



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ GAMUDA GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

August / September 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.

Principal's News

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I'd like to welcome all of our new students and returning students to school.

For the sake of the new parents, please allow me to introduce myself. I am Lorraine Els, born South African. I hold an International School Leadership Certificate, a Masters Degree, Bachelor of Honours Degree in Education, a Higher Education, Further Education and Secondary school education diplomas. I have held many leadership positions in the 40 years I have been in education, and this is my 7th year with Kinderworld and 15th year in leadership.

I strive to make sure our educational policies are solid and student academics, safety and happiness at SIS @ Gamuda Gardens, is a priority.

As in every international school, we say goodbye to some teachers and welcome others to our school. Therefore it gives me great pleasure to welcome the following highly qualified, experienced new teachers to our school.



Teacher's	Position	Qualifications
David Storicks	Year 5 International	Bachelor's Degree in
Don Reedy	English teacher	Doctorate – Lifelong Learning, Multicultural Education Masters of Science in Education - TESOL, Teacher of English as a Foreign Language Certification

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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**



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Teacher's Name	Position	Qualifications
Hein Labuschagne	Business Studies and Global perspectives teacher	Bachelor of Education (Senior and Further Education and Training Phases)
Lizl Beneke	English teacher	Bachelor of Arts (English/Theatre Studies)
Paul Girdwood	Economics teacher	Bachelor of Commerce - Entrepreneurship
Sharon Beazley	Year 3 integrated teacher	Bachelor of Education with Qualified Teacher Status
Nixon Astillero	Math teacher	Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in Mathematics
Timothy Trebilcock	English teacher	B.A. English Literature and PGCE
Kerry Nyhan	Music B.A. Music, EFL	Special Needs Education certificate
Amber Barrett	KIK, Prep Teacher	Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase and Early Childhood Development
Luc An Khanh	Integrated Primary Teacher	The Degree of Bachelor in Primary Education
Tran Ngoc Thuy	Integrated Primary Teacher	The Degree of Bachelor in Primary Education
Nguyen Thi Nhat Le	Integrated Primary Teacher	The Degree of Bachelor in Primary Education
Tran Thi Thu Hoai	Literature Teacher	Degree of Bachelor in Philology Teacher and Education
Duong Thuy Linh	Integrated Primary Teacher	The degree of associate Primary Education
Nguyen Thi Dieu Linh	Art Teacher	Master Degree in Art
Luc An Khanh	Integrated Primary Teacher	The Degree of Bachelor in Primary Education
Tran Ngoc Thuy	Integrated Primary Teacher	The Degree of Bachelor in Primary Education

COVID

It is so unfortunate that COVID has resurfaced just before the start of the 2019-2020 school year. We are, however, very optimistic and trust that the government will once again succeed in containing the virus. We continue to abide by the Health authority instructions and aim to keep our students and staff safe and healthy, therefore a reminder to please make sure your child leaves and returns home with a mask on.

OPEN HOUSE

Unfortunately due to COVID, we cannot arrange an open house for you to meet the teachers, however, if you would like to meet any of your teachers, you are most welcome to arrange a meeting with them. We welcome discussion and communication between parents and teachers.

EXCURSIONS

Students will continue with excursions as soon as the authorities permit us to take our students out of the school grounds and when it is safe.

We place great value on educational excursions as it enhances learning, encourages social skills and bonding and helps students retain the information. We want our students to be curious about learning and become critical thinkers.





Our students are preparing for the Mid-Autumn Festival



Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival is fun



Beautiful student work is displayed on the classroom doors and windows

UNIFORM

Thank you for sending your children to school dressed in the correct uniform. Please remember that students may wear black, white or grey sneakers/trainers. Please note that sandals are not part of our school uniform.

Students are to wear their orange P.E. shirts when they have P.E. When it gets colder; our students can purchase the warm orange jumpers from our uniform store OR wear a plain black, grey or white jumper, no logos or writing on these jumpers, please.

MOON FESTIVAL AND BUDDY CLASSES

During our extended assembly schedule, our older students paired up with the younger students to make lanterns for the Moon Festival celebrations. To keep our students safe, we split the classes, so there are no more than 25 students in a class. Our students thoroughly enjoyed making the lanterns and working with their buddies. We will celebrate the Moon Festival on 1 October. Students are encouraged to come to school dressed in their traditional Asian clothing, and a buffet of mooncakes and fruit will be served to our students.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

I want to inform you that we will hold our parent-teacher conferences on the 12th and 13th of October to discuss your child's academic progress. Should there be any major concerns, your child's teacher/s will contact you before this date to discuss this, and you may do the same, please. I cannot stress enough the importance of communication. Please keep these dates open as we value your attendance, support and recommendations.

