

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 4.

The school calendar this Term reflects a busy, productive, rewarding learning experience for all at SIS@SS.

The recently held culture fest, was a huge success with so much enthusiasm and energy shared by both students and teachers.

Classroom presentations, are still on display for parents and friends who may not have been able to visit, on the culture fest day. The colorful and informative class noticeboards are evidence of this.

Cambridge examinations have begun and continue until early June.

Second semester examinations for students in years 1 to 9 will also take place, mid-term 4.

Visitor's from WASC, western association of schools and colleges, will spend 2 days at SIS@SS next week following up on the SIS@SS school improvement plan and its progress. The panel will visit classrooms and talk to staff as a part of ongoing school accreditation with WASC.

The school concert day letter has been sent home via email and letter to all families. Parents are reminded to check the student concert times and prepare any necessary transport planning for students to be at their respective concerts in the allocated time.

Please contact the school office for further information and communication if needed.

Mark Priddis – Principal.

Address: No. 29, Road No. 3, Trung Son Residential Area, Hamlet 4, Binh Hung Ward, Binh Chanh District, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: 84-28 5431 7477 **Fax:** 84-28 5431 7471
Email: enquiry@saigonsouth.sis.edu.vn





Dear Parents,

Term 4 will be filled with many important events. The school will do our best to inform and remind of each event as it gets closer. Please check with your child's teacher/TA to stay updated.

Integrated Program exams – as per DOET requirements, students in Years 6-9 have completed their Semester 2 exams.

Year 8 Outward Bound Vietnam – the final trip of the year for SIS students to Quy Nhon takes place May 6-10, and will be for students in Year 8 classes.

Cambridge exams (IGCSE2, AS, A) – ongoing until 14 June, students in the affected classes have been informed of the specific dates for each subject exam.

Semester 2 Exams (Years 1-9) – from May 20-30 these will cover topics as stated in the Table of Specifications. Shortly following the conclusion of exams Grade Reports will be issued.

Yearbooks – these are scheduled to be distributed Monday 17 June, subject to change.

End of Year Concert – this year the concert is during the school week, on Thursday 20 June. However, the campus will be closed to students. Parents are responsible for bringing students to, and picking them up from, the venue. All students should report to the Ho Chi Minh City Opera House at the following times:

K1 to Year 3 – arrive at 12:30; concert begins 13:00 (anticipated end time 15:00)

Year 4 to A/GAC – arrive at 16:00; concert begins at 16:30 (anticipated end time 18:30)

Final day of the academic year – Friday 28 June is the last day of classes.

Should you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact the Office for further details.

Respectfully,

Robert Madden - Deputy Principal.

Dear Parents,

As you know, we are now in the final term of our 2018/19 school year. Abundant student learning has continuously taken place and it is definitely not yet over!

Exams have already started in some SIS programs and strategic preparation is well underway for upcoming SA2 exams. It is important for all SIS student learners to keep a consistent focus on routinely revising for these important assessments.

Where the end of an academic year often brings joys of a brighter future, it also may bring sadness of parting ways with friends and teachers. Therefore, this is a worthy time to continue to engage your children in positive discussions to celebrate all that they have authentically achieved and begin to establish what their goals will be for the 2019/20 school year.

End is where a new start awaits, so let's please collaboratively plan for a splendid conclusion to the current school year and a wonderful start to the next one at SIS. Thanks for your noted support.

Thomas Annis - Deputy Principal (Pedagogy Coach).



Dear Parents,

On April 22 people all over the world celebrate Earth Day as a way to raise awareness and show support for environmental protection. Early childhood is the perfect time for children to begin developing basic awareness of the environment and its components, including air, water, soil, and other living things.

In order for children to understand their part in protecting the Earth, they must first develop an awareness and respect for the environment. During Term 4, the KIK classes will cover themes related to the Earth such as weather, the water cycle, water sources and recycling.

Here's a few fun ideas to keep the Earth Day spirit going at home:

- Take a "nature walk" around your neighborhood; observe all of the different types of plants and animals you see along the way.
- Create recycling bins for plastic, paper, and aluminum materials. Practice sorting together.
- Reuse materials from your home to create recycled art projects.

Lindsay Stanford - Head of Studies

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Dear Parents,

It is a very busy time in the High School, as we head into the Cambridge exams for 2019. These will run from 23 April until 14 June. We hope that all students have taken to heart the lessons imparted to them by their teachers over the past 8 months.

We also encourage students to develop a study plan and stick to it as much as possible. Remember to take regular breaks from your studying, so as not to drain your mental health too much.

In addition to Cambridge, we wish all the best to our GAC students who are heading into their final level.

Graduation day is also just around the corner, and there is some stiff competition for who will be the SIS@SS Dux for this year. We can't wait to find out who has put in the most work and effort and will be rewarded at the ceremony, help in conjunction with our annual 'End of Year Concert'

Donovan Neethling - Head of Studies (High School)



Dear Parents,

Sight words are crucial to early reading and writing as they are words that frequently appear in texts. In order to support students in their learning of sight words, we have created a variety of fun ways to teach them.

One such activity involves forming the words using tiles. In this activity, students are required to form the specified word using square tiles. This activity not only enforces the spelling of the word, but it also challenges students to devise ways in creating the "tricky" letters such as, 'a' and 's.' After much practice, they each have created their own ways in forming these letters!

Another fun activity that the students enjoy is, *Sight Words Snakes 'n' Ladders*. Like the classic board game, this version involves students throwing the die and moving their counters across the board. However, it also requires students to read out the sight words their counters had landed on. Other players are to check whether the reading is correct. If it is wrong, he or she would lose a turn. Students are thrilled whenever they land on a square with a ladder, and all strive to reach to the top! Most importantly, this game also teaches important social skills, such as turn-taking and listening to one another.

Jessie Kee – Class Teacher (Prep Int'l)



Dear Parents,

Season 3 is going well for the SIS teams. Before the term break the girls volleyball team had a very close and exciting game against BVIS narrowly losing in 3 sets. The Boys volleyball team got their first victory in very convincing style winning all 3 sets and playing some fantastic volleyball. Kenny who is playing volleyball for the first time this year was again the outstanding player. His combination of athleticism and superb attitude is the perfect combination to be an outstanding volleyball player. The U11 basketball teams played against CIS which were also very close and exciting games. All the teams are training hard and will be hoping to do well at the City Championships in May.

Dear Parents,

Student Council is hard at work preparing for our upcoming Culture Fest Day. This will be held on the 29th of April 2019. We're so excited to see classrooms being decorated and students' enthusiasm for this event.

Aside from preparing for this event, which we are making as environmentally friendly as possible, we have been selling "green" products for drinks – bamboo straws, and cloth cup holders. As you may know, millions of people each day drink take away drinks out of plastic cups, with plastic straws, and plastic cup holders and this is having a huge impact on our environment. Studies have estimated that almost 8.3 billion plastic straws pollute our beaches and cause the death of marine animals. Our aim is to educate the students at SIS and to help try to minimize our carbon footprint.

The sales have gone well with the bamboo straws being sold for 20 000VND and the cup holders for 40 000VND. Students have been very interested in why we are selling them and this has given the SC a chance to explain how one small action can make a change.

