

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 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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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday 2 November – Halloween
- Friday 27 17 November – Book Fair
- Friday 18 December – Christmas Fair
- Friday 20 November – Teachers Day
- Wednesday 9 – Tuesday 15 December – Semester 1 Exams
- 14-18 December – Integrated Semestral exams

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SIS Parents, Caregivers, Family and Friends

A busy 1<sup>st</sup> term concluded with a shortened October holiday in the middle of October and the students have returned full of renewed energy, ready to face the challenges of the second term.

Our Year 4 and 5 students enjoyed their 2-day OBV experience at school and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We also had our Year 7 students participate in their 5-day OBV experience. Although a disrupted week requiring relocation back to HCMC due to Typhoon Molave, the students still all enjoyed their experiences and I am sure have learned a lot. A big thankyou to Ms. Amy and Mr. Phil as well as all OBV staff and SIS Saigon South for everything they did to ensure safety of our students. A detailed report follows later in the newsletter.

Term 2 is also time for our Semester exams. Our teachers will ensure all students are fully prepared and able to perform to the best of their ability. We wish them all the very best for these important exams.

Unfortunately, again due to CoVid-19 restrictions, we are still not permitted to arrange any external field trips/excursions. Some primary classes have made visits to Midori Park to broaden their learning experiences and later this term more classes will follow suit. Hopefully by Term 3 we will be allowed to arrange some excursions.

Lastly, I would like to remind parents of some important requirements from DOET regarding CoVid-19 safety measures when visiting school:

1. Wear masks.
2. Ensure correct hand sanitizing procedures when entering school grounds.
3. Parents are not allowed past the office administration area at any time.

Thank you!

Mark Watling  
Principal

### PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

It has been a busy start to the term for the students in the primary school. All classes are hard at work learning lots of exciting new things. The students will be using this term to prepare for their end of semester exams in December.

Last week, the students in Year 4 and 5 class were very lucky to attend OBV overnight camp at school. The students focused on team building strategies for the two days. They learnt how to work together and cooperate with each other. We are much stronger when we work in a team and I am sure the students will cherish the experience for many years to come.

Finally, remember to check that your children are reading English every night before they go to bed. Twenty minutes reading each night will improve their English skills quickly and they will be able to participate better each day in their lessons.

Until next time, stay safe,  
Mr. Tom Dowden  
Head of Studies-Primary School

### HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Students have been busily decorating their rooms for Halloween celebrations this week and the Secondary school is looking quite a scary place! Photos will be provided next newsletter.

Student Council elections have been held. Congratulations to all of those class representatives who have taken up the challenge of taking on a leadership role.

OBV students from Year 7 have certainly had an adventurous week, having to fly back from Quy Nhon to Saigon South after a severe weather warning. By all accounts they have still managed to have an excellent time!

Could all parents of Year 6 – IGCSE please note that ALL students should now be accessing the Dyned program at home as part of their English homework, a minimum of 4 times per week, for 15 – 20 minutes each time. Parents information sessions will be held once CoVid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Ms. Caroline Mead  
Deputy Principal

### INTEGRATED SCHOOL REPORT

All students of integrated program just finished their first midterm exam. They know where they have done well and where they have not done well. From that point, they will try their best for the rest of the semester 1. Besides learning knowledge, grade 4 and 5 students participated in OBV course at school for 2 days. After the course, they got the necessary skills to support them in solving some of life's situations. During the last week of October, our grade 7 had their 5 day OBV experience, starting in Quy Nhon but then having to be moved to SIS@ Saigon South. I believe our kids had an amazing time together.



Ms. Kim Tri  
HoV

### School Upgrades

Our new soccer field has finally been completed and opened for use on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October. The students are all extremely happy to be able to use it now during breaks and after school.



### Other News

**Halloween Celebrations** – these will be held on Monday 2 November and photos will be posted in next month's Newsletter.

**Christmas Fair** – our Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 18 December. Unfortunately, due to CoVid-19 restrictions, parents will not be allowed to participate this year. Nevertheless, we sincerely hope the children will all still be able to have a fun filled day of activities. Watch out for communication regarding the Fair.

**Book Fair** – a Book Fair is being arranged for Tuesday 17 November. This is an opportunity for students to purchase some books and things to assist them in their learning. The fair will coincide with a literacy week where children will be encouraged to spend time in school and at home reading a new book.

### OBV Year 7 International/Integrated

Thank you to all of the Year 7 parents who allowed their children to attend the OBV program in Quy Nhon. The OBV program is an excellent opportunity for students to step out of the classroom and participate in activities that are new and in an environment that is unfamiliar. This challenges them to grow emotionally and allows them to develop into more confident and independent individuals. While our OBV trip did not go quite as planned, I am confident that the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gained many valuable experiences that I am sure they will not forget quickly.

Although our stay at the OBV base camp was brief, I am glad it gave the students the chance to see the beautiful surroundings of the OBV base camp so that they will know what to expect when they attend the OBV program in future years. It was wonderful to see the Year 7 groups work together to cook their own meals and get themselves up early to start the day with morning exercise surrounded by nature. I would like to commend all of our Year 7 students who attended OBV on the way they conducted themselves during our evacuation from Quy Nhon, due to the threat of a typhoon, to relocate and continue the camp at our Saigon South campus.

The OBV program is tailored to each year level with age-appropriate challenges and activities. Each OBV program builds and extends on the skills learnt in programs from previous years. The OBV program for Year 7's focused on perspective, social competence and meeting new people. The students participate in many large and small group activities and are encouraged to constantly reflect on their contribution, performance and teamwork skills. Fortunately, due to the adaptability of the OBV staff, we were able to continue the remainder of the program and activities with ease at our new location. The highlight of the trip for myself as an accompanying teacher was seeing our Year 7 international students and Year 7 Integrated students change over the course of the camp from being two groups who were unfamiliar with each other to become one large group of friends who intermingled and shared many laughs together. The expertise and professionalism of the OBV instructors leading the program was inspiring and the bonds they formed with their groups over a short period of time was heartwarming to see.

Ms. Amy Newman



**SA 1 EXAMS**

Below is the SA 1 exam schedule for December 2020. Please note that Year 1 will not do exams in semester 1 and that Integrated students do not do Math and Science exams. There will also be Chinese exams during this period. A full, detailed schedule has already been sent home via the student's handbooks.

<b>Semester 1 Exams December 2020</b>		
English Paper 1	Wed-Fri 9-11 December	unspecified
English Paper 2	Thursday 10 December	105 minutes
English Paper 3	Friday 11 December	120 minutes
Mathematics 1	Monday 14 December	60 minutes
Mathematics 2	Monday 14 December	75 minutes
Science	Tuesday 15 December	105 minutes
English Paper 4	Wednesday 9 December	35 minutes

**INTEGRATED CLASSES EXAMS SEMESTER 2**

The semester 1 exams for the Integrated program will take place between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

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

Please remember the school 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.

**We still have a large number of students arriving after 8.25am every day and I urge parents to please make every effort to ensure your children arrive at school timeously in order to be ready for each school day.**

**After school pick-up routine**

We again urge all parents to please ensure that students are picked up within 15 minutes of the end of their respective school days. After 4.00pm, students in Year 1 upwards will wait in the canteen area for their parents whilst KIK students will wait in the area outside the main office from 3.30pm. Please remember that due to continued CoVid-19 restrictions, parents should wait at the school gate to collect children.