



**SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**
Since 1986

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Principal's News**
- **Deputy Principal's News**
- **Head of Studies News – K-Y9**
- **High School Update**
- **Head of Vietnamese's News**
- **Student Council March 2015**
- **Athletic Department Update**

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

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



The winners of Rhino Competition

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.

Dear Parents and Students,

Term 3 is well and truly off to a very exciting and busy start. I would like to thank all of the parents who recently attended Parent Teacher Interviews on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 March. It was wonderful to see so many parents speaking with their child's teachers on their academic progress. I hope that the interviews were informative and you received useful strategies on how you can help your child.

Wild Rhino Competition Winner's

Earlier this year many of our students entered into a competition run by the 'Wilderness Foundation' to help save Rhino's from worldwide extinction. The competition was open to students who fitted into two categories:

- Junior: Aged 14 and younger on 1 June 2015
- Senior: Aged between 15 and 19 on June 2015

Students who entered the Junior Competition had to write a poem explaining why the rhino should be protected; or draw a picture of a rhino. Students who entered the Senior Competition had to write a 500 word essay on the topic of "How I would educate my friends and family on ways to reduce the demand for rhino horn".

I would like to thank all of our students who entered the competition; it was wonderful to see so many entries from our school. Out of the 12 schools in Ho Chi Minh City that were selected to participate in the competition, SIS @ Saigon South had the 4th highest number of entries.

I am pleased to announce the winners of the Junior and Senior Competition are:

Nguyen Nam Nguyen – Year 7 International (Junior)

Tran Khai Doanh – Year 3 Integrated (Junior)

Nguyen Quynh Bao Han Teresa (Senior)

Luu Tra My – IGCSE 1B (Senior)



Upcoming event: SIS's got Talent



Semester 1 Merit Award Senior Recipients



Semester 1 Merit Award Junior Recipients

The junior winners have both won a Forever Wild goody bag. While the senior winners have both won a 5 day wilderness trail, plus a 1 day workshop in South Africa!

SIS' Got Talent

On Saturday, 4 April, we will be holding a very exciting talent show to showcase the performing and visual art talent of our students and students from SIS @ Binh Duong. Our students have been working very hard preparing for the night. During the event we will have students performing various songs and dances from both schools, in addition to our school choir and rock band performing. Student art work will also be on display and available for purchase.

The event is being held at SIS @ Saigon South in the Hall. We will be serving hors d'oeuvres throughout the night and drinks are available for purchase. Tickets are on sale for the event for VND 195,000. The evening will start at 5:00 pm and finish at 8:00 pm. This will be a very enjoyable event for our families so please come and watch our student performances and admire the art work on display.

Semester 1 Merit Award Recipients

Recently on assembly I had the wonderful pleasure of presenting 'Merit Awards' to acknowledge the academic achievement of 77 students for achieving excellent results on their Semester 1 report. The criteria to receive a merit award was as follows:

Year 1 – 9 International and Integrated Students

- Achieve grades between 50% - 40% (out of 50%) and nothing less than a B in all other subjects.

IGCSE

- Achieve at least 3 A* or A's and no grade less than B in all other subjects.

AS/A Level

- Achieve at least 1 A and no grade less than a B in all other subjects.

Well done to all of the students on your excellent achievement; keep up the good work!

Study Tour to Malaysia and Singapore

We are currently in the process of organizing a Study Tour for Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 students to Malaysia and Singapore. The duration of the study tour will be for 7 days and 6 nights (4 nights in Malaysia, 2 nights in Singapore). The objectives of the Study Tour are to provide our students with:



Study Tour 2015



NGEE ANN International Business Study Trip
To SIS@SS

- Opportunities to participate in character development which includes lots of exciting and challenging outdoor activities.
- Opportunities to experience Singapore and Malaysia's nature, country and culture.
- Opportunities to visit many exciting places of interest such as Universal Studios Singapore and Lego Land Malaysia.

Tour fare per student is VND 33,000,000 inclusive of airfare and airport tax, travel insurance, accommodation, transportation fee, 3 meals per day, entrance fees to places of interest, 1 set of summer uniform, 1 set of PE uniform, 1 hat and exclusive of other personal expenses.

For registration, please complete the Registration form which is available at the School Administration Office and pay a deposit of VND 10,000,000 by 28 April 2015. If you require more information please contact the School Administrators.

Administration of Medication to students from Kindergarten to Year 3

With immediate effect the school will adhere to the following policy accordingly for the administration of medication to students from Kindergarten to Year 3:

- All medication will be administered by the School Nurse only.
- For non-prescription medication such as eye drops, cough syrup etc, parents must complete and sign the Medication Consent Form which can be obtained from the School Nurse or Administration Office.
- For prescribed medication, parents must complete and sign the Medication Consent Form as well as provide the School Nurse with a copy of the prescription from a Registered Medical Doctor. All prescribed medications must be sent to the school in labeled packages with details that includes but is not limited to name of student, name of the medicine, expiry date, dosage and frequency.
- School staff is not allowed to accept any traditional or herbal medications.

Shane Blood – Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to all our new students and their families who have joined us in Semester 2.



Learn to swim Club



Semester 1 Parent - Teacher interviews



K1 Integrated students

Extra-curricular activities for Term 3 continue to be well attended with many students enjoying the sports program, Learn to Swim, Chess, Debating, Choir, Orchestra, Chinese Traditional painting, and many other enrichment programs. There are also support programs such as homework; exam preparation, tutorials and more.

