

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Reception:** +65 6808 7321

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**Curriculum Office:**

**MYP/IGCSE:** +65 6808 7363

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**PYP:** +65 6808 7362

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**Bus Enquiries:**

Mr Tan (HDT): 9777 4838

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## MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP

*For those parents who have little ones not quite ready to start GWA, we have a mother and toddler group twice a week.*

*We have a range of activities and toys which include sensory play, role play, craft, story and songs.*

*When: Mondays and*

*Wednesdays 09:00am - 11:00am*

*Where: Early Years play room*

*If you would like to join in on the Mother and toddler fun please email Diane*

*[diane.steve13@gmail.com](mailto:diane.steve13@gmail.com)*

## GWA Calendar Event Reminder

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

**19 November** - Lunch of Rock

**20 November** - Sports Day

**30 November - 4 December** -

SY Semester Exams

## Message from Head of School



As an international school with a core value of Global Citizenship, events such as our United Nations Celebration are a very important part of life for the GWA (Singapore) community. With a theme of 'Globally Connected', this year our students spent time exploring, remembering and discovering facets of their nationalities, cultures and family heritage.

For international students, the time spent learning more about their nationality and culture is a significant part of strengthening their identity. For around 20% of our children, they have never lived in the country of their passport. For most, their 'home' country is a place they visit during the summer break, and somewhere their parents grew up. The United Nations Celebration allows for a deepening awareness of these family heritage points.

The Celebration commenced with a wonderful school assembly on Thursday morning, led by our 3,4 and 5 year old students from the Early Years. The children continued through the morning with a range of cultural activities, developed in partnership between the wonderful EY teaching team and the parents of our younger students.



In the evening, the food fair and cultural displays in the main foyer provided all with the opportunity to taste culinary delights from around the world, as well as to explore the cultural displays for the eight regions represented. The hard work of the parent representatives in putting together these exquisite areas was greatly appreciated.

The final component for the Celebration was the concert. Our G10 student MCs did a fantastic job in guiding us through the performances and were in awe of the audience all standing to dance to YMCA. I think the children were a little shocked that so many parents had the same dance moves! For many of our students, this was the first time they had ever performed in front of such a large audience and they were suitably supported through clapping, cheering and laughter.

With approximately 700 students, staff and parents in attendance, there can be little doubt that the UN Celebration was a great success. Our Facebook page came alive late on Thursday night as pictures and comments on the event were shared. To the organising committee, teachers, support staff, GWAPA and the many parent helpers, thank you so much for bringing together the GWA community in such an enjoyable, genuine manner.



David Edwards - Head of Education

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

## Message from our Principal

The focus of this weeks newsletter is on the Secondary Years Semester Examinations, which will take place from **Monday 30th November - Friday 4th December, 2015**. Relevant examination subject areas will provide revision study guides on Monday 9th November, which will contain information to assist students in their preparation for the exams. The preparation time provides students with the opportunity to create their own study plans and prepare for the examinations in a manner most appropriate to their learning style. Teachers will be spending time in class guiding students on the areas to be assessed, as well as helping them best prepare for these examinations.

The specific examination schedule for Grades 6-10 is as follows:

Day	Session 1 (9:30 - 11:00am)	Session 2 (1:45 - 3:15pm)
Mon 30th Nov	Grades 6-8: Language & Literature Grades 9-10: Science	Grade 9: Music
Tues 1st Dec	Grades 6-8: Individuals & Societies Grades 9-10: Language and Literature	Grade 9: Design
Wed 2nd Dec	Grades 6-8: Mathematics Grades 9-10: Language Acquisition	Grade 9: Physical Education
Thurs 3rd Dec	Grades 6-8: Language Acquisition Grades 9-10: Mathematics	Grade 9: Drama
Fri 4th Dec	Grades 6-8: Science Grades 9-10: Individuals & Societies	

The exam information will also be viewable to parents in the homework section on ManageBac. A letter will also be given to Secondary Years students on Monday 9th November with more detailed information about the examinations. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Curriculum Coordinator, [m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg)

Neil White - Principal  
[n.white@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:n.white@gwa.edu.sg)

## ECA and Sport Update

Oh so close! That was the story for our 9U girls basketball team last Saturday. All was going to plan as the girls won their way through to the gold medal game against St. Joseph's.

