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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**



Mr. Shane and student Le Hong Nam

Dear Parents,

Recently the school held a very special awards ceremony to acknowledge the wonderful academic accomplishment of Le Hong Nam who gained the highest mark in Vietnam, Cambridge IGCSE English Second Language (count-in oral), in the June 2013, Cambridge examinations. This honor recognizes the exceptional performance of Hong Nam in the rigorous Cambridge examination process.

Of course, the academic success of Le Hong Nam is a combination of the active support of his family; the hard work and commitment of his daily studies; and the dedication and professionalism of all his teachers at our school.

More importantly, he has now become a role model for younger students at Singapore International School in demonstrating that academic excellence at the highest levels can be achieved through our instructional programs.

Well done Le Hong Nam!

On Friday the 13th of December, the school held our annual Christmas Charity Fair to raise money for the charity 'Operation Smile'. I am very proud to say, that thanks to the very generous support of our students, parents and staff we were able to raise a total profit of 46,618,399 VND! This is a wonderful effort and I am extremely proud of our students for the work they did to raise this money. When I went around and visited the stores, I could not only see how much fun our students were having, but also how many young entrepreneurs that we have in our school.

It's a busy time of the year and our upper level students should be thinking about university plans and looking into application deadlines. This can seem overwhelming but there are many great resources available to help students and their parents make decisions about the best university for each student.

A great resource that students and parents can use is the ACT (American College Test) website at www.actstudent.org. This website has lots of useful information to help students plan for their future. The website is a must-see for those students interested in studying in the U.S.A. The ACT test is accepted in most universities and colleges in the U.S. which is beneficial for our GAC students who will all take the ACT exam.

Another great website with information about international students studying abroad in the U.S. is <http://www.usnews.com/education>. This website offers advice about scholarships and financial aid for international students as well as a plethora of other college related information.

I would also take this opportunity to remind parents that all of our newsletters can now be accessed via our new website located at www.saigonsouth.sis.edu.vn. Please take some time to visit our website and stay up to date with all news and other information important information that you will find.

Parent teacher interviews will be conducted on the 25/02/2014 and 26/02/2014. Semester 1 reports will also be available for collection during these evenings. More information regarding parent teacher interviews will be sent home to parents after the Tet holiday.

Shane Blood
Principal

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Mr. Shane presenting Principal's Award to students in assembly



Mr. Shane with all-star students



Mr. Simon and junior students with Merit Certificates

Head of Study's News - Y5-Y9

Semester 1 examinations have been completed and reports for students will be written by February 21st. The reports for your children will be given to you at Parent/Teacher conferences that will occur on Tuesday 25th February and Wednesday 26th February. (Class teachers will contact you after the Tet holiday to make appointments)

Parent/Teacher conferences are a great chance to talk with your child's teacher about your child's progress during Semester 1. Class teachers will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the school curriculum and also discuss strategies that can be used to help students improve in areas where they may be weak. These can often involve strategies that can be used at home to help students improve and thus it can be very beneficial for your child if you can attend and meet the teachers.

The parents of International students will meet the class teacher. However, specific subject teachers will be available on request. (eg. English, EPP, Mathematics, Chinese, etc.) The English teacher and the Integrated class teacher will be available to talk with the parents of Integrated students. A Vietnamese staff member will be available to translate for any parent who does not speak English.

Happy New Year!

Simon Gibson

Head of Study (Y5 - Y9)

Head of Study's News – K-Y4

It's a busy three weeks for Y1-Y4 students to study and sit their SA1 Examinations. They are all-star students for working hard this first semester and deserve a well-earned break.

K1 & K2 Students are also developing into Star Students as these 3 students have shown in the photo beside. They are hard little workers in class and are always seen to be happy students.

Chuc Mung Nam Moi to all our SIS@SS families!

Kaye Tamarua

Head of Study (K-Y4)

Head of Study's News – Chinese

HSK examination (Dec-2013) results have been announced in this month, three students of SIS received their certificate with high score. They are Sarah Jisun Yoo (Y8 Intl, HSK3: 259, Full mark:300), Truong Bich Van (IGCSE 1A, HSK 5:275, Full mark:300), Ong Yi Ping (IGCSE1A, HSK4: 288, Full mark:300).

