

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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Message from Head of School

Our students continue to inspire and command respect through the manner in which they engage with their peers, teachers, general staff, families and guests. There have been several outstanding examples this week of student initiative and clear demonstration of outstanding learning opportunities in action.

The EY/PY assembly on Thursday was an excellent showcase of student learning. Mr Franklin's Grade 4 class took charge of the event, presenting wonderful information about the impact our behaviour has on those around us. Students talked about respect and consideration, as well as the importance of always trying one's best to achieve goals and success.

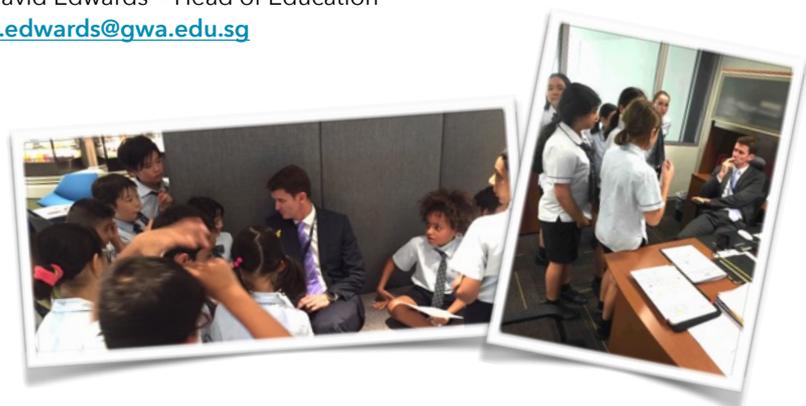
Students taking considerable community service action presented an overview to the school of various initiatives they have personally led. Zahra Aly (G4 Franklin) and Hassan Aly (G1 Du) spoke about their concern surrounding the refugees from Syria and how they have worked hard on a campaign of discovery and fundraising to directly support an appropriate UN charity. Maya Wishart (G2 Franklin) shared the letter she wrote with regards the current haze issue in Singapore, a message which has gone digitally viral due to its sincere request for change, so that the health of people within the region is no longer in danger.

The assembly concluded with Mrs Smith's Grade 3.2 class doing a flashmob in the auditorium. The students have been learning about being mindful digital citizens and have been concerned about the impact of potential cyber bullying in this digital age. This was an important message for all students to reflect upon, and another very fine example of student-led initiatives.

We are very proud of our students and encouraged by their eagerness to learn, their sincerity to support one another, and the friendly manner in which they engage with all members of the school community.

David Edwards - Head of Education

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Think Pink Week 2015

The Senior Years Student Council are pleased to announce their first school wide event 'Think Pink Week 2015'. We will host a week full of activities that will aim to raise awareness about breast cancer and ways to reduce our risks. We encourage students, teachers, and parents alike to participate in the events that we have planned over the course of the week. Our main 'dress down day' will take place on **Friday October 16th** when all students will dress in pink. We will be having a 'moment of silence' that day at 9am at The Tree of Knowledge (KG Reception) to show our respect for those affected by breast cancer.

We will not be collecting money for Breast Cancer Awareness, but we still encourage parents who might want to donate money to visit reputable organisations and charities such as The Breast Cancer Foundation of Singapore.

Seara Grundhoefer - Student Council
President

Message from the Principal

Parent-Teacher Conferences are an important opportunity for teachers and parents to discuss your child's progress in school, and are a key part of enhancing successful two-way communication. They provide an opportunity for teachers and parents to step back from the day-to-day classroom events and take stock of how students are doing academically, socially, and emotionally.

The GWA Parent-Teacher conferences will take place **9:00am - 4:00pm Thursday 29th and Friday 30th October, 2015.**

The booking system is provided via an online portal, which allows you to better manage the conference schedule to suit your personal availability. Details regarding the online booking system will be communicated to all families prior to the October holiday. The online booking system will open at **10:00am, Thursday 15th October, closing 10:00am, Tuesday 27th October.**

Please note that the 29th & 30th October are pupil-free days. Students will be provided appropriate work via their Managebac account.

If you have any further questions, please contact, Ms. Salena Crot, Secretary to the Principal (s.crot@gwa.edu.sg).

Neil White - Principal
n.white@gwa.edu.sg

Update of family particulars - ManageBac

To ensure families receive all school communications, kindly update your details (email and handphone) through your Managebac account. You can access your Managebac account through the parent log-in, available on the top right hand side of the school website: www.gwa.edu.sg

ECA and Sport Update

The haze has lifted and the sun has been shining on GWA in more than one way this week. Our cross country team finally had the opportunity to run, and run they did!



For a team that has rarely trained outside all season, our results were impressive. Emma led the Jaguar's home with a first placing in the U14 division. In the U11's, Charlie also finished first with Lou close behind in second place.

GWA was also well represented in the U12 division with Cristiano finishing second for the boys, while Alicia and Maya finishing in fourth and sixth respectively. The coaches were full of praise for the positive attitude displayed by the entire team.



Not to be outshone, the 9U boys football team took to the OFS pitch for their second round of matches. Once again the boys performed well, despite the fact that for many of the players it was their first experience of tournament football. The tournament also provided a great opportunity for the more senior players to take on leadership roles. Well done to all. We now look forward to the season finals on October 31st.

ECA Parent Survey

All families should have received an email yesterday containing a link to our ECA parent survey. Please take this opportunity to share your views and ideas about our current ECA programme. Your feedback is invaluable to us. The information that you provide will assist us to develop a programme that meets the needs of your child/children.



Tony McMullen - Activities Coordinator/PE Teacher
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Uniting Nations Festival - Globally United.



The theme for this year's Uniting Nations Festival is 'Globally United' and it is shaping up to be a wonderful event of cultural connections throughout the school. The event will be held on **Thursday November 5th from 6.30- 8.30pm.**

All students and teachers from Grades 1 to 10 have been working with their peers from their own home countries to create displays and performances, as well as researching into the different aspects of the cultures that make their home countries unique.

There will be nation flag bearing ceremony, performances, displays, interactive exhibits and a cultural food fair. Parents are encouraged to wear your national dress to the event.

Further information regarding children's costume needs for the event will be sent home before the holidays.

The Early Years Uniting Nations Celebration will also take place on Thursday November 5th. They will begin their festivities with an assembly at 9am in the auditorium. They will then break into creative cultural workshops delivered by parents, as well as a parade of nations and costume display.

We welcome everyone to join us in celebrating the wonderful collaboration of cultures that exist here at GWA.

Elle Ryan - Grade 1 Teacher /UN Committee
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A message from GWA Parent Association

More than 30 parents attended this week's Parent Engagement morning and the GWA Parent Association (GWAPA) meeting.

Be on the look-out for future coffee morning updates, as we hope to venture to various locations around Singapore!

This Saturday is the Family Picnic, and we look forward to seeing you at the school for social connections and fun activities. Your GWAPA Executive Committee will be there during the entire event, so please make a point of introducing your family to our team.

We also can't wait to see all the parent participation during November's Uniting Nations festivities! We always value your input regarding school issues, however we also stress the importance of utilising your children's home room teacher as your first point of contact for any matter.

As GWA grows, we will connect more parents, and continue to work together in support of school initiatives.

If you have any questions or ever need to contact GWAPA, please email via the details below. See you Saturday at the picnic!

Alix Verriest - GWAPA President
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Upcoming Calendar Events

- 10 October** - GWA Family Picnic 9:30-12:30
- 15 October** - PY Strings Lunch time concert
- 19 October - 23 October** - School holiday
- 29, 30 October** - Parent Teacher conferences