their learning to the entire school community. Their hard work and dedication to their issue was a credit to them all. They were supported through their process by their wonderful teachers Mr. Rimmer, Mrs. Wishart, Ms. Bao Ling and Ms. Rahimah. What they have achieved over their 7 week inquiry is truly amazing. The students all presented with confidence and passion. The skills that they have developed over this time will be crucial for their transition into Middle school.

Our school is presently in the process of undergoing it's International Baccalaureate authorisation process. The final part of this process is the Verification visit. The purpose of the visit to our school is to verify all of the hard work and dedication that the teachers, students, staff and parents have completed and then, based on the evidence and findings the IB will be able to grant us authorisation to be IB World school.

The visiting team met with various members of our school community, reviewed evidence and documentation that we created to support our claim to offer the Primary Years Programme. It is a very exciting time for our young school and programme. The visit was very positive. The visiting team highlighted that our teachers are incredibly dedicated and passionate about education and the PYP. They commended us on how much work has been completed to get us to this point. They also provided us with valuable feedback for the future development of our programme.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
o.burke@gwa.edu.sg

SY Curriculum Update

Semester examinations have been the focus in the Middle Years Programme (MYP) this week, with students sitting papers in Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies and Sciences. The examinations provide our students with the opportunity to develop approaches to learning and demonstrate depth and breadth in the knowledge, skills and abilities they have worked on through the year. Over the coming week students will receive feedback on their performance in each subject examination and be encouraged to reflect and identify areas for attention both now and in the future.

In addition to the examinations, students have continued to complete assessment work in visual Art, Music, Drama, Design and Physical and Health Education. Assessment in these subjects utilises processes over an extended period to provide measures of attainment which are reflective of student ability and application within these areas.

Be it through examination or assessment tasks, each of the eight subject groups within the MYP is of equal importance within our balanced curriculum and the different methods of assessment support the development of a range of skills within our students.

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

Mark Gardner
 MYP/IGCSE Coordinator
m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg



GRADE 5 PYP EXHIBITION ASSEMBLY