

## GEORGE WASHINGTON ACADEMY

Equipping Minds,  
Building Character

News from our community, for our community

# ECHO

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### FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

#### **A special note to the Class of 2017,**

We have something in common as this academic year comes to a close. 2017 will always represent a personal milestone for you and also for my own career. We are both feeling a mixture of happiness for this significant accomplishment, and at the same time anticipating the fact that we have to part ways. The reality of this comfortable intimacy must transform into a new chapter for the life of Class of 2017. Please know that you will continue to be a part of a greater GWA community that cares deeply for you and you are always welcome in Chez Welling!



Soon you will join the ranks of other GWA graduates who are also actively contributing to the worldwide learning community. You, along with other GWA graduates will soon be thriving within learning communities at university campuses across the globe.

In some way GWA has shaped your life whether you realize it or not. Your friendships and memories will forever be a part of your story. It is my hope that you will move forward with the confidence that you have been well equipped to face the challenges of life, and



to go through each trial living a life marked by excellence, integrity and good character.

You have an amazing opportunity before you. Your family has invested in you and your education. Make good on their investment.

*The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.*

– Mark Twain

Wishing you life's best,

*David Welling*  
Head of School

# Principal's Corner | Lower School

As the school year has quickly drawn to a close I have been reflecting regularly on what I have learned in my first year as Lower School Principal at George Washington Academy. This has been an extraordinary year for GWA, my family, and for me. Of the many lessons I have learned as a principal and a parent new to GWA and to Morocco, the following stand out as particularly impactful:



1. Moroccan culture is beautiful and rich. It is an honor and a privilege to be an American family living in Morocco. We quickly fell in love with the people, the food,

and the beauty surrounding us here. I am grateful for the many ways in which we have been welcomed and supported throughout our first year, and my family and I look forward to welcoming new individuals and families to the GWA community this summer.

2. It is both inspiring and challenging living and working in a multilingual environment. I have learned more about my own native language and culture by immersing myself in a new cultural context. I understand and more fully appreciate the incredible gift we give our students through our commitment to a multilingual education. I am grateful my own children have this opportunity as GWA students.

3. I gained a new and more complete understanding of what it means to be inspired, and to be inspiring. The faculty, staff, students, and parents with whom I interact each day at GWA have impacted me in profound ways. I came to Morocco as an inspired, empowering leader with experience building and equipping students and educators. I have reached new heights in these areas having spent one year in a community that places high value on these important traits. I am grateful for what the GWA community has taught me thus far.

Education is about the power of change, and at GWA we believe that students must be inspired, equipped, and empowered to affect change in the world around them and beyond. GWA is committed to research-based best practices in instruction. Additionally, we continue to build and hone our unique multilingual literacy program. As a principal, and as a parent, I am proud to lead and support an innovative, effective, and inspiring approach to literacy instruction.

Furthermore, we believe that building character is an essential component of effective education. In addition to strong academics that equip students' minds, GWA continues its intentional and comprehensive character building approach in all grade levels. We believe this equips and empowers students to effectively blend cultures and embrace both differences and similarities with wisdom and compassion. We teach our students, both by modeling and through explicit instructional activities, that we are all responsible for making the effort needed to listen to others and attempt to understand their perspectives (even if, or perhaps especially if, different from our own).

Please join me in celebrating a successful 2016-17 academic year and looking forward to what lies ahead in 2017-18 and beyond!



*Kevin R. Brenner  
Lower School Principal*

# Principal's Corner | Upper School

Dear GWA Community:

It is amazing that we have finished the 2017-18 school year! This year went by so very quickly. In reflection, it has been a wonderful journey. I am pleased to have been a part of this terrific family. One of the things that drew me to GWA and to Morocco was our powerful vision statement. I truly believe in what our school seeks to be/create:

**GWA Vision Statement:** GWA inspires students to become multilingual, lifelong learners who pursue excellence, model integrity, and honor cultural diversity. We educate the whole person by equipping minds and building character, empowering students to serve Morocco and the global community with wisdom and compassion.

With a year under my belt, I can see these qualities in the graduates I have met, the seniors that have just departed, and the students still remaining here. I also see the passion in our teachers and staff to help our students bring these visionary statements to fruition.

Mr. David Welling, having spent the last six years at GWA, created this vision in concert with our school community through a collaborative endeavor. He has led this school through trying times and still maintained allegiance to this vision for our students. He has orchestrated school restructuring, curriculum reform, admission into the bilateral agreement between the US and Morocco, financial stability, and the construction of our new Library Media Tech Center. The school has become stable and attractive to the greater community. We have grown to over 900 students! GWA is a beacon of excellence noted throughout the country of Morocco. Thank you Mr. Welling!

