



## 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.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- **Principal News**
- **Message from Deputy Principal**
- **Message from Guidance Officer**
- **Message from Head of Vietnamese**
- **Message from the Head of Studies (Primary)**
- **Message from the Head of Studies (Secondary)**
- **Message from the Head of Studies (High School)**

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

- **Academic Achievers**
- **Confident Communicators**
- **Critical Thinkers**
- **Technologically literate**
- **Active and Responsible citizens**



Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

### Principal News

Dear Parents and Students,

We have come to the end of Semester 1 with the final Semester 1 exams taking place on January 10. Our students can now enjoy a restful and well-earned Term 2 break. I am always impressed by the diligence and commitment shown by the students towards their academic study. As I walk around the school and visit classrooms I observe students engaged in learning and working hard to achieve good results. The hard work I see not only occurs inside the classroom but also outside. Recently, the school held our annual Christmas Charity Fair to raise money for 'Operation Smile'. Due to our student's service and generosity the school sold over 10,000 coupons and generated a profit of 69,051,000 VND! This is almost 20 million VND more than the previous year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our parents that also supported the event, in particular our Korean Mom's Community who came and ran a very successful food stall. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Christmas Charity Fair!



### Cross Country

On the last day of Term 2, we held our annual Cross Country at Le Parc in Gamuda City. It was a beautiful day for running with a warm temperature and clean air so that students were able to enjoy the 3.5km scenic run. The winning House this year was the Black Phoenix on 711 points defeating the Golden Aakor on 522 and the Red Dragons on 370 points.

### Senior Study Pathway Briefing Session

Thank you to the parents that recently attended our session on the SIS Study Pathway for parents of students from Year 8 – IGCSE 2 to learn more about our curriculum. I would like to remind parents to return to the course selection and subject preference forms sent



*Our Principal and Korean Mom's Community  
(Christmas Charity Fair 2017)*

home. If you were unable to attend the session but would like to learn more about our IGCSE, AS/A Level and GAC programs, please download the Course Handbooks from the following links below:

IGCSE - [http://gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/IGCSE\\_Course\\_Information\\_Booklet.pdf](http://gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/IGCSE_Course_Information_Booklet.pdf)

AS and A Level - <http://gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/AS-and-A-Level-Course-Information-Booklet.pdf>

GAC - <http://gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/GAC-Information-Booklet.pdf>

### **Parent Teacher Interviews**

Thank you to all of the parents that attended Parent Teacher Interviews on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of February. It is always pleasing to see so many parents attending and receiving very important information on their child's progress and what can be done at home to support your child. If you have not yet collected your child's Semester 1 Report, please contact our office staff. If you were unable to attend Parent Teacher Interviews but would still like to speak to your child's teachers, please also contact the school to make arrangements.

As this will be the last newsletter until March I would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy Lunar New Year. I hope all families enjoy spending time to celebrate the New Year with their relatives and friends and I wish you all happiness, good health and prosperity for the New Year.

Regards,  
**Shane Blood**

### **Message from Deputy Principal**

Dear Parents and Students,

Greetings and Chúc Mừng Năm Mới!

As the new semester begins and we are near the ending of the Lunar Year, it is a good time to reflect on some of the positive things we have done and accomplished so far this year. Among the most positive activities that have occurred this year has been the large increase in contributions our school has made to charity this year through charity drives like the trip to Ha Giang organized by the student council and through school events like the Christmas Charity Fair. As Winston Churchill famously said "We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give." With this in mind it has been great to see our students donate their time, money, ideas and energy to help those less fortunate in the community and county of Vietnam.



*Students from 1L singing Christmas songs*



*Cross Country 2018 – Primary students at the starting line*



*Cross Country 2018- The runners sprinting to the finish line*



*Cross Country 2018– Our Primary Year 3 champions*



*Mr. Shane Blood is answering questions from students about subject choices*

Another huge positive which I have noted already this school year is the massive growth of our school's After School Activities program and how many new students we have seen get involved in school sports and clubs. As I have stated before, playing on a sports team is not only a great way to get exercise and become fit, but it is also an opportunity to learn invaluable lessons about teamwork, competition and perseverance through adversity. What's more, in joining a club like MUN, 3D Printing and Debate Club, students not only make themselves more desirable to universities but also improve their critical thinking and problem solving skills which will help them succeed throughout their lives.

With this in mind, we hope that over the new semester and year that our students will not only work hard to continue to improve and succeed academically, but that they will also continue to improve themselves personally through continuing to give to others and experiencing new activities.

Regards,  
**John Shoulders**

#### **Message from Guidance Officer**

Dear Parents and Students,

Over the last few weeks we have been discussing subject choices with our students and encouraging them to take some time to think and plan for their future studies. It is important not only for subjects but also career decisions that your child picks something that they are good at and enjoy. Deciding on subjects, universities and careers can be a daunting task but it is something that should be done jointly with your children.



Our students have just completed their mid-year tests and exams, with these out of the way they are able to work towards their finals and with this comes some unavoidable stress. In the upcoming months the topics for coffee with the counselor will include exam preparation, effective studying techniques and how to manage test anxiety. More information on these sessions will be coming out in later letters.

Also please feel free to contact me at:

[Michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:Michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn) if you have any questions about college applications or guidance for your children.

