

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ HALONG

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

VISION

To be an educational institution of excellence from Kindergarten to University Foundation level combining Eastern Values with an International education to produce global citizens.

MISSION

To provide quality educational programmes in a creative and challenging learning environment, embracing innovative teaching pedagogies to empower every student to become a life-long learner.

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School-Wide Learning Goals

At Singapore International School we seek to nurture students who are:

- **Academic Achievers**
- **Confident Communicators**
- **Critical Thinkers**
- **Technologically literate**
- **Active, Responsible & Global citizens**

Principal's News

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

It is my great pleasure to be asked to lead this fabulous, young and vibrant school. Ha Long is a leading community in the tourism field and has an energetic feel. It is a great location to bring up children and Singapore Inter-



national School is the right place to allow us to support parents and help children grow into successful adults and give them excellent opportunities to attend accredited and prestigious overseas universities in the future.

We have made much progress from its initial start and we continue to grow, expand and develop into a premier leading educational institution for this region. We have recently developed a Strategic Action Plan to give sound leadership and vision to our local school and are presently in the stages of implementing several innovative and creative concepts and improved structure. Caregivers are always welcome to discuss their suggestions with me directly and my email signature allows you 24/7 access to me personally should you need.

The most important event in our history is about to occur with the Grand Opening on the 30th March which will be attended by many important dignitaries from near and far. This will be an exciting time for all and I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Kind regards,

John Barratt



Various other SIS teachers and executives receiving direct training from Mr Tony from the Saigon Scientists organisation



The Director of Education for Viet Nam discussing options for pioneering CREST awards across the nation



Teams of teachers attempting to do sample projects to have a hands on approach to see what students will need to accomplish to achieve the awards.

SIS Ha Long Participates in Prestigious STEM CREST Awards Programme

Dear Parents and Students,

SIS Ha Long is among the first schools in Vietnam to participate in CREST, an awards program by the British Science Association (BSA) that recognizes exceptional students for their science projects. Through engaging in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) activities promoted by this prestigious organization, our students can apply for international recognition as CREST award winners. This award can help promising students set themselves apart from other students their age, and help pave their way toward higher education and eventual careers focused on the STEM disciplines.



Sir Alan West, a representative of BSA, along with a group of regional partners from Saigon Scientists, Inc. led by instructor Mr. Hoang Thinh, provided a workshop at SIS Gamuda Gardens on March 15 and 16. Principal John Barratt and I came away from the workshop energized about the potential for students here at SIS Ha Long. We learned more about the CREST awards and how to make our students eligible, as well as a host of ideas for integrating STEM into the Singapore curriculum. On 26 March, I led a professional development session with the Ha Long faculty, in which I relayed information about the awards program, as well as how to implement the CREST activities within the Ha Long curriculum an additional guidance provided by Principal Barratt and Mr. Peter Baker, SIS Director of Education.

Going forward, SIS Ha Long aspires to be the proud sponsor of several CREST award winners, and to be among the best schools in Quang Ninh for the STEM disciplines. Look for more information about how to participate in the CREST awards soon

Respectfully,
Brendan Downey





Examples of students learning to help others



Students learning to work as a team in the recent OBV camp



Message from SVIS Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents, Caregivers, & Students,

After one month of working in SIS Halong, I am very happy to share my initial feelings and share some of my previous experiences with you.

I have worked for a total of 35 years in education including 20 years as a teacher and 15 years as an expert in Halong City's Department of Education & Training. I was fortunate to have achieved a lot during that time. This included helping many students become good citizens, helping gifted primary students to accomplish high results in provincial and national competitions, and conducting effective professional development training sessions to many teachers. I am proud of what I have contributed to Vietnam's education!

When I arrived at SIS Halong for the first time, I was most impressed by many students greeting me in English, including very young students. I felt a friendly air in this school. After two weeks of joining in class during lessons, I realized what makes SIS Halong different from other schools is that students here are very self-confident, especially in communication. They also have many other great skills like; cooperation, self-discipline, ability to give an opinion and strong character development.

Most of the Vietnamese teachers in SIS Halong are young but highly enthusiastic displaying good professional qualities. This encourages me to help them because I understand that the qualities of teachers is the most important key. I have plans to help develop their skills to higher levels with a continual professional development programme suited to our local needs.

I believe that with your support and the teachers' efforts, the quality of the Vietnamese program will reach the highest level. Our school will continue to grow and our students will enjoy a global education. I would like to send my best wishes to all parents and hope to get your enthusiastic support and cooperation!

Warmest Regards,

Ms Nguyen Thi Lieu



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Our KIK students engaged in ART activities



KIK students developing gross motor skills through PE lessons and enjoying fresh air through



KIK students showing self discipline in circle time everyday

Message from KIK.

