



NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Principal's Message: The Wonders of STEM

Dear parents,

Our students often have a delightful sense of curiosity and imagination that naturally inspires them to explore and to learn. It is during their primary school years that this is often sadly lost. Parents have watched their child enter a school system, so excited to participate and study new subjects; but by the time they leave primary school, they no longer have that desire to study in school. They complain bitterly about going every day. Learning is no longer enjoyable. At SIS, we are aware of this and this is why we have STEM.

STEM is important because it incorporates every part of our lives. It is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an integrative and practical approach. *Science* is everywhere in the world around us. It is found in our natural world – the trees, plants, butterflies, erosion on the creek bed, and so much more. *Technology* is continuously expanding into every aspect of our lives. It is part of our students' everyday lives – iPads, Kindles, computer programming, telescopes, and all the way back to the invention of the wheel. *Engineering* is found in the construction of bridges, homes, buildings, and other infrastructures. It also tackles the challenges of changing global weather and environmentally-friendly changes to our home. *Mathematics* is in every occupation, every activity we do in our lives. It is a crucial skill to help them balance bank accounts, buy groceries, manage budgets, and so much more.



Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate subjects, we teach STEM by combining these subjects into a unified learning paradigm based on real-world applications. With the help of the STEM committee, consisting of STEM teachers and members of the newly-developed Student Council, SIS gives the students the opportunities to explore STEM-related concepts so that they can develop a passion for it.

For example, some of the students have learned about gardening. Our school garden serves as a living laboratory to explore the world of Earth and life sciences. Teeming with possibilities, our garden provides students with the opportunity to conduct experiments, view seasonal and land-form changes and watch life cycles unfold before their eyes.

Plans are being made for students to learn about rocket model technology and how to get them to fly with the use of water pressure. This will be an opportunity for students to develop team working abilities, gain engineering and problem-solving aptitudes and showcase their physics skills.

The teaching methods of STEM are inquiry-based, process-focused, and student-centered. Teamwork, collaboration and communication is a major focus. Students have the freedom to think critically, creatively and with innovation. What does all of this mean? Giving students challenges sets them up for life, as they'll learn how to think their way around a problem and try out solutions.

In other words, it is these skills they'll acquire from school and will use them when they are older and in the workforce.

Sincerely yours,
Larry Synclair
Principal



Thanks to wonderful work by our maintenance manager, Huynh Hoang Hiep, and the volunteer help of some of the security guards, the organic garden will soon return *new and improved*. Now twice the size with an irrigation water system installed, the organic garden be available for students. Plans are made for secondary to observe and study the cultivation of the garden. Best of all, the first sign of fruition is predicted in 30 days.



Trần Thị Đông
K2 Co-teacher

Ms. Dong earned her Bachelor's degree in pre-school education because she enjoys being with children. As of now, she has been a preschool teacher for four years. "What's



remarkable in my teaching profession," she says, "is when I see kids get excited when they learn something new, or when they can do something for the first time." Ms. Dong adds that she wants to help students develop and maximize their strengths, confidence and abilities. As for what does she do, after school? She says she enjoys participating in activities related to children, of course.

The students voted and selections for class representatives were decided for this year's Student Council:

Year 5: Tora, Nick Year 8: Bill
Year 6: Nick, Daisy Year 11: Dan
Year 7: An, Andy

STUDENT COUNCIL
SERVE LEAD INSPIRE

On September 16th, representatives voted for Dan as Student Council President, Andy as Student Council Vice-President and An as Student Council Secretary. Principal Larry Synclair and other teachers will participate in Student Council meetings to discuss issues pertaining to the campus as well as this year's Halloween, Christmas Charity Fair, and other fun activities. The president of Student Council will also participate with teachers in the STEM committee to help design and organize STEM projects and competitions.

Celebrating the start of school

On September 7th, students and staff celebrated the official school opening. Accompanying by honorable members of the Department of Education and Training, the ceremony was hosted by Ms. Li and Mr. Phuoc. This special event provided performances from various classes as well as a warm welcome to the new students of Singapore International School.



