

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ VAN PHUC NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019

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Mr. Paul Batchelor – Deputy Principal



Ms. Vu Thi Ngoc Bich – Office Manager

Message from the Principal

Welcome to our new and continuing parents as we embark on a new school year! I am looking at the workers completing the installation of the new playground equipment outside the window. In thinking back to how things were, and how things are now, I am truly amazed at the transformation of SIS@Van Phuc over the last few months. The work is not yet complete, but already you can see and feel a difference around the campus. I have seen a rejuvenation in the staff, and a new found optimism that we can and do, make a difference in the lives of our students. Our new KIK students are enjoying their first month of school in their new facilities and are developing greater confidence day by day. Our returning students are beginning to enjoy the cooler, more comfortable canteen area, the new soccer pitch and now the newly renovated gym. The Discovery classes are also enjoying classes in a newer, brighter learning space, The Library has perhaps undergone the most dramatic change, with extra space and additional computer areas. There will also be additional library books purchased in the months to come. Of course, all of this would not be possible without the support of you, our parents. I hope we can continue to celebrate the completion of the remaining work yet to be finished in the weeks and months to come. Thank you for your patience as we complete the last of the project work.

Welcome To Our New Deputy Principal

Mr. Paul is an experienced educator, who has been working with KinderWorld for over ten years. His most recent role with the company saw him help to lead in the development of the premier outdoor education school in Vietnam, Outward Bound Vietnam. He brings to Van Phuc leadership a deep understanding and appreciation of the differences in culture and education between the East and the West, as well as his experience in curriculum and leadership development. He is very excited to be a part of the highly-dedicated and experienced team of staff here at SIS Van Phuc and looks forward to contributing to the growth and development of our students and our wonderful revitalised school.

Welcome To Our New Office Manager

Please welcome Ms. Bich, our new Office Manager at SIS VP. Ms. Bich has been with KinderWorld International Group since late 2001 at different positions such as Assistant Teacher, Class Teacher and Office Manager. Ms. Bich graduated from University of Languages and International Studies – Hanoi National University. Ms. Bich has attached to well-known schools and Institutions in Singapore and has valuable experience in administrating school operations. I believe she is a familiar face to many of our Parents since your child was at younger levels. Please feel free to come and see her should you need any information or assistance regarding school operations issues.

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Ms. Phung Thi Hang
HOV Kindergarten

Welcome to our new Head of Vietnamese for our Kindergarten

A warm welcome to Ms. Hang, who has capably stepped up into the role of Head of Vietnamese KIK here at SIS VP (Kindergarten Principal). Ms. Hang is joining us from KIK Hanoi Towers, where she worked for 11 years. She is highly qualified, with degrees in Early Childhood Education from both Australia and Vietnam, and with her many years of experience in working for International schools she believes in her ability to provide the best educational and supportive environment for your children during these formative years. She welcomes your cooperation and support in this coming year.

Helping Students to Prepare for School

Parents you can help your child develop the independence that they need for school with some small preparations at home:

- Help them get their schoolbag and uniform prepared before they go to bed. Then they can easily get dressed and ready as soon as they wake.
- Set an alarm with the child for when they need to leave for the bus or meet the driver.
- Make sure they arrive at school in time to join their class. Being late makes them feel unprepared.
- Limit students screen time on mobile phones, tablets and computers.
- Please make sure that they have plenty of sleep and go to bed by 9:00pm. Our school days are quite long and the children need to be able to pay attention and stay awake. Younger students in particular feel the longer days with no afternoon sleep.



