

# NEWSLETTER

June 2021

## Principal's Message: Thank you

Dear everyone,

This school ending has been quite different, so I want to begin this last newsletter of the school year by thanking our students and families.

The sporadic flare ups of Covid-19 in Vietnam kept us on our feet. We stood attentive and brave in the midst of a pandemic. From within our little bubble over Can Tho, nestled in another bubble covering Vietnam, we watched as the world struggled to stop the spreading of the virus and save lives. We were ready for preventative action at a moment's notice.

We hoped that we would not see a repeat of last year's countrywide lockdown. Instead, we complied with Can Tho authorities and cautiously took other measures. Covid-19 forced us to make many changes during the second semester: we had school on-line, attended virtual lessons and missed our friends.

As we moved forward, everyone continued to demonstrate diligence, motivation and determination to work to the best of their ability. Thus, we finish the academic year with our health, with our families, with our friends nearby, and with greater knowledge.

Summer means a time to have fun, but please keep physically healthy and academically strong. The virus isn't over although vaccinations are on the way. Be cautious and follow rules about social distancing. Meantime, students need to continue studying hard, reading every day and dedicating selves to making next year even better. Invest in yourselves with every assessment you take and every book you read.

We are grateful for the support we receive and proud of the growth of our students.

Thank you again for all your support and encouragement this year. Have a great summer.

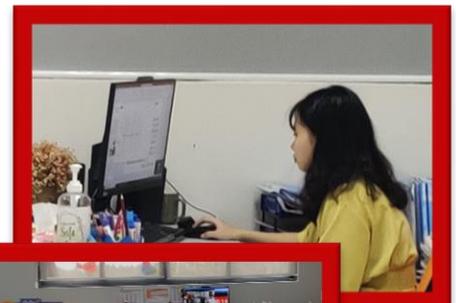
Best regards,  
**Larry Synclair**  
Principal





## Online lessons

Always learning, always getting better



**Who Belongs Where?** (Draw a line from the person to the home country)

Mr. Aaran  
Mr. Larry  
Ms. Li  
Ms. Lizelle  
Mr. Oz

Turkey  
South Africa  
United States  
China  
Netherlands

*Answers on the next page*



### **Edited article from Edutopia.com**

Summer is upon us once again, and parents are beginning to plan for their children's days without a school schedule. Dreams of days filled with family, friends, freedom and laughter are in students' heads as they say goodbye to another school year. However, a nonacademic summer can cause students at every grade level to digress two to three months in their academic skills. Half an hour to an hour set aside daily can help students close learning gaps and perform at higher levels during the upcoming school year.

#### **1. Make Time for Learning**

Set aside time for your student to read each day during the summer break -- 15 to 30 minutes per day is all it takes! During the summer, students have more time to read for enjoyment, which also offers a great opportunity to preserve and strengthen their reading skills. Your summer activities should include taking your children or teenagers to the public library to check out books of interest and/or any summer reading groups they'd like to join. Parents of students reading *below* grade level should read with their children in order to assist with sounding out words they might not be able to decode themselves. In addition, keep a dictionary or online source close by to help students figure out those words by using the phonetic spelling provided.

#### **2. Develop Math Skills**

Though it may not seem fun to them at the time, working on just three to four math problems per day during the summer can prevent students' mathematical skills from getting rusty. They can look at it as a daily challenge that they must complete, or a daily "to-do" to proudly check off their calendar. Parents can purchase a math workbook for their child's academic level at most bookstores. Working on just a few problems daily (or more, if your child enjoys math) can help students of all ages close the gaps in their math skills, preserve what they learned during the previous school year, and prepare for the next.

#### **3. Improve Reading Comprehension**

To help your children better understand what they're reading, consider offering them a reading comprehension workbook to work on several minutes daily. These can be found at teacher supply stores or many online outlets. Students of all grades and ability levels can benefit scholastically by working with material that offers self-quizzes and high-interest stories. This practice helps develop their fact-retaining and inference-making skills.

#### **4. Review and Build Grammar Skills**

Review the past grade level's grammar concepts, and begin to work on the next school year's concepts. During the summer, students benefit from weekly reviews or pre-learning two to four lessons. Don't forget that SIS offers DynEd, the computer assisted language learning program, to Year 3 students and up. Find workbooks geared to their grade or skill level, and encourage them to check their work using the answer key provided. Even if they make mistakes on their answers (and who doesn't make mistakes?), finally filling in the correct answers will reinforce their grammar skills.

#### **5. Encourage Creative Writing**

Creative writing is a great way to improve your children's written language skills while giving them a fun and imaginative activity during the summer! Have your student write a creative paragraph each week. As a parent, you can help by assisting him or her with choosing a "topic" (such as a family vacation, special outing or holiday memory) to write a paragraph about. Students can also benefit from using a thesaurus and changing several common words to more interesting words. This will make their writing more interesting *while* learning great new words at the same time.

Over the summer, students and parents who practice the above tips can see great strengthening and improvement in scholastic skills, and avoid digressing two to three months in learning. Summer learning can be fun *and* challenging at the same time. Students may find learning to be more fun as they become more capable of meeting scholastic challenges and overcoming any learning weaknesses.

Answers: Mr. Aaran-Netherlands; Mr. Larry-United States; Ms. Li-China; Ms. Lizelle-South Africa; Mr. Oz-Turkey



During the final month of our school year, the organic garden and the fruit trees around campus blossomed with delicious food:

papayas, sapote, jackfruit, okra, cabbages, mangoes, and more. This is a reminder that organic gardening is more than simply avoiding synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. It is

about observing nature's processes, and matching that process in your garden to the best of your abilities. Always remember to understand the content of your soil and to give it what it needs. In other words, feed the soil, not the plant.

## My Organic Garden

