



SINGAPORE  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
Since 1986

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ GAMUDA GARDENS

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

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

## Principal's News

Dear Parents and Students,

We are close to the end of term 1 already, and students and staff are diligently busy with achieving the vision of SIS, which is: "To be an educational institution of excellence and educate students to become global citizens".



I love wandering around the school watching students engage in activities, as they are continually showing self-confidence; we want them to feel safe enough to persevere, fail and try again until they succeed. We encourage students to never give up, but continue trying. I enjoy listening to the different accents and students are quickly learning from each other and accepting different cultures.

At SIS, one of our Schoolwide Learner Goals is for students to demonstrate academic growth and to strive for continuous improvement. Students will be able to demonstrate their success so far this year as we will be providing parents the students' Term 1 Progress Reports on October 9th and 10th. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held over these two nights. It is very important for parents to book slots with your child's teachers, to ensure you are not waiting around, unnecessarily.

Our students enjoyed working on their STEM projects this term. These are on display in your child's form class, so please get your child to explain their project to you when you visit our school in October.



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The presentation by the representatives from the White Rhino Organization

Students are enjoying the cooler weather, as our sportsfield is becoming packed with activities during breaks, lunch times and after school clubs. On that note, please encourage your child to participate in our after-school programme, as they need not only healthy minds, but healthy bodies as well.

We are very proud of our junior basketball team who won 3 matches against UNIS last week. Congratulations go out to them and their coach, Mr. Giegerich.

We had the representatives from the White Rhino Organization visit our school and present our students with some fun reading materials and stickers. We hope that someone from our school will win the White Rhino competition and make their way to a safari in South Africa.

All students and staff were excited about the Mid-Autumn Festival, which was held recently, this was celebrated by the whole school. Our students enjoyed watching a magician perform various acts followed by a traditional Dragon Dance, ice-cream and a tug-of-war competition. I hope our families enjoyed the Mid-Autumn Festival with their children as well.

The week of 1 – 5 October, individual student school photos will be taken, a detailed schedule has been shared to the form room teachers, who will contact you regarding the exact date of your child's photo taking session. Please ensure that your child has the correct school uniform on and their hair is neat and tidy.

Please note, the school will close on the 12th of October and resume on Monday the 22nd of October, I trust your children will enjoy the short break to re-energize for the next term of hard work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as I encourage continued positive suggestions from parents and will be calling upon some parents to assist in organizing our SIS @ Gamuda gardens Reads Week and Christmas Fair, which will be held next term.

Regards,  
**Lorraine Els**



Students posing inside the Rhino frame

### Message from the Deputy Principal

Dear Caregivers and Students,



One of the best responses I ever had from a teacher was when he said to me, “You know John, I love coming to school. I have never had a job where I **WANT** to come to work. It is actually exciting to be here and enjoy myself with the kids, support staff and teachers.”

It is disappointing to think, “Thank God it’s Friday” regularly! All some people want to do is wait for the two days that they can go away and yet spend five days being miserable waiting to escape in the afternoon. What we aim to do is make school enjoyable for students, staff and parents. We hope that your child **LOVES** to be in school and learn with top level teachers who display constant care and emulate a value system in line with the school philosophy of Eastern Values and Western Education.

I hope that we can make all run as smoothly as possible so you feel confident to leave your child in our hands to help them reach their maximum potential as they grow. Many foreign staff here have a genuine desire to see a developing country improve and we do this through a belief in holistic education where we develop the whole child and not just teach children to pass tests. Teachers put in a great deal of effort in to perform this task and constantly refine their pedagogical practice to reach this goal.

We hope that, as time passes, you will involve yourself fully with the school and we welcome strong communication between your child’s teachers and home on a regular basis. This is a partnership between the school and you.

Please keep in contact with us so we know if we can help you with anything in relation to your child’s education or development.

Regards,  
**John Roydon Barratt**



Students posing inside the Rhino frame



Ms. Lorraine Els posing inside the Rhino frame



Ms. Lorraine Els with the students during the Commencement Ceremony of the new school year



1L Excursion to Bat Trang village

### Message from the Guidance Officer

Dear Parents and Students,

September is a very exciting month for our high school students here at SIS Gamuda Gardens! Our GAC, AS and A level classes will be attending the Viet Sing Swing fair at UNIS on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. There are over 100 universities participating in this mega university fair with a multitude of workshops and seminars.



Our students can attend presentations on life in other countries, how to budget for university life, how to find scholarships and many more.

Each student will also get the opportunity to play an admissions game where they will take on the role of a universities admissions team and review different student applications. The aim of this game is to help the students understand that different universities look at many different aspects of their students' applications to determine whether or not a student will be accepted into the university.

Lastly our students will be able to interact with the universities in a typical university fair format where they will be able to ask the university representatives specific questions. This is a great chance for our students to get some contact time with universities from all around the world.

