



IN THIS ISSUE

- **Principal's News**
- **Deputy Principal's News**
- **Head of Study's News – K-Y9**
- **Head of Study's News – Chinese**
- **High School Update**
- **Head of Vietnamese's News**
- **Student Council 2013 – 2014**
- **Athletic Department Update**

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

I am very pleased to announce that Singapore International School @ Saigon South now has a school-specific website. The new website went live at 8:30 am on Friday 08 November, 2013. The website is very sleek in design, user-friendly and professional. The site is easy to navigate, is accessible on hand-held devices as well as computers and provides parents with on-line access to information about the school.

Please visit the Singapore International School @ Saigon South website at <http://saigonsouth.sis.edu.vn/>. If you have any comments regarding our website please feel free to contact the school. The website will be continually updated to maintain currency. Parents will also be able to access newsletters from the website very soon.

Teachers' Day

On Wednesday, 20th of November our school celebrated teacher's day with many fun activities such as Teacher Portrait Competition, Poetry Writing Competition and Traditional Games (Blind Man's Bluff; Rope Skipping; Ball Passing; Tug of War).

The High School students celebrated with their teachers by going to Dem Sen Amusement Park. Both teachers and students enjoyed a fun day together to further develop and build on their relationships.

It was wonderful to see our teachers and students having such a great day together and many teachers were blessed with lovely gifts and flowers from you and your children on Teacher's Day, we thank you for acknowledging them!

As a Principal, it is always wonderful to acknowledge the academic achievements of our students. SIS @ Saigon South prides itself in being a school that achieves good academic results. I am very pleased to announce that recently I presented awards to 70 students who achieved a 'Certificate of Merit' for academic achievement. The criteria to be awarded a merit certificate was students had to achieve at least 4 Very Good's and nothing less than a Good on their term 1 report. It was wonderful to see so many students in our school who met the criteria. Congratulations to all of the students and well done on your excellent progress so far this year! I hope it will continue throughout the year and we will continue to see more wonderful results.

During this term we will be celebrating our annual 'Christmas Charity Fair' which will be held on Friday the 13th of December. This year the school will be supporting the charity 'Operation Smile – Vietnam'. Operation Smile Vietnam is dedicated to transforming the lives of children born with cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities. Approximately one in every 500 babies in Vietnam is born with a cleft lip and/or cleft palate, approximately 3,000 new cases each year. All money raised will be donated to 'Operation Smile' and in as little as 45 minutes, and for approximately \$250 - \$350 USD, a single surgery can change a child's life forever. So please come and support this wonderful cause by coming to our Christmas Fair. The Fair will start at 1:30 pm and finish at 3:30 pm.

Address: No. 29, Road No. 3, Trung Son Residential Area, Hamlet 4, Binh Hung Ward, Binh Chanh District, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: (84-8)5431 7477 **Fax:** (84-8)5431 7471
Email: enquiry@saigonsouth.sis.edu.vn

Shane Blood
Principal

Page 1 of 6

www.kinderworld.net



Student Council welcoming Victoria School to SIS@SS



Students from Victoria School studying with our students



Students from Victoria School attending weekly assembly at SIS@SS

Deputy Principal's News VICTORIA SCHOOL, SINGAPORE

VS is Singapore's second government secondary school. The all-boys school, founded in 1876, is located at Siglap Link. It is about one kilometer from affiliated Victoria Junior College and a very short walk from East Coast Park.

Visit to our school on Friday November 8th, 2013.

SIS@SS was honored to be visited by this prestigious school from Singapore. Our IGCSE 2 students entertained, socialized and shared with 25 boys from this school. Our Senior Student Council and Teachers did a great job hosting our visitors.

Victoria School students and teachers had a tour of the campus; shared in a Global Perspective lesson and an English lesson with the IGCSE 2 students; attended the weekly senior assembly; celebrated 'Diwali' with our students; and shared the experience of making traditional Vietnamese Spring Rolls whilst socializing and chatting with their peers. It was a very happy and successful event.

Extra-curricular activities for term 2 began on November 12th. It is a 'jam-packed' program, ranging from social and team sports, 'Learn to Swim' to music and choir, reading, chess and drama, tutorials in math, science and Chinese, homework and a Martial Arts class offered by an outside vendor. We look forward to a fun-filled term offering our students a wide variety of activities.