Looking forward as the next Head of School, I am excited to continue to lead the school forward following in Mr. Welling's footsteps. He has left a solid foundation coupled with an inspirational vision. Going forward we will build on his legacy in many ways, such as:

1. We will continue to build additional school facilities to complete the facility master plan.
2. We will complete and implement a technology plan designed to support a 21st century education.
3. We will continue to improve on the educational pedagogy offered at the school in support of creating students empowered to serve Morocco and the global community.
4. We will develop an alumni association that can support the re-entry of our alumni into our community.
5. We will continue to develop community ties and partnerships with parents, businesses, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations that align with our values and vision.

Our GWA community has worked well together for the betterment of the students. We look forward to next year, after a well deserved break for all, to continue with improving the wonderful school we already have in place.

Sincerely,



*Dr. Audrey Menard  
Upper School Principal  
(and incoming Head of School)*

## Character Assemblies

We had a great year of assemblies, working with charities, listening to books about our character traits, doing activities to reinforce character traits, and working to improve our character in lower school.

In April, we talked about honesty, which is being truthful in what you do and say. We gave examples like doing what is right regardless of who is watching, be a person others can trust, being reliable, and playing by the rules. Some of the books that special guests read to our students about honesty were: *Honest to Goodness Truth* by Patricia McKissack, *The Empty Pot* by Demi, and *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* by Tony Ross.

May had two character traits, perseverance and courage. We talked about how those two traits go hand in hand. One must have courage to continue striving to the end (perseverance). Perseverance will help you reach your goals and walk through your fears. We encouraged our students to keep trying even when tasks become difficult. Some examples of famous people who persevered are: Michael Jordan, who did not make the basketball team at his high school the first year; Albert Einstein, who did not speak until he was almost 4 years old; Walt Disney, who was fired from a newspaper for lacking imagination and having no original ideas; and Lionel Messi, who was cut from his soccer team when he was 11 because he was too small.

June 5 & 6 we had special events outside on the field to review all of the traits we focused on this year. Each class rotated to the 8 different stations and did an activity or observed an object lesson to reinforce the character trait. This was a fun way to end our year and review all of the character traits. When children do something physical to review the traits, they remember them and hopefully apply them as they grow and mature.

Our elementary students showed great character this year by collecting items for the orphanage. We set a goal of 450 items in April, and they surpassed that goal, bringing over 600 items to help serve local children. The items included chocolate powder, cooking oil, toothpaste and toothbrushes, jam, cereal with no gluten, and canned fish. To celebrate reaching (and surpassing) our goal, we had a "Superhero Day." Students and adults wore super hero t-shirts or dressed up as a super hero. Some even made up their own super hero! We had great fun celebrating together!

Building character is vital to a child's development and we hope that all the activities, reading, assemblies, and discussions we do will impact each of our students in a positive way.



## L'Agave Bleu

Learning is always more fun when it involves dirt. At least that was the experience of GWA's 1st Graders on May 4th during their field trip to L'Agave Bleu, a local plant nursery.

For the weeks leading up to the excursion, the French and English teachers had been collaborating to make the world of plants come alive to the students in both languages. From rapping about the parts of a plant and experiments which included depriving plants of water, air, and sunlight in science class to learning the parts of a tree and reading and writing poems about plants in French class, students were well prepared for their trip to the plant nursery.

At the "pepinière" students were able to participate in a variety of activities. 1st Graders were given a tour of the garden as their guide explained in French and English many interesting facts about the plants growing there.

Later students had a chance to sort different kinds of waste to be recycled. The donkey provided some extra organic waste to mix with our apple cores. Students took turns mixing the rich compost.

Another highlight of the day was when students got to put on their gardening aprons and get messy! Each student planted a brightly colored flower to take home.

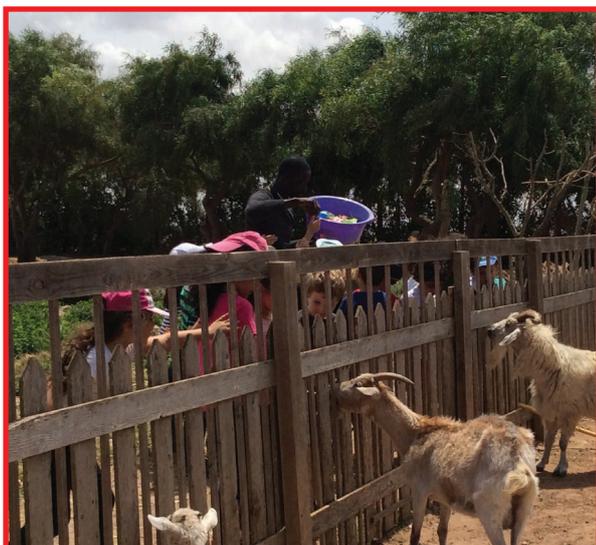
The day ended with an exciting recess time during which students were able to take a closer look at nature. From walking under the trees, to catching tadpoles, to an impromptu sack race, students were able to explore all the garden had to offer.

