



SINGAPORE  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
Since 1986

# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 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

- Wednesday 02 September - National Day (school closed)
- 29 September – 01 October – ISA tests for Year 4, 6 and 8
- 29-30 September – Year 4 OBV at school
- 01 October – Mid Autumn Festival (TBC)
- 14 October – Term 1 ends
- 19 October – Term 2 starts

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SIS Parents, Caregivers, Family and Friends

I would like to welcome everyone back for the start of our school year. We have many new students joining us here at SIS BDNC and we thank both our existing and new parents for choosing our school to educate your children. Students have come back motivated to learn, which is very pleasing to see, and they are enjoying the new refurbishments and upgraded facilities. We are looking forward to the completion of the soccer field in the next couple of weeks.

As was recently advised through email to all parents recently, there have been several enhancements to our school Academic Program. These include:

1. Changes in the textbooks for English and Mathematics – we are now using the 'My Pals are Here' books.
2. Introduction of DynEd English to replace our EPP program.
3. Introduction of STEM classes in the weekly timetable for all classes.
4. Compulsory Vietnamese Study program for all Vietnamese students in International classes.

Our school will continue to focus on the teaching of Reading, a comprehensive school wide reading program launched last year, that will assist students with phonemic awareness (sounds), phonics (letter sound relationships), vocabulary (knowing the meaning of words), fluency (being able to decode words and read smoothly) and comprehension (understanding what they are reading). We ask you to support this by ensuring your children read every day.

I look forward to a very rewarding, successful and enjoyable school year ahead and extend best wishes all our students and parents.

Thank you!  
Mark Watling  
Principal

### **STAFF UPDATE**

As well as a change of leadership we have some other key appointments. We are very fortunate to have a number of new positions added to our staffing schedule. Ms. Ayn Magtrayo (Philippines), Ms. Freda Matseke (South Africa), Ms. Thu Thao (Vietnam), Mr. Jolin Richardson (Australia), Mr. Christopher Raggatt (UK) and Ms. Chen Jing (China) have all enjoyed their first few weeks at BDNC. Two other new teachers have arrived in Vietnam and are undergoing their required quarantine and will join us on Monday 14 September. They are Mr. Phil McCann (Ireland) and Ms. Elsabe Venter (South Africa). We also have new additions to our supporting staff with Ms. Ngoc as our Science Lab assistant and Ms. Thi Nga as our high school Assistant Teacher. We also welcome our new Office Manager, Ms. Dung, as well as our new Cashier Office Administrator, Ms. Hang Nga.

Interviews have been concluded for the position of Deputy Principal and we hope to make an announcement soon regarding this.

### **LATE ARRIVALS TO SCHOOL**

When students arrive late to school could they please go to the office first. We have been reviewing our practices and want to tighten up on how we manage student attendance and ask that if your child arrives after 8:35am they report to the office first to receive a Late Arrival slip to then hand to their form teacher for recording on our new attendance system.

### **DynEd ENGLISH**

This year we have started the DynEd program for students Year 3 and above. Ms. Caroline Mead (Head of Studies-Secondary) has done a fantastic job with Mr. Tom Dowden and other teachers ensuring our students have sat the placement test exam. This will help us track our student's progress in English. Students should be regularly doing DynEd at home on the computer and this will help to accelerate their learning.

### **IGCSE PARENTS**

Parents of our IGCSE 1 & 2 students, you have an important decision to make regarding the next steps for your child's educational future. We would like to operate with either the Cambridge A-Levels or the NCC Foundation University International Diploma Program from next year. With a number of uncertainties existing with overseas travel you may want to consider one of these programs at BDNC. To do this we will need sufficient numbers and adequate time to plan and prepare. Please start thinking now and we will invite you to the school shortly to discuss further.

We met with some students last year who were not taking their study commitments seriously with the IGCSE program. Parents please be aware this is a fulltime program and homework is set weekly. There is never an instance where students will not have homework, revision or readings to do.

### **LEARNING WEBSITES**

We will not be continuing with McOnline this Year. Instead we are looking at granting our students from Year 1-6 access to the new McEduHub Online program - an interactive site that supports the English, mathematics, English and Chinese that we teach at SIS. Teachers have been given temporary access to this new online resource and will be sharing some of the programs available with students during the first semester.

All students Prep - Year 3 and on the EFL program will be registered for Raz-Kids, a guided reading program that children can do at home. It allows them to listen to and read stories at the appropriate difficulty level and answer questions about the stories. Please encourage your children to spend time on Raz-Kids each week. .

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

After school clubs and activities have commenced, so please encourage the students to attend at least one club activity a week.

## School Upgrades

We have also been very fortunate to have some school building upgrades over the summer break as is shown in some photos below. Our new STEM room is almost ready for use for our new STEM classes introduced this academic year and I know our students are eagerly awaiting to test and try out the new STEM and robotics equipment. Our new soccer field is nearing completion and I can sense the students are looking forward to testing it out soon. Cleaning and painting was done on our pool, which is looking in great shape now. Some classrooms in Block A underwent some repairs, maintenance and painting and we had a beautiful new Singapore International School sign put up above the administration area in Block A.



## 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.

### **Backpack Checklist**

Before students come to school each day, please remind them to:

- Pack water bottles and healthy snacks (no candy, gum or soda)
- Pack swim clothes or come in PE uniform. (*if scheduled*)
- Pack books, notebooks, handbooks and any forms that needed to be signed.