



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ SAIGONSOUTH

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 and JANUARY 2024

Dear Parents,

With the conclusion of Semester Exams, you should have had an opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their progress, as well as plans for further improvement. Please know that you are welcome to schedule such meetings at any time throughout the year, whether to share concerns or receive updates.

We are pleased to announce that the renovation of our Multi-Purpose Hall has been completed, ahead of schedule. The process involved installing sound resistant padding within the walls, new light fixtures. This will provide a significant improvement not only for PE lessons, but also weekly assemblies and occasional performances or ceremonies.



To celebrate Tet all families were invited to campus for our Tet Festival on Thursday 1 February. Building on the success of last year's festival we included more games as well as arts & crafts activities. While some of these were traditional, such as making chung Tet or shadow puppets, we also had printing with our 3-D pens and watching videos. Feedback via the survey will be very helpful in making sure the next event is even better.

For your planning, there will be no lessons from Monday 5th February through Friday 16th, with lessons resuming on Monday 19th (NB: the Office will be open Feb 5-8 in the event you need to come to campus).

As always, should you have any questions or concerns please contact the Office to set an appointment.

We wish you a healthy and prosperous Year of the Dragon.

Yours in Learning,

Robert Madden
Principal

Singapore International School @ Saigon South





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Dear Parents,

Some of you may recognize me, as I have had the pleasure of teaching your children, or perhaps you have seen me around the school.

Allow me to introduce myself; I am Ms. Vương Ý Bình. Today, I am honoured to share my joy with you as I have recently taken on a new role: Head of Vietnamese Studies.

In this new role, I have received much guidance and support from the School's Administration. I will strive to work and contribute alongside other teachers for the academic success of all integrated students and the overall development of Singapore International School.

In December, after the review and final exams of Semester I, students joyfully welcomed Christmas with vibrant decorations and a cheerful Christmas Charity Fair. In addition to participating in the enjoyable activities of the charity fair, students also contributed together with the school to help those in need through the Caritas Vietnam fund. Many thanks for the enthusiastic contribution from all of you. I hope to continue receiving such tremendous support in the up-coming years.



As we enter 2024, in January, the school has organized the Semester I Ceremony for integrated classes to reflect on the progress made in Semester I and to set development directions for Semester II. Specifically, students in year 8 had the Outward Bound course in Binh Dinh from January 22 to 26, 2024. Best wishes for them to have an exciting experience.

On the eve of the Year of Dragon, I wish all parents and families good health and prosperity!

Vuong Y Binh
Head of Vietnamese Studies

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Dear Parents,

As we enter 2024, our process of continual school improvement is well underway. Information kindly provided by parents and students through the online surveys is being analysed by focus groups of teachers, with potential areas of improvement highlighted and acted upon. This is a good opportunity to thank our teachers for the hard work they do, not only in their classroom teaching but also their involvement in initiatives to improve student wellness through events and improvement initiatives.

We hope to see you all at our TET festival on Thursday, 1 February and wish all our families a happy and prosperous start to the year of the Dragon.

Donovan Neethling – Deputy Principal



Dear Parents,

December and January were very busy months in KIK – students were assessed on their knowledge in each subject area, Semester 1 reports were completed and parents were invited to discuss their children's progress.

In December, we had a successful Christmas Charity Fair raising money for a good cause and most KIK classes also had their first field trip visiting a nearby farm where they had a chance to feed some farm animals, create their own pottery, plant and paint pots.

This month we have been decorating our classrooms learning about Tet traditions and are looking forward to the coming Tet festival. With the start of the new Semester, kindergarteners are working on improving their reading skills, learning new sight words and are introduced to measurement concepts. Measuring with non-standard units such as paper clips, buttons and linking chains help children not only understand the concept of measurement but also develop their fine motor skills.

Barbara Borbely - Head of Studies (KIK)



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Dear Parents,

As we reflect on the conclusion of Semester 1, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our students for their dedication and hard work in preparing for the end of semester examinations. It has been inspiring to witness the commitment to learning exhibited by our wonderful students. Their enthusiasm and perseverance have truly paid off, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

With the start of Semester 2, we are excited to embark on a new phase of learning and discovery. We encourage our students to approach this semester with the same enthusiasm and determination that they displayed in the previous semester. Let's continue to support each other and strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

We wish you all a joyful and restful Tet holiday, filled with love, happiness, and cherished moments with family and friends. Here's to a wonderful Semester 2 ahead!

Lindsay Stanford – Head of Studies (Primary)



Dear Parents,

It has been immensely rewarding to collaborate with our students on school events and the semester exams in December. Their hard work has yielded impressive results, and we eagerly anticipate building on these successes in the second semester.

As we progress into Term 3, January has already presented numerous opportunities for growth. Notable highlights include a STEM-focused excursion to RMIT, which all high school students attended, and the commencement of Student Protection Week starting from January 29th. Furthermore, we are thrilled to introduce a new High School initiative for leadership development, student engagement, and campus involvement through a restructured Student Council. This innovative approach is designed to place students at the heart of every schoolwide activity.

Looking ahead, the remainder of the year promises to be exciting. Our End of Year concert will reflect a theme selected by votes from our Saigon South students earlier in the year. In addition, the Cambridge exams are rapidly approaching. With registrations currently in progress, we are also entering the final phase of our preparations.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

Joshua Lowery – Head of Studies (Secondary)