

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

## Message from Head of School

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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**Bus Enquiries:**

Mr Tan (HDT): 9777 4838

### CALENDAR UPDATE

**7 March** - Grade 10 IGCSE Mock examinations

**7,8 & 10 March** - Talent week

**10 March, 6:30pm** - G3 Camp Parent Information evening

**14-17 March** - STEM Week

**25 March** - Good Friday

**28 March-8 April** - School Holiday

### GWAPA FOOD DONATION DRIVE

There is a specific list of donation items required, please contact Judy, our PRE or Michelle Dabbs directly for this information.

Donation items can be handed to Judy at the GWA Parent Relation desk



**Michelle Dabbs** -  
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**Judy** - [j.lee@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.lee@gwa.edu.sg)  
[gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg)

In the coming week GWA (Singapore) will undergo our fifth external review of the education provision at the school during 2015-2016, as we undergo our annual GEMS Education Review. As a premium international school within the network of GEMS Education institutions, we are held to high expectations, all of which are mapped out in the organisational GEMS Education Global Education Standards. These expectations are in addition to the requirements of the Council for Private Education (CPE), Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), Council for International Schools (CIS) and the specific programme standards required by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO).

The standards cover eight core areas, which include:

1. Student Achievement
2. Teaching and Learning
3. Students Personal and Social Development
4. Meeting Student Needs
5. Leadership and Management
6. Digital Learning
7. Safeguarding and Supporting Students
8. Parental Engagement

In the lead-up to our second review, our team have put together a series of evidence folders which confirm what is in place at GWA aligned to each standard. During the two day site meetings, the visit team of three members of the GEMS Education network, will be spending much time with teachers, students and parents, learning more about our progress as an early stage school.

A large amount of time during the two days will see the visit team spending time in classrooms. They will review the quality of the various learning environments, the delivery of the planned curriculum, and spend time talking with teachers and students to learn more about the programme at GWA.

These types of reviews are incredibly important ongoing measures and tools which enable us to review where we are now, and to map out key next steps in driving towards our strong aspirations. We performed particularly well on our first review held in May 2015 and we are very much looking forward to the conversations and feedback from the the GEMS Education Review this coming week.

Our external reviews will continue in April with the Council of International Schools (CIS) undertaking a two day visit, culminating in May with separate multi-day visits by various IB visit team members, conducting our final compliance step for each of the three IB programmes we offer at GWA.

We will continue to update our progress, share the outcomes of these reviews, and communicate the development plans of the school.

**David Edwards** - Head of Education  
[d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg)

## Message from the Deputy Principal

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the IB Diploma Parent Information Evening on the 25th of February. The evening focused on general information about the IB Diploma Programme, Diploma course requirements, and programme expectations.

Prior to choosing IB Diploma courses, students need to determine if they will be participating in the full Diploma programme or if they will take IB classes for course credit.

### Full Diploma Programme vs. IB Courses

#### Full Diploma Programme

- Students will have to take six IB courses during the two year programme
- Successfully complete the IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course
- Meet Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) programme requirements
- Write an Extended Essay (4,000 words) based on independent study

#### IB Courses

Students who do not want to do the full Diploma Programme can still take IB classes for course credit. This means they can choose the IB classes they want and sit for the IB examinations. Students who choose to take IB Courses will participate in CAS activities. Students can choose, but are not required to take part in Theory of Knowledge, or write the Extended Essay.

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

**Arnelle Grundhoefer** - Deputy Principal/DP Coordinator  
[a.grundhoefer@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:a.grundhoefer@gwa.edu.sg)

## ECA and Sport Update

The 14U boys' basketball team kicked off ACSIS' third season of sports for the Jaguars on Wednesday, taking on the Australian International School.

Despite their limited preparation and experience the boys were excited and ready to play. However, from the outset it appeared that luck would not be on their side. Key player, Federico Vanoli badly sprained his ankle prior to the game and was unable to play.