I am looking forward to this wonderful event as I am sure that it will be very beneficial to our students. As always if you have any questions regarding your child's future study pathways please email me at [Michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:Michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn)

Regards,  
**Michael Ogden**



Our students excited during the Commencement Ceremony



Our beautiful teachers in traditional long dresses





Md. Nghi with students during the Commencement Ceremony

### Message from SVIS Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents and Students,

The busy month of September has come to an end.

#### The New School Year 2018-2019

**Ceremony** was successfully held at the same time with other schools across the country. At the ceremony, we were honored to welcome the representatives from Hoang Mai district's People's Committee, Party Committee and Office of Education and Training to attend. Mr. Tran Quy Thai, the Deputy Head of Hoang Mai district's People's Committee delivered the school year opening speech. He also praised the school's achievements in previous academic years and encouraged the teachers and students to do our best for better achievements this year as we are a model school with world-class facilities and high education quality, among other schools in Hoang Mai district and Hanoi, in general.



On 21 September, our school successfully organized the **Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration** for all Integrated and International students. There was a joyful atmosphere in the school, filled with colors from beautiful traditional costumes of many countries around the world, and traditional lanterns decorated the school. Students enjoyed many interesting activities and performances on that day: lantern show, lion dancing, tug-of-war game and last but not least, a delicious Mid-Autumn Feast.

At the beginning of this school year, 100% of teachers and staff signed on the **Commitment for Non-violation of Code of Ethics for Teachers**; 100% of students signed on the **Compliance to regulations of Law on Road traffics, Law on Environment; Commitment to Say "No" to Heroin and other drugs; Commitment to Say "No" to School violence; Commitment for Non phone usage during class time, Non internet usage for illegal purpose; Commitment to Build a safe-green and friendly school environment!**

As instructed by the Hanoi Department of Education and Training and Hoang Mai district's Office of Education and Training, our school already informed all students from Year 1 to Year 9 about the protection and prevention against dengue fever, malaria and other seasonal diseases. Besides, **the school is also spraying insecticides 2 times a month** to prevent mosquitos breeding.



Md. Nghi's speech during the Moon Festival 2018



Students parade during the Moon Festival 2018



*Our teachers and students at the Commencement Ceremony*

For the Exam Schedule for Semester 1 of SVIS students, please refer to the below table:

SE	Time	Secondary school	Time	Primary school
1	<b>27 Nov to 8 Dec 2018</b>	Final exams of semester 1 (from year 6 to 9)	<b>4 - 12 Dec 2018</b>	The regular exams end of semester 1 from grade 1 to 5.
2	<b>2 Apr to 18 Apr 2019</b>	Final exams of semester 2 (only year 9)	<b>7 - 15 May 2019</b>	The regular exams end of semester 2 from grade 1 to 5.

We are looking forward to your cooperation in all the above activities as well as school's education plans in this academic year!

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any issues in your child's education.

My contact as following:

Email: [nghi.duongthanh@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:nghi.duongthanh@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn)

Phone: 0983053495

Regards,  
**Duong Thanh Nghi**



*Our teachers and students at the Commencement Ceremony*



*Our teachers and students at the Commencement Ceremony*





The KIK parents meeting held at the beginning of this school year.



KIK teachers and students at the Moon Festival 2018



KIK students learning how to make Moon cakes

### Message from KIK Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents and students,

It is my pleasure to communicate with you again in this September Newsletter

The month of September has passed so quickly and left many memorable moments for both students and teachers.



It was the first **New School Year Ceremony** at our school, and we could see the mixed feelings of eagerness and confusion on the face of our students. For the success of this ceremony, I would like to thank Mr. Dewald and Ms. Amy for organizing the activities in the football field. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to our parents, who always cooperate and support school during the New School year ceremony on 5 September.

The **Parents meeting** was held at the beginning of this school year. This event was an opportunity for me as well as Principal Lorraine, all teachers and staff of KinderWorld Kindergarten to meet and greet our parents, and to understand your expectations for your children's education at school. On behalf of Principal Lorraine and all school staff, thank you very much for your cooperation and support!

The month of September has come to end. Students are more familiar with their class and teachers, and are getting to know more about their friends. Watching our students learning and growing, looking at the beautiful smiles on our students' faces everyday makes us happier and younger. And the happiest and most expected event in this month was the **Mid-Autumn Festival**. Students and teachers wore their best traditional costumes, Ao dai to celebrate this event. Our students were excited and joyful watching the lion dance, learning to make Iceskin mooncake "Banh deo" and decorating the traditional fruit tray for this celebration. All these activities helped us to learn more about sharing and loving each other. I thanks our parents for preparing lots of delicious food for the Mid-Autumn Feast.

September has passed, but these memories still remain in the hearts of all teachers and staff of KinderWorld Kindergarten. I look forward to meeting and talking with you about your child's education. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email: [thuy.vuthi@gamudagardens.kinderworld.edu.vn](mailto:thuy.vuthi@gamudagardens.kinderworld.edu.vn).

