

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

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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The children were all excited, not just because it's the Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration, but today we culminate our STEM lesson on "Plant Detectives." Year 2 International had a short walk in Midori park. With the plant hunt activity, we hope that children have investigated and discovered plants in their surroundings. They had a fun learning day today.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SIS Parents, Caregivers, Family and Friends

Term 1 has been a busy one for our students and I would like to congratulate all of them for the wonderful enthusiasm they have shown at school during the term. We have all settled down extremely well into our new routines and can all be proud of our efforts so far.

Unfortunately, due to CoVid-19 restrictions, we have not been able to hold any events so far this year although we did still celebrate Mid-Autumn festival with some in class activities. We want to give a **huge thank you** to staff who were involved in arranging these activities and allowing our children to still celebrate. As an international school, it is important to us to celebrate and recognize all cultures.

Some primary classes have also arranged short trips to Midori Gardens for some Science lessons and by all accounts these were thoroughly enjoyable learning experiences.

Our Year 4, 6 and 8 classes will be writing their ISA tests on the 5-6 October and we wish them all success during these tests.

Term 1 is nearing its end and may I take this opportunity to wish everyone in the SIS family an enjoyable and peaceful term break between 15-18 October 2020.

Thank you!

Mark Watling
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday 1 October – Mid-Autumn Festival
- 5-6 October – ISA tests for Year 4, 6 and 8
- 14 October – Term 1 ends
- 19 October – Term 2 starts
- 19-20 October – Year 4 OBV at school
- 22-23 October – Year 5 OBV at school
- 26-30 October – Year 7 OBV – Quy Nhon
- 30 October - Halloween

PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

It has been an extremely busy start to the year in the primary school. The students have been hard at work, learning exciting new things. We have welcomed many new students to our classes and they are settling in nicely to life at SIS Binh Duong. Likewise, we have been blessed with talented new teachers to ensure the students are able to reach their potential in all aspects of school life.

Last week, the students were privileged to receive STEM lessons using the new equipment the school has acquired. They were able to make robotic fortune cats using the iPads and the new construction kits. All of the students were actively engaged in the lessons and had a fun time building with their friends.

Finally, over the past week, teachers have been assessing every student in the primary school on their knowledge of high frequency words. These are the words that commonly appear in the texts students read. It has been very exciting to see the growth in the students that have been at the school for the past few years. They are now ready to apply their skills to more challenging tasks due to their speedy progress.

Tom Dowden
Head of Studies-Primary School

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Well a very fast paced term is about to come to a close, ending my first full term at Singapore International School. I would like to take the chance to thank our wonderful students and staff who make this a very special place to come to work every day.

The term has been a busy one, with students settling well into their new year levels. This year we have seen a large number of new enrolments in the Secondary school from many schools across Binh Duong. We welcome them as they become settled into our special International School environment.

We have all become accustomed to wearing facemasks and being socially distant but feel grateful to have been able to be together to enjoy activities such as this week's Mid-Autumn Festival. You will see a report elsewhere in this newsletter, but it was wonderful to see both the teamwork and the fierce competition between our form groups as they fought for the prize of best decorated classroom! I am told that Halloween can be equally as exciting!

Next week will see the elections for our Student Council (STUCO). Being a STUCO representative is a great opportunity to begin to take a leadership role and effect change

Letters and information were sent out earlier this term about DynEd, a computer-based program that can easily be installed at home, and that will help your child's English skills. Students are expected to study at home, for 15 – 20 minutes, a minimum of four times a week. If you are not already doing so, please encourage your child to make this happen.

This will be the last newsletter before the short school end of term break. If you are travelling, please stay safe and I look forward to seeing everyone again next term.

Caroline Mead
Deputy Principal

School Upgrades

Our new soccer field is very near to completion and we can't wait to start using it.

Our new STEM room is now fully functional and teachers and students alike are really enjoying working with our new equipment.

**The Mid-Autumn/Lantern Festival**

This year's celebration was a little different from our usual event, due to COVID 19 restrictions. However, this did not prevent us celebrating the wonderful Lantern Festival.

In the morning, as each student arrived, they received a treat to mark the beginning of our special occasion. Many students and teachers came in colourful traditional dress and Mr. Trong organised suitable music, for the whole school to enjoy, over the sound system.

The first two lessons of the day were devoted to decorating the classrooms for our competition. The students had to be creative with a variety of materials provided. There was great excitement as the rooms and notice boards were transformed with some amazing results, reflecting the value we place on cultural heritage. Among these impressive displays were room length dragons, impressive hand drawings of Hằng Nga and delightful, colorful depictions of legend of *Cuội*.

During afternoon break, our Student Council members, accompanied by the Lion and Mr. Will, distributed platters of fruit to each homeroom, reminding us of the harvest of delicious fruits enjoyed in Vietnam.

**SCHOOL POLICY REMINDERS****School start and finish times**

Please remember our new start and finish times:

School start: 8.25am

School finish: 3.15pm - Year 1-4 International, 3.30pm for KIK, 4.00pm for all other classes

Clubs run from 4.15 – 5.00pm every day except Tuesdays.

Healthy Food Policy

At SIS we teach children the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle. For that reason, swimming is part of our PE program. We expect all children to participate in swimming. We also have a strict no candy and no soft drink policy.