



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ SAIGON SOUTH

# NEWSLETTER

October 2021

## Dear Parents,

Hard to believe that it is the end of Term 1, 2021 already. It has been a busy and challenging term for all.

Online learning continues to be the main learning platform for students as HCMC slowly returns to the new normal like so many cities all over the world.

Please remember the school will contact families once directed by the authorities of any changes concerning students learning as we progress to Term 2, 2021.

Student mid semester reports will be emailed home early in Term 2, 2021 after we return from the end of Term 1 break. Teachers and TA's will email the mid semester reports to parents.

Parent Teacher Interviews will take place when students return to campus.

I would like to congratulate, students, staff and parents on the positive progress of students in this challenging learning time.

I am so proud of everyone's pleasing efforts and appreciation to parents for their continuing support, cooperation and assistance with student learning.

Stay safe, healthy and positive!

Yours in learning,

**Mark Priddis – Principal**



**Dear Parents,**

One of the best ways to help your child with learning is to ask questions. A good question can help them to reflect on what they already know, make connections, and guide them towards better understanding

The next time your child comes to you for help their schoolwork I recommend that, rather than giving an answer, instead ask them:

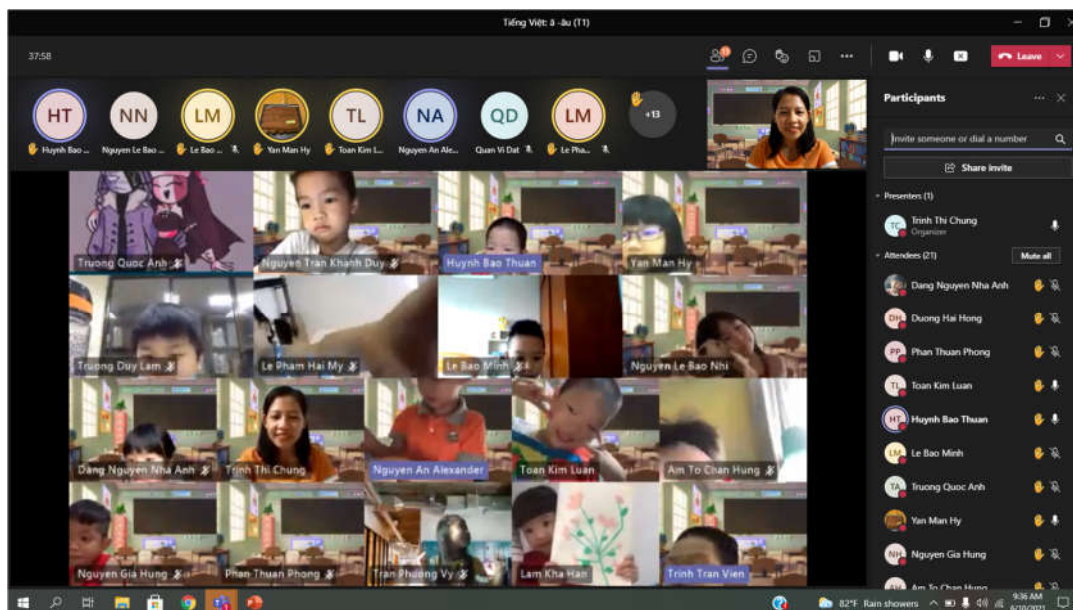
- **What is the problem asking?**  
This might seem rather basic, but it is surprisingly effective. Asking your child to identify the goal of the problem will help them to frame it correctly in their mind. This is especially helpful with wordy questions.
- **What do you already know?**  
This helps your child to sort through words and diagrams and thereby better understand the problem itself. This question is particularly helpful with lengthy word problems and for problems that contain complicated diagrams.
- **Where have you seen something like this before?**  
While teachers occasionally give students unfamiliar problems, independent practice is grounded in material presented in class. Taking time to make connections will help your child to figure out what approach to use and help them to have a deeper understanding of the material.
- **Can you make a guess? How would you know if it was right?**  
Guessing the answer, and then checking that guess, is an approachable way to start thinking about a problem. Coming up with a reasonable guess might even be enough for your child to recognize the underlying concepts. Guessing and checking is especially useful for word problems and just about any other problem that has a number for an answer.

