

# NEWSLETTER

October 2021

## 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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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SIS Parents, Caregivers, Family and Friends

As I write, all our students, teachers and parents are enjoying a thoroughly deserved week long break from their studies, teaching and assisting of children respectively. To say that it has been a long, grueling and tiring term would be an understatement. But, as always, I am super proud of the dedicated efforts everyone continues to give during these difficult times of online learning.

It was of course wonderful news during October with the announcement by authorities of the lifting of restrictions that have controlled our lives for the past 4 months. For me personally, I was overjoyed to once again see life being brought back in Binh Duong, a semblance of 'normality' returning. Although there is sure a long way to go to fully control the pandemic, it has been a blessing to see activity back on our streets, to witness people being able to reopen businesses, and, more importantly, to watch as people are again allowed to socialize in public places like coffee shops and restaurants.

In this month's newsletter, we include some information on the school's Child Protection Policies as well as our Wellness Programme. Under the current climate of online learning, these topics are possibly more relevant than ever before. There is no doubt that the online learning environment is extremely stressful and hard, not only on our students but also for our teachers and of course our parents as well. So please be sure to read up how the school continues to ensure the safety and wellness of everyone in our school community.

Term 2 starts on Monday 1 November, and again will be a busy term. Term 2 is also the time for the first of our annual Semester exams, which will take place this school year in the first two weeks of January 2022. Our teachers will ensure all students are fully prepared and able to perform to the best of their ability. In advance, we wish all our students the very best for these important exams.

Take care and stay safe everyone.

Mark Watling  
Principal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday 1st November 2021 – Term 2 starts
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Teacher's Day
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Annual Charity Food Drive
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Charity Fair
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas and New Year holiday
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – SA1 exams
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 – Term 2 ends

### PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

As we approach the end of Term One, I have been reflecting on our online journey as a school. I think you will agree; it has presented challenges for our community. We had to quickly embrace new technology. Our teachers had to adapt to methods of delivering lessons which required additional training. Parents and students, likewise rose to the challenge and soon became adept at negotiating *Teams*, our online learning platform. Coincidentally, one of our Values for October was Teamwork and I believe the SIS Binh Duong School community excelled in this important skill. Our students have not only studied the curriculum, but they have learned how to co-operate and adapt as a team.

We all miss the events and celebrations, which make our school life so enjoyable, but the effort many students put into making lanterns for the Mid-Autumn Festival, made it an enjoyable event. As I write, many students are busy making fun Halloween masks which will soon be on display.

We teachers and assistant teachers, look forward to Term Two, happy in the knowledge that, whether we are online or at school, our community is a strong and motivated team.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Ms. Kathleen Boyle  
Head of Studies - Primary School

### HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Well done to all staff and students and parents for making it through this challenging term! We are all looking forward to the "new normal" and the challenges and opportunities that it will bring.

By now your child will have received their term 1 progress report. Please discuss the report with your child and discuss their strengths and the areas in which they will need to work harder in order to improve. It would be helpful for them to set goals and targets for them to achieve in Term two.

We closed the term with a Halloween mask creating competition, and although I know you will see the winner elsewhere in this newsletter, I would like to share with you some of the efforts from our IGCSE1 class. Thank you Aditya, Yu jo and Tu Uyen! and I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Term 1 break.

Ms. Caroline Mead  
Deputy Principal





## INTEGRATED SCHOOL REPORT

We know that learning online is difficult issue for everyone. Our teacher and students have the spirit of steel to overcome this situation. They can do so together in every learning lesson and special events. Y3 and Y5 Int'g designed the dresses, vases and flowers from the leaves. Students in Y5 Int'g did the presentation about the traditional costume of all the countries in the world. On Vietnamese Woman's Day, kids made the lovely flower card and gave them to their mothers and teachers.

We finished the term before the official Halloween day, yet the school organized a mask competition for students to develop their design talents. They designed the masks according to their wishes.

Please take a look at their below photos.

