



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ BINH DUONG

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2023

## 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

- 22 March – World Water Day
- 23 March – Fire Drill
- 3-7 April – Student Protection Week
- 3-7 April – Student Survey
- 6 April – Sports Day – South Schools
- 7 April – STEM Day
- 7 April – last day of Term 3
- 17 April – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Term 4

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SIS Parents, Caregivers, Family and Friends

Term 3 has gotten off to a busy start and the students have all settled quickly back into school life after their Tet holiday.

We had a successful conclusion to our school Spelling Bee competition for primary and secondary levels and we congratulate all our winners who will now go through to contest the South schools SIS finals at the end of March.

The Year 1-9 Integrated classes are writing their mid-semester 2 tests during the week of 6-10 March and we wish them all success.

On 13 March we will welcome a new teacher, Ms. Elzet, who will be teaching English and ICT in the upper primary and secondary levels. We look forward to the contributions she will be made to the learning of our students.

On 22 March, we will host activities to celebrate World Water Day. Our Student Council has been busy putting together what will be a day filled with raising awareness about the importance of water as well as some fun games involving water.

The day after this, we plan to hold a Fire Drill where the school will practice the procedures required to be followed to gather at safe places in the event that a fire should unfortunately break out at school.

In closing, I would like to remind parents of the school policy regarding any sick or injured children at school. If it is deemed necessary that a student needs to be taken to the hospital for further treatment, please note that the school will always call the parents first and advise them of our intentions to transport their child to a hospital before actually taking them. A child will never be taken to the hospital before parents have been notified and provided their consent.

**Mark Watling**  
Principal



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## PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Dear parents,

This month we welcomed quite a few new students as well as Mr. Kevin Rogers, to help with our K1 and K2 LA classes. We hope that you are all settled in that you will be happy at SIS BDNC.

The after-school clubs or activities for second semester started. Students could choose from a variety of activities. It is good to see that many learners learn new skills and getting out of our “comfort zones”. During these activities students also have the opportunity to practice their English skills in an informal way. Most teachers organized “Parent Teacher – conferences”, where teachers could explain to the parents in what areas they need to improve. Thank you to every parent that care and those that came to school.

Our Year 3 and Year 5 students completed the ISA exams online. Our students really tried their best.

The “Toys for Joy” soft toys were taken to an orphanage nearby. Ms. Lune, Ms. Phuong and Ms. Hai represented the school. Thank you to every parent and teacher that donated a soft toy. The smiles on the faces make efforts like these really worth it.

Congratulations to our Primary Spelling Bee winners for 2023 are Nguyen Duy Phong and Pham Vinh Dat. They will participate in the School-Wide competition. We wish them all the best.

**We would like to encourage every Primary School student to read more English stories and books. Good readers are usually good learners.**

Mr. Philip van der Walt  
Head of Studies - Primary School





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## HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

As I write this report, we have already reached the middle of Term 3. There has been a lot that has happened and a lot left to be done - indicating that the school year is full of activity and a wide variety of learning experiences.

The Parent Teacher Conferences took place in early February, and it was encouraging as teachers to see the level of support from a number of parents. As the student's education - and their progress at school - is dependent on the cooperation between teachers, students and parents, your attendance at these opportunities is always highly appreciated.

On 24 February we held the school finals of the Spelling Bee competition. Competitors were very nervous and were encouraged by their classmates. To be put under so much pressure is not easy and we congratulate ALL the finalists who took part. Two overall winners were chosen from the High School. They are Aditya Kumar (IGCSE 2) and Vuong My Ky (Y9A). They now have to master a list of 3000 difficult words while preparing for the online competition between the SIS schools in the North and those from the South. This takes place on 24 March.

The year 6's and 7's will be experiencing their first "away" OBV camp from 17-21 April. They will be accompanied by some of their teachers. The students will no doubt be very excited about this unique experience. If parents have any concerns, they are encouraged to contact the school.

