

# NEWSLETTER

September 2021

## 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

- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Term 1 Classroom Based Assessments finalized
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Halloween Celebrations
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Term 1 Progress reports issued
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Term 1 holiday starts
- Monday 1st November 2021 – Term 2 starts
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Teacher's Day

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SIS Parents, Caregivers, Family and Friends

It was tremendous news during the last week of September to finally see the opening up of Binh Duong from the lockdowns and restricted movement we have experienced for the past 3 months, and so heartwarming to see lots of activity and movement in and around our province once again. The past few months have been exceptionally difficult for all of us, least of all our students who have so wonderfully embraced and adapted to the needs of online learning in order to keep their development moving forward. I hope that very soon we will all be able to see each other again face-to-face and continue our lives 'normally'.

It has been especially wonderful to witness the enthusiastic engagement of our KIK students enrolled in Online Learning. Learning online for anybody is never easy, especially for very young children, and we are ever grateful for our students, teachers and especially parents for the wonderful effort being put in to ensure the learning and development of our young minds is able to continue.

Despite lockdowns and learning from home, the school was still able to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival and rejoice in the concepts of **Gathering, Thanksgiving and Praying** that this important celebration brings forth. Please read more about this in the following articles from other school leadership members.

Teachers are busy gathering and finalizing term 1 assessments. Soon they will start preparing the Term 1 Progress reports which will give an indication to all students and parents of their progress so far in this school year. I am exceptionally proud of all our students, teachers and parents for the commitment shown to overcome adversity and to persevere in choosing to always make the best of current situations. There is a lot more learning going on in all our lives than just that taking place academically during lessons – learning that will for sure make us better equipped people for what lies ahead.

Take care and stay safe everyone.

Mark Watling  
Principal

### PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

It is a pleasure to see how well our students have adapted to online learning. Classes are going well across the school and the majority of students attend all lessons and arrive on time. If your child cannot attend a lesson or is late, please let the Form Teacher know.

Students have enjoyed talking about our school Values: patience and generosity. It is heartwarming to know that our caring community takes time to reflect on the positive impact Values have in our lives.

We all enjoyed the Lantern festival and many students, parents and teachers made a great effort to design and craft lanterns. Thank you for your involvement in this.

Later this month we will have more fun as we approach Halloween. More news will follow.

Finally, I want to thank all of our parents and carers, for the very special role you continue to fulfil in helping our students, as we continue our online learning adventure. Many new skills have been acquired during this time. Just one request - sending work to teachers can be a challenge, especially for our younger students. We would appreciate your help with this if possible.

I wish you a joyful October.

Ms. Kathleen Boyle  
Head of Studies - Primary School

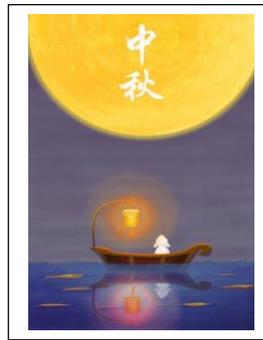
### HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Online learning continues with hopefully an end in sight! We missed our normal Moon Festival this year, but students still got into the spirit of things, competing in Kahoot competitions, and learning of the legends that brought the festival into being. Some designed posters to celebrate. Some IGCSE1 and 7LA posters are included below.

Although we look forward to all being together again in the classroom, seeing the way that most students have adapted to studying online has been impressive, with students turning in work for assessment regularly and even completing tests and quizzes online!

I encourage parents to still monitor their children however, and check if teachers have sent emails regarding incomplete work or attendance. Working together is the best way that we can encourage students to be the best that they can be.