Regards,  
**Michael Ogden**



Teachers discussing subject choices with students



Parents at SIS @Gamuda Gardens  
Senior Study Pathway Briefing Session on January 12, 2018



SVIS 10 outstanding secondary students

**Message from Head of Vietnamese Studies**

Dear Parents and Students,

We are half way through the academic year 2017-2018. With the guidance of our dedicated teachers, our students have creatively shown the diligence and commitment towards their academic study to achieve good results.



On behalf of SVIS teachers, I'm very happy to report the results of our 250 students for Semester 1:

**Secondary (total students: 155)**

Academic Progress			Work ethic/ Behavior		Achieved title	
Good	Fair	Average	Good	Fair	Good	Fair
74	65	15	142	12	72	67

**Primary (total students: 95)**

Academic Progress		Abilities		Characteristics
Good	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory	Good
30	65	83	12	95

It is with great pleasure that I get to congratulate 10 outstanding secondary students with an average grade for Semester 1 from 9.2 to 9.8:

<b>Hoang Anh Chi – 8A : 9,8</b>	<b>Tran Kieu Trang – 7B: 9,4</b>
<b>Ngo Linh Trang – 6C: 9,5</b>	<b>Nguyen Phuong Y – 7C: 9,3</b>
<b>Nguyen T Huyen Tran – 6C: 9,4</b>	<b>Doan Bao Linh – 7B: 9,3</b>
<b>Nguyen Bao Nguyen – 7A: 9,4</b>	<b>Dang Nga Mi – 8C: 9,3</b>
<b>Pham Quoc Bao – 8C: 9,4</b>	<b>Nguyen Minh Anh – 7B: 9,2</b>

Thank you to the parents who always accompany and support us in educational activities so that our students can achieve good results!

For the next semester, SVIS teachers and students are going to show our commitment to overcome any shortcomings and strive for more achievements!

On the occasion of the coming Lunar New Year, I wish you all good health, happiness and success!

Regards,  
**Duong Thanh Nghi**



*Tet leisure course– Students learning how to make traditional Chung cakes*



*Tet leisure course– Students are happy to take their freshly made Chung cakes home*



*Excursion to Leather Manufacturer (Year 4L students learning how to make a leather item from scratch)*

### Message from Head of Studies (Primary)

Dear Parents and Students,

After our Christmas holiday break, it was great to see so many children happy to be back at school. They had many interesting stories to tell about their holidays and it was a wonderful start to the year of 2018.



Following the Christmas break, the SA1 end-of-semester Singapore exams were the first items on the Primary School agenda and students seemed well prepared for the big event. With the excellent work by our teachers during Semester 1, most children entered the exams confidently. Thank you to all parents who also contributed by helping children revise schoolwork at home in the time leading up to exams. For most students, the results of hard work were evident when School Reports were released at Parent Teacher Interviews. Teachers appreciated speaking with parents at the Parent Teacher Interviews and every family's effort to visit teachers and discuss student's progress was beneficial; the better the communication between parents and teachers, the better the potential for each student's success. We value your participation, interest and support through Parent Teacher Interviews.

With SA1 exams over, and a new year (Year of the Dog) coming, we can all celebrate the Tet break with a sense of achievement while looking forward to a new and action-packed second semester. According to Chinese astrology, the **Dog** is a symbol of loyalty and honesty. People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They are honest, friendly, faithful, loyal, smart, straightforward, venerable and have a strong sense of responsibility. These are attributes we promote at SIS, so Year of the Dog should resonate well with our students' growth and development.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need information or advice about your child's progress. We are here to help in any way we can. Have a happy and safe Tet holiday.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement in helping students do their very best.

Regards  
**Dr. Noel Geoghegan**

### Message from Head of Studies (Secondary)

Dear Parents and Students,

It has been a busy couple of months at school with plenty going on. We have had some great sporting success in December, a Christmas Charity Fair that blew us all away and now students have just finished taking their Semester 1 Exams.



Year 4L students show their handmade leather wallets



Football Tournament at Hanoi Academy



Mr. Sean Stokes with our football team

In December our Year 8 football team travelled to Hanoi Academy where they split into two teams to participate in an invitational tournament. One of our teams reached the final of the tournament and were extremely unlucky to only finish as runners-up. Meanwhile, our Year 6/7 team is continuing to improve in their Sunday League and have picked up their first win.



After the refreshing break, students have been working extremely hard on their exams and I would like to thank all of them along with you as parents for helping us to ensure that the exams went smoothly.

We now have another holiday coming up before students begin Semester 2. If I do not write again before Tet / Seollal, then Chúc Mừng Năm Mới to our Vietnamese parents and 새해 복 많이 받으세요 to our Korean parents.

Kind Regards  
**Mr Sean Stokes**

#### Message from Head of Studies (High School)

Dear Parents and Students,

Semester One has drawn to a close and now teachers and students who are facing Cambridge exams this year are really going to be focused on exam preparation, revision and coursework submissions.



Mock exams for the IGCSE 2 students and AS and A Level students will be held March 5th to March 9th. During this week, they will sit all of their exams in full for a complete practice. These grades are important and can provide an accurate picture of what they can expect for their actual exams come May/June. If they realize they need more practice with something or need to clarify a lack of understanding, they do have some time in between to brush up on any problematic areas.

This can be a stressful time for your student, so I hope everyone can enjoy a relaxing holiday break. Happy New Year to you and your family!

Regards,  
**Erin Roetker**