



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ CANTHO

# NEWSLETTER

November 2021

## Principal's Message: Preparing for the Possibility

Dear parents,

Since school started in August, this time has been deeply challenging for students, families, and teachers. Fortunately, the vaccination program was recently implemented for students in Can Tho; so, we hope the results will be our doors reopening and classrooms filling up with beaming smiles. We haven't received official news when or if...but we are hoping.

SIS@Can Tho is excited to support students when they come to the classroom and will do everything to support a safe, welcoming, and successful learning environment. SIS students' safety will always be our first priority on campus. Our school is working closely with our district, DoET, and health officials to follow health and safety protocols to minimize the risk of transmitting COVID-19.

We also will work with you, our students' parents and guardians, to have clear communication and to share important information about students' health that will help keep our whole community safe.

If you haven't done so, I want to encourage you to get your vaccines. Please get your family members vaccinated when they are eligible. All teachers and staff have been vaccinated.

When that wonderful time arrives for students to return in person, our staff will be focusing on reconnecting with them and building strong relationships across our campus. This year, the SIS @ Can Tho will continue to dedicate focus on improving student learning for all students. We will continue to work diligently through collaboration to discuss teaching strategies to meet the needs of our students. We will improve student learning through improved instruction focusing on visual teaching methods, strict adherence to the Singapore and MOET aligned curriculums, data collection, and assessment.

It has been a long arduous road but let's remain strong and optimistic that the children return to school.

All the best,  
**Larry Synclair**  
Principal



# Teacher Feature



Taking over for Phan Thi Oanh, who is on maternity leave, **Nguyen Thi Thuy Quynh** is a wonderful surprise for the Year 5 class as well as for other students. She is a mom who loves kids, dancing, and teaching. Quynh says she enjoys being a teacher because she can meet students and convey what she knows over to them every day. "Living a life with the appearance of many children makes me love them more than ever," says Quynh. She adds that this makes her life meaningful. During her free time, she practices dancing and exercising to improve her health. She also teaches dancing as well. Her dancing is often noted by her three-year old daughter who also enjoys learning how to dance by her mother.





November 20<sup>th</sup> is Teachers' day. SIS@Can Tho celebrated this special day with students providing written and recorded good wishes. We would like to thank students and parents for all the beautiful flowers, cards, and signs of appreciation. Teaching is truly a wonderful profession.

## *How parents can help their kids succeed at online learning*

**Teamwork by parents, teachers and students is key, says an education expert who offers four ways to make it happen.**  
 From University of Alberta (<https://www.ualberta.ca/folio/2020/09/how-parents-can-help-their-kids-succeed-at-online-learning.html>)

For students learning from home this year, there will be some lingering challenges from last spring's COVID-19 shutdown: parents busy balancing their own work needs, no in-person connection with teachers, technology headaches.

But the best way to support online learners is through solid teamwork involving everyone in the equation, says a University of Alberta education expert. "All three stakeholders-teachers, parents and students-need to work together to make learning from home successful," said Suzanna Wong, an adjunct professor in the Faculty of Education. "Children are resilient, and they'll do well as long as teachers and parents show they care about them as a team." There are key ways to help kids as they master remote learning, Wong suggested.

**Supervise:** It's important for parents to keep an eye on what their children are doing during class time.

"Little ones at the elementary-school level still need their caregivers to help them with the technical aspects of learning online, such as remembering passwords and logging in or making sure the computer camera isn't facing the cat," Wong said. For junior high and high-school students, supervision is equally important, though for different reasons, Wong added. "Parents might assume their teens are very computer-savvy, so they don't monitor them during remote learning times, but this can be a problem if their kids aren't managing their time well. This age group may need more assistance, for example, in getting up on time to connect for an online lesson." Teens may not turn on their monitors during a live lesson, so teachers may also be unsure whether they are being supervised at home, Wong added.

**Set up a schedule:** All students need a schedule to make sure assignments get done and to strike a healthy balance between work and playtime, Wong said. "Younger students like and need a consistent routine with clear expectations. Set up a routine around online classes that includes things like snack breaks, and post it on the fridge with sticky notes." Teachers can support this by posting schedules just as they would in a physical classroom, and writing morning messages to their students, she suggested. "It demonstrates new writing and reading skills at the same time it sets out the plan for the day." Schedules are equally important for older students to manage their time well. "There needs to be time for class and for leisure to provide a mental break," said Wong.

**Allow for "playful" learning:** Playtime can also double as learning time for younger kids, Wong said.

"Parents can help their children's learning by nurturing playful moments. Set up a café in the kitchen, where they can write up their dream menu and create a shopping list. Or let them do a magic show where they can learn about science." Kids often also like to do things with others, so ask them what they want to do with friends online. "I've watched many children collaborate online with video games, or simply chat with each other. That's a good thing during this challenging time." For older students who spend leisure time online, "Ask them what they're reading and talk about critical thinking, for instance in terms of fake news," Wong said. "Is what they're reading real? Those conversations engage them in literacy and learning."

**Ask for help if needed:** If a child learning from home seems to be struggling with their lessons, parents should connect with the teacher, Wong suggested. "If you notice after a few lessons that a child still isn't grasping a concept, it's not enough to just go and buy a workbook with empty blanks to fill in. Ask the teacher for a meeting or if an assessment can be arranged."