KIK is always fun!!!

Students in KIK have been enjoying their school activities. The kids have a great time learning English from Ms. Feyza and Mr. Ludwig. Some classes have been learning how to say hello to each other and get to know their names. Other classes have also been learning about animals, numbers and colors, such as examining purple cabbage. The environment is always important and they have been studying about plants. When working on STEM projects, it is wonderful to see them work together as a team or learn how to find the answer themselves.



Lâm Hoàng Thi Thơ

Teachers and friends in K1 say Thi Tho is a wonderful person who never misses any school days. When she comes to school, she always says hello to everyone. Although she is 3 years old, Thi Tho remembers and follows all the classroom rules as well as demonstrates great table manners by eating nicely and always cleaning up after herself. During circle time, she shows her great interest with the lessons and is willing to help teachers and friends. She takes part in the activities, she answers teacher's questions, she colors, and she knows how to build blocks correctly.

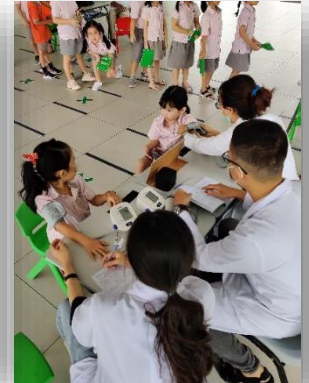


PARKING POLITENESS

The start of the school year requires we drop off and pick up the children from the front of the gate; however, we need to be attentive to limited space in front of the school and curbside. The parking cones in front of the school are a reminder that cars cannot park for long periods in that area. Please drop off or pick up your children from this area if a space is available. If you need to visit the office while children are being transported, please park your vehicle away from the cones near main gate and next to the curb. Safety is always our concern.



At the start of each school year, all students are examined by wonderful doctors and nurses because SIS believes healthier students are better learners. On September 18th, students were examined again. We want to support your child's health to make your child more successful inside and outside of school.



Healthy Eating

Research indicates that kids develop better eating habits when schools provide healthy foods. At SIS, we believe in providing nutritional meals.

Schools play an important role in influencing lifelong healthy eating habits by offering nutritious meals. School meals include milk, fruit, vegetables, and whole grains, and they provide key nutrients like calcium and fiber.

Some students may eat meals in their canteen or classroom, while students may pick up grab-and-go meals from a fast-food restaurant or bring their lunch from home. No matter where the lunch originates, families need to know about the importance of healthy eating habits and the benefits of school meals at SIS.

Healthy students are better learners. Research shows that eating habits and healthy behaviors are connected to academic achievement. For example, a morning breakfast before school is associated with better grades and standardized test scores, reduced absences, and improved memory. At SIS, we have our organic garden. Several times a year, our garden produces vegetables that are free from pesticides and other chemicals. Some of the harvest not only goes to students who help with the cultivation, but also to the school kitchen. From seed to the pot, students learn that food does not always come from market but from the ground with the help of their own hands.

When school meals are served in the cafeteria or classrooms, it's important for students to have enough time to eat, socialize, and enjoy their meal. Researchers say schools should ensure that students have at least 20 minutes for lunch. At SIS, we provide 45 minutes of lunchtime. Having enough seat time is linked to more consumption of fruit, vegetables, lunch entrées, and milk, and less waste.

Trick or Treat!!!

Near the end of the month, ghosts and goblins and probably Captain America, Wonder Woman, Spiderman and who knows what other strange people will roam the corridors. That only means one thing: HALLOWEEN. This also will be a time to wear costumes, have fun in contests, and enjoy some exciting activities. Your teachers will be presenting more information about Halloween day in the near future.



Mid-Autumn Festival

SIS students were dancing, singing, and celebrating at the Mid-Autumn Festival on October 1st. Students and teachers gathered at the multi-purpose room to enjoy entertainment provided by many classes including a quiz and a dragon dancing contest.

