

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

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

- 3rd – 7th October – Parent surveys due.
- 3rd – 7th October – Year 6-9 Integrated mid semester exams.
- 6th - 7th October – Year 1-5 Integrated mid semester exams.
- 14th October – Classroom Assessments finalised for Term 1.
- 17th October – Term 1 Progress Reports issued.
- 18th – 23rd October – Term 1 holiday.
- 24th October – Term 2 starts.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SIS Parents, Caregivers, Family and Friends

September was another busy, albeit again challenging, month at school.

We were able to celebrate the Lantern Festival live for the first time in 2 years, and the children all had a very enjoyable day – including watching a live Lion Dance show as well as being able to display lanterns which they had made during class. Some photos can be seen later in the newsletter.

This year we have reintroduced Student of the Month awards. Early in September we were proud to award many students recognition of being exemplary students. We look forward to seeing all students engaged in trying to receive one of these monthly awards during the rest of the year.

Teachers are busy finalizing term 1 assessments. The Integrated classes write mid-semester tests in first week of October. Term 1 Progress reports will be issued on 17 October - these will give an indication to all students and parents of their progress so far. We are, as always, proud of all our students, teachers and parents for the commitment they continue to show in ensuring students complete their learning to the best of their ability.

There are some staff changes taking place from October 2022, as detailed later in this newsletter. Most important of these is the arrival of a new secondary/high school Science teacher who will have started by the time this newsletter has been sent. Also, there is good news regarding Mathematics and PE teachers. So, we are hopeful that the school will be fully staffed by November 2022. Teacher shortages are never ideal for any school, but assure everyone that the school remained committed to providing all students with all the learning requirements to complete Term 1 work.

A Parent Satisfaction Survey will be conducted in October, and I look forward to some positive, constructive feedback.

Take care and be safe, and here's wishing all students, parents and staff happy holidays from 18-23 October.

Mark Watling
Principal



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PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

September was a rather busy one for our Primary students. It seems that all our Primary students are happy and eager to learn.

Student of the Month Awards were awarded for most classes. With this we encourage students to really try their best. It is not only awarded for the best academic achievers, as other criteria are also included to determine the Student of the Month for each class.

The Mid-Autumn (Lantern Festival) was celebrated on the 9th of September. It was a fun day where students had lots of fun. The atmosphere at school was awesome as most primary students came to school with their traditional outfits. Students had the opportunity to participate in the “catwalk”- parade where they could show the lanterns made by themselves. For the first time, in the last few years, we had a group at school that entertained us with their “dragon dancing.” Even our little ones enjoyed their outfits, the drums and their stunning performance.

Our Primary students had the opportunity to do auditions for the school’s music group. We are blessed to have a lot of talented students in our school and we are looking forward to their performances. Our Primary students and teachers worked very hard the last few weeks. Students and teachers are finalizing the Classroom Based Assessments to prepare the progress reports for Term 1.

Let’s keep the following quote by Robin Sharma in mind as we near the end of the first term.
“Starting strong is good. Finishing strong is epic.”

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

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

After four weeks of learning, growing and enjoying what the school offers students on a social level, we have entered a time for reflection on what has been learned as the high school students complete various end-of-term assessments. Integrated students will spend the week of 5 – 9 October writing MOET tests while International students are busy with various assessments to monitor their progress. Each student will receive a report on 17 October and the school will then break for 4 days and return on 24 October for Term 2. The Student Council elected Young My Thy and Aditya Kumar Shubham as their President and Vice-President for the coming academic year and they also had their inaugural meeting this past week. Many topics were discussed and some exciting plans were proposed. It remains exciting to watch this new facet of our school unfold.

We wish our students a productive and successful last few days of term and a relaxing brief vacation to take a deep breath before another important term begins. At the same time, we thank parents for their continued support of the teaching process.