Ms. Caroline Mead  
Deputy Principal

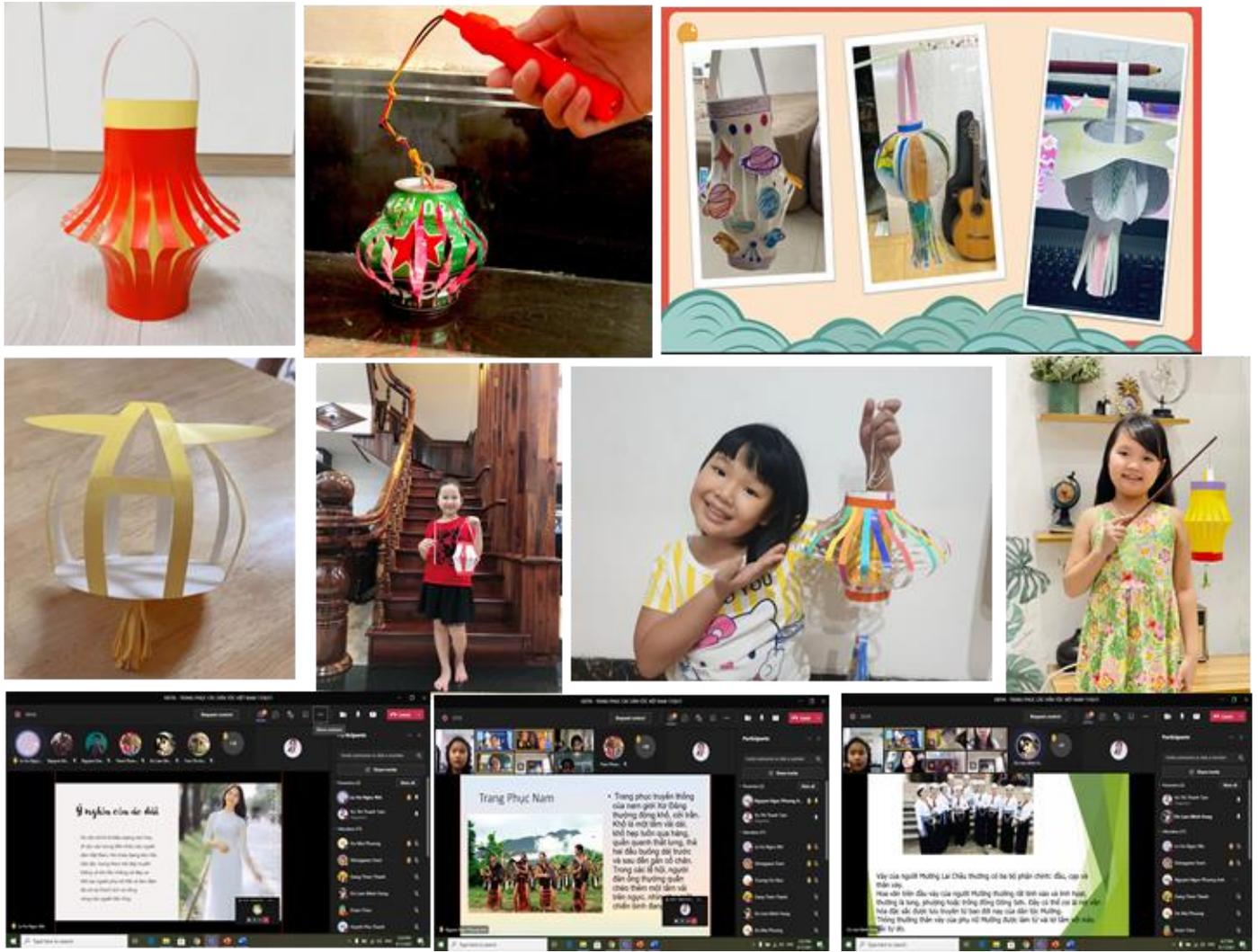


**INTEGRATED SCHOOL REPORT**

This month had a special day for all our students. This was a Mid - Autumn Festival day. To celebrate this day, each student in all the class made the lantern. All students were so excited and lovely with their lanterns. These photos were sent to teacher by the parents.

Besides that, I would like to share with you about Y5 Int’g students. On September 10,16,17,23 students made their presentation by the power point and they presented in front of the class. After this activity, all students talked to Ms Tâm they love their teachers too much because now they know teachers have to working hard to prepare the lesson to teach them. I want to share with parents about their work. Please take a look at their below photos. Thanks so much Ms Tâm for giving the students that experience.

Ms. Kim Tri  
HoV



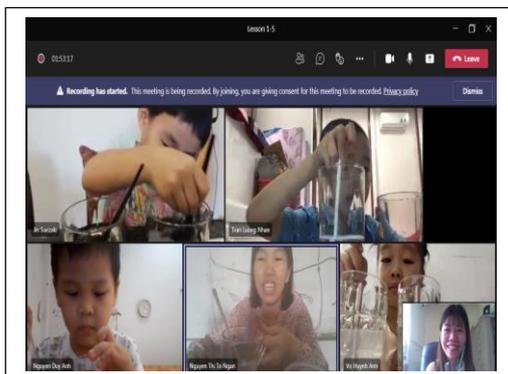
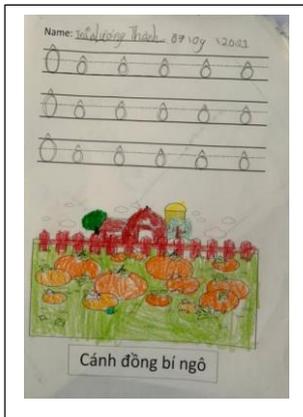
## KIK SCHOOL REPORT

With K2 and Prep students, this is the first time they learn online so our school is worried about them a lot. The teachers of each class are trying their best to support them. All our students become comfortable in navigating TEAMS. We are so proud of them.

We would like to personally extend a very big and heartfelt thank you for parents' assistance in helping our kids' learning.