New Gymnasium



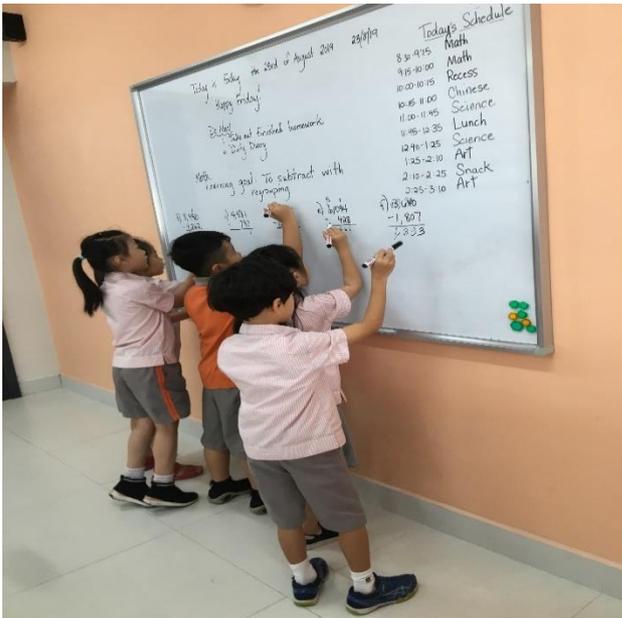
New KIK ICT Lab

Discovery Classes Year 1-3 (Integrated)

In guided discovery classes students are engaging in fun filled, STEM based activities which give them the opportunity to build critical thinking and other important life skills, such as creativity, informational & technological literacy as well as collaboration and communication. They will build these skills by doing experiments about the world, its creatures and the laws of nature and discovering their own conclusions. So far this term, students have already tackled scientific concepts like buoyancy and friction through experiments using everyday objects like apples and recycled plastic containers. They've also succeeded at critical thinking tasks, such as using spaghetti and marshmallows to build a tower. Not only did this experiment utilize the laws of physics, it encouraged teamwork – a vital skill. Students in second grade have been learning about important social issues, namely plastic pollution. This is a long-term eco-project, which requires them to learn about plastic pollution of the oceans, conduct research on how to reduce pollution and make an art piece using recycled materials that they are collecting. First and third grade will soon be learning about this too. In short, having fun in the classroom can be a great way to learn and discover new things. Albert Einstein said play was the best form of research; in Guided Discovery we take that to the next level!

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Subtraction with Regrouping with 3L



Rolled Paper Art – Discovery Classes



Pegasus Cooking Class

Parent Night

Many thanks to all the KIK parents who came to school to talk with the teachers last week. We appreciate all of your feedback and many suggestions of what parents would like to see happening in our school. If you still have questions or suggestions we are happy to follow up. You may either speak to a teacher or email directly. We look forward to welcoming the SIS parents in the coming week.

Table of Specifications (ToS)

Parents have recently received a soft copy of the Table of Specifications (ToS) emailed to them as well as a hard copy during Parent Night. This tells you all of the exam dates for the year, and the kinds of questions they will see on the exam papers. Year 1 do NOT have an exam in Semester 1, however their results will be based on learning throughout the Semester e.g, review tests, knowledge of spelling, vocabulary, reading level, speaking and listening. Please also use the exams dates on the ToS to plan your holidays so they do not clash with exams. Due to TET being earlier this year, children will now have their exams before the Christmas holiday.

Formative Assessment

Students final assessment grades will now be split 70:30 between the SA1/SA2 Examinations and in-class performance based assessment tasks. This reduces the heavy weighting of exams for students final grade and allows teachers the flexibility to set rigorous and outcomes based assessments for work that is completed in class. It is a very positive step forward in the overall assessment of our students and we're excited to be implementing it this year. Further information about Formative Assessment will be made available by your child's teacher at the Parent Night on Tuesday 10th September.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

There will be many activities that focus on STEM which will provide hands-on experience for students to develop and use their skills from the four disciplines. Children learn that there may be multiple right answers, and a failed experiment is an opportunity to explore why it didn't work. Children will begin with smaller age-appropriate challenges and then discuss all the different ways students attempted to meet the challenge e.g. building a tower from limited materials (straws, balloons, string) or making a catapult. The discovery is in the making and the 'why' questions.

After School Activity Program

Our After School Activity program has already begun with favorites like Cooking class, Badminton, Basketball, Football and Chess. We also have some newer clubs as well for the students, such as Origami, Book Club and a STEM club, where students will be able to experiment with materials using the STEM approach to building and creating things.