



# SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ DANANG NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018

## Coming events

Christmas Charity Fair: Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 9 -11am  
Secondary workshops: Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Christmas break starts: Fri, 14<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Students resume: Wed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan  
Anti-bullying workshop (Y6+): 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan  
Beginning Term 3 – reminder about new gate opening time at 7.45am



## Message from Principal

Dear Parents

Please come to our **Christmas Charity Fair** on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, from 9 – 11am and join in the fun. Through the Fair we can show how important it is to do service in the community as all proceeds go to Operation Smile. Operation Smile Vietnam repairs childhood facial deformities while building public and private partnerships that advocate for sustainable healthcare systems for children and families.

At the beginning of this month, we welcomed Mr Albert Billones, our new secondary science teacher. We thank Mr Ben Snitker for teaching science until Mr Albert arrived. Mr Ben is now teaching Year 3 International. We also warmly welcome four additional Teaching Assistants: Ms Thu, Ms Ha, Ms Ngoc Anh and Ms Tam.

Thank you to the OBV team and our teachers who stayed with the students from Year 4 and Year 5 throughout their recent 2 day activities, both day and night. Students and teachers were again overwhelmingly positive about these wonderful experiences which build many skills and virtues, including confidence, teamwork and cooperation.

For each week in October the school focus has been:

**Virtue: Cooperation** – Year 8 students demonstrated how they learned about this virtue through the Outward Bound experience

**SLG: Being a Critical Thinker**- Year 9 students showed their award winning design in a recent competition. They spoke about the steps they had to think through in order to overcome design problems and come up with solutions

**Virtue: Responsibility**- Year 2 International performed a song about their responsibilities

**Virtue: Diligence**

**Congratulations** to Nguyen Thanh Tung who achieved excellent results in IGCSE 2017-18:

A\* in Science  
"A" in English (First Language),  
Maths and Global Perspectives.



Our school staff felt much appreciated on Teacher's Day. Thank you to all parents who were able to come to the special assembly where the children also demonstrated their gratitude and respect for teachers through their hard work to produce such wonderful performances.

Student Counsellor, Ms Cat, continues to work to educate our secondary students about bullying, and cyberbullying through a series of workshops. This is one way that I can ensure that our school remains a safe and happy learning environment for all students.

As this will be the last newsletter before Christmas I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful break and see everyone back at school on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Anne Matley**  
**Principal**



### **Message from Deputy Principal**

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas break I would like to wish all families a Happy Christmas and safe travels. We are looking forward to seeing you after the festive season for the end of semester one.

### **Teachers Day**

On 20 November we celebrated Teachers' Day at SIS@Danang with a morning assembly. Our students confidently MC'ed the assembly and proudly performed dances and songs to show their appreciation for teachers. Congratulations to all students who participated in the assembly. Your tribute to the teachers was much appreciated.

### **Outward Bound**

At the start of November Year 4 and 5 students participated in an introduction to Outward Bound. For two days they worked through challenges and activities that required them to use and develop communication, team work and critical thinking skills. As part of the program the students had a sleepover at school and camped in the hall. The students tried their best in the challenges and while they were exhausted at the end of the two days, they enjoyed the

experience! A big thank you to the teachers who stayed overnight with the students and to the Outward Bound Instructors who ran the programme for our school.



### **Exams**

Please be aware that end of semester one exams will start immediately after students return from the holiday. Their first exam will be oral English and is an individual speaking and reading task one-on-one with the teacher. If you are travelling I suggest that the students keep a journal or diary (in English) of your travels. This serves as a lasting memory of your travels as well good practice at writing for a purpose.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Our students have nearly finished their term two afterschool clubs. It has been wonderful to see the engagement of students in the various activities. Students in the Reuse and Recycle Club have been busy making piggy banks and developing a plan for recycling in classrooms; our Science Club students have been conducting exciting experiments and developing their Science vocabulary; Christmas Craft clubbers have been making festive decorations; and students in Target Club have been perfecting their aim and coordination.

The afterschool club information for term three will be coming out after the Christmas break. As we have a maximum number per group, please ensure your child brings their form back promptly to avoid missing out on an activity they would really like to be a part of. Clubs that do not meet their minimum number may be cancelled.

### **Water bottles**

Many students have started bringing glass water bottles to school in the past few weeks. There have been some accidents with students dropping them and the glass smashing on the floor. It would be great if students could leave the glass water bottles to use at home and only bring plastic water bottles for use at school.

### **Bringing toys to school**

Many students have started bringing toys to school for show and tell and to play with at break times. Please do not allow your students to bring either toy guns or other weapons or expensive/precious items into school. If you could help reinforce with your student that these toys are not come into the classroom during learning time (unless for show and tell), it would be much appreciated as we do not want students distracted from their learning. If students are bringing toys to school, please name them as best as possible to avoid students being upset if they are misplaced.

