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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,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the new school year. I would like to start the New Year by sharing with you some wonderful news about our GAC Class of 2012 – 2013. I am very pleased to announce that 100% of our GAC graduates successfully completed the GAC. Furthermore, 21 out of the 23 graduates have already been accepted into Universities around the world since graduating in July. Some more exciting news is that Le Tien Huy was offered two scholarships! He accepted a scholarship to study at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) where he will complete a Bachelor of Engineering. His scholarship provides him with \$28,000 USD per year towards his tuition fees at IIT for the duration of his course. This scholarship recognizes Huy's exceptional performance in the rigorous GAC programme provided at SIS@Saigon South.

Congratulations to all of our GAC graduates!

There are a number of reasons why SIS is a good choice of school, one of which is our diverse curriculum pathway. We use international curriculums as reference points from Singapore and Australia which are noted for their rigor and focus on developing creative, independent thinkers. We offer internationally recognized and respected qualifications in the Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge AS/A Levels and GAC certificates, not to mention the iPSLE exam which students can take in Year 6. We also offer the full DOET Vietnamese curriculum for Vietnamese students up to Year 9.

In particular, I think what makes our pathway uniquely advantageous to students is that we offer them a choice of programs when they reach their senior years of school. Students can take the GAC, a one year program specifically designed for ESL students. The GAC has strong focus on academic English and soft skills such as organization and time management in order to prepare students effectively for university. Alternatively, students can choose to do A Levels – a two year course administered by Cambridge University and widely recognized as challenging, rigorous and providing deep knowledge of specific subject areas. Students can also take the one year AS Level courses in Year 11 followed by GAC in Year 12 – the options are numerous and flexible in order to provide each individual student the best possible pathway..

This year we have also started a new and exciting House System. On Thursday 29th of August, 4 new Houses were decided by the students. The 4 Houses will compete against each other in all aspects of the school including academic, sporting and cultural activities. The 4 new Houses are the House of Hydra, Green Growling Griffin, House of Phoenix and Aries Extraordinaries. The House names were chosen around the theme of famous 'Mythological Creatures'. There will be four major sporting competitions during the year, with the first event taking place at the end of this term.



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Primary students in the weekly assembly

To coincide with House System, I have also introduced a reward system for students, whereby students will receive a 'Principal's Award' for either 'Academic Achievement' or 'School Spirit'. To receive a Principal's award, students must collect 10 awards for either academic achievement or school spirit. Once they receive 10 awards, they will then be awarded with a Principal's award. The award will be presented on assembly; along with the reason the student is receiving the award. Students who receive a Principal's award will receive points for their House. Each Principal's award is worth a total of 10 points.

Students must meet the following criteria to receive either an 'Academic Achievement' or 'School Spirit Award':

Criteria for an Academic Achievement Award:

- Outstanding results in an assessment task
- Outstanding effort in an assessment task
- Vastly improved results or effort in any school related work

Criteria for a School Spirit Award:

- Demonstrating great school or community spirit; e.g. covering library books in lunch hours; sport captains at carnivals; generally helping others around the school.

I am very much looking forward to issuing the first 'Principal's Award' on assembly after the holidays and I hope to be awarding many students next term and for the rest of the year.



Secondary students in the weekly assembly

Upcoming Events:

Parent Teacher interviews will be held on the 22nd and 23rd of October. During these nights parents will also receive their child's Term 1 Progress Report for the term. More information about Parent Teacher Interviews will be sent home to parents in due course.

I look forward to meeting you and getting to know each of your children, during this coming year. I embrace positive suggestions and recommendations, so please feel free to contact me at any time.



Students of Year 5 Int'l in the weekly Assembly

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Shane Blood
Principal



Students playing basketball in break time



A student doing presentation in the assembly



A student checking out books from library

Deputy Principal's News

Dear Parents,

'If you work really hard and are kind and never stop doing your best, AMAZING things will happen!'

I am from beautiful, sunny South Africa. I have a son and a daughter who are both extremely talented individuals and are the 'joy' of my life. I have always been involved in education and spent many years at the university in South Africa, training teachers. Recently, I spent 11 years in Taiwan as Foreign Director of a full immersion International kindergarten and primary school. I am very excited to be at SIS in HCMC and look forward to a year filled with teaching, learning, and fun filled events.

