

# NEWSLETTER

January 2022

## 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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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Term 2 ends.
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February – “Tết” holidays.
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Term 3 starts.
- 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Valentine’s Day
- Middle of February 2022 – Semester 1 International reports issued.
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - Parent Teacher Conferences (for International reports).
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 – World Water Day.
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Student Protection Week
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April – holidays.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SIS Parents, Caregivers, Family and Friends

Chúc mừng năm mới

January was a short but busy month at BDNC. The students wrapped up their semester 1 learning with Spot Tests which will enable our teachers to get a good understanding of how all our students have done during the past 6 months. I would like to congratulate all our students again for managing to successfully embrace the online learning that we have needed to endure this year so far in order to keep their learning going forward. These past 2 years have indeed been very difficult times world-wide for education and it has been wonderful to see everyone gather together to face these challenges head on and succeed. Well done to all.

In the first two weeks back after “Tết” holidays, teachers will finalise the semester 1 International Report Cards, and we hope to have these sent to parents by 16<sup>th</sup> February. After that we will hold our Parent-Teacher Conferences, either direct at school or, in the event some classes are still studying online, they will be arranged by teachers online using TEAMS.

Unfortunately, we were again unable to hold any events or celebrate “Tết” at school due to CoVid restrictions. However, I know that teachers and students discussed the importance and meanings of “Tết” during lessons this month, and I am thankful for my teachers in ensuring the true value and meaning of “Tết” has not been lost.

I would like to end by wishing all our students, parents, teachers and staff at SIS@BDNC a truly wonderful, relaxing and happy “Tết” holiday period, and hope that most of us manage to get to spend quality time with our loved ones and friends and celebrate the love, joy and happiness that “Tết” embodies.

In closing, we are hopeful that authorities will allow all our students from KIK to Year 6 back to school as well from 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for resumption of direct learning.

For those travelling over “Tết”, travel safe.

Mark Watling  
Principal

## PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Dear Parents,

Our school community is ending Semester 1 with a great sense of achievement. The students rose to the challenges of online learning with determination, patience and good humour. It has been a joy to witness the lively interactions and participation in lessons as I have visited each group over our *Teams* platform.

A beautiful "Tết" display now brightens the school entrance and our hardworking teachers and assistant teachers are preparing classrooms for the long anticipated return of primary students.

I would like to wish you all health and happiness for the New Year and a joyous "Tết" celebration with loved ones.

Kind regards,

Ms. Kathleen Boyle  
Head of Studies - Primary School

## HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

It has been so wonderful to see the return of our Year 7 - 9 and our IGCSE classes to school these last few weeks. Friendships have been re-formed and consolidated, and there has been a very positive atmosphere around the school, particular in Block B. We look forward to seeing our younger students soon, hopefully not too long after "Tết".

Again, I would like to congratulate those students who have used their at home time to take advantage of studying Dyned, and at the earliest opportunity next term, we are looking forward to being able to present a record number of certificates to those who have achieved their next levels.

I would like to take this chance to thank our staff, our parents and our children for ensuring that this time of online learning has been a productive time for us all. I wish you all a safe and happy "Tết" break.

Ms. Caroline Mead  
Deputy Principal

## INTEGRATED SCHOOL REPORT

HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR 2022

A year with many difficulties and hardships has ended. We joyfully welcome the new year with many good expectations.

On occasion of New Year, I wish you and your family a joyful, healthy, prosperous and happiest new year ahead!

I look forward to welcoming all students after "Tết" at school. I wish all our students a happy new year filled with laughter.

Ms. Kim Tri  
Head of Vietnamese







### STEM UPDATE

Our Hackathon (Apps for Sustainability) has been postponed to the first week of March but has not lost steam! It will be a real experience for our STEM teams as they will now get to pitch their apps to a live panel of judges. It is a regional event where our students will be competing against other schools in the South. Furthermore, our students will be attending an app workshop on the last day of term to learn more skills about coding apps and using them during the prototyping phase of the projects. We are all very eager to see the creativity our students will bring to the final pitch in March.

Mr. Jonathan Bosman  
Head of Studies Secondary School/STEM Coordinator

### STAFF UPDATE

Please take note of the following updates regarding our staff at BDNC:

1. Ms. Elbe Venter left on 24 January 2022 to return home to South Africa for personal reasons.
2. Ms. Kieu (Office Administrator), went on maternity leave in January and will return in the new school year.
3. Ms. Lune Olivier officially started teaching on 21 st January 2022, and she has replaced Ms. Elbe as Year 3 International class teacher. Welcome Ms. Lune.
4. Mr. Philip van der Walt (primary English/GP teacher), and Ms. Rina van der Walt (primary Integrated English/SoS/MOET teacher), will arrive in Vietnam on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and be ready to teach full time from 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
5. Ms. Tu Mai will join us as Assistant Teacher for K1 International as soon as KIK students return to school.
6. Ms. Phan Hong My Duyen will join us after “Tết” as Office Administrator to replace Ms. Kieu whilst she is on maternity leave.
7. Ms. Lilit Gevorkyan will be taking an extended leave of absence from 16<sup>th</sup> February and will return to BDNC in August 2022. Mr. Jolin Richardson will assume the role of Music teacher during Semester 2.
8. Ms. Kathleen Boyle and Ms. Jola Sagang will both leave us towards the end of February 2022. Ms. Kath will return home to the UK while Ms. Jola has opted to become a full time mom for her 1-year-old baby son.
9. Mr. Jason Themistocleous will replace Ms. Kath and will hopefully arrive in Vietnam before Ms. Kath departs. He will teach Year 5 Integrated English as well as some PE.
10. Ms. Lorraine Samuel has accepted our offer to be the new K1 International class teacher, and we are also hopeful that she will arrive in Vietnam fairly soon.

We look forward to officially welcoming all our new teachers and staff members during the course of the next few weeks.