With dirt under their fingernails and a potted plant in their hands 1st Graders climbed back on the bus. That dirt will wash away and who knows how long the flowers will last, but they will not be forgetting anytime soon the memories made and the knowledge learned on this trip.



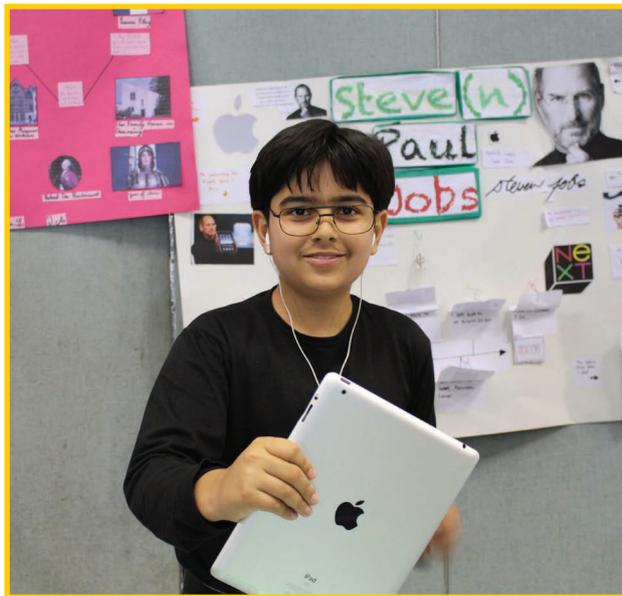
## La Ferme Pedagogique

The Kindergarten classes took a Field Trip to La Ferme Pedagogique. The students participated in four activities: making bread, learning about bees, taking care of animals (turtles, turkey, hens, rabbits, sheep), and gardening.



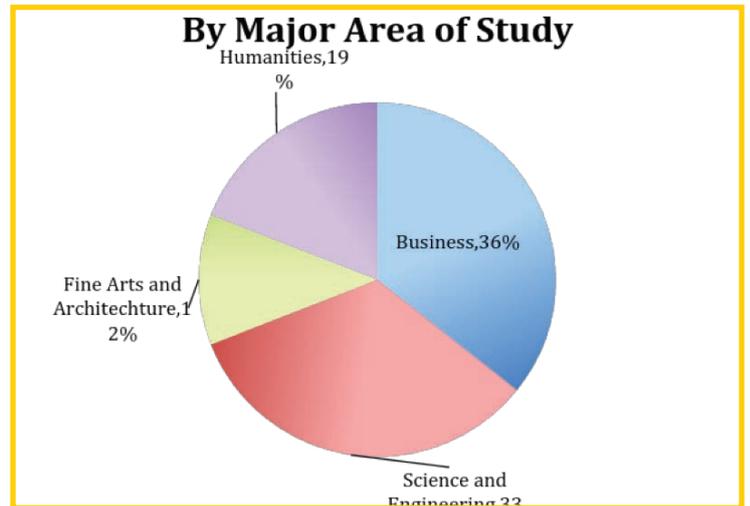
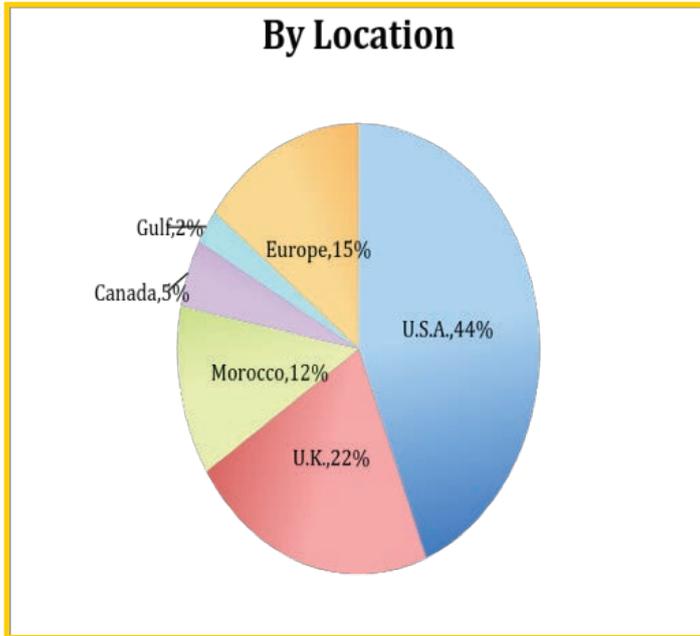
## Wax Museum

Have you ever been to an Wax Museum? Have you ever imagined what it would be like if the wax figures could really move and talk? Well, that is exactly what the GWA 5th grade class created this year with their “Wax Museum”. The 5th grade “Wax Museum” was an exciting and multi-faceted educational opportunity for the students. Their first task was to find and research a historical figure that they found interesting or inspirational. Next, the students were asked to write a brief biography in the first-person about their historical figure’s life. By writing in the first-person, the students were given an opportunity to imagine what it would have been like to be in their character’s time period and feel what their life was really like. Finally, the students dressed as their character and shared their first-person biography with all who came to visit the “Wax Museum”. Parents and students alike who were so fortunate to get to visit the “Wax Museum” were magically transported to different times and places all over the world as they heard the stories of all of the characters.



