

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Dear Parents,

The Term 3 2020-21 Academic year will very soon come to an end. There have been many challenges throughout the term particularly with the ongoing covid-19 activity in Vietnam.

I am continually amazed and proud of the ongoing cooperation and support for SIS@SS from our students, staff and parents.

Our recent online learning experience and the return to school challenges with Covid-19 health and safety regulations all went relatively smoothly and all students and staff played their role ensuring we were all safe and well at SIS@SS.

Back to learning on Campus as usual.

Parents are to be reminded that every effort will be made to continue with the student's OBV program. There may be venue changes, however parents will be informed if this happens or there are changes in any way to the program.

The school concert and graduation celebrations will take place in the school hall at SIS@SS this year.

All communication with regard to graduation and the school concert will be shared with the school community early in Term 4, 2021.

Enrolments for the new school year are currently being taken at SIS@SS. Please help us spread the good news!

Yours in learning,

Mark Priddis – Principal



Principal Meeting

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that we welcomed students back to campus. They are once again actively engaged in learning alongside their friends and classmates. Since their return we have seen the children continue to demonstrate behavior that is polite, respectful, courteous, as well as hard-working. This shows the wonderful influence of what they have been taught at home, something for which you should feel proud and we are quite grateful.

A few notes:

ECAs - We are happy to say that Extra-Curricular Activities have begun. It has been quite some time since we have been allowed to provide these. You may also note that there is a wider variety of options for students, both in content and across year levels. External vendors have also been sought out to assist (which is why some of the activities have a fee). Feel free to contact the office with questions about schedules, registration, or other details.

Term Break – It seems to have arrived quickly, but the week of April 5-9 there will be no school to give a break between Terms 3 & 4.

Parent survey – Next term a survey will be sent out asking for your feedback about several aspects of the school. The information shared will be part of our accreditation process. A notice will be sent prior to the survey provide more details.

As always, please know that we acknowledge and appreciate the trust you have placed with us for your child's education. If you ever have questions or concerns you are welcome to set an appointment through the Front Office to come in for a chat.

Respectfully,

Robert Madden - Deputy Principal (Pedagogy Coach).



Primary students at the weekly assembly

Dear Parents,

Term 3 is steadily moving along post-COVID closures. I am very proud of the students' and staff's hard work and flexibility during the online learning period. I hope all students and families enjoyed a happy Tet holiday despite the travel challenges faced.

OBV

A big 'thank you' to the OBV Team for working hard to arrange alternate options to ensure all SIS @ Saigon South students have the great opportunity to attend. Some dates and locations for Spring OBV courses have changed. Please check with the office if any questions arise. Best wishes to the Year 7 and Year 8 Integrated classes attending March 29 to April 2. I am looking forward to the Year 7 International and Year 8 International classes to attend 26 – 29 April and Year 9 Integrated and High school in June.

DynEd

Students at Saigon South continue to improve DynEd Study Scores each week. The DynEd Programme is an online and in-class hybrid programme utilised to improve students' English language proficiency. The programme begins with a focus on listening and speaking. As the students move through the levels reading and writing are gradually included. After completion of each level, the students receive a verified DynEd Certification Certificate.

Book Month

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, we were unable to hold our annual Book Week Book Fair. Instead, the teachers and students dedicated the month of March to literacy development and celebrated our love of books and favourite authors. Reading regularly increases fluency, vocabulary, and speaking and listening skills.

Assemblies

I am happy to share that we can hold weekly Assemblies again. A class "hosts" the Assemblies each week in the Hall. Their presentations, songs, or performances focus on sharing their knowledge of our School-wide Learner Goals:

- Critical Thinkers
- Technologically Literate
- Confident Communicator
- Academic Achiever
- Active and Responsible Citizen

School-wide Learner Goals are also woven into Form Class activities and all subjects throughout students' school days.

Sports

I am happy the students are also able to participate in Extra-curricular Activities (ECAs) and Sports this month. Please sign-up in the Office and sign the permission forms to participate. The sports teams are also able to engage in "friendly" matches with other schools in the area. Good luck to all of our sports teams!

Term 3 break is 5-9 April. Classes will resume for Term 4 on 12 April. I wish all family a restful Spring Break.