Ms. Kim Tri  
HoV



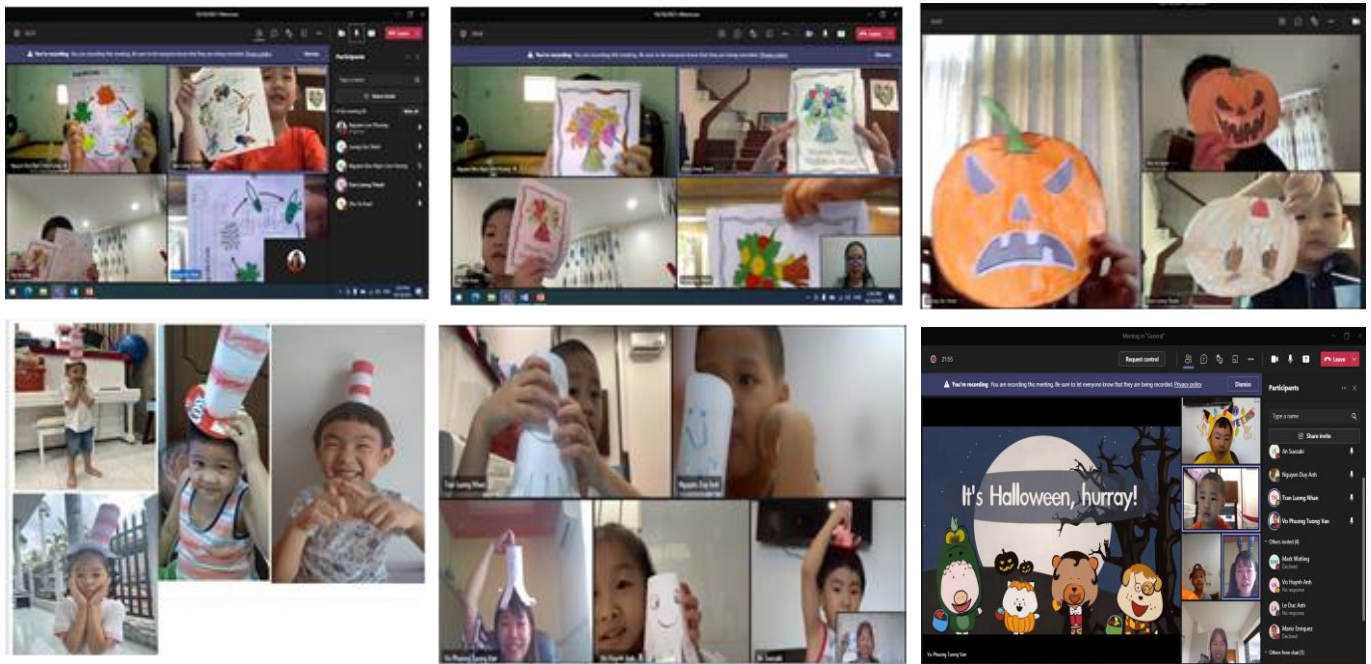
## KIK SCHOOL REPORT

Every lesson with our lovely kindergarten kids is a great time. They enjoy themselves with their teachers.

Students in Prep class made the frog life cycle in their Science lesson. They also made lovely flower cards and scary pumpkins. Thank you Ms Phuong for letting our students have a lovely time.

K2 Int'g students are so happy with their hats. They are proud of the special hat on the head. Thank you Ms Ngan and Ms Van for working hard with your kids.

Ms. Kim Tri  
HoV



## Prep. International 2021



Activate Windows  
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## **STAFF UPDATES**

We welcome the following new members of our International teaching staff:

1. Ms. Rene Engelbrecht – K2 International. Ms. Rene arrived in Vietnam on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October and is currently assisting our Prep Integrated class during online teaching. She will assume responsibility for K2 International when students return to school for direct learning again.
2. Ms. Karen Delahunty – Year 1 International. Ms. Karen arrived in Vietnam on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and will immediately assume responsibility as class teacher for Year 1 International.
3. Mr. Tadhg Curran – Year 5 International. Like Ms. Karen, Mr. Tadhg arrived in Vietnam on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and has assumed responsibility as class teacher for Year 5 International.
4. Ms. Rina van der Walt – Year 2 Integrated English and Social Studies teacher. Ms. Rina started teaching on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

We still await the arrival of Mr. Philip van der Walt – secondary specialist teacher.