## Bon Voyage: Class of 2017

In just a few weeks our 42 graduates will be headed off to universities around the world including the U.S.A., U.K., Canada, Morocco, Europe, U.A.E., and even China! We wish them the best of luck in their future studies.



On April 26th, Ms. Casey visited Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany for a counselor fly-in. Guidance counselors from 16 countries around the world attended the workshop to learn about Jacobs University programs and admissions. Ms. Casey loved the beautiful campus, wonderful staff and facilities, and delicious German and international food! This is great news because two GWA seniors, Salma and Hasnaa Tarik will be attending Jacobs University in the fall. Salma will study Political Science and Hasnaa will study Engineering. Congratulations to Salma and Hasnaa and good luck in Germany!



Counselor visit to Jacobs University



# Athletic Highlights

## GWA Mustangs

The GWA Mustangs Athletic Department had a tremendous year competing against club teams, local Casablanca schools and the other American schools within MASAC. The year started off with three MASAC Soccer Championships, which set the bar high for all the other sports to strive for. Overall the Mustangs won seven MASAC titles this year and finished runners-up five other times. Our student-athletes and coaching staff dedicated their time, energy and effort on and off the field of play to make this year very special.

To celebrate the accomplishments of our student-athletes and coaches the athletic department held its annual athletic banquet in the MPR on May 24, 2017. Over 115 medals, trophies and awards were given out. Some special awards recipients were as follows.

- Lina Said, "Leadership Award" for her leadership in MAC.
- Hasnaa Tarik and Hanna Welling received the 1st Annual "Legacy Award" for their contribution to the GWA Athletic program.
- Marian Welling received a "Parent Award" for her six years of support to the GWA athletic program.

Four longtime GWA coaches were recognized by Coach Red Johnston for all of their hard work, dedication, and support of the GWA Athletic Department over the past 17 years. These four coaches have a combined total of 47 years of coaching a variety of sports and activities here at GWA.

- Khalid Sadir, 17 years
- Abdeljalil Ait Elhaj 13 years
- Mustapha Sadir, 12 years
- M'hammed Hitane, 5 years



Coach Red would like to thank all of the student-athletes, coaches, and parents for making this year a memorable one. **GO MUSTANGS!**

*Red Johnston  
Director of Athletics*

# Athletic Highlights

## 2016-17 GWA Athletic Department Accomplishments

### **MASAC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Varsity Girls Volleyball  
Varsity Boys Soccer (4th Consecutive, 6th Overall)  
JV Boys Soccer  
Middle School Boy's Soccer  
Middle School Girl's Soccer  
Developmental League Soccer  
Track & Field

### **MASAC RUNNER UP 2nd Place**

JV Boys Volleyball  
Varsity Boy's Basketball  
JV Boy's Basketball  
Middle School Girl's Basketball  
Middle School Girls Volleyball Team 1

### **MASAC 3rd Place**

Varsity Girls Basketball  
JV Girl's Volleyball  
JV Girl's Basketball  
Middle School Girls Volleyball Team 2

### **OTHER MASAC FINISHES**

Varsity Girls Soccer – 4th Place  
Badminton – 4th Place  
Middle School Boys Volleyball 4th Place  
Varsity Boys Volleyball – 5th Place  
Middle School Boys Basketball – 6th Place  
Swimming - 4th Place

I am proud to announce that our Varsity Boys Soccer team won their fourth consecutive MASAC championship and sixth overall defeating the American School of Marrakech 2-1. Moulay Hassani and Simo Zahar scored for the Mustangs.

Our girls soccer team fell a little short of their goal but finished in a respectable 4th place.

Both teams represented GWA with class and showed remarkable sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

I want thank our girls team coaches, Safia Zouaoui and Llewelyn Friedrichs and our boys team coaches, David Grudda and Dusty Smith for all of their hard work, dedication and sacrifice each one gave since the beginning of the year.



Yours In Sports

*Red Johnston*  
Director of Athletics

# Events

## Commencement

The 16th Commencement of GWA took place, in the midst of Ramadan Celebrations, on Saturday, June 3. A perfect Casablanca evening enhanced the elegant ceremony for the family and friends of this year's graduates.

