

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ VAN PHUC NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

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Upcoming Important Dates:

29 – 30 September – ISA testing for Y4 and Y6 students

1 October – Moon Festival

15 – 16 October – Term 1 holiday



Mr. Paul Batchelor – Principal

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome you all to the 2020-2021 new school year.

While the beginning of the year was a little unusual, we have been delighted to see all of our returning students and to welcome our new arrivals. Over the past few weeks, teachers have been busy getting to know their new students; establishing routines and relationships with children and parents alike; and starting the curricular programmes.

We are very lucky here at SIS Van Phuc, in that we have such a talented, dedicated and highly-qualified team of staff and teachers, who love what they do and are passionate about providing the best possible education for your child(ren). Teachers will be making contact with parent's weekly, and sharing information about what has been done during the week and what students can expect to learn in the following week. I would like to encourage parents to please keep in regular communication with your child(ren)'s teachers, so that together you can best support the growth and development of your child(ren) throughout the academic year.

We have a busy year ahead with lots of new aspects to add to our curricular programmes – from STEM and coding; to the switch to the My Pals Are Here Textbooks in support of our Singapore Curriculum; to the introduction of the DynEd English Programme. We will be sharing more information about these programmes as the school year progresses – whether in person or via email.

There is no doubt that 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, with the shadow of Covid-19 hanging over the world, but there is always light behind the clouds and as this light shines through we are excited by the opportunities the new school year will bring.

We look forward to a wonderful academic year ahead, and to working closely with you and the greater school community, towards unlocking the potential of your children and empowering them to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Should you have any questions, concerns or feedback, then please do not hesitate to contact myself or our wonderful office team, and we will be more than happy to answer these for you, or to meet with you and discuss these further.

Mr. Paul Batchelor
Principal

“There is more in us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less.” - Kurt Hahn

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Covid-19 Measures at School

As you well know, in the interests of health and safety for students, there have been a number of policies instituted by the authorities that schools are required to follow, such as:

- Temperature checking
- Wearing of masks on campus
- Regular cleaning of hands
- Social distancing measures and spacing of desks
- Restricting access to the campus

We would like to ask parents to please ensure students are coming to school with extra masks in their bags, as these are often misplaced and lost. We also understand and can appreciate the frustration that the restriction of access to the school campus policy is causing, especially in the afternoon at the pick-up times, and we thank you for your continued support and patience as we implement these mandated measures.

School Timetable

The school timetable has been updated since last year.

The two major changes include:

- 8:25am start time for classes
- Snack-time moved from afternoon to morning

Parents are encouraged to drop their children off to school after 8am, when the school officially opens and there are teachers and staff on duty.

| Y1-3 Timetable | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Time | Period |
| 8:25 - 8:40 | Form Class & Virtues |
| 8:40 - 9:25 | Period 1 |
| 9:25 - 9:40 | Snack (Y1-3) |
| 9:40 - 10:25 | Period 2 |
| 10:25 - 11:10 | Period 3 |
| 11:10 - 11:55 | Period 4 |
| 11:55 - 12:40 | Y1-3 Lunch |
| 12:40 - 13:25 | Period 5 |
| 13:25 - 14:10 | Period 6 |
| 14:10 - 14:30 | Recess |
| 14:30 - 15:15 | Period 7 |
| 15:15 | Dismissal (Y1-4 Int'l.) |
| 15:15 - 16:00 | Period 8 |
| 16:00 | Dismissal |

| Y4-6 Timetable | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Time | Period |
| 8:25 - 8:40 | Form Class & Virtues |
| 8:40 - 9:25 | Period 1 |
| 9:25 - 10:10 | Period 2 |
| 10:10 - 10:25 | Snack (Y4-6) |
| 10:25 - 11:10 | Period 3 |
| 11:10 - 11:55 | Period 4 |
| 11:55 - 12:40 | Period 5 |
| 12:40 - 13:25 | Y4-6 Lunch |
| 13:25 - 14:10 | Period 6 |
| 14:10 - 14:30 | Recess |
| 14:30 - 15:15 | Period 7 |
| 15:15 | Dismissal (Y1-4 Int'l.) |
| 15:15 - 16:00 | Period 8 |
| 16:00 | Dismissal |



Students using the new DynEd English Programme



Y3L Students engaged in partner work



Y4C Students engaged in a STEM buoyancy project

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Cave Art – 5L

The students did cave art for their first art project this year. They have been studying the Stone Age in Social studies and read about the Stone Age people communicated through their art.



Y2L Engaged in an Art Activity



The KinderWorld Teaching Model in Action

The KinderWorld Teaching Model is a research based initiative that is designed to dramatically improve student achievement.

Helping Students to Prepare for School

Parents you can help your child(ren) 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 your child(ren) 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.
- Students have a snack break in the morning and a break in the afternoon. If you are not paying the meal fee, please pack a healthy snack for your child(ren) to eat. You may also want to consider packing a snack for the afternoon break too, to help your child(ren) get through the afternoon, until they get home for their evening meal.
- 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.

Virtues Programme:

At Singapore International School, a Virtues Program has been designed to support the development of the whole student in terms of academic achievement, social maturity and emotional well-being. The Virtues program consists of twenty virtues, five virtues for each term, which are to be taught to students as they progress through the school. We adopt the whole school approach, in which all classes focus on the same virtue for a period of two weeks. After which we will move on to the next virtue to ensure that students learn and apply twenty virtues for all classes each year. Respect is the common overarching virtue for the whole school. It is essential that all students learn the virtue of respect in a multi-cultural international school environment.

The following are the Virtues for Term 1. We encourage you to discuss these with your child(ren) at home:

| Focus | Getting Along |
|-----------|---------------|
| Week 1-2 | Care |
| Week 3-4 | Integrity |
| Week 5-6 | Patience |
| Week 7-8 | Generosity |
| Week 9-10 | Teamwork |

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K2 Giraffe - Library



Pre Nursery Parrot - Music lesson



Prep Bumblebee – STEM lesson

Schoolwide Learner Goals:

We believe that the Schoolwide Learner Goals encompass important 21st century skills for our students to develop so that they can be successful and productive global citizens. The progress of your child(ren) towards the attainment of these goals will be reported on each Semester and a portfolio will be completed by students to demonstrate their progress toward acquiring these skills. The skills, knowledge and understanding all students should have upon graduation from Singapore International Schools are:

CRITICAL THINKERS who:

- Apply rational, higher order thinking skills

TECHNOLOGICALLY LITERATE STUDENTS who:

- Effectively use technology to access, organize, evaluate, create and communicate information
- Understand responsible use of social media, communication and networking tools

CONFIDENT COMMUNICATORS who:

- Demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening
- Work collaboratively with others
- Use creative forms of expression

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS who:

- Meet or exceed year level expectations
- Demonstrate academic growth
- Strive for continuous improvement

ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL CITIZENS who:

- Understand and respect their own and others cultures
- Demonstrate good citizenship and social responsibility through serving others
- Understand the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle
- Understand and demonstrate a universal set of values

Kinderworld International Kindergarten (KIK):

Welcome to our KIK Van Phuc family! August has gone so fast and we have been very happy to welcome our students to school. We look forward to seeing them grow and learn with us throughout their early learning years. Our teachers will be working with you to ensure that your child(ren) thrives in their caring and supportive class environment. In the first three week of August, our children had engaged in many interesting activities. Please see some of the activities that they enjoyed in the last three weeks.

Prep Cheetah - Math lesson

