

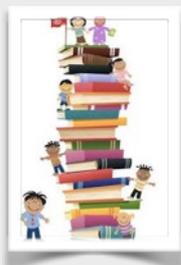
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

Message from Head of School

Book Week :11-15 May 2015

Starting Monday 11th May, GWA will be celebrating Book Week. Listed below are a few of the activities that will be taking place:



Wednesday, May 13th, 09:30am - Main library - Local and well-known storyteller Roger Jenkins will be visiting the school.

Friday, May 15, 10:30-11:15 - Gymnasium - Students are being asked to come to school dressed as their favourite author or book character. Students will be participating in the author/character parade.

Parents are encouraged to attend any of the events that are scheduled over the course of next week. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ryan Dempsey - Librarian
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Pop Music Concert

May 21st is a big day for GWA musicians. At **7:00pm** the Music Department will present GWA's first-ever Pop Music Concert. The evening show will feature the String Ensemble and the Primary Choir as well as a variety of solo and ensemble performances. The event will take place in the **auditorium** and everyone is invited to attend.

Over the past five days, GWA (Singapore) celebrated Arts Week, providing students, staff and parents an exhaustive range of opportunities to learn, explore and develop artistic skills. The Arts team put together a detailed schedule of events, which included our Artist-in-Residence and an array of external experts who visited the school daily. The in-class, lunchtime and after-school programmes reinforced the importance of Arts in developing a balanced child, as well the very significant role Arts plays as one of the three pillars of learning at our school.

Today our entire staff delved into the redeveloped and expanded School Strategic Plan 2015-2018. This high level document covers four main areas:

- People
- Education Product
- Additional Initiatives
- Compliance

The active involvement of all GWA staff in finalising this significant draft planning document will ensure that our strategic direction has clear objectives, defined outcomes and the engagement of all teams in ensuring effective execution. In the remaining five weeks of the 2014-2015 academic year, various staff will be in sub-committees completing the specific action plans for each of the core strategic plan components. We have great confidence on reaching our aspirations, being fortunate to have such experienced and committed teaching and non-teaching staff.

A core facet of GWA is our commitment to excellence. Throughout the year, all students have the opportunity to perform and venture into new activities. On Friday 12th June, our GWA (Singapore) Awards Night will be a formal opportunity to reward and recognise student excellence across Sports, Arts and Academics. This event will be compulsory for all G1- G8 students, who must attend in their best school uniform. The EY students will have a special assembly in June. Detailed information will continue to be provided in the school and class newsletters during May and June. Do mark this night in your diary should you have not yet done so.

Enjoy reading of the great success from across the school that has occurred over the past week. Please contact any member of the GWA team should you require any further clarification or assistance.

David Edwards - Head of Education
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Arts Update

Arts week has been every bit as exciting as we hoped it would be. Our aim was to provide the opportunity to Open minds, Expand potential and Explore new and different methods of expression.

Students, staff and parents have been beating out the rhythm on the big Japanese Taiko drums, mastering the art of dancing to the beat of Capoeira, Zumba or Mrs. O's dance class. Magical scenes with have been created with shadow and light, we have witnessed small group ensembles and showcased creativity on one of the giant communal canvas's.

Special thanks have to go to Merryn. J. Trevethan, our inspiring Artist-In-Residence. The buzz during and after her workshops has been contagious amongst the children. She has worked collaboratively with all classes from PreK through to Grade 8, also combining workshops for staff, parents and our Art Smart ECA group. The evolving outcomes and striking colour combinations are a product of Merryn's creative leadership and artistic vision, combined with the enthusiasm and hard work of our dedicated students.

We hope it's been a wonderful week for those who already have a passion for the arts and has given those who don't a new insight into future possibilities. We hope the creativity keeps on flowing as you plan out your door designs and Book Character outfits for next Friday.

The Arts Team



Sports Update

The 14U boys Basketball had two extremely close games this week. The first against GESS on Monday had both teams switching the lead, eventually



ending in a draw in normal time, which forced 5 minutes of overtime. GESS scored near the end to come out on top by the smallest of margins 28-29.

Thursday saw the boys play their second game against Malborough College Malaysia (MCM), with the team managing to press home and win the game 42-37. Next week will see the team go into the knockout rounds, with two further games.

Our 8U football team had their penultimate tournament on Thursday, and once again showed the improvement they have demonstrated throughout their season with 3 draws and one loss. The 8U will have their final tournament of the season next Thursday here at GWA.

GWA Swim Gala - **Friday 22nd May 9:45am-12:30pm**. We are hard at work planning for the upcoming swimming gala. We would love to have staff and parent participation in the form of a staff/parent 4x25m freestyle relay to finish off the event. If you are interested in taking part please email me and I will sort out teams. Alternatively, staff and parents are welcome get their own team of 4 together and pass me the information. The event promises to make a big splash!

As always if you have any questions regarding the sporting or activities programme please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ken Barker - Athletics Director/ECA Coordinator
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EY/ PY Curriculum Update

Differentiation is at the centre of our teaching philosophy at GWA. Differentiation has been described as:

'Tailoring instruction to meet individual needs. Whether teachers differentiate content, process, products, or the learning environment, the use of ongoing assessment and flexible grouping makes this a successful approach to instruction'

Tomlinson, C. A. (August, 2000). *Differentiation of Instruction in the Elementary Grades*

Our experienced teachers ensure that they differentiate instruction to meet students' learning needs and styles. Upon initial school registration our team takes great care in interviewing parents and students to find out each students preferred learning style and learning needs.

Some examples of differentiated teaching and learning that you may see at GWA (Singapore) include:

- cooperative and flexible learning groups
- pre-assessment
- flexibility in classroom set up
- a range of resources in classrooms
- assessments that allow for diverse learning preferences

Jacqueline McNalty -
Head of Early Years/PYP Coordinator
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Friday 12th June: GWA AWARDS NIGHT

A formal event in which the school showcases high performing student talent and formally recognises outstanding student achievement across sports, arts and academics.

Please note: This event is compulsory for Grade 1-8 students.

12 June, Friday, 6:30pm, GWA Auditorium

SY Curriculum Update

The focus of this weeks newsletter is on the Secondary Years Semester Examinations which will take place from June 2-8, 2015.

Relevant examination subject areas will provide revision study guides on Monday 18th May, 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 6-8 is as follows:

Date	Subject Area
Tuesday 2nd June	Language & Literature
Wednesday 3rd June	Individuals & Societies
Thursday 4th June	Mathematics
Friday 5th June	Language Acquisition
Monday 8th June	Science

The exam information will also be viewable to parents in the homework section on ManageBac. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Neil White - School Principal
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Friday 12th May: EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES

Presentation by Vikas Pota, Chief Executive of Varkey Foundation, the philanthropic arm of GEMS Education, on how their work is impacting the lives of underprivileged children around the world through education.

15 May, Friday, 12 pm - 12.45 pm, GWA Auditorium