Dr. Audrey Menard led the 16th Commencement of GWA. Megan Walls and the George Washington Academy Band provided live music during the evening. David Welling, GWA Head of School and Stephanie Miley the Charge d'Affaires for the Embassy of the United States of America welcomed the attendees. Deborah MacArthur, President Emeritus, of the GWA School Board delivered the Keynote Address. Erin Hoyt was the teacher selected by the graduates to have the honor of giving them their final address by a member of the GWA faculty.

George Washington Academy has 42 new alumni that will be attending colleges and universities across the globe. This year's Salutatorian is Manale Mourdi, and the Valedictorian is Osama Bou Melhem.



# Events

## Better Together : International Festival

Many thanks to the GWA community for a successful International Festival!

At this year's International Festival, Better Together and GWA parents hosted a wide range of international booths - the food choices were amazing. We enjoyed everything from traditional Moroccan tagines to American burgers to fresh sushi to Korean dumplings to Spanish tapas to Indian rice dishes - DELICIOUS!

Attendees enjoyed an entertaining program highlighting GWA's gymnastics team - our ASA gymnasts performed 3 times, highlighting their athletic and acrobatic abilities. The Indian songs and dances were a huge hit, as were the African drummers. GWA's very own Marie Bollers sang some classic American songs and the Americans led us in a Texan line dance.

Thanks to Youness Skalli, as it was also Earth Day, our very own student run Green Council represented their cause and provided an opportunity for guests to make "pledges" to increase awareness and action for Morocco. "Every Day is Earth Day".

This year's event also hosted a 'marche' where various vendors sold their traditional craft and food items. All is all, the event was a success - thank you to all who supported the International Festival!



# Events

## Trip to France

For the fourth year in a row, the French department organized a school trip for our 8th grade students. Learning about and discovering the Périgord and the Middle Ages was the aim of this year's tour from 9 to 13 May.

Accompanied by three chaperones (Mrs. Anissa Benchekroun, Mrs. Mouna Merzak and Mr. Luke Kollasch), the group spent 5 fabulous days learning about the rich cultural history of various areas located in Southern France.

From the amazing river crossing along the Dordogne to the famous castles of Commarque and Castelnaud, our students had a complete immersion in the life of the Middle Ages. We received a very detailed description of the hundred years war and the Life of knights which was enhanced by anecdotes delivered by professional guides.

Our guided tours of the towns of Sarlat and Périgueux as well as the museum of prehistory allowed our students to discover some famous sites of the region. Some of our students even tried the regional foods such as foie gras, duck confit and goat cheese.

Towards the end of our trip, we spent an afternoon at the Accrobranches Park allowing for some of our students to show their talent as climbers and others to discover them! Our students were delighted with this trip and we can't wait to go again next year!



# Events

## Toubkal Leadership Hike

Nurse Hair had the privilege to co-lead a group of 12 high school students on a Mt. Toubkal expedition May 11-14. Mr. Killian and Mr. and Mrs. Sando made for one incredible staff team of chaperones. A special thanks to all that Mr. Killian did to make the trip happen for the 2nd time here at GWA; there was a lot of work to organize the logistics, create the various permission forms, collect papers from students, organize team meetings and more! The physical challenge of hiking a mountain of this elevation is intense! The team collectively conquered roughly 2,367 meters (7,765 ft) and hiked about 16 hours total over 3 days. 8 out of 12 students and all the staff chaperones made it to summit but everyone demonstrated incredible resilience of body and mind! Leadership and teamwork were essential character traits that these students endeavored to display. Congratulations to everyone!

### Student participants:

Ahmed Lahlou  
Zack Hitane  
Hakim El Ghazi  
Lucas Nicolaos  
Adam Motaouakil  
Hicham El Khayri  
Jad Bousselham  
Nicole Carlson  
Simo Benkirane  
Hassan Chaudry  
Lina Said  
Sara Bouftas

### Staff chaperones:

Jason and Marie Sando  
Trent Killian  
Hannah Hair



# Events

## Lower School Concert

A concert is a gift that we give to a child.

It starts out as just a seed of an idea in the imagination of the organizers, and it takes months and months to form and gestate in a classroom before it is finally birthed before a waiting audience.

During those months, the children can't always envision the final product. They must work away at their separate parts, without really seeing how the pieces fit together until everyone is assembled on the big night. In the meantime, they must simply trust that there is a greater purpose behind all of the repetitions and rehearsals.

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade students had to place a lot of trust in their teachers this year, as they worked in their separate classes towards a performance that was beyond what they had attempted in the past. In previous years, the students were the focus of the concert, but they were not the only musicians performing. They sang or played their instruments along with recorded backing tracks created by musicians in a studio on the other side of the world -- strangers they could not see and would never meet. These professionals create beautiful music in their own right, which greatly enhances the children's performance, as does live adult accompaniment on a piano or guitar. This year, however, it was time for the children to wean themselves off of their reliance on adult accompaniments, and make all of the music ourselves.

