



### IN THIS ISSUE

- **Principal's News**
- **Deputy Principal's News**
- **Head of Study's News – K-Y4**
- **Head of Study's News – Y5-Y9**
- **Head of Study's News – Chinese**
- **High School Update**
- **Head of Vietnamese's News**
- **Student Council 2013 – 2014**
- **Athletic Department Update**

### At Singapore International School we seek to nurture students who are:

- **Confident and creative individuals**
- **Creative and technical problem solvers**
- **Effective communicators**
- **Culturally literate individuals**
- **Active and informed citizens**



### Principal's News

Dear Parents,

A few weeks ago the school held our annual 'Moon Festival'. It was a wonderful day where our students made lanterns and watched dragon dance performers put on a very spectacular show. A very big thank you to our Vietnamese staff who organized the day; making it a wonderful success.

### Parent Teacher Interviews

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October the school held two nights of parent teacher interviews. It was wonderful to see so many parents come and spend some time meeting their child's teachers. This is the second time so far this year that parents have had the opportunity to meet their child's teachers. Parent Teacher interviews are a very important opportunity for parents to seek feedback on their child's progress and how they can improve on their academic performance. I would also like to thank many parents for their wonderful positive comments about our school and their satisfaction with the school's achievements and what the school is doing for their children.

### International Primary School Examination (iPSLE)

As a part of its commitment towards continued quality educational outcomes KinderWorld is pleased to announce that participation in the IPSLE Examination will be at no additional cost for students enrolled in Singapore International Schools in Vietnam. This applies to students when they reach Year 6.

Participation in the iPSLE provides parents with a measure of their child's academic performance in primary school. Additionally the iPSLE is an externally recognized benchmark for primary school achievement that can support entry into further education.

On the last day of term 1, the school held a very successful "House Sports Carnival". This was our first sports carnival for the year where the four houses competed in a range of sports throughout the day including relays, fitness challenges, basketball shoot out, distance running and tug-o-war. The competition was fierce and very close!

**Shane Blood**  
Principal

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Parent-Teacher Conference at SIS@SS



Parent-Teacher Conference at SIS@SS



Students playing in break time

### Deputy Principal's News

It has been an eventful first term. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new students and families who have joined us recently.

#### KIK Workbooks

These books have now been issued to the Kindergarten and Prep students.

The **K1** students will begin with 'All About Us' A, while **K2** will begin with 'All About Us' C. These books "are designed to develop children's social and emotional skills in a fun and interactive way." (Sharon Ngoi: Chief Curriculum Architect, The Learning Grid, Singapore).

The **K2** students will also use 'English Language & Literacy Links' A and **Prep** students will work on 'English Language & Literacy Links' B. "In this programme, high priority is placed on children's speaking and listening skills as well as preparing the way for the teaching and learning of reading and writing." (Sharon Ngoi: Chief Curriculum Architect, The Learning Grid, Singapore).

**K2** students will also complete 'Building Blocks for Numeracy' 1. "Numeracy is about developing an understanding of concepts that affect the world we live in. Important thinking skills for the twenty-first century and a positive attitude to learning need to be developed in the young." (Sharon Ngoi: Chief Curriculum Architect, The Learning Grid, Singapore).

#### HOMEWORK

Homework should be a way of developing better time management skills and of course helps reinforce the concepts learned in school. It constitutes the out-of-class or at-home activities that teachers assign to students. These activities are an extension to schoolwork. Homework can include practice assignments that emphasize newly acquired skills. It can be in the form of preparation assignments to make students ready for class activities

#### How does homework benefit your child?

- Homework encourages student initiative and builds a sense of responsibility and commitment towards schoolwork.
- It serves as practice of the school curriculum and prepares the students for school tests and exams.
- It establishes a communication link between students, parents and teachers.

#### As a parent, what is your role in convincing your children of the homework benefits?

- The motivation offered by homework should be accompanied by parent involvement. Homework serves as a link between school and home.
- Parents must strengthen this link between the school and home by taking interest and supporting their children in their home assignments.
- Parents play an important part, when it comes to showing children that homework is not boring and that it is definitely not a waste of time.



