



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ GAMUDA GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

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.

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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 Guardians,

It is hard to believe that this term is coming to an end already. So many wonderful events are taking place and is planned for our students at SIS@Gamuda Gardens.



SVIS OPENING CEREMONY

Thank you to our parents who joined us for the opening ceremony of the SVIS, which was held on the 5th of September.

Special guests from DOET joined our celebrations, where we were entertained by our very talented SVIS students who performed wonderfully. This is a special day for our SVIS staff, students and parents and was enjoyed by all.

MOON FESTIVAL

Our students thoroughly enjoyed our moon festival activities. We started with a parade by our KIK students, which was followed by the dragon dancers and then the SVIS students entertained us with some extremely well-practiced performances.

After these performances our students joined their buddy classes for buddy reading activities, and together, they made mooncakes in the canteen. It was wonderful watching our older students interact with the younger students; they are forming bonds of trust, support and friendship. We will hold more buddy activities during the school year.

STUDENT NOTICE BOARD

We have started a student notice board to post important information students need to take note of, such as buses, weekly notices, upcoming events etc. Please encourage your child to check the notices, which will also be read in the form classes every Monday morning.





DoET representatives with Mdm. Nghi and Ms. Els



Year 1 at our SVIS opening Ceremony



Year 9 students performing De Mi Noi Cho Ma Nghe

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS

Your child's photograph was taken on September 24-26. You will receive their photograph together with their class photo closer to the end of the school year

UNIFORM

As the cooler weather is starting (which many of us are thankful for) it, unfortunately, always raises many challenges regarding uniform. Please help your child wear the correct uniform.

We have student jackets and warm PE jackets for sale. Students can wear a long sleeved shirt or jumper under the jacket to keep warm.

Only plain grey or white jackets may be worn over the school uniform on extremely cold days.

Students must wear the correct shoes, please; the uniform policy is in the student handbook. Closed shoes, which are either black, grey or white, are to be worn. Please teach you children how to tie their shoelaces, as I notice many students walking around with untied shoes, which is a safety hazard, as they can trip on their laces when walking up and down the stairs.

VISITING OUR SCHOOL

Parents, please report to the office in Block A when you visit our school. You **must** check in at Security and receive a visitors' badge. Our office staff will assist you and call the person you would like to meet. **No** parent may wander through the school, go into the canteen or go to your child's class without permission from management. Please note this is for the safety of our children. Thank you for understanding!

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Students who are in need of academic support are offered various supportive opportunities such as:

- EFL support - English language support
- Bridging classes - students who need additional support in the secondary and high school can receive bridging lessons for subject specific areas.
- Tutoring lessons are offered to students during breaks by other students. This is organized by Mr. Grant, our student council leader.
- Enrichment classes to help with homework and Math specifically are organized by Mr. Ducher.
- Science additional help, which is organized by Mr. Misiak.

Should your child not be in one of these support groups and requires additional support, please speak to their pastoral HoS.

Also, any student waiting for parents must go to the homework club (free of charge) in the canteen to catch up on their work; this is a supervised study hall.



Our Primary Vietnamese teachers performed a graceful dance during our Opening ceremony



We celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival at SIS



Our KIK students doing a Lantern walk for the rest of the school.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

All parents should have received a letter explaining the Parent Teacher Conferences, which will be held on the 9th and 10th of October. All students will be dismissed at 2:45 on these consecutive days. If your child is to wait at school for you, they have to wait in the canteen and you must collect them from there. We look forward to meeting you at our Parent Teacher Conferences.

OBV

Our first term's groups of students have enjoyed their OBV experience. The Year 9s, GAC, AS, A-levels, and Year 6 Internationals have all come back excited, energized and bonded with their classmates. I urge you to encourage your child and NOT support them in finding excuses as to why they should not attend. A sense of achievement and getting students out of their comfort zones is important; our students who attend value this experience.