I believe you will find this approach more enjoyable for you, and more effective for your child.

Have a try and let the teacher know your experience.

Best regards,

**Robert Madden - Deputy Principal (Pedagogy Coach).**





## Dear Parents,

One of the key tenets in education, is that teachers are also students, as we pursue our goals in 'lifelong learning'. Forging ahead with our online teaching program, teachers are constantly working on many collaborative and reflective practices to improve our online teaching, and fully aid students attain their own learning objectives.

In line with this, it is also important that we, as teachers, listen to how our students are managing their online educations, so that we can better help them overcome any challenges. The following are two excerpts from Senior students, commenting on their experiences thus far.

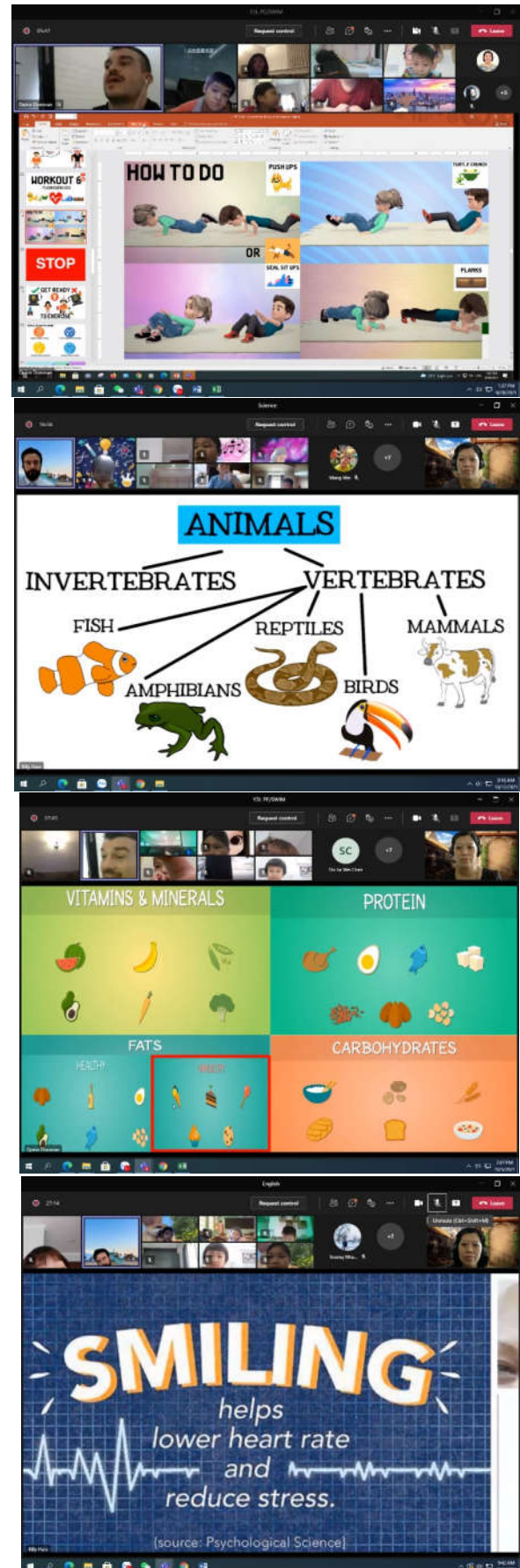
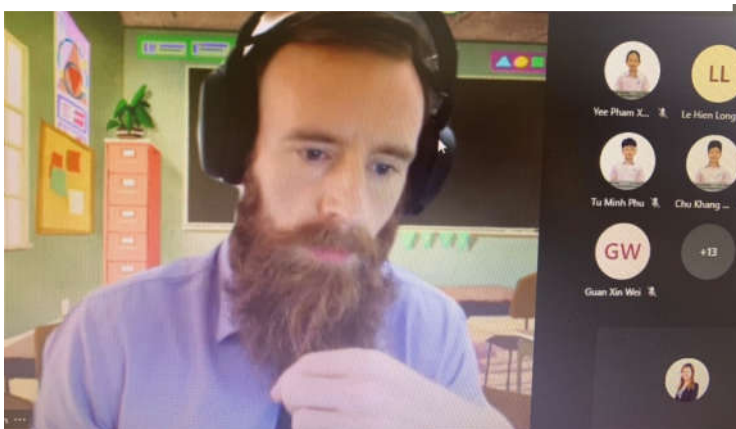
While switching to online school has been very drastic for many students, I do see that there are lots of positive aspects of it that outweigh the negatives. I've noticed that online school has given me much more time to myself, without the bother of commuting to and fro from school and my home. This allows me more time to organise my work and activities, which has in turn lead to my productive output being much higher than it was during last year.