HSK is a renowned worldwide assessment test for Chinese language proficiency, with six levels of writing tests. Among the three examinees, Ong Yi Ping took HSK exam for the first time. In the interim, she was unsure of her Chinese level and had no confidence to take the test. With the encouragement from teacher and classmates, she decided to register up and finally got a very good result. Now she is going to challenge HSK level 5.

Congratulations to the three students!

Phillip Lin Yujie

Head of Study-Chinese



School choir at Christmas Fair



Food stalls at Christmas Fair



Santa Claus coming to give presents

High School Update

End of Semester 1 exams have taken place in the 3 week period between Winter Break and TET holidays so it has been a busy time for the IGCSE students and teachers. Time is drawing nearer to when the IGCSE 2 will be doing the Cambridge IGCSE Official exams so we have made these exams and the procedures as authentic as possible. A timetable of these exams will be coming soon. GAC students are busy as usual getting through Level 2 and will face more challenging assignments and exams as we move towards Level 3. Our AS students are also busily studying for their exams in May. This is our first time to run AS levels at Saigon South so we are very excited about these pioneer students taking this exam and wish them all the best. On a very happy note, we will be welcoming back Ms. Janelle Baker to Saigon South who will be Assistant Deputy Principal and will also have a big role as Student Councillor. While she will be very dedicated to helping our graduating GAC students choose their best options for their tertiary studies, she will also be on hand to lend assistance to students of all years of the school. Wishing everyone a safe, happy and prosperous TET holiday!

Robert Gayst

Head of Studies-SHS

Head of Vietnamese's News

Time travels very fast. In the blink of an eye, students have already finished semester 1 with very positive results. During semester 1, students actively participated in many events which school offered. Besides, students showed their generous support by raising money to help people who suffered from the storms in Central, North of Vietnam and the Philippines. All these good deeds have contributed to make students to be better persons.

The spring is approaching.....

Spring comes to bring joy and happiness to people...

Trees grow and blossom. People are preparing to welcome the spring and one new age.

As the Horse year 2014 is coming, I wish you and your family a new year full of Health – Wealth – Happiness.

I hope all of our students will study hard and receive good results in semester 2, and be *good children at home* and *good students at school*.

Phung Thi Tuyet Minh

Head of Vietnamese



Ms. Siobhan and Basketball team



Mr. James and U19 Volleyball team



Mr. Colum and Swimming team

Student Council 2013 – 2014

This month, the student council was very involved in fundraising for the SMILE campaign. This organization seeks to provide surgery to help Vietnamese children born with certain facial disabilities. This will in turn enable these children to live normal and healthy lives. Money was raised through events such as the Christmas fair and also free dress days.

The Christmas fair itself was great fun! Students had many fun choices of activities to play, such as the 'Nerf Gun Wars' and 'Dunk-a-Teacher' which were the top performers. There was a good selection of delicious food and treats for both children and parents alike to enjoy. We also were very lucky and had Santa come to visit the school, and hand out gifts to the kindergarten boys and girls.

Between Christmas and TET, most of the students are writing their very important mid-term exams, and the Student Council will thus be taking a breather. On behalf of the Student Council I would like to wish you all *Chuc Mung Nam Moi!*

Donovan Neethling

Head of Student Council

Athletic Department Update

Swimming

SIS has a new Swim Team! Late November, students from year 3, 4 and 5 competed in their first swimming competition. They whizzed up and down the pool, displaying an array of strokes. The swim team train hard early on a Wednesday morning and we hope to glide through our next competition in March!

Basketball

Championship day came and the u11 boys and girls were geared up and ready to face the challenge. The girls cruised through the group stages winning 3 out of 4 games. However the competition was fierce and much to their disappointment this was not enough to get them through to the finals. The boys fought equally as hard, managing a spot in the semifinal, and overall coming third on their big day. Both teams did the school very proud.

Athletics

The track and field opener of the year was held on a sunny Saturday morning. The athletes from SIS got their running shoes on and headed to the track. There were long distance runs and sprints, individual races and relays. Everybody ran as fast as lightening, with a few students picking up medals. Special congratulations to Justin Wee Lun Chow (year 3), Nguyen Le Thao Anh (year 5) and the U11 girls relay team who all exited the track that day with awards.

Siobhan Synnott

PE teacher & Athletic Coordinator