



# NEWSLETTER

August 2020

## Principal's Message: Ready to begin

Dear parents,

We are so happy to have your children back in school and the smiles on their faces say they are pleased to be back in school too. Although the last school year at Singapore International School will be remembered as a challenging time for students and teachers due to Covid-19, we are hoping this year will bring everyone together to learn, to have fun, and to experience the joy as a school community. As for the teachers at the Singapore International School, everyone is ready.

All of the teachers from last year have returned. I am so pleased to have them on campus again. The teachers are passionate about their profession and all of the SIS teachers, local and foreign, are professionally certified. The foreign teachers are not merely English-speaking people without teaching experience. These teachers are highly skilled. They know what to do, and seem to do it naturally – almost intuitively, some might say.

Skillful teachers at SIS don't do what they do because that's the way it has always been done, or because that's the cultural expectation for how it shall be done. They make choices from a repertoire of modern teaching options. This unconscious, automatic kind of knowing, referred as "tacit knowledge," is often acquired by a few good teachers. At SIS, all of the teachers instinctively apply their tacit knowledge to teach while continue to be updated about teaching applications and resources. Why are teachers updated?

Teaching is one the most complex human endeavors imaginable. We know that a good teacher is many things, among them a caring person. But a good teacher is also a skilled practitioner, adept at certain specifiable, observable actions. Being skillful means you can do something that can be seen; it means different levels of skills may be displayed by different individuals; and it means, above all, that you can learn how to do it and can continue to improve at it. Yes, our teachers are certified but that means they do not stop improving. At SIS, being the best teacher means always continuing to expand knowledge and skills.

So now... everyone begins the school year learning and improving. DynEd English (computer-assisted language learning program) will be applied from Year 3 on up. KIK teachers begin this semester with numerous training sessions about specific teaching topics. STEM is more than fun projects on the side but a new class for everyone.

Our teachers are ready for the new school year.

Sincerely yours,  
**Larry Synclair**  
Principal



# THE FUN BEGINS

We are excited about the new playground for our KIK students. It will open very soon. Merryland, the company that constructed the playground, designed everything with intentions to provide fitness and safety. The rubber flooring of the playground will be impact-resistant and slip-resistant. It acts as a cushion in case a student falls and helps reduce the risk of injuries. Our only concern is the sun. Although a roof is constructed over the playground, we ask that students wear a hat as extra protection.



## STUDENT COUNCIL

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### Student Council

A **Student Council** is a representative structure for students only, through which they can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students.

The Singapore International School will soon open doors for this year's Student Council. Students are encouraged to ask their homeroom teacher to be considered as an elected or selected class representative. This year, two class representatives will be chosen from Years 5, 6, and 7. One student representative will be chosen for Years 8 and 11. All representatives will elect a Student Council President, Vice-President, and Secretary. The S.C. President will be charge of Student Council meetings and see that everyone has an equal voice in discussions. The S.C. Vice-President will be in charge of Student Council meeting if the President cannot attend and also will assist the President in preparing calendar and agendas as well as making sure projects and activities go well. The S.C. Secretary will keep notes of each meeting and make sure everything is organized. Class Representatives are the voices of each classroom. They will speak on behalf of their students as well as report to their classmates about what happened in the Student Council and what's happening

in school. The Principal and/or another teacher will participate in each Student Council meeting. Student Council will also participate in school groups such as the STEM committee as well as help with this year's Halloween, Christmas Charity Fair, and other fun activities.

## Dang Ngoc Thien Phuc (Rose)

Rose is our Student of the Month. Comfortably speaking English with ease, this Year 11 student has been a shining star in academics since she joined SIS last year. In addition to her enjoyment of being a student at SIS, Rose is a very big fan of K-Pop. She also loves badminton so much that she practises three times a week.





Each month, we will introduce a teacher and briefly provide some interesting facts about this person.

## Maika Valino

ICT teacher/EFL Coordinator

Ms. Maika joined SIS a year ago. She comes from the Philippines with impressive credentials: a Master's and Bachelor's in Information Technology and numerous certificates and seminar training in various subjects such as LEGO robotics training, traditional and 2D animation, career guidance, and so on.

"I told myself that I want to be a teacher, and I would make sure to help struggling students overcome their difficulties," Ms. Maika says. "The best thing about being a teacher is being able to touch the lives of students, imparting not just your knowledge but also life lessons and experiences." Ms Maika believes that people should not limit themselves from what they already know, but should expand their skills and abilities so that one is ready to face any challenges they may encounter in life. "Self-belief, growth and research play a big role in society," she adds.



# Welcome back to SIS...

