

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Message from Head of School

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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CALENDAR UPDATE

10 May - G5-6 Transition Evening (6:30pm in the Auditorium)
11 May - Parent Coffee morning
19 May - G8-9 Transition Evening (6:30pm in the Auditorium)
16 May to 20 May - Arts Week
10 June - GWA Awards Night (compulsory for grades 3 and above)



The **GWA Music Department** will present a brief Orchestral & Choral concert on the morning of Thursday, **May 12 at 9:10am** in the auditorium. All are welcome to attend. The Music Department is also looking forward to hearing our non-classical musicians performing at the Pop Concert at **6:30pm on Thursday, May 26**. Please join us for these concert events.



Over the past two weeks we've explored the need for change in education. We live in a time of rapid access to information, a period of humanity where new industries are emerging and where existing businesses are being forced to remodel how they function. We've briefly talked about the emergence of FinTech and changes in the automotive industry as examples of this change. At the heart of this exploration, has been the need for great schools to lead the way in the development and execution of new models for teaching and learning, which truly prepare students for the world of now, next and later.

Let's spend time this week exploring some examples of successful change. In documentary maker Michael Moore's upcoming film 'Where to Invade Next', he in part explores models of successful education change beyond US borders. One specific country he visited is Finland, a nation which completely reformed it's model of education, it's importance in society and the function of teachers in supporting the development of children.

For some initial weekend viewing, please explore the below links:

1. Michael Moore: Where to Invade Next- Finnish Education System

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54EpTVvm00A>

2. What Makes Finland's Education System So Special?

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORoh03xc534>

3. Why Education In Finland Works

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntdYxqRce_s

In spending time exploring the above video links, it should be reassuring that the fundamentals of curriculum design, teaching philosophy and commitment to engaging students that are at the heart of success in the Finland Education system, are part of the DNA of GWA. Our highly valued teachers ensure that students are in a learning environment which encourages enquiry, promotes skills and conceptual development, and in which individual learning is catered for through differentiated teaching.

For GWA, our four core values, as well as the IB framework for teaching and learning, ensure we are providing a model of education which is in line with best practice of countries such as Finland. This is a great start. Our goal in launching 'GWA: The Future School' in the coming weeks, is to take us even further, being one of only two schools globally who will be leading the way in the next phase of exciting advancement in K-12 education.

David Edwards

Head of Education

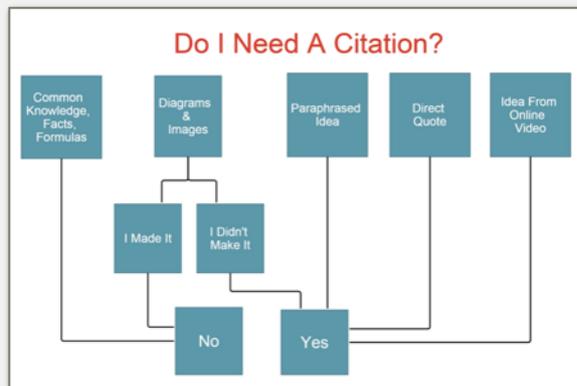
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Message from Deputy Principal

Academic Honesty

Being principled and reflective are important values at GEMS World Academy (Singapore) and are inherent within the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile. The principle of academic honesty should be promoted and supported by the entire school community. This includes acting in a principled manner in the way we behave and the decisions that we choose to make.

Academic work must reflect the knowledge and effort of the student. By learning how to properly cite sources in academic work, the original ideas of the student will be highlighted. Academic honesty also allows the school's assessments to be a true reflection and tool for the student to use to help guide their own academic progress.



Anelle Grundhoefer - Deputy Principal/DP
Coordinator
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ECA and Sport Update

One step closer. The 14U Girl's Basketball team defeated Tanglin Trust School (TTS) convincingly to move into the semi-finals of the ACSIS competition.

The quarter final against TTS perfectly illustrated how far the Jaguars have come this season. At the beginning of the year they were a very inexperienced team who relied heavily on the skills of Charlotte Jaeger to secure victories. In many ways the game on Thursday afternoon was a coming of age party for the Jaguar players.

While Charlotte was still a dominant force in the game, the win was a true team effort with six of the Jaguars contributing to the scoreboard. Claire Payen and Shiori Fujii played with confidence and turned in their best performances for the season. Gabrielle Von Sengbusch also made the most of her opportunities to score some timely baskets.

The Jaguars got out to an early lead in the first quarter and were never headed. The final score of 32 - 10 was an accurate representation of the game. The team will meet UWCE in the semi-finals next week at GWA on Tuesday at 4pm.