Caroline Atkinson – Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

The Covid -19 break out happened again just before New Year's Eve. From February 2, 2021, teachers and students at SIS @ Saigon South campus started online learning until a week after Tet Holiday.

From March 1st, 2021, it was such a great news that all teachers, staffs and students can return to school. We are proud that Vietnamese government and people have united against the pandemic and have gradually controlled Covid - 19. However, we still have to comply with the 05 standards given by the ministry of health, which are wearing masks, disinfection, distance and medical declaration.

The pandemic has not stopped going on around the world, including in Vietnam, positive cases are still being detected at the end of each day. Although the Covid 19 vaccines are currently available, there is a small number of vaccinated people. Therefore, each of us still has to actively participate in implementing the above 5 standards so that the Covid-19 pandemic will quickly end.

To make the joy of attending school every day sustainable from today until the end of the school year, our teachers and students are determined to repel Covid -19 transmission to complete our 2020-2021 school year successfully.

Mdm. Phung Thi Tuyet Minh
Senior Head of Vietnamese Studies



Year 4 International students during the lesson

Dear Parents,

As we head into the final stretch of the academic year 2020-2021, students should be focusing hard on their studies. Teachers are available to offer students extra help should they need it, and I encourage students to take the opportunities presented to them to further their chances of achieving the Cambridge grades of which they are capable. The Cambridge exams will run from 21 April to 10 June.

We also have the End of Year Concert coming up. This year it will be held in the school hall rather than the Opera House. This gives us a unique opportunity to perform in an environment we are very familiar with, and a fun opportunity to decorate the hall appropriately.

OBV for High School class will be conducted after the Cambridge exams. As all students who have already been on an OBV trip will agree, this is a wonderful opportunity to have fun and learn valuable skills in a non-classroom setting.

Donovan Neethling - Head of Studies (High school)

Dear Parents,

In March, KIK classes focus on the theme of living things as students learn all about flowers, fruits and vegetables, and life cycles. Students also learned about different parts of plants, animal habitats, and the very important role that plants play in our lives.

To make a home connection to what your child has learned in school, try this fun activity. First, have your child draw a picture of a real animal and a stuffed animal. Then ask your child to tell you which one is a living thing and to explain how they know. You can make further connections by asking your child to identify living and non-living things in and around your home.

Lindsay Stanford - Head of Studies (Kindergarten)



Primary students at the weekly assembly



Sport activities for students

Dear Parents,

Season 3 SISAC competitive Sports have started and SIS has had a few matches already against the American School and ABCIS.

Our U15 Boys Volleyball team played 2 league games so far, beating the American school 2 games to zero on Tuesday March 16th but lost against ABC the following day. Our U11 Boys and Girls teams travelled to AMIS for their first match of the season and lost but showed tremendous effort and potential for the upcoming season.

With many talented young players on the team, SIS boys and girls basketball has a very bright future. All of our teams (Basketball, Volleyball and Badminton) will compete against the Canadian International School Week 10 and only the basketball team will compete against ABC Week 11.

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions, spectators are not currently allowed to go to matches to watch, but parents will be updated if/when this rule changes. Parents of student athletes are still welcome to pick up their children from matches as long as the coaches or Mr.Quinn has been informed via a note, message, phone call or email.

If any students are still interested in joining a team please see Mr. Quinn as soon as possible for a permission form.

Quinn Donovan – PE Teacher

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Dear Parents,

Student Council is sponsoring a “Living Legends” Writing Competition open to all Primary Students (Years 1-5) and Secondary Students (Years 6-A level) in celebration of International Women’s Day. To enter the contest, students write essays or poems about a woman who they look up to, respect and admire. This could be their mother, grandmother, auntie, caregiver or even a teacher.

Students are urged to interview this special person and ask questions about the person’s family, education, career and life events and experiences.

All writings should be submitted by the end of the day, Thursday, 25 March 2021 to the folder outside Ms. Caroline’s office.

Student Council looks forward to reading many essays from the SIS community of learners. All entries will be on display after the contest is finished.

Student Council awaits further campus-wide easing of COVID social-distancing restrictions as other ideas for both community service projects and activities for students are being discussed.

Stay tuned for more information.

The Student Council



OBV's activities for Year 7 & 8 students