Jilda Manson
Deputy Principal

Head of Study's News – K-Y9

PREPARATION FOR SA1 EXAMINATIONS

Singapore International School has an examination period of approximately two weeks at the end of Semester 1 (Tues 7th Jan – Fri 17th Jan 2014). During this period examinations will be held in English, Mathematics, Science, Chinese and Vietnamese. The English examination will consist of four parts covering writing, vocabulary/grammar/comprehension, speaking and listening.

Teachers will do in-class revision in the two weeks leading up to the examinations however it is important that along with teacher directed revision students begin doing some extra revision each night in the six weeks prior to the examination period so as to be fully prepared.

English

As the English examination consists of four papers it is imperative that students cover the four areas in their revision.

Students should begin by revising all vocabulary and grammar rules covered in the semester. They should read-over all new vocabulary so as to understand the meaning and the spelling, and re-do grammar exercises from their homework book so as to identify any problems in understanding. Students should then follow up with the teacher **before** the examinations if they are having problems. Revision of these two areas is valuable for students when completing both the Writing Paper 1 and the Comprehension/Grammar/Vocabulary Paper 2.

Address: No. 29, Road No. 3, Trung Son Residential Area, Hamlet 4, Binh Hung Ward, Binh Chanh District, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: (84-8)5431 7477 Fax: (84-8)5431 7471
Email: enquiry@saigonsouth.sis.edu.vn



Students at junior assembly



Students at senior assembly



Senior students performing at assembly

All students should also get into the habit of reading an English book for 10-15 minutes each evening. This not only exposes them to new vocabulary and improves comprehension but also allows them to become familiar with common sentence structures. They should also practise reading aloud whenever possible to help improve fluency and pronunciation. If there is an English speaker in the house then students should be encouraged to converse and to talk about their day at school or the book they are reading in English to improve their speaking and listening. Watching TV shows in English is also a good way to improve their listening skills.

Mathematics and Science

For Mathematics it is highly recommended that students not only read over the topics and learn the rules they have covered but also that they pick questions from their workbook and do them again so as to practise actually solving problems using the methods they have learnt. If students don't remember or fully understand all the steps involved in solving a problem they should follow up with the teacher.

For Mathematics and Science it is strongly recommended that students **write a summary** of important facts and formulas as they read over their textbooks. This allows the students to have all the important information in a short, and more easily studied, form. Also students have a far better chance of fully understanding and remembering information if they write it down rather than just read it.

Chinese/Vietnamese

Although the subject teacher will give specific direction to students in their revision, in general students should approach the study of Chinese or Vietnamese in a similar way as they approach English. They should revise all vocabulary, definitions and grammar rules. Once again it is recommended that students study by actually writing sentences to practise grammar and spelling.

I encourage all students to talk to their teachers prior to the examinations if they are having any problems understanding anything covered in the semester.

Simon Gibson

Head of Study (Y5 - Y9)

Kaye Tamarua

Head of Study (K-Y4)

Address: No. 29, Road No. 3, Trung Son Residential Area, Hamlet 4, Binh Hung Ward, Binh Chanh District, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: (84-8)5431 7477 Fax: (84-8)5431 7471
Email: enquiry@saigonsouth.sis.edu.vn

Head of Study's News – Chinese



Mr. Shane presenting Merit Certificate to student in assembly



Mr. Shane and junior students with Merit Certificates



Mr. Shane and senior students with Merit Certificates

I would like to introduce to you the HSK test (Han Yu Shui Ping Kao Shi). This is a renowned worldwide assessment test, where students' language levels will be better targeted to facilitate their learning. It will also allow parents to make better plans for their children according to the syllabus. HSK, with six levels of writing tests, is an internationally standardized Chinese language ability test based on the Chinese Language Proficiency Scales for Speakers of Other Languages, and it is the only officially recognized Chinese language test in China. In Ho Chi Minh City, there are two testing centers providing the HSK bi-annually. At our SIS campus, several students have completed this test in different levels, and 5 of them have passed level 4 or above which is a very big achievement!

Oh Sug Hyun, who is in IGCSE 2, is currently preparing for the HSK level 6 test this coming May. This is the highest level in HSK test.

"I have learnt Chinese for more than 5 years. My parent told me that I must know this language well ever since I was a little kid. For me, I think more than 25% of the world's population uses the Chinese language, so we cannot ignore it for any reason. Moreover, if I want to enter one of the top three universities in Korea, the HSK score is an important fact they consider, so I must pass level 6 HSK."- Oh Sug Hyun (IGCSE 2).

Just last month, our school library purchased many books about the HSK test, and we want to encourage our students to take the HSK test, and to make a good plan for their Chinese learning. If the parents want to inquire about HSK, please contact: lin.yujie@saigonsouth.sis.edu.vn.