Ms. Lizelle MacLachan
Head of Studies - Secondary

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INTEGRATED SCHOOL REPORT

September had a special day for all our students – it was the Mid - Autumn Festival Day. To celebrate this day, each student in all the classes made lanterns. All students were so excited to perform and show off their lanterns in the school hall after watching and enthralling lion dance. Please see some below photos of each class.

From 3 October to 7 October 2022, Secondary students will have the middle semester tests. From 6 October to 7 October 2022, Primary students will do their tests. We wish the students all the best and hope they will have good results.

Ms. Kim Tri
Head of Vietnamese



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STEM UPDATE

This month has seen some exciting developments in our STEM program! Ms. Maika was appointed STEM coordinator! Congratulations, Ms. Maika! Under her leadership, our STEM teachers have been hard at work with some exciting additions to their STEM classes.

Our Year 1s took their first step by understanding the very basics of input and output with the M-tiny kit. The Year 3s have started using conditions to execute instructions; IF they succeed! For the first time, the Year 4s have started using our Creative Labs kit to measure movements and vibrations with the gyro sensor. Our Year 5s have been learning about sound as an output. Let us hope they will be able to control their sound output during other classes! The Year 6s have been learning about RGB LEDs and how they work. We are sure their ideas will light up many avenues moving forward. The Year 7s have also been using the Creative labs to create a piggy bank. We are sure this will come in handy with the global economic downturn.

Ms. Odezza has also used our Micro Bit kits in her classes for the first time. The IG2s were using sensors to determine the moisture in soil. Perhaps, SIS Binh Duong will be growing perfect vegetables? Overall, our teachers have been hard at work and most importantly, adding creativity and a dynamic approach to our STEM classes!

Mr. Jonathan Bosman
STEM Coordinator





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STAFF NEWS

I am pleased to announce the arrival of Ms. Anastasia Oldnall, who will assume the role of our new Science teacher, starting on 3rd October 2022. I look forward to the positive influence she will make on the learning of our students in Science.

Our new PE teacher, Ms. Sephora Paret, is now unable to take up her contract. I am, however, happy to announce that we have managed to quickly find a replacement for her, who will start in November 2022. The new PE teacher is Mr. Peter Harwood, who many will remember did a short stint with us 2 years ago.

We are busy in the process of offering a contract to a new secondary/high school Mathematics teacher, and if all goes well she will start in Term 2.

Ms. Rina van der Walt is the new Y5LA class teacher in place of Mr. David Northall, who left us at the end of September.

We are busy preparing an offer for a new teacher to take over Ms. Rina's Y4A and Y5A classes, and are hoping she will be able to start early in Term 2. In the meantime, Ms. Nicola Fouché will assume part time temporary teaching to assist in covering the English for Y4A and Y5A classes.

LANTERN FESTIVAL PHOTOS





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ONLINE LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

DynEd ENGLISH

We continue to encourage all students from year 3 upwards to use this program at home for at least 3 hours a week. This will help to accelerate their learning. We are already seeing the huge benefits of this program in those students using it regularly.

McEduHub and KOOBITS

All International students from Year 1-6 have accounts for McEduhub, whilst all International students from Year 3-6 have accounts for Koobits Math program.

We encourage students to use these programmes to supplement their learning in class – they are all linked to the Singapore curriculums and will add a lot of value to those that fully engage in them.

GENERAL REMINDERS AND UPDATES

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.

LATE ARRIVALS TO SCHOOL

We continue to request parents to please ensure that their children are dropped off at school before 8.25 am. Unfortunately, we still have many students arriving in class after this time which is disruptive to our start to the school day.

AFTERNOON PICK UP

We continue to request parents to please ensure that their children are collected from school within 15 minutes of them finishing their daily school activities, and before 5.00pm at the absolute latest. Unfortunately, we still have many students staying at school until well after 5.00pm and this is really not fair on them.

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.

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

- Singapore International School insists on students wearing the full school uniform.
- Students should not wear non-uniform clothes over the uniform.
- Students must wear covered shoes.