

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

Uniform update

Please note from Tuesday 7 October all students should be wearing their tie/scarf. The school hat/cap should be purchased and worn also from Tuesday.

Student Contract

Please be aware the PEI-student contract will be sent home with students today. Ensure it is signed and sent back to the class teacher no later than Wednesday 8 October. A copy will then be sent back to you by the end of next week. If you have any questions regarding this please contact the Admissions team.

Shuttle Bus

Please note below the adjusted MRT shuttle bus times:

Morning Service (Yishun MRT to GWA-S)

7:40,8:15,8:40

Afternoon Service (GWA-S to Yishun MRT)

MON to THURS

3:40,4:10,4:40

FRIDAY

1:40



Message from Head of School

Our first two weeks on the school campus have allowed teachers and students to establish classroom routines and leverage off the successful learning from the Experiential Learning Programme (ELP). Routines include wearing our smart looking uniform, ensuring bags are packed appropriately each night, and completing their fun homework each night. As we move further into October, class and subject teachers continue to raise academic expectations and the first round of summative assessment will commence. The weekly teacher newsletter and ongoing personal communication will ensure that parents remain fully engaged in the learning of their children.

Our first GWA-S Family Pot Luck dinner, held on Friday 26th September, was a fantastic night, with over 300 students, parents and staff in attendance. The food was an eclectic mix of national dishes and provided an informal opportunity once again for parents to spend time with the teachers. The wonderful music performance by Avaana George (G6) was a fine showcase of the talents that exist without our student body.

Enjoy the updates in this newsletter, as well as the class teacher newsletter that will soon be in your inbox.

David Edwards - Acting Head of School/CEO



Arts update

The Arts programme is central to the GWA-S philosophy of developing life-long learners and an appreciation of a world of culture. Through the Arts, students will have opportunities to explore performance and artistic expression through our After School Activities programme, regular assemblies, in class inquiry, and some fantastic upcoming celebrations.

Cultural diversity, expression and learning new skills are key components of our Arts programme. Beyond the traditional Arts focus, students will engage in all aspects from the technical, organizational and presentation elements in the three art forms of music, visual art and drama.

Keriann O'Rourke - English and Drama

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Sports update

GWA-S students last weekend performed incredibly well in the Singapore National Championships for Aquathlon. This national multi-sport event consisting of a swim and run, was contested against a variety of age-groups at East Coast Park. Nirvaan Nagaldinne (G4) placed 7th in his age category, finishing the race with a blistering run leg. Emma Middleditch (G7) placed 2nd in the 12-13 girls category, was third placed girl overall, ran the fastest 3km time (11:42) and had only four boys in the 14-15 age group beat her! A wonderful display of athletics excellence by both students and a great start to our sporting programme

Next week brings two milestones for the school. First, the start of our After School Activities (ASA) programme here at GWA Singapore, and secondly the beginning of training for our first ever school teams, Cross Country and Swimming.



With the ASA and Sporting programme commencing on Tuesday, it has been great to see so many of our students register for various activities - thank you parents for taking the time to fill out the online form. Later this semester a survey form will be sent out to parents. This will be your opportunity to send us your ideas on other activities you would like to see, in the hope that we can build some of these into future ASA offerings.

Ken Barker - Athletic Director/ASA Coordinator

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EY/ PY Curriculum Update

During the past few weeks the teachers and students have continued to develop collaborative and positive classroom communities. One way that they have achieved this is by establishing with students the classroom '**Essential Agreements**'.

Essential Agreements are a powerful way of bringing out the best in individuals, small groups, year levels and entire school. In the classroom, rather than teachers imposing rules, everyone works collaboratively to establish an agreement on how the class will function.

This week at our PYP assembly, School Counsellor Mrs. Henning shared with the students our GWA-S break time playground 'Essential Agreements' which form an extension of those being practiced in the classroom.

Within our Early and Primary Years curriculum, the action cycle is the simple yet powerful tool used to teach children how to take action. By going through the three steps of choosing, acting and then reflecting back upon the results of their choice, students develop the transdisciplinary skills.

EY/PY Curriculum Update cont.

This week we have been very proud to witness 'action' and the 'caring' and 'principled' learner profile attributes from Grade 5 students Sophie Zacka and Georgia McKeering. Sophie and Georgia reviewed, researched and reflected on ways to improve the break times for all GWA-S students, helping to make our school a more exciting learning environment.

Jacqueline McNalty - Head of Early Years/PYP Coordinator

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SY Curriculum Update

As the new academic year commences it is an ideal opportunity to reflect on the values inherent in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP). It aims to develop community-minded lifelong learners, who exemplify the IB learner profile. The MYP shares much of the same philosophy of the Diploma Programme (DP) and is designed to prepare students for success in the DP in grades 11 and 12. All students in the MYP undertake a well-rounded course of study from the eight MYP subject areas. One of my roles as the MYP Curriculum Coordinator is to ensure that we deliver a robust Middle Years Programme across the Middle and High Schools, by ensuring that there is a clear progression in student expectations, curriculum delivery and assessment across the five years of the programme.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Neil White - MYP Curriculum Coordinator

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Upcoming events

6 October 2014 - Hari Raya Haji School will be closed due to the public holiday

15 October 2014 - Parent coffee morning, Parent Association meeting

28-30 October - Meet the teacher nights