GIFTS

Parents, as Teacher's day is approaching (and I know how generous you always are), I'd like to appeal to you to **PLEASE NOT** give our staff money. If you do, they will have to return it to you. If you want to show your appreciation you can purchase small gifts such as chocolates, flowers or anything else that is not expensive. A short note is well accepted and appreciated. All we ask from you is your support, as this means a lot to us!

SCHOOL BREAK

A reminder that our school break is from 14 - 18 October and school will resume on Monday the 21st of October. Students must return to school straight after holidays, as a lot of revision and teaching will be happening. I appeal to you **not** to extend your holiday. The Semester 2 examinations will start on the 9th and run until the 18th of December.

I'm looking forward to a continued great year and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me at lorraine.els@gmudagardens.sis.edu.vn should you have any queries or positive contributions.

Kind Regards,
Lorraine Els



Lion Dance performance was enjoyed by all.



The buddy classes worked together and made Moon Cakes



Such fun during the Moon Cakes making

Message from Deputy Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

With the first term almost finished, we will be taking some time to discuss the progress your child has made. Our Parent Teacher Conferences will be taking place in the 2nd week of October and we encourage all parents to attend.

As always we are looking for ways to improve the school and our community involvement. You as parents play a vital role in the success of not only your child's education but also the success of the school. In the upcoming months, we have events which we would appreciate your support.

You can contact me at the following email address if you have any ideas or suggestions: michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Regards,
Michael Ogden



Message from Primary Deputy Principal

Dear Parents and Students:

Thank you for your support from home for the Mid-Autumn Festival. The classes had many beautiful lanterns and dragons to display!

Some reminders for Primary parents to help SIS continue to have a safe and organized learning environment:



- Please keep outside junk food to a minimum. Students do not need to bring candy and unhealthy snacks to school. Keeping money at home will also cut down on the amount of unhealthy food your child eats.
- Please make arrangements ahead of time with your child's teacher for any birthday celebration. This must be approved and will be scheduled for the last lessons of the school day. Limit the amount of unhealthy food brought for celebrations as some classes have 2 or 3 birthday celebrations every month!
- Students are not permitted to wear sandals, Crocs or open-toed shoes at school. (slippers for swimming days only are okay.)
- Stay organized at home: please help your child bring all homework, books and other learning materials back to school every day.



3L are proud of their amazing Dragon Decoration

- Please keep toys at home as they are a disruption to the learning environment. Toy guns of any kind should not be brought to school.

The Primary School looks forward to the upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences - please contact your child's teacher to set an appointment. If you cannot come during the days and hours set for conferences, your child's teachers will be happy to see you another day.

Kind Regards,
Julie Schaefer

Message from SVIS Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents and our beloved students,

September has passed with a lot of excitement. We have initiated many plans and events to achieve new success at the beginning of this school year.

The School Opening Ceremony and the Moon Festival were held successfully in the morning of September 5th and 11th respectively. The student body, parents and teachers all enjoyed the festivities. Students had a chance to parade, watch a dragon dance and experience a fun activity of making mooncakes in the canteen.



To complete the direction of the DOET in Hoang Mai District on malaria and other seasonal diseases prevention, we have notified students of epidemic prevention and use mosquito and larvicides spray twice per month. All classrooms and stairs are cleaned with Clo-ramin B.

I hope you can cooperate to help the school implement our academic mission successfully this year!

We always listen and communicate with parents in educating students and set high expectations

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns or suggestions. Please email me on:

nghi.duongthanh@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Regards,
Duong Thanh Nghi



Year 6 participating in a guided reading lesson with Dr. Tedford



Our AS & A Level students attending the presentation from UCLA



Mr. Hayes, the school Guidance Officer, opening our very own universities fair



Over 30 universities from America were represented.



Our students asking question about future studies

Message from KIK Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents and our beloved students,

I would like to thank you for your support and cooperation in the Opening Ceremony on the 5th of September. Excellent performances of students from the different range of ages made this day successful. The Moon Festival was the most exciting day in this month, with teachers and students wearing their beautiful traditional dresses. The most memorable moment was the Dragon Dance that made all students burst into laughter. Thank you for preparing a happy buffet meal for your children.



