



NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

I do hope all students and families have settled well into the new Academic year. Great to see such pleasing numbers in attendance for our recent meet and greet time.

This is our first newsletter for the 2019/20 Academic year. Each month a newsletter will be sent home to all families and will also be on the school website. The newsletters will focus communicating the successes, celebrations and coming events for SIS@SS.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some important information that will help with communication and information concerning your child's education at SIS@SS.

→ **Student handbooks.**

Please check your child's handbook each day if possible. Handbooks are used mainly as a communication resource with the teachers, students and parents. Please always contact your child's teacher if you have concerns or need more information or understanding of what is happening at school.

→ **Student information.**

For student safety it is important that all student information is checked and kept up to date on a regular basis. Please contact the school office if any student details change throughout the school term. Please make sure your email address is current. The school will continue to move towards sending emails home to make communication more effective and to do our bit to help care for the environment.

→ **School uniform.**

The school prides itself on having such an attractive and functional school uniform. The uniform policy is clearly set out in all student handbooks. Parental support with the consistent wearing of our uniform is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate in contacting us at SIS@SS if there are any information or concerns with any aspect of student learning.

Yours in learning,

Mark Priddis – Principal

Dear Parents,

As the new school year moves forward you may be wondering what you can do to help your child improve academically. The short answer is: reading.

- Reading to your child – regardless of the language of the text, sitting with someone and being read to have many benefits to learning. Children hear the proper pace and inflection, are able to associate sounds with symbols (words/letters), and perhaps most importantly gain a sense that being literate is valued by those they look up to and respect.
- Your child reading to you (or a sibling) – practicing reading out loud, in English or Vietnamese, helps to build literacy skills that can transfer to different learning situations. It can allow you to better understand your child's proficiency, see their progress, and also builds stronger, more supportive relationships.
- Modelling reading – set aside time each day for everyone in the home to be reading. Doing so even as little as 30 minutes per day can model good reading habits, which helps children to value it and increases the chances they will read for pleasure as they get older.
- Reading resources – students in Years 1-6 can access MC Online and RAZ Kids from home. Each of these online resources allows children to use materials at their current ability level that also help to track their progress and development.

Reading truly is the fundamental skill around which others revolve. Making sure your child is a strong reader will go a long way towards helping her/him success in other subjects as well.

If you have any questions about what you can do at home to further support your child's academic development please do not hesitate to contact the school and schedule a discussion.

Respectfully,

Robert Madden - Deputy Principal (Pedagogy Coach).



Kindergarten Student Activities

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year! We have had a great start to the new academic year. I am very excited to be a part of the Singapore International School at Saigon South team. Welcome to all new students and welcome back to all returning students! I am looking forward to an amazing year filled with learning and exploration.

Each week look for information about what your child is learning, homework tasks, comments and reminders in their Student Handbook. The Student Handbook, Newsletters, and messages from the Office are the best way to stay informed about all of the activities and learning taking place in school.

Take note of important upcoming dates as we have many wonderful celebrations and events this Semester; the first of which is Mid-Autumn Festival celebrated on September 13th. We also look forward to Teacher's Day in November and our annual Christmas Charity Fair in December.

This year we continue our focus on an important component of our learning program: STEM. STEM education involves the study of science and mathematics, and the meaningful integration of technology and engineering to provide opportunities for innovative problem solving.

Additionally, students in years 4 and above participate in Outward Bound Vietnam. Through participating in various teamwork activities students build confidence and learn important life skills.

We also continue to emphasize the Virtues Program in order to help children to develop behaviorally as much as they do academically. This is vital to maintaining the Eastern Values that help to set us apart from many other international schools.

If you ever have any questions about events, programs, or your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact us to make an appointment. I looking forward to all the great memories to be made this year and continuing to observe our students learn and grow.

Yours faithfully,

Caroline Atkinson - Deputy Principal



Student activities during the lesson

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the new School Year 2019-2020!

In the joyful atmosphere of the first day of school, both students and teachers are excited back to school after the summer vacation.