These are some picture of class during the learning day and some students' work. All students enjoy their learning time. They are so lovely!

Ms. Kim Tri  
HoV



## **STAFF UPDATES**

Approval has at last been granted for our new teachers to travel to Vietnam. As a result, we are hoping to welcome the following teachers from the beginning of term 2:

1. Ms. Karen Delahunty – Year 1 International
2. Mr. Tadhg Curran – Year 5 International
3. Ms. Rene Engelbrecht – K2 International

The following permanent appointments have also recently been made:

1. Ms. Rina van der Walt – Year 2 and 3 Integrated English and Social Studies.
2. Mr. Philip van der Walt – secondary specialist teacher.

We are also busy in the process of making offers for our final two permanent positions:

1. Mr Brett Gorges – Year 6 International form teacher.
2. Ms. Valerie Domingue – K1 International teacher.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following teachers for willingly assisting us during term 1 to cover for our teachers yet to arrive:

1. Mr. Lyon Castro – Mr. Lyon will transfer on a permanent contract to our Can Tho campus to join his wife who is already teaching there.
2. Ms. Naomi Motiang.

## **GENERAL REMINDERS**

### **Online School start and finish times**

Please remember that during online learning we will follow the normal timetable schedule.

School start: 8.25am

School finish: 3.15pm for Year 1-4 International, 3.30pm for KIK, 4.00pm for all other classes

### **Healthy Food Policy**

At SIS we teach children the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle. We ask all parents to assist children whilst at home to continue to follow good eating habits. Also, during online learning, please ensure that children take regular breaks as advised by teachers and use these times to get away from their desks, walk around and do some stretching exercises. Also, please ensure your children drink lots of water throughout the day.

## CYBER SAFETY

The Internet can be a wonderful place to learn, shop, play games, and talk to friends. Unfortunately, there are also predators, identity thieves, and others online who may try to harm you and your children. In order to be safe online, it's important for you and your children to be aware of the dangers that exist when using online programs and applications.

Many children are confident that they know how to be safe online. However, there are a few reasons children are often more at risk. They may not always think about the consequences of their actions, which can cause them to share too much information about themselves. Children are also sometimes specifically targeted by cyberbullies or predators.

As a parent or guardian, you can help to keep your children safe by **talking to them about their Internet use, teaching them about online dangers, and learning everything you can about the Internet** so you can make informed decisions.

### **Different types of online dangers:**

1. Young children and teenagers may find inappropriate content on the Internet, such as pornography or obscene language. There is also a possibility of cyberbullying or cyberharassment from others online.
2. It's important for children to be careful whenever they're connected to the Internet because online dangers are not just limited to **bad websites**. Chat rooms, computer games, and even social networking sites can be risky. If your children have mobile phones, they'll also need to be careful when texting or when accessing the Internet on their phones.

It can be difficult to keep your children completely safe online. It is always advisable to set up **parental controls** and extremely important to teach your children to make good decisions online—even when you're not around.

Below are some general tips you can use when teaching your children about online safety:

- **Learn everything you can about the Internet.** Being familiar with the Internet will not only help you understand the risks, but it will also help you talk to your children.
- **Set standards for what your children can and cannot do online.** It's important to make rules for your children so they know what's expected of them. Don't wait until something bad happens to start creating guidelines. Teach them about language etiquette and ensure they themselves never use bad language.
- **Teach your children to keep personal information private.** It's usually a bad idea to post personal information online such as phone numbers and addresses.
- **Teach your children to use social networking sites safely.** Many sites allow sharing of photos and videos of themselves, as well as have conversations with friends and strangers. If your children share something with friends, it's still possible for it to get into the wrong hands. Generally, they should only post something online if they're comfortable with everyone in the world seeing it.
- **Encourage your children to speak up if they encounter a problem.** If your child gets into trouble online, you'll want him or her to come to you instead of hiding it. Keep in mind that your children could accidentally encounter a bad site, even if they're doing everything right.

## CYBER SAFETY

- **Talk to your children about Internet use.** Talk to your children regularly about how they use the Internet. If they're in the habit of talking to you about the Internet, they'll be more willing to come to you if there's a problem.

Here is an article which compares some of the best parental control applications for devices.  
[The best parental control apps for Android and iPhone 2021 | Tom's Guide \(tomsguide.com\)](#)

Here are some further articles sharing parenting tips in the digital age and adverse effects of too much device usage.

[Kids & Tech: Tips for Parents in the Digital Age - HealthyChildren.org](#)

[How to Make a Family Media Use Plan - HealthyChildren.org](#)

[Constantly Connected: Adverse Effects of Media on Children & Teens - HealthyChildren.org](#)

Reference link: "*Teaching kids about Internet safety*",

<https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/internetsafetyforkids/teaching-kids-about-internet-safety/1/>