Regards,  
**Vu Thi Thuy**





*Tug of War game for Primary students  
at the Moon Festival 2018*



*Tug of War game for Secondary students  
at the Moon Festival 2018*



*Tug of War game for High school students  
at the Moon Festival 2018*

### Message from Head of Studies (Primary)

Dear Parents and Students,

We certainly have had an energetic first term. Primary School children are already making excellent progress with the wonderful learning opportunities being developed by their teachers.



We recently welcomed our newest Primary School teacher, Ms Hannah Gill from Ireland who started teaching Year 5L following Ms. Marenke's departure. Ms Marenke did a wonderful job with Year 5L for the last two years and our best wishes go with her.

SIS@Gamuda Gardens aims to ensure every child develops as a globally aware citizen and academically competent student. As we all know, "**Reading is the key to a good education.**" Parents need to encourage children more to borrow books from our school library and to support reading at home by buying books at the book shops around Hanoi. Children need dedicated time at home for reading especially Home Reading Books and library books. It's a great way to get children "hooked" on reading. If you also read with your child, you will give him/her the best chance of academic success.

Our schoolwide Moon Festival was a great occasion and children enjoyed celebrating the colourful event. Connecting our international community with local customs is always a meaningful and rewarding experience.

Parent Teacher Interviews (PTI's) will be held soon. PTI's are a valuable time to communicate with your teacher and find out more about your child's progress. Please make the effort to come to school and visit your teachers at the PTI's in October....or any time for that matter; you are always welcome.

Our school program is driven by a belief that continuous improvement across all areas of a learning community pays dividends in multiple ways. Your support and cooperation are critical foundations to ensuring every child develops to his/her best potential. Thank you again for encouraging students to do their best. If you have any questions or need to address any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Regards,  
**Dr. Noel Geoghegan**



One of the performance of our students at the Commencement Ceremony

### Message from Head of Studies (International Secondary)

Dear Parents and Students,

We are quickly heading towards the end of Term 1 and all of the teachers and students are busy and working hard.

One of the things I have seen early in the year is parents being very supportive of what we are doing here at SIS. This is great to see and dialogue with parents who are engaged in their child's education is always very important in bringing success to our students. I have been fortunate to meet some of our parent community and it has been nice to have some constructive conversations about how your children can be supported in their learning journey at our school.



Our first interim reports will be going out soon, and then parent teacher interviews will follow that – so I wish you all the best for your children in their reports. Use this as a chance to discuss with your child and review where they need to improve. It is good to come up with an action plan at this stage to try to ensure that they are well-prepared for the semester exams in a few months.

Extra-curricular clubs are also up and running. Our middle school basketball team has already been to play against UNIS at their school and won all three games that they played. Congratulations to them and thank you to Mr Giegerich for his hard work with those students! There are more fixtures for our sports teams lined up in the near future so thank you to Mr Labrue and all the teachers who put so much effort into making our extra-curricular activities a success.

Regards,  
**Sean Stokes**

### Message from Head of Studies (Integrated Secondary)

Dear Parents and Students,

We have been having a wonderful time being back at school. The students have settled into their lessons and they have been progressing well.

We will be having our Parent Conferences soon so expect to hear from your child's teachers about setting up appointments. The students have also had an opportunity to learn more about the White Rhino foundation and how it can be beneficial to protect endangered species throughout the world.



One of the performance of our students at the Commencement Ceremony



Our teachers and students at the Commencement Ceremony





Traditional Dragon Dance at the Moon Festival 2018



Traditional Dragon Dance at the Moon Festival 2018



Traditional Dragon Dance at the Moon Festival 2018

We celebrated the Moon Festival and had a wonderful time honouring this special time of year. Here at SIS, we understand the importance of individual cultures and how they shape society as a whole. It was very enjoyable for me to celebrate this festival for the first time here in Vietnam.



Please make sure to support your children with their learning. Check that they are completing all of their required work and that they are prepared for their education. The parents, students and teachers need to work together to ensure the students' success, not just in school, but in life as well.

If you ever have any questions about your child's education, please make sure to contact either me or the teachers. We can make sure that your child achieves everything that is desired.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future and continuing this excellent start to the year.

Regards,  
**Paul McKenney**

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

Dear Parents and Students,

We are now approaching the end of term 1. It has been a very successful and exciting new year. I would like to commend the students for all the hard work I am seeing in the classrooms. The students have gotten used to their new teachers and classes along with making new friends, I'm sure.



Parent-teacher conferences are coming up and we look forward to meeting you or seeing you again then. We appreciate your continuous involvement and support which ensures your child gets the best education possible.

Finally, we have had many students join clubs and after-school activities this year, which we love to see. Not only is this a way to develop valued skills like leadership and teamwork, but it also looks great on a student resume. Our Debate Club is bigger than ever this year and it is fantastic seeing students step up to leadership roles such as Student Council members and class monitors.

Regards,  
**Erin Roetker**