The classroom door opened, the tables and chairs were neatly arranged, the classrooms were decorated in a friendly manner. At school, there are teachers and friends who will always stand by the students in all learning activities, fun activities ... to help them grow up day by day.

This is the second year of school, students in Year 4 and 5 has participated in OBV programme at school and Year 6 to up in Quy Nhon City. The beautiful coastal city of Quy Nhon with friendly people is the destination of many tourists. This course is instructed by OBV coaches. The students will be trained necessary skills for life. At the same time, they also take part in learning STEM projects. STEM projects learning will help students reinforce scientific knowledge for the future.



Class Decoration

Mdm. Phung Thi Tuyet Minh
Senior Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents,

On behalf of all the KIK teaching staff, I would like to thank you for sharing your children with us. The school year begins with simply following the routine of the school day at a pace that allows each student to take in the new experiences. There are classmates and teachers to get to know, routines to learn, cubbies to find, and new activities to discover. It is exciting to see the learning that is already taking place, such as walking to our classrooms, taking care of school equipment, identifying and writing our names, identifying letters and numbers, and making new friends.

Adjusting to a new place, new rules and new adults is a process that takes time and trust. Children are learning how to cope, listen to other adults, trust, share, and communicate. With your support and confidence, this transition will be a positive one. We are looking forward to a fun-filled year of learning with your family!

Lindsay Stanford - Head of Studies (Kindergarten)



Class Decoration

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to returning students and all our new families!

Kindergarten has gotten off to a smooth start. The children are learning how to form a community and to be comfortable in a school setting. They are learning school routines and expectations, trusting class environment, initiating their play, exploring different materials, making new friends, and learning two golden rules: be kind and be safe.

We know that, for some of you, this is your child's first time away from home. Below are few tips to ease your child's separation anxiety:

- **Create quick good-bye rituals:** Keep it short and sweet. If you linger, the transition time does too. And so will the anxiety.
- **Be consistent.** Try to do the same drop-off with the same ritual at the same time each day you separate to avoid unexpected factors. A routine can diminish the heartache and will allow your child to simultaneously build trust in her independence and in you.
- **Attention:** When separating, give your child full attention, be loving, and provide affection. Then say good-bye quickly despite her antics or cries for you to stay.
- **Keep your promise.** You'll build trust and independence as your child becomes confident in her ability to be without you when you stick to your promise of return.
- **Be specific, child style.** When you discuss your return, provide specifics that your child understands. If you know you'll be back by 3:30 pm, tell it to your child on his terms; for example, say, "*I'll be back after afternoon snack.*" Define time he can understand. Talk about your return from a business trip in terms of "*sleeps.*" Instead of saying, "I'll be home in 3 days," say, "*I'll be home after 3 sleeps.*"
- **Practice being apart.** Ship the children off to grandma's home, schedule playdates, allow friends and family to provide child care for you (even for an hour) on the weekend. Before starting school, practice going to school and your good-bye ritual before you even have to part ways. Give your child a chance to prepare, experience, and thrive in your absence!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your family. Your child will have lots of learning opportunities while having fun!

Le Trang Nhung – K2 Integrated Teacher

Dear Parents,

The academic year 2019-2020 has kicked off, as usual, with the release of our Cambridge results. Another great set of results by our students has shown their work ethic has paid off. These results also give teachers much to reflect on, as we continue to strive for excellence and find areas where we can improve our results even further.

This month we also have our parent's meet and greet, and I encourage parents to attend, in order to meet our middle school and high school staff, who are very interested in meeting you. In September we also begin this year's OBV program when the IGCSE 2's leave for their trip in mid-September. We hope they will have as much fun as they did last year, and also learn some important interpersonal and teamwork skills that cannot be taught in a classroom.

Donovan Neethling - Head of Studies (High School)



Outward Bound Dates:

A level, AS level, GAC, IGCSE 1
IGCSE 2
Year 9 Integrated
Year 8 International & Integrated
Year 7 International & Integrated
Year 6 International & Integrated

2-6th December, 2019.
9-13th September, 2019.
7 – 11th October, 2019.
4-8th May, 2020.
23-27th March, 2020.
28th October - 1st November 2020.