**Chelsea Donaldson**  
**Deputy Principal**

### **Message from SVIS Principal**

Dear Parents

In November, integrated curriculum focused on the 36th anniversary of Vietnamese Teachers' Day (November 20).



All students tried their best to have the best results to show their gratitude to their teachers. It's an honour that the school received beautiful flowers from the local leaders and parents. We thank you all for helping us celebrate our special day. Vietnamese teachers are spending time on tutoring some subjects for some integrated students after school from 4:00 to 5:00 pm to support them for their semester 1 examinations.



### Activities during the month:

Year 4 and Year 5 had 2 days participating in OBV programme at school. It's a great opportunity for the students to learn and play.

The secondary volleyball team won Third Prize in the District level.

A group of secondary students took part in a Creative Science Technology Competition with a project "Cleaning machine from recycled material" won the second prize in District level and are ready to compete in City level from 28 – 30 November.

A concert was held on 20 November to celebrate Vietnamese Teachers' Day.

Year 4 Integrated went on an excursion to Water Supply company at Danang airport.

In December, teachers and students will focus on preparing for the Semester One examination.

The schedule is:

- 10/12 – 14/12: Semester 1 Examinations for Y1 up to Y8 (Integrated)
- 26/12 – 31/12: Semester 1 Examinations for Y9 (Integrated) held by DOET. The exam is during Christmas holiday, so please bring your child on time (7.00 am), and pick them up after they finish their tests.

Please support and encourage your child/ren to practise and review so that they can do the best in their exams.

Best regards

**Vu Thi Lan**  
Principal of SVIS

### Message from Head of Studies

Teachers have been working together to develop the Semester one exams so that they are fair, valid and reliable for both our primary (not Year 1) and secondary students. Students will soon receive their exam schedules and we encourage you to start preparing with your students at home for the Semester one exams which begin on the 2nd of January 2019, after the Christmas break.

Our IGCSE 2 teachers are helping the students prepare for their MOCK exams, which will begin on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. These Mock exams will give our IGCSE 2 students great practice and will help them improve exam techniques for the official IGCSE examinations in May/June 2019.

SIS @ Da Nang had another successful STEM week this term full of hands-on activities, critical thinking and challenges to suit all year-levels. Our youngest students were building towers, the lower primary students created bridges, upper primary students constructed roller-coasters made from paper straws, secondary students developed 'Rube Goldberg' Chain reactions and the oldest students in Y9 worked on a Vacuum cleaner. I hope you can see in the photos the fun they had designing and working together on these challenges.

**Daan Ebbers**  
**Head of Studies**



**Message from Guidance Officer**

November has been a busy month with a successful STEM day and a wonderful Teacher's Day at SIS. It was lovely to experience the Teacher's Day Assembly and see the students working together to produce their performances.

**Bullying**

SIS@Danang has zero tolerance towards bullying. To support students, I have been working with classes throughout the school and holding anti-bullying workshops. These are aimed at educating students so that they understand what bullying (including cyber-bullying) is, and how to deal with situations where bullying is occurring. At SIS we want students to have a happy and safe education, where bullying is not accepted.

I ask that you speak to your child at home about what bullying is (intentional, repeated, unkind behaviour towards one student or a group of students), and help us to work together to prevent bullying and promote kindness to each other.

**Future Planning.**

I have been working with the IGCSE 2 students having one to one meetings to discuss futures options once they have completed their studies. If you would like to arrange a meeting with me, please email [Catherine.burgess@danang.sis.edu.vn](mailto:Catherine.burgess@danang.sis.edu.vn).

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful relaxing break!

**Catherine Burgess**  
**GO and EFL Teacher**

**Message from Head of Kindergarten**

We started out the month with interesting topics such as "Safety in the Community", "Community helpers and occupations", "Healthy Food" and 'Book Week'.

Discussing the theme "Healthy Food" brought the children excitement. They could name their favourite food and identify healthy vs. unhealthy food. While having fun learning about food, Prep class had an exciting science experiment with milk, food colouring and dish soap. Nursery class enjoyed making fruit salad with apples, watermelon and yogurt.





“Community Helpers and Occupations” was another exciting theme. Children learned that there are many different types of community helpers who play an important role in keeping our community running and safe. It was not easy for the children at this age to totally understand the concept; however, they were able to recognise some popular jobs and had a chance to talk about what they wanted to do when growing up.

The excursion to the bookshop was so much fun for everyone. We were proud of our students who behaved well and respected the rules. Lots of books, stationery and toys were chosen and bought as a gift for “Book week”.

Last but not least, our second STEM day was another highlight of the month. With the theme “Things Can Move”, Kindergarten students had a great opportunity to put their creativity and imagination to work on fun designs and activities. We were surprised at how creative they were - some made an aeroplane while others designed a new generation car! Good job, boys and girls! We are eager and ready for term 3 STEM day.

We would like to take this chance to say “Thank you” to our parents for the lovely wishes, flowers and gifts on Teacher’s day.

**Vo Thi Thuy Ngan**  
Head of Kindergarten