Dear Parents and Beloved Students,

A semester has passed very quickly and we are in the last weeks of Term 3. We are very happy to see our kindergarten students having fun every day when they go to school. After the Tet holiday, many new students enrolled at our school. The credit from parents encourages us to be more confident and responsible in teaching.

Our students continued with the topic on Spring. They have discovered about the weather, plants and typical features of Spring through interactive lessons. Students also began to learn about jobs, transportation, and environmental protection. These topics will be continued in Science lessons in the kindergarten classes. This is also the main theme of the SIS concert this year. Everyone is excited and eager to explore these themes every day!

Time has passed quickly and the students have gone more than halfway already this year and now are excited to prepare for the next busy and interesting weeks ahead. We hope you will be pleased with the efforts and progress of both students and teacher from KinderWorld International Kindergarten.

Weekly newsletters and photos of KIK students are updated by email every week. If parents should have any concerns, please feel free to contact your class teacher through email at anytime.

Kind regards,



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Morning playground scenes



Helping out in the garden!



Mr Jayden & Ms Dung taking Year 4 to the cinema

Message from the Office Manager

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

I'm so happy to be the Office Manager of SIS@Halong. Seeing the students come to school with happy faces everyday helps motivate me to do the best I can for our parents and students.

Everyday, besides my office task, I take time to watch the students play and talk to each other. I find that all the students in our school are pure and lovely through their communications and respect shown to each other. They know how to show care towards each other, and many try to assist each other doing homework. They like to share many funny stories together and this binds them as a group and helps them to become more global in their outlook.

As an Office Manager, I will try my best to support the teachers in our school in administrative work so that they can spend more time in teaching and preparation. I will also aim to keep our parents updated about any important administrative matters and will regularly update all with news that is happening .

I wish everyday at school of our students is their happy day!

Warmest regards,
Ms Bui Anh Thu





Students learning the Reduce, Recycle and Reuse principle of environmental awareness



Comparing ideas on environmental protection and discussing in teams way to approach the three "R's".



Year 3 presenting some basic ideas on saving energy and reducing waste.

Annual Concert and Earth & Environment Theme

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Students,

Our annual end of the year concert is to be held on Saturday 15 June 2019 1030 hrs — 1230 hrs.

The theme this year is about the Earth and Environment! We encourage parents to please support our theme at home and motivate your children to have a positive impact on their environment and be aware of how to protect it. Teachers and students are covering this theme in their classes throughout the year and we have applied it to our daily activities at the school.

Here are some of the activities that children are implementing:

- Turning off lights when leaving a classroom
- Throwing rubbish in the bin
- Making sure not to waste water by closing the tap properly
- With many more suggestions taught alongside these few

It has been the school's tradition to conduct the Annual Concert as the most awaited event of the year. To arrange everything, students and teachers are now working collectively to prepare the students' performances and highlight their awareness about various environmental issues and different ways they can help the Earth and environment. Through these performances, students can create, express, and communicate their feelings and understanding of themselves and the world.

We, in SIS Ha Long, are looking forward to see you in our much anticipated concert.

Kind regards,
Mr Jayden & Ms Jessie

"The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share."

Ngoc Han and Thien My illustrating simplified concepts about, "think global act local"!





Practicing balancing skills on the low ropes in some damp conditions



Happy campers receiving initial completion certificates back at camp



Group shot of Year 6 & 7 OBV during their hike



OBV Year 6 & 7 receiving official completion certificates at school assembly

Message from Mr William Year 6 & 7 Class Teacher
Outward Bound Việt Nam Adventure Camp @ Hạ Long

This past week the year six and seven groups were able to attend an Outward Bound Vietnam (OBV) course here in Ha Long. The course was from Monday to Friday and the students spent most of the week at the OBV base. The purpose of the course was to develop leadership, communication and life skills while improving confidence through experiential learning in the outdoors. Themes included: trust, communication, perseverance and environmental awareness.

Students were able to experience camping and hiking. For many of them this was the first time they have experienced something of this nature. They were challenged mentally through problem based activities and pushed by way of hikes and other demanding activities. Each activity was carefully designed to achieve learning outcomes specifically linked to our School-Wide Learning Goals and professionally coordinated by OBV's experienced instructors.

At first, many of them wanted to give up and go home to their "comfort zones" but the instructors guided and helped them realise that they cannot grow without stepping out of their "comfort zones", and that nothing is impossible if they work together and communicate effectively. We came to fully understand the meaning of: "there is more in us than we know..."

By the end of the week, all students had developed so much more and shown incredible leadership, responsibility and maturity. Students were sad to leave and say goodbye to the OBV team who had become a second family. But they were excited to see their parents and go home. We will keep the lessons we learned and the memories we made with us for life.

Warm regards
Liam Westgate

