

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

Message from Head of School

GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION

On Wednesday this week we had our GWA parents join us for the monthly parent coffee morning. We had a great turnout and got to discuss and answer questions around the topic "Understanding the GWA programme of learning opportunities".

Following the coffee morning we had our first GWA Parents Association meeting for this academic year, where we voted in our new committee in the executive election.

We would like to congratulate the 2015-2016 GWAPA committee members:

President - Alix Verriest

Vice President - Carla Hernandez

Secretary - Amanda Barak

Treasurer - Claudia Porges

Events Coordinator - Cathy Lawrie

Community Service Coordinator - Michelle Dabbs

Please join us for the next Coffee morning and GWAPA meeting on **Wednesday the 7th of October at 9am** in the **Auditorium Lobby**



It was such a good turnout we had to move to the auditorium.

The Channel News Asia panel explored an incredibly interesting topic, and one very pertinent to your children. Unlike any other period in education, the digital information age has transformed the level and speed in which information is accessible to the masses. As a result, the education industry must also change, delivering a programme of study which commences with skills and concepts, with content being the final component. Data may now be gathered in real time, with future teaching and learning opportunities being swiftly enhanced based upon the outcomes that the data collected may direct us towards.

A simple example of this adjustment relates to assessment. In the "olden days", a teacher would administer a class test, the books would be collected, and all going well, the books would be returned a week later. With the advent of content creation platforms, teachers may now create adaptive tests, with questions getting easier or harder based upon the child's ability to respond. Once completed, the teacher has immediate access to the results, breaking down the data into areas which can significantly enhance future classroom practice. The outcomes are immediate and impacts the speed in which teachers can best cater to individual student learning needs.

There is much conversation happening in the world of education, and for teachers, it is an incredibly exciting time to be in the profession. Provided below are three links to some of the conversations surrounding the future of education, which you may wish to explore further over the weekend:

1. **The School in the Cloud Experiment:** <https://www.theschoolinthecloud.org>
2. **TED Talk- School in the cloud:** https://www.ted.com/talks/sugata_mitra_build_a_school_in_the_cloud?language=en
3. **BBC Review of Future Education:** <http://www.bbc.com/future/tags/futureeducation>

Do join us in the upcoming parent engagement events this school year, as we discuss and review the impact of changes in education on your children, and what this means to you as a parent.

David Edwards

Head of Education

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Message from School Principal

As we settle into this new academic year we have been revisiting essential agreements that have been agreed upon across the school. Essential agreements provide expectations for students and establish important routines. Some of the essential agreements we have in place cover areas such as playground behaviour and organisation and also cafeteria expectations. These essential agreements are followed by the whole school community who are aware of what they are and the purpose they serve.

The beginning of our school year sees students across the grade levels setting goals for their own learning and development. Goal setting provides an ongoing focus for students and can act as a reflective tool for them to evaluate their own progress. Goal setting can have a profound impact on student self-motivation and achievement. At GEMS World Academy (Singapore) our teachers support students in setting goals which are realistic and attainable.

As an organisation, GEMS World Academy (Singapore) has both short term and long term goals for teaching and learning within our school. As part of the wider GEMS Global Education Standards, we adhere to standards which ensure that high levels of teaching and learning are consistently evident in our classrooms. To ensure these standards are met we are committed to ongoing reflection and goal setting. We have a system of classroom observations in place where the Educational Leadership team visit classrooms on a regular basis to observe lessons and provide constructive feedback. Three essential components of a successful lesson are; clear learning objectives, differentiated learning activities and a plenary, ensuring that the learning objectives have been met.

As always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Neil White - School Principal
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Sport Update



It gives me great pleasure to provide information around the Season One Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) programme.

GWA (Singapore) aims to offer all students the opportunity to take part in ECA's outside of regular curriculum time - during lunch times as well as after school. The ECA programme includes activities offered by our staff and some by external providers. School Sporting teams are also represented.

The programme is designed so that all students are stretched no matter what their ability may be. The ECA programme encompasses three seasons and information on the different ECA offerings across the academic year has been sent to all families.

The first season will run from 7th September until 5th November. Next week sees the start of Season One and families will be receiving confirmation of ECA selections. For those who signed up for the ECA bus service you will also receive the relevant information.

If you have not organised the ECA bus service but require it for your child, please email gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg

For your information the ECA Bus drop off points are:

1. American Club
2. Great World City
3. Katong Park

If you require any further information on the ECA's, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tony McMullen
 Activities Coordinator
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EY/PY Curriculum Update

The IB Primary Years Programme is defined in three interconnecting parts. The written curriculum, the taught curriculum and the assessed curriculum.

The written curriculum is comprised of five essential elements. These elements are knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action. Knowledge is the content of specific subject areas both disciplinary and transdisciplinary. Concepts are utilised and highlighted to help create an in-depth understanding of subjects and areas of study. The skills are also transdisciplinary in nature, they are a set of capabilities that students develop during learning and throughout their lives.

Through the teaching and learning of the PYP, students' successful inquiry leads to responsible, thoughtful and appropriate action. This action can be small for example a unit exploring responsible water usage might inspire students to encourage their family to turn off the taps while brushing their teeth. Or it could be on a large scale, for example a student may be inspired to hold a charity event to raise funds for the installation of a well in a village in China. A student's journey through the PYP should allow them to gain a better understanding of the world and appreciation for others. This will allow them to interact successfully in a global society.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

Following the recent curriculum evening and first parent coffee morning of the academic year it is an ideal time to reflect upon the learning outcomes of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP).

Our programme aims to develop active learners who are internationally minded young people with the ability to empathise with others and who exemplify the IB learner profile. The MYP empowers our students to become active enquirers with the ability to investigate a range of issues and ideas of significance locally, nationally and globally, giving them confidence in managing their own learning.

In the classroom we have an emphasis on learning by doing and making connections with the wider world to encourage the development of our students to be creative, critical and reflective thinkers. The knowledge, skills and attitudes developed through the MYP actively build upon those inherent within the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) in addition to preparing students for the demanding requirements of the IB Diploma Programme (DP), providing effective progression across the IB continuum.

If you have any questions about the MYP please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mark Gardner - MYP / IGCSE Curriculum Coordinator
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