



# NEWSLETTER

November 2018

## Principal's message: STEM for all

Dear parents,

Young children often have a wonderful sense of curiosity and inquisitiveness that naturally leads them into exploring and learning. It is during their primary school years that this is often sadly lost. How many parents have watched as their child enters the school system, so excited to attend and learn, but by the time they leave primary school they lose that desire to learn in school. They complain bitterly about going every day. Learning is no longer enjoyable. At SIS, we are aware of this and this is why we have STEM.

STEM is important because it encompasses every part of our lives. It is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an integrative and practical approach. Science is everywhere in the world around us. It is found in our natural world – the trees, plants, butterflies, erosion on the creek bed, and so much more. Technology is continuously expanding into every aspect of our lives. It is part of our students' everyday lives – iPads, Kindles, computer programming, telescopes, and all the way back to the invention of the wheel. Engineering is found in the construction of bridges, homes, buildings, and other infrastructures. It also tackles the challenges of changing global weather and environmentally-friendly changes to our home. Mathematics is in every occupation, every activity we do in our lives. It is a crucial skill to help them balance checkbooks, buy groceries, budgeting, and so much more.



Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate subjects, STEM combines them into a unified learning paradigm based on real-world applications. At SIS, we give the students opportunities to explore STEM-related concepts so that they can develop a passion for it.

For example, some of the students have learned about gardening. Our school garden serve as a living laboratory to explore the world of Earth and life sciences. Teeming with possibilities, our gardens provide students with the opportunity to conduct experiments, view seasonal and land-form changes and watch life cycles unfold before their eyes.

Plans are being made for students to learn about rocket model technology and how to get them to fly with the use of water pressure. This will be an opportunity for students to develop team working abilities, gain engineering and problem-solving aptitudes and showcase their physics skills.

Our teaching methods are inquiry-based, process-focused, and student-centered. Teamwork, collaboration and communication is a major focus. Students have the freedom to think critically, creatively and with innovation. What does all of this mean? Giving students challenges sets them up for life, as they'll learn how to think their way around a problem and try out solutions.

In other words, it is these skills they'll acquire from school and will use them when they are older and in the workforce.

Sincerely yours,  
**Larry Synclair**  
Principal

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## Welcome to the Christmas Charity Fair

Singapore International School's Can Tho Campus will launch its first annual Christmas Charity Fair on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> (from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM). Proceeds of the events will go to Operation Smile.

Children, parents, family and friends are welcome to school and participate in a wide variety of games and activities. There will also be student performance and...yes...Santa Claus will make a visit.

SIS will donate proceeds to Operation Smile, an international medical charity that has provided hundreds of thousands of free surgeries for children and young adults in developing countries who are born with cleft lip, cleft palate or other dental and facial conditions. It is one of the oldest and largest volunteer-based organizations dedicated to improving the health and lives of children worldwide through access to surgical care. The US-based Operation Smile has extended its global reach to more than 60 countries through its network of credentialed surgeons, pediatricians, doctors, nurses, and student volunteers.



# Class Time

## Nursery

Every

corner

This is also  
can learn and  
how to

listen very  
students how  
teacher. This

their reflexes

Students are  
clay in the  
be able to  
interests



morning, students have Arts & Crafts to start a new day with Ms. Ngan. It brightens them up and prepares them for an upcoming active day. In Math

students are interested with mixing-image lessons.

the students' favorite corner in class because they

play at the same time. Ms. Ngan teaches students

recognize colors. All students love this lesson and

carefully. In P.E., Ms. Tu has been showing

to juggle the ball with their

lesson helps student to practice

as well as improve their agility.

also practicing how to knead the

shape of an apple. Later, they will

make any shape based on their own



## K1



In Circle time, students warm up with songs and do exercise every morning. The teacher and students sit around on the chairs. The smiles on their faces show they are so happy every day. Mr. Nick helps during

English by counting and showing numbers zero to ten.

The students follow along. Studying can so fun when

the teacher leads a student to play a game such as

keeping a ball between the knees and jumping to

flashcards to say he words. Students study math

every day. The teacher will review their work as

they draw shapes on the board. In P.E., Students

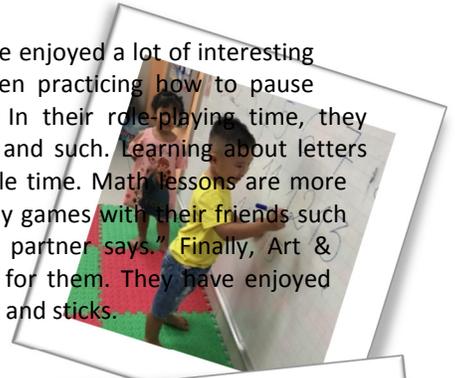
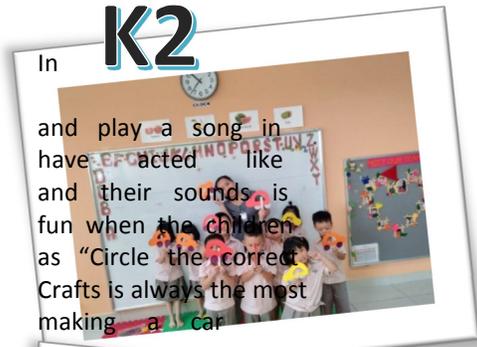
are learning how to improve their motor skills by making a line and jumping on their feet, one by one.