I always value your positive feedback and recommendations, so please feel free to contact me at any time on lorraine.els@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Warm Regards,
Lorraine Els



Year 6 students engaged in a science project.



Looking through a magnifying glass to discover different aspects of the flowers



Our students enjoying their PE lesson

Message from Secondary and High School Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

My name is Michael Ogden, and I am the Deputy Principal for the Secondary and High School here at Gamuda Gardens. I have worked in education for 8 years, and this will be my fourth year here at Singapore International School. I have my undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Psychology, my postgraduate in Counseling Psychology as well as my a postgraduate certificate in education specialising in intermediate and senior phases. I have also undertaken a masters degree in Educational leadership and management from the University of Nottingham, which I plan to be finishing up by the end of 2020. It is wonderful to see all our students so excited and eager to learn! I hope that we will be able to continue to create a nurturing environment where everyone can achieve their full potential.



If there is anything I can help with, please feel free to email me at michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Best Regards,
Michael Ogden

Message from SVIS Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents,

I am Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh - SVIS Head of Vietnamese Studies

Firstly, it is my pleasure to welcome all of the parents and students back to school!

In the last school year of 2019 -2020, although we had faced many challenges, our students achieved outstanding results. I am, thus, sincerely grateful for your understanding and continuous support. I also want to thank our staff and our students for their hard work!



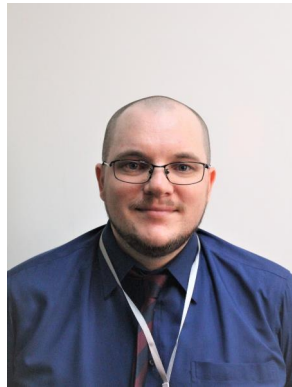
Welcome to the school year 2020-2021 once again! I hope our students will have a great, safe and successful year

Kind Regards,
Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh

Message from Head of Studies - Year 6

Dear parents,

My name is Mr. Grant, and I am from Tasmania in Australia. I hold a Master of Teaching from the University of Tasmania with a focus on English and Humanities. I chose those teaching areas because they are personally interesting for me and I believe that teachers should have a personal interest in their subject.



This is the start of my sixth year at SIS but my first year as Head of Humanities. As the Head of Humanities, I am in charge of the subjects of Global Perspectives, Business, Economics, History, Psychology and Sociology. I also teach Grade 6 and IGCSE 1 Global Perspectives and IGCSE 2 History. In my time here, I've had the pleasure to teach many wonderful students in the role and look forward to working with the students in my new role.

As the Pastoral Care Leader for Grade 6, I am responsible for supporting all Grade 6 teachers, regardless of subject, to ensure that best teaching practices are followed. I am also responsible for supporting and assisting students if they are having difficulties adjusting to Grade 6 or facing challenges in their subjects. In this role, I am available to speak to students who are referred to me by teachers and students are also free to approach me and raise any problems they might be having.

This year I hope to help the Grade 6 students become stronger, more independent learners and see them set on the path to becoming successful secondary students. Students will undergo an adjustment period as they learn the expectations for middle school students. There is no timeline for how long it will take students to adjust as everyone is different. The teachers and I will support them in this process and by the end of the year, I am confident that all of our Grade 6 students will be well-adjusted to the requirements of middle school and be ready to progress to the next stage of their education.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at brett.grant@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn.

Kind regards,
Brett Grant

Message from Head of Studies - Year 7

Dear Parents,

My name is Claudine van Rensburg. I moved to Vietnam in 2018 and have been teaching at SIS since May 2019. I am the pastoral leader for year 7 and I teach ICT.

I am from Port Elizabeth South Africa. I studied a Bachelor of Commerce, at Rhodes University, majoring in Business Management and Information Systems. I then moved back home and studied my Post Graduate Certificate at Nelson Mandela University. Upon completion of my studies, I taught at Alexander Road High School for 3 years. During this time, I taught ICT, Business and Accounting. I also found a passion for coaching teens and spent 2 years coaching the U14A hockey team. On weekends and in my spare time, I played hockey for the President's League.