We have a wonderful selection of percussion instruments in our Lower School music room, which we use every day in our lessons on beat, rhythm, melody, and other musical concepts. These instruments are called Orff instruments, and are named after the German composer who first used them in an educational setting over 80 years ago. Since then, his philosophy of integrating vocal and instrumental music with creative movement has been popularized all over the world.

At GWA, we are fortunate to have a collection of wooden xylophones, as well as their large and small metal counterparts (metallophones and glockenspiels). Each year we expand this collection, with the aim of allowing every child in every class to experience the magic of making sounds together.

At first, however, our music didn't sound so magical! Each child was so excited to experiment and see what kinds of effects they could create on our instruments, that they really didn't pay much attention to the sounds that the other children were making. That strategy was fun for a while (for everyone except the teacher!), but eventually, we needed to learn how to turn our sounds into real music. And that meant that we had to learn to listen!

We started the process by getting out our set of djembe drums. We learned that thousands of years ago, when the drums were first used in the area that is now Mali (not so very far from us!), the people played specific rhythms on the drums to communicate with people in other villages. If there was an emergency, or some good news to share, the drummers could only send a clear message if they played exactly the same rhythms at exactly the same time; and when they succeeded, the message could be passed from village to village in minutes.

We decided that we, too, could learn how to send clear messages to others, and we realized that in order to do that, we would need to work together! We began with vocal signals and movement, and then began transferring our skills to the drums. Finally, we were ready to get out our glockenspiels and mallets, and start working towards a performance.

In the beginning, we learned very simple, repetitive melodies that we practiced over and over again, until we could do them perfectly together. Eventually, we realized that these melodies could be combined with each other to make some beautiful harmonies -- but only if we really listened carefully and stayed together. We added vocal parts and movement, and soon we had the makings of a marvelous concert.

The remarkable thing about this experience was that it was not until the day before the performance that all the children were finally able to gather in the MPR and see how the many pieces of our musical puzzle fit

# Events

together. Each class had heard its own part in isolation, but it was only at the very end of the process that the children could actually hear the product that had existed for months only in the imagination of their teacher.

As the performance finally took shape, the excitement began to build, and the children realized that they would have the pleasure of creating and hearing these beautiful sounds not only for themselves, but also for the people in their lives who matter most to them.

On May 11, the children gathered onstage and presented a series of folk songs and dances from around the world, including music from Scotland, France, China, America, and Palestine; and they topped off the concert with their favorite Moroccan folksong. After many months of hard work, they were finally able to unwrap this gift that had been waiting for the perfect moment to make itself known.

The sound that filled the room was incredible -- and the most astounding thing about it was that the children accomplished it all themselves. Using only their own hands, feet, and voices, they created an experience that turned out to be not only a gift to themselves, but to all of us who got to hear their music and see their delighted faces.

The music at this particular concert was memorable, to be sure, but even more noteworthy is the amount of collaboration that was required to make it possible. Teachers and administrators spent many hours coordinating schedules and rehearsals -- but more importantly, the children themselves learned what it is like to focus intensely and cooperate to achieve a complex task. Some classes had four or five parts happening at the same time, in perfect harmony; and that is only possible when students are highly attentive and responsive to each other and to their leaders. Even if the children don't become superstar glockenspiel-ists some day, they will still apply those concentration and cooperation skills every day in everything they do, from writing MAP tests to negotiating conflicts on the playground; and they will never forget that feeling of displaying their hard-won accomplishments to the world as a unified body of sound.

A concert is a gift that we give to a child, and it is a gift that our children, in turn, give to us. Thank-you so much for allowing us the honor of sharing this gift with you.



*Natasha Regehr*  
Lower School Music Teacher

# Events

## Operation Smile

Ms. Griggs traveled with 5 of the Operation Smile girls to Marrakesh to help with a mission at Hospital El Antaki in the center of the medina. On Saturday they were responsible for registering new patients and filling out charts. They also enjoyed spending time playing with the children who were awaiting their tests.

On Sunday, they joined the team at the hotel and continued filling out charts and paperwork, ahead of the surgeries that will begin on Monday. They also assisted in writing the hospital identification bracelets for the children.

Their eyes were opened to the amount of children in Morocco who suffer from cleft palate and who need this life-changing surgery. They were also amazed at how hard the doctors work and how many surgeries they will accomplish in just one week! (+180!) They hope to visit the center in Casablanca soon, and look forward to seeing how GWA can continue partnering with this charity in the future!