The freak accident left the Jaguars undermanned but their enthusiasm never waned. The team, led by their more experienced players came out strongly. The Jaguars' defence was impressive as they worked tirelessly to contain their more talented rivals.

At the end of the first quarter GWA were well and truly in the match, leading the visitors by one point. However, as the game progressed the visitors gradually started to assert their dominance. By half time the Jaguars had surrendered their lead but were still in striking distance.

In the second half GWA were unable to maintain their defensive intensity, which resulted in AIS gradually moving away to an unassailable lead. The Jaguars fought it out until the final whistle but were unable to get back into the match.

The team will be looking to reverse the result next Tuesday when they take on UWCE away from the Jaguars' den.

**Tony McMullen** - Activities Coordinator  
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## Experiential Learning Programme

This week has been a very exciting and busy week for the ELP. The Grade 4 students have been the first group to go off-site for their overnight experience, travelling to Pulau Ubin. They experienced sea kayaking; explored Chek Jawa, a wetlands area featuring a wide range of different flora and fauna; mountain biking to explore the island; outdoor cooking; and took part in an interactive GPS race.

Thank you also to all the parents who attended the Grade 6 and Grade 7-10 information sessions about the camps in Australia and Thailand, coming up at the end of April. Next week we will be sharing information with the Grade 3 parents about the planned experience for the students to the Aquarium at Resorts World, Sentosa.

**Paul Rimmer** - ELP Coordinator  
[p.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:p.rimmer@gwa.edu.sg)

## STEM Week

STEM week starts on Monday **14th March and runs until Thursday 17th March**. This year it is a student based programme that has activities for for all EY, PY and SY students, either in class or during lunch.

### Schedule of Events:

KG1-KG2 students will try the following activities:

- Marble run challenge,
- Slime making
- Air activities



Grade 1-4 lunch time activities at 1pm each day from Monday to Thursday. All grade levels will get to try each activity:

- Slime making
- Egg drop landing survival
- Sphero robot racing
- Paper helicopters - slowest descent



Grade 5 will do the above STEM activities on Monday before they go to camp on Tuesday.

A quiz will run each morning on Google + Secondary Student Notices.

Grades 6, 7 and 8 - will undertake STEM challenges in their Math and Science classes throughout the week:

- Gr 6: Bridges - can you cross a span and hold the bridge buster weight?
- Gr 7: Egg capsules - can the egg survive a fall?
- Gr8: House electronics - build a house with auto lights, alarm and door opening counter?
- Grades 9 and 10 will be involved in Slime making and egg dropping during lunch on Tuesday and Thursday

For parents there is a STEM activity at the parent morning coffee on **Wednesday 16th March**.

**Brendan Burke**- STEM Coordinator/Science and Mathematics Teacher  
[b.burke@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:b.burke@gwa.edu.sg)



## SY Curriculum Update

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) provides the framework, philosophy and continuous assessment in Grades 6-10. It is the 'how': how we teach and how we learn. In Grades 9 and 10 the Cambridge IGCSE qualifications provide the content across all subjects, it is what we learn. This approach provides thoroughness and clarity to enhance curriculum planning, as well as prepare students for an internationally certified external examination.

Our Grade 10 students are currently planning and preparing for the IGCSE mock examinations, which will run next week from Monday 7th through to Thursday 10th March. These examinations provide an experience to model the IGCSE external examinations which Grade 10 will undertake in May and June, and provide students with further feedback and guidance from their teachers as they work towards these qualifications.

The IGCSE strengthens our overall programme at GWA (Singapore), adds additional academic rigour to our secondary years curriculum and develops skills and abilities in our students that will enhance their opportunities to achieve to the highest standards in their studies.

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

**Mark Gardner** - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

[m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg)

### Wednesday 9th March:

All Gr9 students will be involved in a 'Digital Bookmaking' workshop between 9am-12pm. The workshop is being led by NUS Professor and published author, Alex Mitchell, as part of Singapore's 'Words Go Round' festival. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for our Gr9s and a morning to look forward to.

**Rachel Cox** - Language & Literature

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