My hopes and goals for this year are to see all my students excel in their subject areas and enjoy school as much as possible. I look forward to seeing each and every one of them grow as the year progresses. Personally, I am happy to take on a new role and grow my career. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at brett.grant@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn.

Best Regards,
Claudine van Rensburg





Mid- Autumn Decorations make our school vibrant and colorful.



Students work in team to get the decorations up.



Our very artistic students are engaged in designing a dragon for their door.

Message from Head of Studies Year 8 &9

Dear SIS Families,

Welcome to a brand new year and to all existing and returning students and parents. I am Gautier Quelin, Head of Department for English. This is my second year at SIS Gamuda, and I graduated from the University of Nottingham, UK (Postgraduate Certificate in Education). I am also the Pastoral Care Leader for Grade 8 and Grade 9. In this role, I will be doing my utmost to promote a positive learning environment by supporting teachers and students to allow students to achieve their academic goals.



Should you have any issues, please speak to your child's teacher and feel free to contact me at any point. [gau-
tier.quelin@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn](mailto:gautier.quelin@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn)

Kind Regards,
Gautier Quelin

Message from Head of Studies - IGCSE

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to School Year 2020-2021!

My name is Maria Batac. This academic year is my second year as the Head of Studies for Mathematics. I am the Pastoral Care Leader for IGCSE 1 & 2 and the new Cambridge Exam Officer of the school. I have been teaching in Singapore International School for 7 years. I am a graduate of Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in Mathematics and with master's degree, Masters in Mathematics.



Thank you for trusting us with your children; and for your continued to support SIS. May we all have a safe, healthy and successful year ahead!

Should you have any issues, feel free to contact me at any time at maria.batac@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn.

Kind Regards,
Maria Batac

Message from Head of Studies - AS—A Level

Dear Parents/Students,

I am Westley Venter and it is a pleasure for me to introduce myself. I was born and raised in the beautiful country of South Africa. This has given me the opportunity to observe the natural world in all its splendour, which contributed significantly to my love for science. I also grew up around a lot of music and thus, this too is an integral part of my life. My love for both these topics grew even more when I started being able to see the connections between them and saw how the knowledge/skills of the one can be used towards gaining knowledge/skills of the other. As a student I found school for most of class time to be extremely boring and struggled really hard to understand why I needed to know specific content. I instead spent the majority of my energy towards some of the amazing extramural activities that are found commonly in public schools back home such as choir, drama, rugby, etc. This initiated my curiosity about how and why people learn.



It is at University that I got to be exposed to the work of Dr. Howard Gardner that introduced me to the concept of different types of intelligence. Through these readings it is clear that things like IQ tests (which are supposed to measure our intelligence) only focus on some of the types of intelligence such as mathematics, language, spatial reasoning etc. but fail to test other forms of intelligence, such as being able to read body language or kick a ball perfectly. These things all contributed to my love towards education in general and further fueled my curiosity about educational psychology.

I finished my Bachelors of Education in natural sciences degree from the university of Pretoria in 2012, the same year as I started my first teaching job as a mathematics teacher in a public school back home. I taught high school mathematics there for 5 years. This also gave me the opportunity to join some coaching courses in cricket, rugby, athletics etc. that also further exposed the dynamics of learning to me.

After completing my five years I ventured abroad where I started working at an International school in Abu Dhabi as a science teacher in 2017. The next year I started as an English teacher at a centre in Vietnam. I then joined SIS later that year to start the 2018 academic school year as a high school science teacher, teaching year 8 science and ASL/AL physics.

I have been at SIS since and now am the head of studies for the science department as well as pastoral leader for ASL/AL students who I still teach physics to. It is my hope that I can encourage students to become more aware of their own personal intelligence and come to the conclusion that we are all exceptionally intelligent, but have to figure out how to apply ourselves as we all have different learning styles. Mostly my goal is to add value to the lives of our students in any way that I can.

I hope that we will all enjoy a spectacular year of learning and growing as humans. Should you have any issues, feel free to contact me at any time at westley.venter@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Regards,
Westley Venter

Buddy classes team up to make lanterns. Students learn to collaborate, discuss, design and therefore achieve the school wide learner goals of being confident communicators and active and responsible citizens.