# K2

In and play a song in have acted like and their sounds is fun when the children as "Circle the correct Crafts is always the most making a car

K2 class, the children have enjoyed a lot of interesting activities. They have been practicing how to pause their ICT lessons. In their role-playing time, they doctors, builders, and such. Learning about letters conducted in Circle time. Math lessons are more can learn and play games with their friends such number as your partner says." Finally, Art & interesting time for them. They have enjoyed with color paper and sticks.



Students are excited during science because they are able to observe living things in the real world. Besides, students really like to discover the position of Vietnam, their beloved country, on the globe mock-up. Studying math also has become more interesting because they can play with mathematical blocks. School became a student's favorite place where they can learn many new things through various interesting activities.



In ICT, students have a chance to experience the Marshall Cavendish Online application. This application includes online lessons and activities which were created based on a versatile digital



media platform. With MC online, students are able to study at anywhere and anytime. It helps improve their independence and creates self-study habits. In English, students are gaining English vocabulary skills through music. This teaching approach, through popular songs, helps them recall vocabulary and become more confident to stand in public. In ethics, students are taught how to stand correctly while singing the National Anthem.

It is wonderful to see student excited with singing National song every Monday morning. Besides studying pronunciation during Vietnamese language, students practice speaking by using animation stories. The teacher tells a story to students. Then they follow-up the story in front of the class. This lesson helps students speak and pronoun correctly, communicate confidently, and politely. In music, students practice singing under the teacher's guide. Besides learning musical instruments, students appreciate music and develop confidence to sing in front of other students.

While studying  
s/es to plural  
participate in the

## Year 2

the STEM program. Currently,  
planting seeds in a designated

English, students have learned about the rule to add nouns. The English class is always fun when students lesson, interact with the teacher and finish all their homework. In Ethics, students work in groups and together they discuss about the topic "How keep your school and class room clean". After school, students participate in extracurricular activities that are part of students are learning about agriculture by area on campus.



## Year 4

In English, students are developing ways to enhance their vocabulary through word games, most notably *Scrabble*.

P.E. is always a fun time, especially when they learn new activities that calls for individual as well as team cooperation. In Art, students are improving their artistic talents using construction papers and other tools. Students also studying in science class about how to use basic and simple materials to filter clean water. This is a part of hydroponics, which is a subset of hydroculture. It is a method of growing plants without soil by using mineral nutrient

are



solutions in a water solvent.

## Year 6

learning how to lesson helps the minds about art their level of choosing their enhance their drawing learning how to create other colors. This students make new their



In Art, students are examining clip art and mimic the styles. This students open their appreciation, increase creativity when favorite picture, and skills. They're also new colors by mixing lesson helps color bases on own.



Meantime, students learn literature through team working. Students are gaining an understanding about Sino-Vietnamese and Native-Vietnamese and use them in appropriately. This also helps student practice communication and public speaking skills. In physics, students are learning new things including theories of how drop eggs without breaking. This, of course, upcoming egg-drop contest.



to will be ideal for

## Teachers' Day Celebration

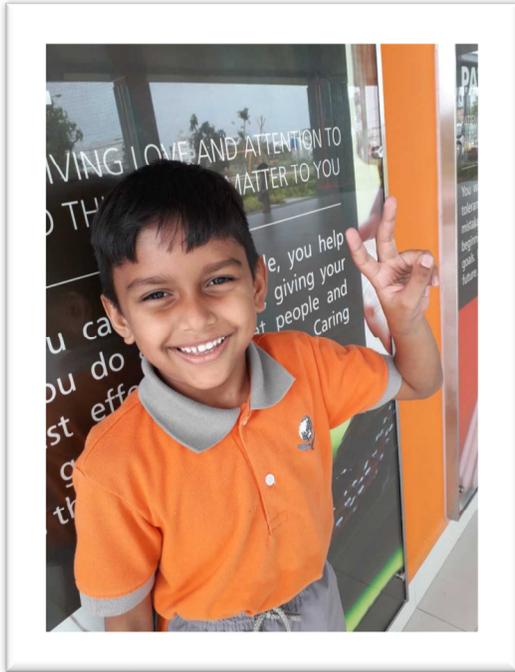
There is a common saying passed down from generation to generation – “**Uống nước nhớ nguồn**” (“*When you eat a fruit, think of the man who planted the tree.*”) Our understanding and view on the world are mainly affected and supported by the knowledge given by the teachers. November 20<sup>th</sup> is that special day when Vietnam gives recognition for the teachers and their work. For the teachers of Singapore International School, it was a definite “Happy Teacher’s Day.” The celebration consisted of stage performances by the students to

show their appreciation of the teachers. These performances include singing, dancing, and presenting flowers, cards, and gifts. Many heartfelt thanks to everyone from the teachers of SIS.



# Student of the Month

## Krishna Gajana Hajure



Krishna, from Year 2 class, is this month's winner. This remarkable student came to SIS with multilinguistic abilities. In addition to his daily English lessons, teachers are amazed how fast he has learned Chinese and Vietnamese. Everyone knows Krishna for his outstanding academic effort, excellent behavior inside and outside the classroom, his good manners, and his positive attitude toward others and towards learning.