Message from Head of School

The festive season is an opportune time to reflect on the year that was, to be satisfied with successes, be aware of challenges, and plot with passion the road ahead. As a school community there should be an enormous sense of pride as we review the achievements from the past 15 weeks, only a few of which are listed below:

- Launched the education programme at a temporary facility, delivering a highly dynamic experiential learning model for all grades
- Established new friendships and working partnerships, both within the grade and across the school. This is indeed a rare opportunity for the culture of kindness and understanding to be embedded in the GWA (Singapore) DNA
- Hosted a series of family events
- Launched the GWA (Singapore) Parents Association
- Launched our extra-curricular activities
- Achieved multiple victories at inter-school competitions, covering sports such as cross-country, soccer and swimming
- Had students become national champions in their chosen sports
- Delivered the first set of academic progress reports
- Hosted curriculum information evenings
- Hosted parent engagement events
- Conducted parent-teacher conferences

GEMS World Academy (Singapore) has so much to be incredibly proud of. We continue to leverage off the 54 years of educational excellence that is told through the history of GEMS Education. It is this history and global reach that will ensure we are successful in rapidly obtaining our fundamental goal:

To provide outstanding learning opportunities, through our commitment to holistic excellence across the Arts, Sports and Academics.

We thank you for trusting the development of your children with us. On behalf of the entire GWA (Singapore) team, we wish you an enjoyable holiday period.
**Sports Update**

This week the information regarding the next block of Extra-Curricular activities was emailed to all parents. Before making your choices be sure to discuss with your child what their interests are. By selecting an ECA, each student is demonstrating a commitment to that activity for the 9 weeks that it will run.

All the activities that we offer here at GWA play an important role in the development of our students and are an extension to the learning experiences that take place within class. They provide opportunities to not only learn and extend new skills but to meet and socialise with students in different classes and grades, further developing the holistic learning that underpins our school and helping us create the Global citizens of tomorrow.

On our return in January, we will have two home football games almost every week, our first swimming competition at GWA on 17th January and so much more to look forward to.

As always if you have any questions regarding the ECA or Athletics programme, please do not hesitate to contact me. Have a safe and happy break.

Ken Barker - Athletics Director/ECA Coordinator
k.barker_gws@gemsedu.com

---

**Arts Update**

In Art, Grade 8 students have enjoyed learning about the Austrian artist and environmentalist Hundertvasser and have independently researched into how nature has inspired many creations. These range from sculpture and architecture to jewellery and furniture. Using a google map image of the areas in which they live as a starting point, students transformed their simple line drawings into an abstract artwork of their own, inspired by the bold colours and receptive patterns seen in Hundertvasser’s work. We look forward to displaying the finished collection in the new section of the school.

Claire Rimmer - Visual Arts and Design
c.rimmer_gws@gemsedu.com

Wonderful talent displayed by our grade 8 students.
**EY/ PY Curriculum Update**

International mindedness is about recognising that we see the world in many different ways and that there are a variety of voices to express this. Exploring the different religious and cultural celebrations found within Singapore and the wider world, help students to become internationally minded.

At GWA-S we aim to cultivate internationally minded learners who actively demonstrate responsibility for and commitment to making a difference in the world. This is why a lot of emphasis is put on the action component of our children’s learning.

This week the students demonstrated a commitment to making a difference in the world, when they wrote wishes for making the planet a better place. These thoughts were placed under our wishing tree.

We wish all a wonderful holiday.

Jacqueline McNalty

Head of Early Years/PYP Coordinator

j.mcnelly_gws@gemsedu.com

---

**SY Curriculum Update**

We would like to congratulate all Grade 6-8 students on a great job during their first Community and Service initiative, which took place this week. Students took ACTION by volunteering their time to be Buddies for all the students in Pre-K to K2.

Please be reminded that after we return in January, the Secondary Years examinations will take place from January 12-16. A letter was distributed to students yesterday with relevant information about these important examinations.

On January 29th, we will be showcasing the opening of the school auditorium with our first United Nations Concert, which will provide a wonderful opportunity for students, families and faculty to come together and view fantastic student-led work.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all families a safe and enjoyable festive season and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Neil White - MYP Curriculum Coordinator

n.white_gws@gemsedu.com

---

**KEY DATES:**

- **MONDAY 5TH JANUARY:** STUDENT FREE DAY.
- **TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY:** RESTART OF SCHOOL
- **UN STUDENT CONCERT:** 29TH JANUARY 2015

---

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**