Students were all excited about their excursions in September. Bunny Class had a chance to go to Kidplay while K1 Unicorns went to Play and Learn. K2 Pandas really enjoyed their trip to Xuong Art Ty Toay to create their beautiful artwork!

September is coming to an end but all the fun activities we had this month are unforgettable to me and all KIK teachers.

Should you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me via my email:

thuy.vuthi@gamudagardens.kinderworld.edu.vn.

Regards,
Vu Thi Thuy

Message from Guidance Officer

Hi Parents and Students,

My name is Michael H. Hayes and I have joined the staff here at Singapore International School Gamuda Gardens, Hanoi. As the new school counsellor, I look forward to working with all our students and being of help to parents. I started my school counselling career in Colorado USA and have gone on to work around the world. I have worked in China, Thailand, Burma, Turkey and Egypt. I'm excited to be in Hanoi and be part of a fast growing school with outstanding students.



As the school counsellor, I work hard to provide college counselling and support to students. With years of experience, I bring a world of experience to help students and families make their college education dreams come true. If I can be of help, please call the front office or contact me by email at michael.hayes@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn.

Regards,
Micheal H. Hayes

Message from Head of Studies (KIK)



Dear KIK Parents and Students,

With term 1 almost completed, KIK teachers have spent a busy and demanding time ensuring students are settled into new routines and diligently following class rules and school expectations. We are very proud of our young KIK students! They have responded very positively to new schedules and are already showing great enthusiasm for learning and being active members of our KIK@Gamuda Gardens family.

Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children all the things being done at school e.g. news of their teachers, friends, schoolwork, games, stories, pictures, homework, etc. Parents are also encouraged to read weekly newsletters so that important information is not missed. Newsletters come home by email and in the Student Handbooks. Please read newsletters and talk to your child about the events mentioned, and especially discuss the weekly photos. Spending time talking about your child's school days can provide valuable insight into your child's development. If a child speaks openly and confidently about his/her school activities, it is a good sign that he/she is coping well. If there are signs of reluctance or hesitation, it could indicate a problem needing attention.

It is also important to speak with your child's teachers to help foster high-quality education. Your effort to speak with your child's teachers is always much appreciated and it's a valuable contribution to your child's future success.

Kind Regards

Dr. Noel Geoghegan



4L making Dinosaur fossil from clay for their STEM project.



This term our STEM project was to build Rube Goldberg machines

Message from Head of Studies (Year 8 & 9)

Dear Parents,

We are approaching the end of term one and all of the teachers and students are busy and working hard.

I have been fortunate to meet some of you and am delighted to see that parents are eager to support the teachers in ensuring quality education for our students. Communication between parents and teachers are vital, so please take the time to read the bi-weekly notices that are sent by the form teacher and feel free to ask questions for clarification if needed.

I am excited to tell you that our STEM project for term one "Rube Goldberg Machines" is well on the way and it seems like we will have a tough time to decide on a winner. Our project for the second term will revolve around the Christmas fair so encourage your children to start thinking about what they would like to sell at their stall. Thank you again for all the support we receive here at SIS.

Sincerely,
Westley Venter



Message from Head of Studies (AS- A Level & GAC)

Dear SIS Families,

We are soon approaching the end of Term One. It has been a very successful and exciting new year. I would like to commend the students for all the hard work I have been seeing in the classrooms. The students have adjusted to their new teachers, classes and routines, and teachers have been filling up their grade books with assessments.

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up and we look forward to meeting you or seeing you again then. It is very important to come in and touch base with the teachers to make sure your child is on-track and progressing well. The ideal situation for a student is to have full involvement and supervision for studies at school *and at home*. We truly appreciate your continuous effort and support, which ensures your child gets the best education possible.

Regards,
Erin Roetker



Learning about science is fun



Our students practicing for our upcoming soccer season



Students enjoy their swimming lesson and practiced for Swimming Gala