It was always going to be a close affair with both teams having recorded one victory against each other during the regular season. Not even the first game of the final series could split the teams with a final score of 12 - 12 earlier in the day.

In the gold medal game, the Jaguars jumped out to an early lead. The girls were playing exceptionally well, and it appeared likely they would maintain their lead for the entire match. However, St. Joseph's continued to exchange baskets with the Jaguars and managed to fight their way back into the match. With 17 seconds remaining on the clock, the visitors sunk a basket that put them one point in front. The Jaguars were unable to reply and the score remained 11 - 10 in favour of the visitors at the final whistle.

It was certainly an exciting finale to a wonderful season. Nobody thought that at the beginning of the basketball season that the team would be contenders for the championship. After all, most of the girls had never played competitive basketball before this season. Despite their lack of experience, and under the watchful eye of Coach Burke, the girls blossomed into a well drilled, confident team.

Congratulations to Coach Burke and his team for representing GWA so brilliantly throughout the season. The team consisted of: Zahra, Cailley Ann, Erin, Amie, Anoushka, Emmanuella, Stefan and Ashling. Well done girls!!

### ECA Update

Just a quick reminder to let you know that the ECAs for season one have now concluded, with the exception of the PY musical.

Season two will begin on Monday 9th November, and by now you will have received confirmation of the activities in which your child is registered. You should have also received confirmation from GWA transport regarding the ECA bus, if you have elected to use this service. If you are expecting to use this service and you have not heard from them please email [gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg](mailto:gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg) to confirm your booking.

**Tony McMullen** - Activities Coordinator/PE Teacher  
[t.mcmullen@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:t.mcmullen@gwa.edu.sg)

## EY/PY Curriculum Update

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, GWA had the pleasure of hosting our IB PYP, to conduct a verification visit to examine the PYP development at the school.

The consultancy visit forms part of our process in becoming authorised to offer the IB Primary Years Programme. The consultant's role is to support the PYP Coordinator and the school through the candidate phase as the school works towards authorisation.

During this period of candidacy, as a school, we take the actions necessary to address the IB requirements for authorisation. Over the two day visit, the IB consultant had the opportunity to meet with all of the PYP teachers, the teaching assistants, a group of students from across the primary school and parent representatives. She reviewed all of the evidence and documentation that we currently have which supports the standards and practices defined by the IB. As a result of this visit, a report will be sent to the school with recommendations that will need to be put in place to further implement the programme and move us towards authorisation.

The outcome of the verification visit was incredibly positive. It was noted by the consultant how well-resourced the school is, and specific comments were made regarding the excellent teaching faculty. The GWA Action Plan was confirmed as being appropriate and provided external reassurance that the school is relatively advanced in the implementation of the PYP.

Should you wish to learn more about our specific programme in the EY and/or PY, please do review our ManageBac system, as well as making contact to any of the teaching team.

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

## SY Curriculum Update

At GWA individual student education is at the centre of what we do. The recent SY reports and parent-teacher conferences highlight the importance of maintaining communication to support the development of our students. In addition to this, the sharing of programme information can help parents to understand the Middle Years Programme (MYP) in order to reinforce their commitment to the success of their child.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) have created a new page dedicated to helping parents understand, and make the most of, the programmes we offer and we would like to share these details with you. You will find information and FAQs about the MYP (in addition to the other IB programmes), plus recommended resources, research, advice, how to help students prepared for the move to higher education, and much more. This site supplements the information we share with you specific to the MYP here at school and it provides useful resources for you to further explore facets of this programme. The page can be accessed at this address:

[www.ibo.org/en/information-for-parents](http://www.ibo.org/en/information-for-parents)

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

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)