*Trang Hoang Bao Tran, A Level*

Going from offline in-person lessons to online lessons has been an experience I think we had been prepared for but still, there was a reasonable amount of adapting to do because of how different the mediums of communication were. Debatably, I believe online learning has certainly been a challenge for most but in varying ways, we have all managed to make it work, although not as desirable as traditional schooling, our teachers have found innovative solutions to present the information to us.

*Nguyen Phuoc Minh Phuc, AS Level*

## Donovan Neethling – Deputy Principal



Online lessons for students



*Covid-19 Vaccination for Year 7 to A Level students*

Dear Parents and Students,

Time flies so quickly!

In May 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic broke out violently in Ho Chi Minh City, so all students have to study online at home from the first day of the school year 2021-2022. Up to now, the students have been studied for more than two months. In the tenth week, the Integrated students will have Mid-term exam: Vietnamese and Math (Primary); all subjects (Secondary).

In order for the Mid-term exam to achieve good results, the students need to arrange their study time at home appropriately, and consolidate the knowledge they have learned online every day. This will help them feel more confident when taking the test and the test results will be better.

The results of your Mid-term exam will help teachers assess students' acquisition of learning knowledge through online learning. Then, teachers will adjust teaching methods to help students achieve higher learning efficiency.

Currently, the COVID-19 pandemic has been controlled, the number of daily infections has decreased much compared to two months ago. Our school's students between the ages of 12 and 17 were just vaccinated against COVID-19 on October 29, 2021. Hopefully, after the vaccination for students is completed, a happy thing will come: Teachers and students will be able to study directly at the school.

**Mdm. Phung Thi Tuyet Minh**  
Senior Head of Vietnamese Studies





**Dear Parents,**

Term 1 of the new Academic Year has been very busy for our Dyned program. The year 3 classes are new to the program and are learning to use the Dyned system. The Year 5 classes moved from the Kids program to the Academic program and are adjusting to the new level well. These are not easy transitions and can be even more challenging with students learning remotely, however, students are learning the practices of these new programs and improving daily.

All students have been balancing the demands of remote learning and keeping up with their Dyned studies well and we are very proud of their hard work this term. Proof of students hard work is we had 30 students in the school earn a Dyned certificate for Term 1. Students will be presented with these certificates when they return to campus.

Please remind your students to continue studying their Dyned for 20-30 minutes, 5 days per week.

**Ryan Dalton - Dyned Teacher**



*Students practice Dyned English program*

**Dear Parents,**

As we come to the end of Term 1, it is a good time to reflect on how much our wonderful students have already learned this year. All primary classes have completed their beginning of year literacy assessments and teachers are busy implementing individualized plans to support the reading instruction of every student.

To learn more about your child's scores and how to help at home, please contact your child's form teacher or English subject teacher.

As you know, last Monday was Halloween. Although we were not able to hold our annual live event, we are delighted that the students wore costumes on October 22 (the last day of school before the end of Term 1 break.) and shared their funny moments.

**Lindsay Stanford - Head of Studies (Year 1-5)**

# Halloween Festival