The 14U Boys Basketball will get their chance to progress to the semi finals when they meet Dover Court at home on Monday.

Tony McMullen
Activities Coordinator
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Singapore National Science Experiment 2016 - Grade 3 to Grade 8



As part of our STEM initiatives at GWA we have signed up to be the first International school to participate in the Singapore National Science Experiment 2016.

The experiment is aimed at collecting data for atmospheric pressure, humidity, temperature, light and sound levels and motion (steps) from over 200,000 students over a week in May in Singapore. The data is collected by a SENSg sensor provided to each student. The students can access their own data through a secure server with password protection during the experiment week and the school will be given an analysis of all the metadata collected in Jan/Feb of 2017. All students data remains confidential and anonymous throughout the whole study.

Permission forms for students and parents will go home next week prior to the experiment starting on the week of 16th to 20th May. Students will be given their lanyards and sensors on the Monday and they wear them until Friday when they will return them to homeroom teachers.

Brendan Burke - STEM Coordinator
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EY/PY Curriculum Update

At the Early years and Primary years assembly this week, the Student Council announced that the Learner Profile focus for this month will be 'Balanced'. Over the next couple of weeks teachers and students will be exploring what this means in our everyday lives. How can we be balanced and why it is important to find balance in the things we do and say.

One area of our everyday lives that requires us to look seriously at how we maintain balance is with technology use, commonsensemedia.org recently conducted a series of research projects that explored what the implications of an "always connected" lifestyle, might be. They looked particularly at the impact on families and children. The research examined the latest scientific research about media use, articulating its pervasiveness, forms, and possible impacts on youth's well-being and development. While most of the research was conducted on late adolescents and adults, some of the findings could be applied to younger children.

The findings are very interesting and point out the need for a balanced approach to technology usage. Gardner and Davis (2013) point out that media and technology can be especially beneficial when used to form deeper understandings, to allow for creativity and exploration, and to explore identity. A healthy digital lifestyle could and should include thoughtful and intentional uses of media and technology. To read more about this study and the research findings please go to: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/technology-addiction>

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

This week has seen our Grade 10 students sit the first external board papers for their IGCSE examinations, with papers taken in English Language, Mathematics and Second Language English. The examinations continue through to 6th June, with a further paper in Mathematics and reading, writing and listening examinations for French, Chinese and Spanish. Our Grade 10s have made effective use of their time to plan and organise themselves in preparation for these external assessments and we look forward to receiving their results in August.

As our current Grade 10 students have been with us only since August 2015, they have taken a limited number of subjects at IGCSE, however our current Grade 9 students are covering subject content for IGCSE examinations in all subjects and will sit these examinations in May 2017.

The IGCSE subject syllabi provide the subject content for the final two years of our Middle Years Programme (MYP) in Grades 9 & 10. Through their work in the MYP, our students develop the skills, knowledge and attributes to enable them to sit the IGCSE examinations towards the end of Grade 10. In essence, the 'what' we teach in Grades 9 & 10 follows the content for IGCSEs and the 'how' we teach follows the MYP philosophy, objectives and assessment model in line with our school's mission and values.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator
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Fifteen Letters

On Education in Singapore
Reflections from a Visit to Singapore
in 2013 by a Delegation of Educators
from Massachusetts

Edited by Fernando M. Reimers and K. A. O'Donnell
Foreword by Professor Charles Deslauriers
Introduction by Professor Charles Deslauriers
Published by Harvard Education Review Press
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What can we learn from Singapore's Education System?

In this newly published book, Harvard professor Fernando M. Reimers and his colleagues discuss what they learned on a visit to Singapore last fall. Inspired by John Quincy Adams' Letters on Silesia,

their Fifteen Letters on Education in Singapore explains what they think we could learn from education in this country. The book is available here <http://bit.ly/1qReWly> and will soon be available as an ebook on the same site. Another book by Reimers is 'Teaching and Learning for the 21st century'. Here is a link to the book: <http://hepg.org/hep-home/books/teaching-and-learning-for-the-twenty-first-century>



Last week saw 8 of our pupils from Grades 8, 9 and 10 taking part in the first of what we hope will be many 'Externships'

run by The Keys Academy. Working in two groups of four, our students were given briefs by MediaCorp and Jungle Ventures (a Private Equity group). Across the week the students researched their given market areas and tasks, came up with innovative solutions and recommendations and then presented back to the companies. The MediaCorp group presented to Pamela Yeo, Senior Business Relations Manager and the Jungle Ventures group presented to a potentially intimidating group of 6 venture capitalists. It was incredibly inspiring to see our 13 - 16 year old students standing in front of these senior business executives and delivering their proposals with such great confidence and sophistication. Congratulations to all those involved.

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