

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

## Message from Head of School

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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This week's HOE message comes from The Hague, Netherlands as I have the honour of representing GWA (Singapore) at the IB Heads of School World Conference. It is a fitting location for bringing together international education leaders, with The Hague being a core location for the United Nations, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

The conference has a core theme of "Shaping the World" and is a chance to review our current progress and plans for the future, exploring the innovations and programme development taking place in leading IB schools from around the world. It is also an opportunity to spend time with other GEMS School Heads who are in attendance and to discuss collaboration opportunities across the GEMS Education network of schools.

November represents a significant month for GWA as we undertake three separate IB verification visits. The purpose of these multiple two day reviews is to verify that the school is progressing well in our implementation of the Primary Years (PYP), Middle Years (MYP) and Diploma Programmes (DP). The external IB consultants have been working closely with our three curriculum coordinators, reviewing documentation and exploring our various action plans. The onsite visit is a chance to see the school, meet face-to-face with leadership, interact directly with students, and to spend time with teachers verifying the many great steps taken thus far, as well as reinforcing our plans for moving forward.

In a week in which includes our Uniting Nations Celebration, this coming Monday and Tuesday is our PYP Verification visit. Our PYP Curriculum Coordinator, Olivia Burke, has been working hard with the EY and PY teaching teams to ensure all is in place for a successful two day review. Our thanks to her and the leadership team for the countless hours in bringing together the school evidence, and to our teachers for the care taken in building a great programme from scratch.

We look forward to welcoming you to GWA on Thursday, as we join together for our Uniting Nations Celebration. The contributions by students, staff and parents in planning for the night is sure to make it an entertaining gathering of our 40 nationalities.

David Edwards - Head of Education

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

### PARENT ENGAGEMENT MORNING

*Technology and your child -  
Interactive workshop for parents,  
facilitated by Brady Cline  
(Learning Innovation  
Coordinator)*

**When:** Wednesday 5 November,  
09:00am

**Where:** Auditorium Lobby



Halloween dress-up at GWA on Wednesday this week

## ART UPDATE



We at GWA are excited to have been invited to contribute to 'IN' - the fifth International Schools Art Exhibition. Several of our Grade 9 and 10 student's work will be exhibited along side many other international schools in Singapore. There will be collaborative musical features, food and refreshments, and obviously outstanding young art talent on show

**Date** - 4th November

**Time** - 6:30pm

**Venue** - The Atrium (Australia High Commission) – 25 Napier Road

### Uniting Nations Poster competition

With UN only a week away we were excited to receive so many entries for the poster competition. Congratulations to all those who entered and especially to Lucas, Grade 9 and Dominique & Yeon Woo, Grade 5, who's designs were selected as two of the best.



Claire Rimmer - Visual Arts and Design

[c.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:c.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg)

## ECA and Sport Update

The 11U girls basketball team finished the regular season in fine fashion on Wednesday afternoon. The team comfortably defeated Avondale College 16 points to 7. Once again the Jaguars controlled the game from the opening whistle, with a combination of precise passing and tenacious defence.

It has been a remarkable season so far for the inexperienced Jaguars. Week in and week out, the girls produced impressive performances that belied their experience. The consistent improvement displayed by the team throughout the season is a testament to their hard work and dedication. Coach Burke couldn't be happier with his team as they head into the finals this Saturday. Having only lost one regular season game, the team are seeded first and hopes are high that that is where they will finish.

The girls will take to the court at 9:40am for their first game this Saturday October 31st. And if all goes to plan, they will be playing in the gold medal game at 11:40am. If you can spare some time on Saturday morning it would be great to see you at the GWA gym. The girls are looking forward to the finals, and having a huge home crowd will only add to their excitement.

Wednesday afternoon also saw the culmination of the cross country season for our 16U boys. Despite the challenging season due to haze our boys were still able to record some impressive performances. Arnav was first home for the Jaguars, recording a time of 22 minutes for the 5km race, which earned him 12th place in his division. Helmi was not too far behind, finishing 19th in a time of 25 minutes. Despite some challenges, Aryan also managed to finish the race strongly.

### ECA Update

By now all families should have received a description for the activities on offer for the second block as well as the registration link. If you have not received this information, please contact the school as soon as possible.

The registrations will close at 4pm on Saturday October 31st, and after this time, no further registrations will be accepted.

The new ECAs will commence on Monday November 9th.

If you have any questions regarding the ECA offering or the sign up process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Tony McMullen** - Activities Coordinator/PE Teacher

[t.mcmullen@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:t.mcmullen@gwa.edu.sg)

## EY/PY Curriculum Update

Thank you to all parents for participating in the Parent teacher conferences. This is a valuable time for you to make contact with your child's teachers and to discuss your child as a learner. These conferences also allow for us as teachers, to learn more about the students we teach. Parent insights into their child's strengths and needs, learning styles, and non-school learning opportunities all help to build a bigger picture of the child.

The Harvard Family Research Project which is a branch of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, identify that 'we all need praise and constructive criticism to grow. All parents are proud of their children and should hear about their strengths as well as their challenges from their child's teacher. This values the unique strengths of the child and establishes high expectations for their ability to succeed in school and in life.' ([www.hfrp.org](http://www.hfrp.org)).

Over the past quarter, teachers and students have been working toward this check point in the learning process. It is very important that students have the opportunity to reflect and communicate on their learning and be honest with their progress development, strengths, challenges and next steps.

If you require further information about the PYP please contact me directly.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator  
[o.burke@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:o.burke@gwa.edu.sg)

### GWA Calendar Event Reminder

**3 November** - Parent engagement morning (*Technology and your child*)

**5 November, 6:30pm** - Uniting Nations

**10 November** - Public Holiday (Deepavali)

**20 November** - Sports Day

**30 November - 4 December** - SY Semester Exams

**Advance Notice:** Please note that there will be an early school day for all students on 5th November. Buses will depart at 1.30pm, due to the UN Celebration preparations. The normal 1.30pm end time will also be in place for Friday 6th November.

## SY Curriculum Update

As we begin Quarter Two of the academic year the SY parent-teacher conferences have provided timely opportunity to focus upon learning and continue with ongoing conversations to support the success of all of our students here at school. The discussion with teachers has included the review of work and the recent progress report, and recognition of the strengths and challenges for each student, with identification of how these are being addressed.

To consolidate the information we strongly recommend that all parents review what was discussed at the conference with your child, including any special learning plans, and share the positive comments the teacher made.

The conversations at the conference are two-way and we encourage continual dialogue to support our students' development, academic success and to maintain a successful partnership between parents and teachers. Should you require any further clarification, detail or guidance on the discussions held during the conference then please do not hesitate to contact myself or the specific subject teacher.

Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator  
[m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg)

### UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS FOR GWA PARENTS

**12 November - 11am to 1pm**

Coffee at the Assembly Ground - Make new friends and mingle over coffee and cake.

**18 November - 11am to 2pm**

Banana Leaf lunch followed by a walk through Little India to experience the Deepavali celebration.

**24 November - 10:30am to 12pm**

Singapore Art Museum  
(Note: \$10 Admission fee)

Please contact our PRE (Judy Lee) if you would like to attend any of the above events or if you would like more information.

[pre@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:pre@gwa.edu.sg)