



**SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**
Since 1986

VISION

To be an educational institution of excellence from Kindergarten to University Foundation level combining Eastern Values with an International education to produce global citizens.

MISSION

To provide quality educational programmes in a creative and challenging learning environment, embracing innovative teaching pedagogies to empower every student to become a life-long learner.

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

- **Academic Achievers**
- **Confident communicators**
- **Critical Thinkers**
- **Technologically literate students**
- **Active and Responsible citizens**



Dear parents,

As you are aware, the theme for our Virtues education program this term is that of Organisation. The Organisation theme encourages students to set goals to do their best school work, to continually listen carefully to their teachers' instructions, and to plan their time and have their classroom resources ready. This is such an important life skill that can also be reinforced at home.

Within the theme, the following virtues will also be taught and shared: cooperation, responsibility, diligence, service, flexibility. Each virtue is usually taught over a two week period, and the learning is shared both in classrooms and at weekly assembly times. These are powerful learning experiences for both staff and students. I encourage all parents to attend our weekly assemblies. You are always welcome; please spread this good news.

Speaking of organization, I hope everyone enjoyed our great Christmas Fair celebration. Thank you so much to our wonderful supportive staff and students who worked so hard to make this celebration the success it was. Bravo!

Soon many of us will be celebrating Christmas. In western education, it can be a time where we get very caught up and distracted in the commercial side of Christmas. The presents, the shopping, the parties. For me, I like to reflect on what I believe to be the real message of Christmas. In doing so, I wish all in our school community, a very merry Christmas and best wishes for an enjoyable happy New Year.

I hope 2015 has been a year of positive learning experiences for all of us. Reflect on these experiences, plan for the new year, and strive for improvement.

Merry Christmas!

Mark Priddis - Principal.

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, with so many activities and breaks, this term is going by very quickly. The distractions can make it difficult for children to focus on their academics. You can help them by continuing to have frequent conversations about what they are learning, reviewing the handbook, and staying in contact with the teachers.

During the holiday – parents often ask “What should my child do over the holiday?” One of the best activities, of course, is reading. Children who read for pleasure increase their reading skills, which translate to improved academics. In addition, better readers become better writers. Therefore, making time each day for quiet reading can help children to have a more relaxing holiday while also building their literacy skills.

Exams – shortly after returning from the holiday break many classes will begin taking exams. During that time it can be expected that the homework load will be reduced, with much of class time focused on reviewing previous lessons and practicing skills rather than introducing new concepts. Parents can help by making sure their children are well rested. Students can help by taking time to review the material presented in class, eating properly, and getting plenty of rest.

Extra-Curricular Activities – a few weeks after returning from the holiday break we will be at the end of Term 2 (Semester 1). When that occurs we may be changing the ECAs that are available. If you there is an activity you would like to see offered feel free to pass this along to the front office staff. When we are close to the new term a revised schedule of activities will be provided.

Thank you again for placing your trust in us. Please have a wonderful Christmas, and I wish you a New Year filled with much health and happiness.

Respectfully,

Robert Madden – Deputy Principal.



Principal Award Recipients:

Nguyen Thanh Tri – Y4 Int'l
Ngo Viet Bang Tam – Y4 Int'l
Bui Xuan Khang – Y3 Int'g
Quan Vi Phong – Y3 Int'g
Nguyen The Phuong – Y3 Int'g
Duong Dang Khoa – Y3 Int'g
Lo Boi Phan – Y2A Int'g



SCGS visited SIS@SS

Dear Parents,



Tien Giang excursion

The end of Term 1 was very exciting for our Prep students. Everyone loved Trick-or-Treating around the school at the Junior Halloween Carnival. Now our students are settling in to the school routine for Term 2. It is great to see how much progress the Prep students have already made this year. Their academic skills and confidence are increasing by the day.

Prep began Term 2 by learning about the life cycles of butterflies and caterpillars. They loved discovering how these animals grow. Next, students will study occupations. This is a particularly exciting unit because Prep and Kindergarten will go on an excursion to learn more about occupations in week 4. This is always a fun day for students!

Teacher's Day was this month and Prep students helped to show their appreciation for their teachers. They participated in the school drawing contest and used their art to decorate the school. They also participated in a tug-of-war contest that was great fun. We look forward to seeing all of the Prep students learn and grow in the coming months.