Plans are being made for the End of Year Concert which is due to take place in June. Form classes are currently selecting performance pieces and rehearsals will start as soon as the programme has been approved. This is bound to be an absolute highlight of the year. Watch out for updates!

For our senior students "exam season" is fast approaching. IGCSE 2 and AS students start writing their final exams at the end of April. IGCSE 1 and other high school students will continue with classroom-based assessments until they write semester exams in May.

### Focus on Sport

Message from Mr Peter:

Sport at SIS Binh Duong is thriving this term. All students have been taught the basics of Basketball whilst our younger children will benefit greatly from gaining passing and catching skills during P.E lessons. Our future P.E program will involve Badminton for Grade 6 to Grade 9 and Football skills for our younger students. The school is also encouraging sports activities during break times and lunch. Students can play Badminton, Basketball and Football. On Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> many of our students will be attending The SIS Inter School Sports event at SIS Saigon South. Our students will be taking part in Football, Badminton and a Swimming/Basketball event. We will have Grade 6 - Grade 8 and Grade 9 - IGCSE teams attending. We are all looking forward to an enjoyable and competitive day.

Ms. Lizelle MacLachan  
Head of Studies - Secondary

## INTEGRATED SCHOOL REPORT

To celebrate Lunar New Year Event, all students from Y1 to Y5 made the Ao dai project. Students and teachers of each class had a great time making the beautiful ao dai. We are extremely proud of them. Please see some below photos to see their lovely projects.

After semester 1 exam, parents and teachers met together to discuss about our students' learning. It is pleasing to note agreement that teachers and parents will continue to support our kids to be better every day. Next month, from 6 March to 10 March 2023, all integrated classes will have the middle semester exams. We wish our students will have good results.

Besides learning, Y6 and Y7 are doing their History project. The name of the project is "Mô hình hóa lược đồ cuộc kháng chiến chống quân Nguyên năm 1287 đến 1288". We will share the results of their projects in the next school newsletter.





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## **STAFF UPDATE**

1. Mr. Alex Richardson joined us on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 to teach upper primary English and Math
2. Ms. Nicola Fouche has extended her contract until the end of the school year.
3. Ms. Elzet Smit will join us on 13 March as ICT and English teacher in upper primary and secondary.

## **OBV**

There have been no classes attending OBV so far this term. The OBV week for Year 8 and Year 9 has been postponed until May 2023, whilst our Year 6 and Year 7 will attend their OBV course in April 2023.

## **STEM UPDATE**

This semester's STEM theme was robotics. All year levels began to experiment with various kits, including mTiny for our Year 1 students, Codey Rocky for Years 2-4, Ukit Advanced for Years 5 and 6, Ukit Explore for Years 6 and 7, and Micro:bit, Scratch and Programming for Year 8 - IGCSE 2. Our STEM Teachers have planned fun, exciting, and challenging lessons and activities for our students to improve their problem-solving, critical thinking, and engineering abilities, and the students are having a great time.

This month and the following month are also dedicated to preparing for the upcoming STEM Day (Day 2) on Friday, April 7, 2023. There will be new exciting activities for our secondary students, such as a programming hackathon, STEM Amazing Race, STEM Exhibits, Robotic Challenges, and many more.

## **STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARDS – February 2023**

Class	February
Y1	Elly An Haydock Nguyen Khanh Quynh Dan
Y2	Nguyen Phuc Thanh Lam Tham Pham Anh
Y3	Nguyen Quoc Anh Lam Nguyen Truc Linh
Y4	Nguyen Huynh Minh Long Nguyen Hoang Thien Kim
Y5	Doan Gia Han Hoang Bao Kim
Y6	Mi Yageni Ngo Minh Triet
Y7	Marcia Ancilla Junarta Doan Mai My Ha
Y8	Nguyen Bao Dang Pham Hoang Quan
Y9	Lam Kim Hung
IG1	Shi Yi Yan and Chang Chen Yi