Emily Griggs  
Middle School English Language Arts Teacher

# Events

## Pops Concert

“Is it really going to be better than last year?” was one of the main questions that students and teachers were answering before this year’s Pops Concert, and everyone could confidently say “Yes”. The Pops Concert is a non-traditional performance that includes acts from the band, drama, and art departments, all based around a theme. This year’s theme was ‘Games’, and it included selections from video games, sports games, and titles that had the word ‘game’ in it, like “The Hunger Games”.

The concert started out with a knock out, literally, as Rocky (Ahmed El Harouchi) and Apollo (Mamoun Bouzoubaa) fought it out in the middle of their boxing ring, which was created by the GWA marching band. Next we went to the world of Panam and Katniss Everdeen. Students acted out scenes from the movie, the band played music from the first film, and for the completion of the Hunger Games, the elementary Hip Hop group, under the direction of Ms. Amy Botha, blew the audience away with their hip moves!

The next two band and drama performances came from two video games, “World of Warcraft” and “The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time”. Scenes from the video games were performed by the drama groups and the band played selections from each of the video games.

The finale came from the musical “Hairspray”. Students re-enacted the final scene, where Tracy Turnblad (Charlotte Menard) returns to the tv studio to claim her Miss Hairspray title and defy Velma (Alaa Zaid) and Amber (Imane Bekhiche) VanTussel. Performing alongside there students, Megan Walls, Rebecca Whaley, and Megan Knickerbocker made special appearances in the scene, performing as a few of the adult characters.



# Events

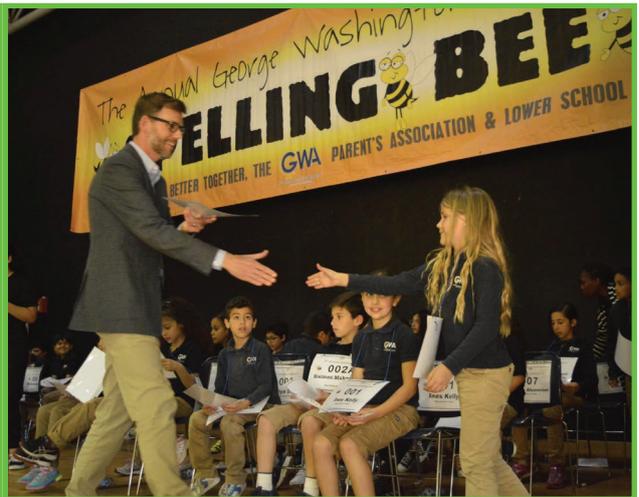
## Spelling Bee

The 4th Annual GWA Lower School Spelling Bee proved to be a nail biting event! Round after round of Herculean effort was put forth by all participants. Each student did an outstanding job preparing for and competing in the event. We are so P-R-O-U-D of each of our brave and inspiring lower school spellers!

A special congratulations goes out to our winners:

2nd grade: Shireen Janghorban  
3rd grade: Ramzy Batshoun  
2nd/3rd runner up: Nathan Martinat  
2nd/3rd over-all winner: Ramzy Batshoun

4th grade: Amine Ziyat  
5th grade: Nasser Albustami  
4th/5th runner up: Amine Ziyat  
4th/5th over-all winner: Nasser Albustami



# Events

## Teddy Bear

Teddy Bear day was a success for our Preschool students! We had good weather and plenty of fun!

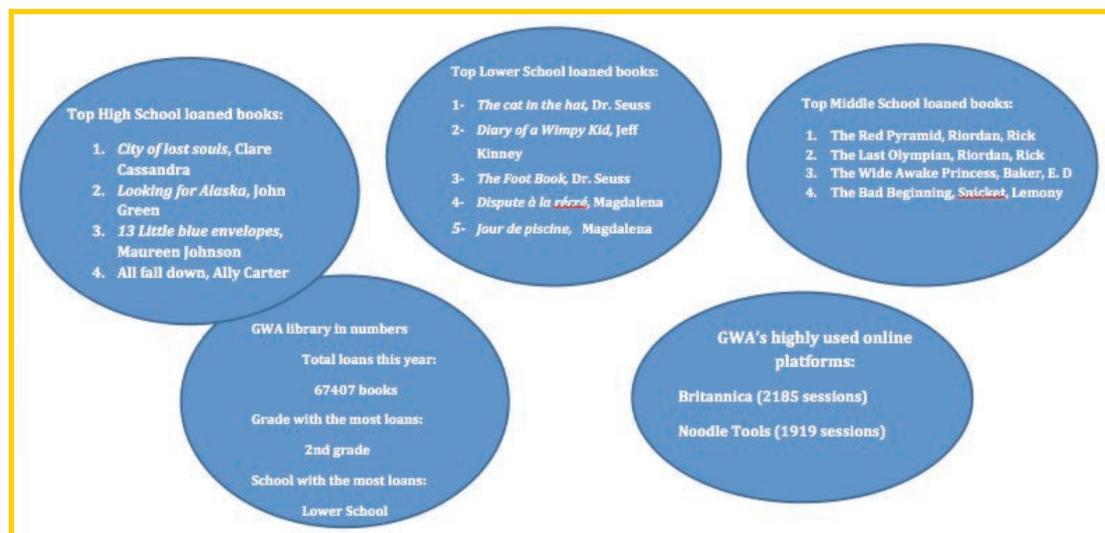
In PreK, we had the pleasure of sharing these moments with parents who had helped prepare the numerous stations for the children.