Extra-curricular Activities

It is a full after school program offering a wide variety of activities: sports, cultural activities, music, art, enrichment programs & homework sessions. We believe in developing the 'whole child' and it is important to cater for the child's emotional, social and physical development while achieving excellence in their studies.

Punctuality

It is important for all students to arrive at school on time. Not only should they not miss any lesson time but it is an important life skill that will hold them in good stead their whole lives and once they are adults and striving for a successful career.

School starts promptly @ 8:30am and lessons finish @ 4:15pm; then extra-curricular activities/clubs run from 4:15-5:00pm Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays.

Please kindly take note of the new policy that has been implemented:

- Students who arrive after 8:30am will be directed to the office by the security staff or their class/subject teacher.
- The 'latecomer' must obtain a late slip from the office and present this to the teacher on arrival.
- If a student arrives late at the classroom without the slip, the teacher will send the student back to the office.
- A record of this will be kept by the office staff and the teachers.
- If the student has to leave school early (before 4:15pm) for any particular reason, Parents must write a letter to school at least a day before the event/appointment.
- The student must collect an 'early leaver's' slip from the office and present this to the security staff and sign-out in the book at the security guard station.

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Jilda Manson
Deputy Principal



Kindergarten students having breakfast



Students of Year 1 Int'l studying in classroom



Year 4 Int'l students having breakfast

Head of Study News – K-Y4

K-Y4 is now settled into learning in their new academic year.

We encourage independence so students can take responsibility for their own learning, completing their homework and being ready for school on time with the right equipment.

Buddy classes are starting again between K-Y4 and Y5-Y9 students. Buddy classes consist of upper-grade students reading and/or completing activities or projects with younger children. This is a fantastic opportunity for the older students to take on a leadership/mentoring role and the younger students to enjoy the one-to-one attention they receive from their older buddy.

Buddy classes enhance cooperative learning behaviors such as taking turns, listening skills, sharing knowledge, helping one another and completing a task. The experience provides children with stimulating opportunities for learning, skill development and are enjoyable for all involved.

Kaye Tamarua

Head of Study (K-Y4)

Head of Study News – Y5-Y9

The Singapore International School is proud to offer students a balanced curriculum where they have the opportunity to excel in the highly academic subject areas of Mathematics, English and Science using the world-renowned Singapore curriculum along with the chance to develop their creative thinking and problem-solving skills using an Australian based curriculum for SOSE, ICT and EPP. We also aim to teach students the benefits of a healthy lifestyle through our Swimming/PE/Health programs.

The Singapore English curriculum is taught across both the International and Integrated programs. It is a challenging course as it is a first-language English course and most of our students speak English as a second language. However, past results have shown that by keeping our expectations high, students have been able to improve considerably to meet these expectations and be successful in the course.

Teachers of all English levels work closely together to ensure a coordinated approach to the subject so as students in both programs are taught the same content using teaching methods that have been shown to be successful over previous years in the school.

I look forward to seeing our students continue to achieve at a high level in English and to develop into confident, global citizens who are inspired to fulfill their academic potential.

Simon Gibson

Head of Study (Y5 - Y9)

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Visit from Baylor University to SIS@SS



Students of Year 7 Int'g studying in classroom



Students of Year 1 Int'g studying in classroom

Head of Study New – High School

Dear parents and friends, the high school has started the 2013-2014 Academic Year in full swing. Firstly, the introduction of A/AS levels has taken place where we offer English Literature, Maths, Business and Biology. Students who are successful in this program and score high grades will have some excellent educational options waiting for them from many parts of the world. We also welcome 21 fresh and happy faces to IGCSE 1st year and also extend a big welcome back to the IGCSE 2nd year and GAC students. As for our staff, Mr. Dane Lewis (Science) and Mr. Geoffrey Klein (Business/English) are our newest additions to our teaching ranks. Both teachers have significant experience and will no doubt provide great service and guidance to their students. It is not too early for the GAC students and A/AS students to start thinking about their tertiary studies so we have received a visit from Baylor University and have visits planned from Kansas State University and Sunny Platsburg University from the United States. Finally a visit from Ros Washington and Aaron Menzies of ACT Education Solutions took place on 11th September to provide support to our teachers here on the GAC program. It is my pleasure to assist you with any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to email me robert.gayst@saigonsouth.sis.edu.vn.