Marianna Daniels – Prep Int'l Teacher.



It's very exciting!

The Year 5 and 7 International and Year 6 Integrated classes went on an excursion at the end of Term 1 to Tien Giang. They visited the Vinh Trang Pagoda – a national cultural and historical site which is a place where people go to pray for blessings. There were some huge Buddha to see.

Then they went to the 30th April Pier by boat on the Tien River to Con Phung (Phoenix Islet). They visited Dao Dua vestige, a Coconut Candy Workshop – where you can see the process of how Coconut candy is made. Lastly, they traveled to Thoi Son Island where we enjoyed some honey tea. Some students even got involved and let pythons slither all over them.

Thank you to Mr. Stephen, Mr. Addison and Ms. Long for organizing a great trip!

Sharla Scott – Head of Studies (Y5 – Y9).

Dear Parents,

As December approaches for IGCSE 2 the MOCK examinations are not far away. Before we know it we will also be in the official exam period for the Cambridge in May/June 2016. Now is the time for our IGCSE 2 students and their families to start thinking about their future studies. We are proud of the two courses that we run after IGCSE 2, which are the Cambridge A/AS Level and the GAC program. Our experienced and dedicated teachers and administration staff are here to support our students all the way. Students who choose GAC are able to complete the course in 12 months and it gives them access to a number of very credible universities in countries such as Australia, the USA and the UK. It also teaches soft skills such as essay and report writing, time management, critical thinking and oral communication. Our two-year A/AS Level programs are tailored to give students in-depth knowledge of a choice of topics including Business, Economics, English Literature, Computer Science, Math and Biology. Students who successfully complete our A/AS Level program will have a vast selection of universities to choose from and may also receive advanced credits from these institutions. If you have any questions, please contact me via email robert.gayst@saigonsouth.sis.edu.vn

On another note, a letter was sent recently to notify you of the unfortunate situation of the IGCSE English exams which are to be held on **Tuesday 3 May 2016**, the last day of the term break. We hope you will understand the situation and ensure your child will attend school on that day and sit the exam as scheduled.

Finally, on behalf of the staff here at Saigon, I wish you a wonderful Christmas and all the happiness in 2016.

Robert Gayst – Head of Studies (SHS).

Dear Parents,

Our school's U19 Girls Volleyball Team, coached by Mr. James Trantham, made the whole school proud with their performance at the SISAC Volleyball Championships. In the round-robin stage they played extremely well, winning two matches (vs. CIS and ABC) and losing one (vs. SSIS). They met SSIS again in the finals and came up just short in a closely contested match. Thank you to the U19 Girls Volleyball Team for adding another trophy to our collection!

Daniel Mitchell – Athletic Coordinator.



U19 Volleyball Girls



Term 2 Sport Carnival

Time has passed so quickly! You have spent four months from the first day of school to study and play with your friends at the school. The teachers have taught you new knowledge from programs and curriculum every day. Besides learning, the school has held extra activities to help students develop soft skills. The virtue themes have continued: Patience, Optimism, Teamwork, Self-confidence etc., which help us understand personal qualities important for life. The school has organized many fun activities at the same time such as: Mid-Autumn Festival, Halloween, Vietnamese Teachers Day, Sport Carnivals and coming Charity Christmas Fair. All activities are rewarding learning experiences for everyone at SIS@SS.

Before the end of Semester 1, Integrated students will take the exams. I hope students will review the lessons to achieve highest results in the exams. That will be their Christmas gift to parents, and teachers and welcome the new coming year 2016.

Phung Thi Tuyet Minh
Senior Head of Vietnamese Studies.

Dear Parents and Students,

Student Council has been working hard to plan events to promote school spirit. Some students have been going above and beyond what is expected of them by putting in extra time and effort to ensure the success of our events. These exemplary students are pictured – Well done girls!

On 20 November, we celebrated Teacher's Day at school. Student Council made a video of kind messages from students about teachers. We appreciate all the work our teachers do for us at SIS.

To encourage Christmas spirit at school, we organized a door decorating competition. Students had to decorate their classroom door using a Christmas theme. The winning class will be announced in the January newsletter.

A new year will come straight after Christmas so watch out because many events are coming your way! Have a great Christmas holiday.

Ng Shuet Yee (Sabrina)
Student Council Vice President.



Well done girls!



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year 2016!