The children were very happy and we look forward to having Teddy Bear day next year!



# Library Corner

Ten months have flown by quickly! But the end of the year brought a tremendous sense of accomplishment as so many things have been achieved this quarter. We can celebrate our busy library in numbers! From the spring book fair, the French Book Drive, the teacher and student library surveys, the use of School databases such as Noodle Tools in conjunction with the other library online databases, to the number of library books that circulated this quarter.



The school year is coming to the end and our students are saying Goodbye to their classroom, the teachers, and the library. But this does not mean that they have to say Goodbye to books and reading. We want all of our students to continue their love for reading and learning over the summer. Exceptionally this year, as we are preparing for the move to the new Library Media Tech Center we cannot check out books to students over the summer. That's why we encourage you to use Tumblebooks library from home. All you need is an internet connection and you have access to the entire Tumblebook collection at the click of a button! You can install it on most Apple and Android phones and tablets! Just search Tumblebooks in the iTunes App store or Google Play and login to the website with the school's login credentials. Should you need any help, please call the library at 0522953014 or email us at [libray@gwa.ac.ma](mailto:libray@gwa.ac.ma).

On another note, I would like to thank all parents who graciously donated French books to the library. Your generosity and support for French literacy is much appreciated. We are going to catalogue those books and add the ones that are Rally de lecture to our R.L collection.



Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and relaxing summer break. I hope all of our students have a safe and memorable summer break and look forward to seeing you in Fall.

Asmaa Rias El Idrissi  
Library Manager

# Nurse's Corner



Flag Football and a Friday after school running club were some fun events that gave students (and staff!) an opportunity to be active throughout the school year!



Looking back ...

1. This was the first year (most likely in the history of the school) that we collected ALL of the mandatory medical forms for 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th grade. THANK YOU parents for helping us make sure your son or daughter is healthy and immunizations are up to date!
2. Nurse Hair was able to train all of our PE staff in the American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR course.
  - a. Another group of 5 GWA staff were trained in the American Heart Association Basic Life Support course.
  - b. This combined with the Automated External Defibrillator (located in the back of the MPR); we are in a position to effectively help anyone who may have a cardiac arrest on campus.
3. We had 27 reportable injuries on campus this year, above the normal traffic of scrapes, cuts, bruises and other common accidents. We want to make every effort as a school to decrease this number every year. SAFETY is one of our biggest passions here in the Nurse Office and we want that to be the same focus for all of our staff, students and parents. PREVENTION is the key so, if you see something that isn't safe; or students doing something that is unsafe, please cease the activity and notify your supervisor immediately.
4. General medical release forms have been utilized for overnight GWA trips; self-populating information from PowerSchool. This is a great step to make sure staff chaperones know how to care for your son or daughter when travelling on school trips.

*Hannah Hair, RN BSN  
Estelle Najem, IDE  
GWA School Nurse/Health Educator*

# Nurse's Corner

5. Parent meetings are an essential component to communicating concerns regarding a student's health. We appreciate your time and efforts to come and speak with us when necessary - this year Nurse Hair was able to meet with many more parents than in previous years and looks forward to doing so again next year with the goal of improving the health of many students.

6. Our first ever GWA Medical Review board met in May to review various health policies here at the school. A special thanks to the 4 local doctors who volunteered their time to assist Nurse Hair in the endeavor to improve the health standards here at GWA; Dr Imane Youklif (neurosurgeon) Dr Ghazali (pediatrician) Dr Filali (pediatrician) and Dr Fihri (general internist). We hope to meet on an annual basis going forward; if you are a physician and interested in helping with this please contact Miss Hair directly.

Looking ahead ...

1. GWA will most likely become an official American Heart Training site in the fall; under the training center in Rabat. This will pave the way for easier access to training materials and having local affiliation for providing courses and completion cards for staff and hopefully students in the future.

2. Our goal of decreasing the amount of daily student visits to the nurse office will continue as Nurse Hair focuses solely on prevention; through health screens on all students and health education among various grade levels.

3. A new GWA immunization policy, Tuberculosis Screening, Concussion Policy, updated medical forms and more will be implemented during the '17-18 school year. We look forward to your cooperation and support as we endeavor to continue raising the bar of health and safety standards here at GWA.