

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Message from Head of School

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Upcoming GWAPA event:

Wine Evening

19th of February, 7pm

Contact our PRE (Judy) or
GWAPA for address details

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Gong Xi Fa Cai from your
GWAPA committee. Enjoy
your holiday!

METASPRINT SERIES SINGAPORE

Once again GWA is proud
to be an official sponsor of
the Metasprint Series for
2016.

If you would like to sign up
for any of the races click
[here](#)

This past week has been an exciting time at GWA, as the school community has learnt much about Chinese culture. As an international school located in Asia and within Singapore, we live in an environment which is enriched by the language, food, customs, sights and sounds of Chinese culture. Our students have undertaken a variety of activities in and out of their classes, culminating in the wonderful whole school assembly yesterday. Our thanks to the Chinese Language Department who led the development and execution of all programmes, and to the many parents who have supported these initiatives.

Second semester is a somewhat sporadic period, as seen with our school holiday next week. These bursts of time will require constant monitoring of the school calendar and support of children in the development of their time-management skills. Last weekend we hosted a very successful conference for School Admissions staff from around the world, and this week we hosted the annual meeting for Directors of Sport for all member schools of ACSIS. At the end of February we will be hosting teacher-training in support of the IB programmes, for approximately 500 educators from across Asia-Pacific. Book Week will be another significant community event which takes place in the later part of February.

For all of these events our goal remains consistent. We aspire to be a location which brings together members of the wider community to enhance the delivery of wonderful learning opportunities. You will continue to see on our school calendars and in our ongoing newsletters, the many events we will be jointly or individually hosting. These events will support student learning, parent engagement, and teacher development.

Please do note that the school calendar for the 2016-2017 academic year has been published and is now viewable via the school website. The more detailed events calendar for the next academic year is currently undergoing refinement, with the expected publication date being the end of February. We hope that the early publication of the key dates for school events for next year will support families and their planning for personal activities.

To all families of the GWA community, we wish you a prosperous and joyous Lunar New Year. Gong Xi Fa Cai!

David Edwards

Head of Education

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Chinese New Year Assembly

Thank you very much to all involved with the Chinese New Year Celebration Assembly on Thursday! Our students put on a great performance, all of which would not be possible without our exceptional Chinese language teachers Ms Rae, Ms Vivian and Ms Alice.

Gong Xi Fa Cai! Happy Chinese New Year of the Monkey!



GWA Swim Team

GWA swimmers made a lot of waves at the ACSIS Swimming Championships last weekend, with six swimmers competing at the Middle School Championships at Nexus on Saturday and 23 swimmers racing at the Junior School Championships at UWC-Dover on Sunday.

EVERY SWIMMER achieved at least one personal best at these competitions - amazing! Highlights at the MS Championships were Alicia Soosai taking silver medals in the 50 Backstroke and 100 IM, within a touch of a gold in each race, and Edouard Deckers taking a full five seconds off his PB's in the 50 Breaststroke and 50 Freestyle.

On Sunday, GWA had a top ten finish in the Girls' division of the Junior School Championships, behind two gold medal performances by Scarlett Nichol. GWA was the loudest and most spirited group at this competition, with our 23 swimmers cheering on everyone to new personal best times and making noise throughout the day. Go, you mighty Jaguars!

Steve Betts - PE Teacher/Swim Coach
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ECA and Sport Update

Our 14U girl's football team claimed the ACSIS bronze medal after a dominant performance at home on Tuesday.

The Jaguars went into the game undermanned but were full of determination. The girls came out firing against Chatsworth International School and quickly asserted their dominance. In the end, their enthusiasm and will to win was too much for the visitors as they posted an impressive 6 - 0 win.

Our 11U boys also wrapped up their 2015-16 campaign with some impressive match play earlier in the week. The boys were extremely unlucky not to make it into the medal playoffs. During the round-robin stages, the Jaguars only lost one game and conceded only two goals but that was enough to put them out of the playoffs for the medals. Shaking off their disappointment, the team went on to win the playoff for 4th and 5th. It was a well deserved result for our boys who displayed great sportsmanship and camaraderie throughout the season.

It was a similar story for our 14U boys on Tuesday. After showing so much promise throughout the regular season they were unable to come up with one final win to claim the ACSIS bronze. Coach Gilmour was pleased with the 4th place finish and impressed with the teams performance this season.

Congratulations to all three teams for your performance and the attitude you displayed throughout the season. A special mention to our coaches: Mrs. Jamaludin, Ms. McMillan, Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Rimmer and Mr. White for mentoring and coaching our teams this season.

ECA and sporting team registration is now complete. The new ECA block will begin Monday February 15. All parents have been notified about their child's registration status. If you have not received confirmation please contact me.

Tony McMullen - Activities Coordinator/PE Teacher
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EY/PY Curriculum Update

The students of today will be the leaders and innovators of tomorrow. We are preparing them for that world. At GWA, we are fostering a love of learning and inquiry. The PYP helps us ready our students for this unknown world through our integrated approach to learning. Our lives are not neatly segmented into set subjects and disciplines; we use skills and knowledge that we have gained in many areas to help us in our everyday lives.

The Learner profile attributes of inquirers, knowledgeable and thinkers encourages children to be innovators and problem solvers and think outside the box, or as Tony Ryan puts it 'think outside the dodecahedron'.

Our STEM lab is a hive of innovation and creation. Each day students are often seen in there exploring, discussing and thinking about things in a creative way. Each grade level team have been working with our STEM Coordinator to create STEM perspectives in their units of inquiry. STEM education is an approach to learning that removes the traditional barriers separating the four disciplines and integrates them into real-world, rigorous, relevant learning experiences for students (Vasquez, Sneider, & Comer, 2013). All STEM learning does have one thing in common however - it gives students opportunities to apply the skills and knowledge they have learned or are in the process of learning. These opportunities provide students with the environment to explore, discover, create and challenge themselves to think in a different way.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

SY students in the Middle Years Programme (MYP) have begun looking at health and wellbeing as part of the homeroom programme.

Our school counsellor, Mrs. Henning, is working with groups of students to explore issues around personal growth and development and students are also investigating ideas around appearance and body perception. Mrs. Henning will visit each homeroom class over the coming weeks to examine issues that are relevant to each particular grade.

As part of this work, through exploration of social media, students are utilising and developing their media literacy skills to understand the concept of appearance ideals and where the pressure to achieve these comes from. They are exploring how images and messages from media, film and a variety of social media can influence perceptions and developing their own perspective on these influences.

For more information about this aspect of our homeroom programme please contact Mrs. Henning directly at l.henning@gwa.edu.sg

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

Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator
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Calendar Update

- 8-12 February - Chinese New Year school holiday
- Thursday 18 February - Lunch of Rock
- 22 February-25 February - Book Week
- 26 February - Pupil-free day
- 2 March - 4 March - Grade 4 camp
- 16 March to 18 March - Grade 5 camp