We are also busy in the process of making offers for two more permanent positions:

1. Mr. Etienne-Morne Grassman – primary English teacher.
2. Ms. Christel Crous – lower secondary English teacher.

I would like to again take this opportunity to thank the following teachers for willingly assisting us during term 1:

1. Mr. Lyon Castro
2. Ms. Naomi Motiang



## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Schools play an integral part in protecting children and young people from harm. The welfare and best interests of children is paramount and all students attending KinderWorld settings have a right to protection from harm. Our Child Protection Policy exists to uphold the principles set out in the UN Charter of the Rights of the Child. It expresses our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment, the prevention of harm to students, to be able to respond appropriately to concerns of harm, as well as to promote the knowledge and awareness of safeguarding our students.

People who work in schools have regular contact with students and are in a good position to identify signs of potential abuse or harm. Therefore, it is our responsibility at SIS BDNC to ensure staff are appropriately trained to prevent and deal with student protection issues. We ensure training is provided to all staff; and we closely monitor the effectiveness of harm prevention and intervention.

Teachers and other school staff are responsible for the care and wellbeing of our students and provide child-safe environments. This responsibility includes:

- A duty of care to all students.
- Providing a curriculum relevant to child safety and student protection for all students.
- Take all reasonable steps to establish and maintain a respectful classroom and school environment free from abuse or harm of any kind.
- Reporting any case where there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has or is suffering abuse or neglect.

Management is responsible for ensuring that recruitment practices include thorough screening and background checks; establishing and maintaining sound working relationships with government agencies and support providers; and mandating a code of conduct that affirms the standards of behaviour that is expected of all employees, students, interns, contractors, consultants and visitors.

At SIS BDNC, we implement a protective behaviour and personal safety curriculum and strive to always ensure that available support services are accessible to students who experience abuse, neglect or harm.

We also have a thorough Code of Behaviour embedded for the conduct of staff, students, contractors, parents and other school visitors that supports and protects all aspects of student safety. School facilities are designed to minimize risk to student safety and include sound security systems to create a safe learning environment.

Parents and all community members can be assured that confidentiality is maintained at all times in any cases of suspected or reported student abuse, neglect or harm. Furthermore, all appropriate records are completed and securely stored in any cases of suspected or reported student abuse, neglect or harm.

Lastly, we are currently establishing and embedding better relationships with community agencies/ government authorities to support cases of student abuse, neglect or harm.

## **WELLNESS PROGRAMME**

At SIS, we are constantly seeking to add programs to enhance the development and learning of our students. A new initiative currently about to be launched in Term 2 is our Wellness Program.

Kinderworld schools are learning communities that promote student wellbeing, safety and positive relationships in order for students to access their full potential. Our school plays an important role in positively influencing the wellbeing of students.

Wellbeing can be defined as an ongoing experience of wholeness and happiness that is interconnected with physical, intellectual, emotional and social elements. This is linked to quality of life. Kinderworld schools assist in the development of wellbeing through providing a curriculum focused on promoting the knowledge, skills and understandings that contribute to student wellbeing.

The Wellbeing Curriculum will focus on student personal development, self-awareness and career planning – in order to help students realise their full potential in preparing for adult and working life.

### **Key Development Areas of the Wellness Program**

1. Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.
2. Students will make decisions, set goals and take necessary action to achieve goals.

Currently we have 2 programs fully implemented and embedded that deliver a significant part of a Wellbeing Program to assist our students achieve the above – namely the Outward Bound Program and the Virtues Program.

Outward Bound Programme (OBV) - is an intensive experiential learning curriculum that develops students' personal, social and emotional skills and wellbeing. OBV is designed to develop and strengthen self-confidence, encourage responsibility, build character and personal integrity, promote independent and creative thinking, foster team-work and leadership, increase problem-solving skills and inspire students to care for others.

Virtues Programme – Our Virtues Program is designed to support the development of the whole student in terms of academic achievement, social maturity and emotional well-being. The Virtues program is progressively taught throughout each school year and consists of twenty virtues. It ensures development of the whole child and equip them for a successful and positive life, by aspiring to build young people of strong and ethical character who will make a positive contribution to the world in their future endeavors.

## **STUDENT PROTECTION WEEK**

During Term 2, we will launch the first of our Student Protection Weeks – a series of lessons to be taught from K1 to IGCSE. The lessons will be taught annually during Semester 1 and Semester 2 Student Protection Weeks. The lessons are sourced from the NSW Education Department website under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license agreement.