Students in free dress at junior assembly



Students in free dress at senior assembly



School's choir's performance at assembly

### Head of Study's News – K-Y4

One of the virtues we have at school is 'Patience'. Here are two stories about patience from two Y2 International students.

#### Billy Learnt Patience

One day Billy the turtle went with his older brother to an ice-cream shop. Billy and his older brother were waiting in line.

The other turtles took so long choosing their ice-cream so Billy got mad. "I don't want to wait anymore, my legs are tired. I want to go first," said Billy.

"Don't be in such a hurry and just wait, Billy," said his older brother. Billy's older brother was right and on that day Billy finally learnt about patience.

*By Hong An  
Y2 International, 2013*

#### Jack's New Toy

On Saturday Jack and his mom went to a shop. Jack and his mom went to buy the vegetables. Jack's mom told him to wait while she bought the fresh vegetables. She went to buy the vegetables.

After ten minutes, Jack started getting impatient. He asked his mom why she was so slow. She told him she needed to wait in line so she could pay for the vegetables. Jack looked at the line and started worrying. Jack's mom told him that he needs to have patience. After she told Jack about patience Jack calmed down and waited patiently.

Finally, his mom paid for the vegetables and bought the toy Jack really wanted. Jack also learnt that he needs to be patient.

*By Nam Hun  
Y2 International, 2013*

Both these students did a great job of reading their stories aloud in assembly and received an achievement award for their great stories and efforts.

Students of K-Y4 have had a busy 1<sup>st</sup> term at school with learning and building relationships through social interactions.



Ms. Daljit with students and their "scary" cookies



Students dressing up in Halloween



"Trick or Treat" at School office

### Head of Study's News – Y5-Y9 CURRICULUM - SOSE

Singapore International School places a strong emphasis on developing the creative thinking and enquiry skills of our students through the **Study Of Society and Environment (SOSE)**.

Each year students study topics that cover history, geography, systems & resources and culture which are designed to help students better understand and interact with the world around them.

SOSE allows students to analyze and understand historical and current world events, to appreciate and be tolerant of cultures different from their own and to become aware of the connection between humans and the natural environment.

Students research and present their assigned work in various forms that are creative and informative. Our aim is to help students become discerning thinkers who are able to research and evaluate information from different sources, combine this information with their own thinking and to be able to present these thoughts and opinions clearly.

SOSE also gives students the chance to make a positive difference to the wider community through charity projects and environmental campaigns.

The Singapore International School aims to produce students that are not only highly academic in the traditional subjects of Mathematics, English and Science but who are also well-rounded, global citizens who have an awareness of the world around them and their place in it.

The SOSE units that are taught at SIS are an integral part of this aim.

**Simon Gibson**

Head of Study (Y5 - Y9)

### Head of Study's News – Chinese NEW CHINESE BOOKS ARRIVED

Recently, the school library has purchased Chinese books for young readers from grade 1 to grade 11. These books are rich and varied in their content, from children's stories, idiom stories, young adult literature, to HSK exam study aides and IGCSE CHINESE.

Chinese language is increasingly becoming the language of the world. For today's students, it has become unrequited only to master one foreign language, especially for those students who are going to study overseas. However, a second foreign language is essential consideration for elite universities to select students. Moreover, If the IGCSE learner wants to get Cambridge ICE (a group award for Cambridge IGCSE), another second language (besides English language) is required. Singapore schools are working to enhance and strengthen students' Chinese language, so that they can confidently use it in the future.

In addition, we will also continue to buy more Chinese reading and exercise books to help our students for the development of listening, speaking and reading abilities. We encourage all our students to use the Chinese library to open a window for all readers: The world is as large as one's heart will go.