Robert Gayst

Head of Study

Head of Vietnamese's News

Time flies, it has been four weeks since the beginning of the new School Year. After the first week of getting to know new teachers and friends, our students are getting use to their new classroom and teachers' lessons. They happily study and play with each other. It is true to say that the classroom is the second home of our students.

Along with lessons which students are taught in class, through assemblies every Wednesday, they are introduced to the virtues: Care – Integrity – Team work – Patience – Solidarity. Each virtue is introduced and studied by our students over a 2 week block.

When working together to create presentations about virtues for the assembly, students have the chance to apply their ICT skills to make creative clips to show to their friends. This helps students understand the virtues better.

From learning how to make a creative and educational clip for presentation in assembly, I believe that you are gradually being aware of the motive of your study and the consciousness of training yourself. Only by studying and practicing can you wholly develop your personality.

I wish you a happy and exciting School Year!

Phung Thi Tuyet Minh

Head of Vietnamese

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Members of Student Council 2013-2014

Student Council 2013 – 2014

The Student Council of SIS Saigon South is a council of students, elected by the students themselves, in order to give students an opinion and voice in certain aspects of their own schooling. Students elected have been recognized by their peers as having demonstrated the skills and values necessary in order to properly represent the students. They also serve as outstanding examples of future graduates of the Singapore International Schooling System.

Elected positions within the student council are:

- Tran Hong My Dung (IGCSE2A) – President
- Ong Yi Ping (IGCSE1A) – Secretary
- Goh Rong Ping (IGCSE2A) – Treasurer
- Uong Dinh Minh Quang (IGCSE2B) – Public Relations

In their first meeting of the current academic year, the Student Council outlined their three objectives as follows:

- 1) To voice the opinions of students.
- 2) Provide aid in the form of fundraising for a school or organization less fortunate than SIS Saigon South,
- 3) Create events and opportunities for students to develop their talents and school spirit.

The first event planned is a Halloween Horror House (date to be announced), which will also serve as the first fundraiser towards a less fortunate school or organization. Student Council hopes you can join us in having a great evening of fun and support us in our endeavors to help those in need.

Donovan Neethling

Head of Student Council



Basketball game between SIS@SS and AIS

Athletic Department Update

We have enjoyed tremendous success and growth over the past twenty five months paving the way to expand this year's Athletic Team Sports offerings in the Saigon International School Athletic Conference (SISAC) League.

Our journey began with an epic journey in 2011-12, when the High School boys successfully completed their victorious run and unseated the "top four giant" international schools for the first time in the league's existence in football becoming the 2011-12 U19 High School Boys Football Champions. This exemplified the reorganization, honor, bravery and passion that SIS@SS Athletics committed to developing that year. Mr. Justin was also voted "Coach of the Year" and was most humbled and appreciated this tremendous honor! Our success was built on the platform of Mr. Cade's wonderful influence in Physical Education and Athletics, and we dedicated the monumental success in his honor.

During the 2013-14 Term 1, Singapore Merlions will compete in U14 Boys/Girls Basketball, U19 Volleyball, U19 Badminton, and U11 Boys/Girls Basketball. Students will begin their development and preparation for Term 2. Mr. Geoff also has unprecedented interest in Badminton at every level, and will be developing a club intramural/skill development level and participate in the U19 Badminton Championships in October for those who qualify. All of the athletes will have an opportunity to increase their fitness with Mr. Justin two days a week to increase their abilities for any sport they are excited about. So look for additional information for these dates and times as well.

Please keep a look out in our school newsletter, and the Athletics Board on campus.

We are so thrilled and proud of our accomplishments and I want to personally thank every student, parent, faculty and staff member who has lent a vital hand and continued support for the Singapore Merlions Athletic Department.

Justin Weiss

PE teacher



Students enjoy watching the game

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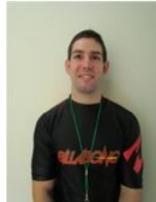
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