Phillip Lin Yujie
Head of Study-Chinese



Students playing “Ô Quan” - a Vietnamese traditional game - on Teachers' Day



Students playing “Rope Skipping” on Teachers' Day



Year 4 Int'g's decoration for Teachers' Day

High School Update

Senior High School at SIS is now well into the swing of Term 2. As for the IGCSE 2 students, they recently completed their first practice of the IGCSE Cambridge exams which they will be taking in May 2015; some time from now but it's never too early to start preparing. There have been some encouraging scores with most students in IGCSE 1 English First language for example achieving a result of over 70%. Very good grades were also recorded in Science and ICT (Computing). The IGCSE 1 has a great sense of teamwork and friendship among the students and we hope this will continue in the years ahead. As for our IGCSE 2 students the 'real' Cambridge exams are not far away and our teachers are working very hard with the students to best prepare them for this challenging exam period next May. The GAC students have just completed Level 1 and now understand the rigors of submitting assignments and reports on time. We also encourage the parents of the GAC students to contact us if they have any inquiries for their students regarding their education after they graduate from SIS. We are always happy and willing to discuss education options with the students.

Robert Gayst
Head of Studies

Head of Vietnamese's News

Every year, when we celebrate Teachers' Day, the activities at SIS@SS always get more bustling and lively. This year, our school held many meaningful and interesting activities on Teachers' Day for students to take part in.

- During the week before Teachers' Day: students from Year 1 – Year 9 take part in competitions:
 - + Portrait Competition: Students draw portraits of teachers they love.
 - + Poetry Competition: Students write poems about their school, teachers and friends.
- On Teachers' Day:

From early in the morning, parents and students came to school with many flower baskets to give to their teachers to show their gratitude. The tradition of respecting teachers is a beautiful tradition in Vietnam, which reminds teachers to work and students to study harder.

In the afternoon, all students participated in Vietnamese traditional games such as Rope Skipping, Blind-Man's Buff, Ball Passing, and Tug of War under supervision of teachers.

Thanks to these activities, students feel closer and get to know more about their teachers and friends. It helps students to love the school more and make them think that: “A new day at school is a happy day”.

Phung Thi Tuyet Minh
Head of Vietnamese



Table tennis Tournament at SIS@SS



Table tennis Tournament at SIS@SS



U19 Girls Volleyball Team

Student Council 2013 – 2014

This term saw Student Council raising money for disaster relief in both the central provinces of Vietnam and the Philippines. Two free dress days were held and the students were very generous with their donations.

This month also saw the first event in our multi-cultural school program, to be run by student council. The aim of these events is to have days where we can learn about and enjoy one of the numerous cultures we have within our school. The first event was Diwali. Students had many activities planned, which included the selling of traditional sweetmeats and henna painting at break times. Students also gave a presentation in the hall about the origins of the 'Festival of Light' and we all were treated to a traditional Indian dance performed by 2 high school students. One of the dancers was Vietnamese, and this highlights how great the environment is for students to learn more about the cultures around them.

We also had a visit by 20 students and 3 teachers from Victoria School, Singapore. These students were given a tour of our school by high school members of student council, and sat in on some of the high school's lessons. They had a great time and were very impressed with the level of teaching within the school. Thanks to the teachers involved who gave of their time to demonstrate their teaching methodologies.

December will see the SIS Christmas Fair being held. Students will be running many different stalls and activities, and on behalf of the Student Council, I would like to invite you, the parents, to feel free to join us on this day.

Donovan Neethling
Head of Student Council

Athletic Department Update *Volleyball*

Ms. Christina and Mr. James always trusted that the U-19 Volleyball Championships would be a tough encounter. After a season of hard training, they went into the competition well prepared. At the end of the day, the girls found themselves winning the runners up final, taking a proud third place overall. In addition, the boys demonstrated an outstanding performance. Congratulations to both teams!

Badminton

The badminton season is in full swing, with huge numbers turning out to training and fighting for their spot on the team. Big congratulations to the u11 team who took part in their first competitive badminton meet; they did coach Mr. Geoff and the school proud. The u14 boys and girls travelled to compete in the competitive contest this month, revealing that their skill levels have improved significantly since the start of the year.

Basketball

The u11 basketball boys and girls are in preparation for the championship. With friendly matches each week and training three times a week, we look forward to seeing their talent and skills shine on championship day at the end of the month.

Siobhan Synnott
PE teacher & Athletic Coordinator