**Phillip Lin Yujie**

Head of Study-Chinese

Page 4 of 6

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The University Mini-Expo at SIS@SS



GAC students



A student reading in the library

### High School Update

The GAC students are now 10 weeks into their program and are learning the rigors and requirements of what will be needed when they start university, which for most students may only be 12 months from now. They are studying Reading & Writing, Listening and Speaking, Communication Skills, Computing and Maths. To also prepare them for university we have arranged an IELTS preparation class 5 times a week, taught by Mr. Craig who also teaches A Level English Literature. Initially the students seemed to be a bit unsure of what was ahead of them in the program but our experienced teachers have explained all the details of each subject, what the students need to know and what is required of them. After getting used to the first few assessments we are beginning to see some encouraging results across the subjects and we hope that they will continue to build on this and work towards that all important GPA (Grade Point Average) score. Many universities continue to show interest in meeting with our SIS students for tertiary study options and on Thursday 24th October, we had a big fair with universities such as Drexel, Oklahoma City and California State visiting us. I look forward to more interesting activities in Term 2.

**Robert Gayst**

Head of Studies

### Head of Vietnamese's News

Time flies, Term 1 of this School year has come to an end. Before Term 1 break, students had taken Mid-semester 1 examination. The purpose of this exam is to evaluate knowledge which students have been accumulating from the beginning of this year to the end of Term 1. Thanks to the examination results, teachers can identify ability of each student. Then, teachers can adjust their teaching methods to each student in order to help them gain better results at the end of Semester 1.

Along with lessons which students are taught in class, through assemblies every Wednesday, they are introduced with the virtues: Honesty – Tolerance – Patience. Year 5 Integrated students have made an interesting and meaningful video about honesty in English examination time of Mr. Quinn. That is why I hope that you should patiently review your study and perform well the honesty which you have studied and improved through the past few months. The exam results will affirm this and develop your personality much better.

I wish you all have good results in Term 2.

**Phung Thi Tuyet Minh**

Head of Vietnamese

Page 5 of 6

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Students playing "Tug-of-war" on Sports Day



Students competing on Sports Day



Boys U14 Champs

### Student Council 2013 – 2014

It has been a busy term for the Student Council! In addition to the members of Student Council Governance mentioned in our previous article, Phung Anh Duy was added as the Year 5 to Year 9 spokesman.

The Halloween day, held on Friday 18 October, was a great success. All students were allowed to wear Halloween costumes for the whole day. 'Scary' candies were made by junior members of student council at both breaks, and these were soon sold out. After lunch, the Kindergarten to Year 4 students were given personalized 'trick-or-treat' bags and were taken by students up to the high school and Year 7 to Year 9 classrooms to receive large amounts of candy. The Year 5 and Year 6 classes were allowed to watch a scary movie in the hall in lessons 7 and 8.

In the evening the 'Haunted Race' took place, with the seniors taking great pleasure in terrifying all contestants. Everyone had great fun during this event, with much laughter (and screaming) to be heard from teachers and students alike. The winning group has received a pizza lunch. My thanks and the thanks of Student Council go out to all those involved in the creation and running of this event.

In other news, S.C. has decided to support Long Hoa Orphanage this year, and has also run a charity event on 24 October, to collect money for victims of the hurricane and flooding that affected the central districts of Vietnam.

This term Student Council will kick off with an explanation and belated celebration of Diwali on 6 November, and also plans many more cultural events to celebrate the great diversity of cultures within our home at SIS @ Saigon South.

**Donovan Neethling**

Head of Student Council

### Athletic Department Update

#### Basketball

The u-14 basketball teams have unlocked the 2013-14 season with a bang! After weeks of training and league matches, the SISAC Championships arrived last Thursday. After a close encounter with RISS, our boys were crowned SISAC Champions. The girls team played three competitive matches, and with the scores tight, just missed out on a place in the final. Congratulations to both teams, and their two coaches, Mr. Quinn and Ms. Siobhan.

#### Volleyball

Moving up an age category, the u-19 girls' volleyball team have been giving their opponents a hard time on the court. Mr. James and Ms. Christina's early morning training sessions have been valuable. After four games they are undefeated. This is the first year we have entered a boys team to the competition, but they do not look like new comers!

#### Badminton

The first weekend of this month, our u-19 boys and girls took part in a badminton tournament. Each player played 20 games, integrating with eight different schools. This was a successful day of skill, tactics and enjoyment.

**Siobhan Synnott**

PE teacher & Athletic Coordinator