Parent / Teacher interviews were held at the beginning of March where parents had the opportunity to discuss their children's SA1 reports and their progress; as well as set goals for the semester ahead. Parents are co-educators and are fundamental to their child's success. It is very important that a good rapport exists between parents and teachers.

School photos were taken of each individual student, class groups, sports teams, staff and administration teams, etc. this month. Parents will receive their child's picture and receive the yearbook at the end of the year, where class pictures will be featured.

Excursions A few of the classes have ventured out on excursions:

- SHS to X-Rock climbing
- K1 & K2 Integrated and International to Kizciti
- GAC to Vung Tau

Thanks to the teachers for preparing and taking the students on these very interesting and relevant outings, which are

- an extension and expansion of outlook beyond the classroom
- the opportunity for experiential learning as a contrast to verbal
- the opportunity to broaden the social experience of the students

"One of the key roles and challenges of education in the 21st century is to build the capacity of our youth so that they can create a better future, not just for themselves and their families, but for all people.

They will need the appropriate knowledge and skills as well as great depth of character to respond successfully and wisely to the global challenges that lie ahead."

These are the virtues teachers and students will focus on this term.



Students presenting virtues in assembly



High School Students and Teachers



GAC Class with Ms. Diana

Perseverance
Honesty
Self-Discipline

Optimism
Commitment

Jilda Manson – Deputy Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

Over the past few weeks, students have been informed about the many University Fairs that have been offered by organizations such as INTO, ISN, IDP and Capstone. We were also fortunate to have representatives from these universities visit our school to talk to the students. These universities included: George Mason University and Marshall University (INTO - USA) as well as University of New South Wales and the University of Queensland (Australia).

The message from the visiting American universities is that they will accept international students who have completed their education in Vietnam and have achieved excellent results and the language proficiency as set by the university. They are not willing to accept international students who complete their study in American high schools. Competition is extremely fierce in America to get into the best high schools and universities. Local American students have the advantages over international students who complete their High School in America. Parents should listen carefully to sound advice from schools and teachers and not be persuaded to send students overseas before they finish their schooling.

We are currently planning a parent information event in May, where we will have universities speaking about studying overseas.

For the past seven years, students have graduated from the GAC program and continue to be successful. Here is a quick update of some of our past students.

Pham Minh Triet (GAC 2009) After graduating with B.A with Honors (High Distinction) in Political Science (2014). In September, Triet will attend Georgetown University, Washington D.C, the #1 school in the US in International Affairs. He has been awarded a half tuition scholarship for the next two years.

Ha Quoc Tien (GAC 2010) Tien has recently graduated with a Bachelor of Marketing and International Business (2014). He is now embarking on a Master of Business Process Management at QUT, Australia.



High School Students visiting Charity House
Te - Phan



Read aloud Day - 4 March 2015
Buddy Reading

After graduating with a Bachelor of Accountancy (2013), Le Michael (GAC 2011) completed his audit internship in Vietnam and has recently secured employment with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Vietnam.

Janelle Baker – Deputy Principal (High School)

Dear Parents and students,

We hope you had a happy and refreshing TET break with your loved ones and look forward to a great second half in the academic year 2014-2015. Our GAC students are at the end of Level 2 and with only Level 3 to complete. Each day that goes along means our GAC students get closer to the Big G; "Graduation" so we are working hard with the students to best prepare them for this big day in July and of course prepare them for university life after their years of study here at Saigon South. The MOCK Exams took place, 16 – 20 March where our IGCSE 2 sat their Business exams and our A and AS students took a variety of subjects including Business, Economics, Maths, English, Biology and Computer Science. These are valuable practice exams to prepare them for the real Cambridge exams in May and June. A very important time awaits our high school students, we as always are here to support them and wish them all the best.

Robert Gayst – Head of Studies (High School)

Dear Parents and students,

Students and parents are often asking teachers how students can improve and work on their English skills. Along with daily reading, here are just a few ideas of some other ways to improve your English:

Listen to, read lyrics or translate your favorite English music. Listening to music while doing something else can even help a little for things like getting used to the natural rhythm and tone of English speech.

Social media/online: Try using English for your online chats, writing on someone's wall or sending out a tweet. The language is short and informal just like speech.

Switching your search engine to the English language version of msn, yahoo, Google etc. and only searching in English can be a good way of practicing fast reading for specific information in English.

Keep up with news and watch popular shows and movies. If you have been exposed to topics and trends that are likely to be discussed in conversation, you have a much better chance of understanding people when they talk, and of being able to express yourself well.

Sharla Scott – Head of Studies (Year 5 – Year 9)



SIS@SS Book Fair March 2015

Dear Parents and students,

Last term Year 3 learnt about cartography, the study of maps and map making. During this unit students created their own large map of Latin America and the Caribbean. With guidance students were able to recreate a sample map of an assigned Latin America Region and a regional map which was to be put together to create a large patchwork of the region. Throughout this unit students were able to demonstrate how to work collaboratively with others, became critical thinkers, understand and respect their own and other cultures.

This month the school held their annual book week. It is held during the first week of March so that we can also celebrate 'World Read Aloud Day'. Every year on the first Wednesday of March, World Read Aloud Day calls global attention to the importance of reading aloud and sharing stories. As a school we all got together with our buddy classes and read to each other, with teachers also taking time to read to students they wouldn't normally teach.

This year books were on display and for purchase from two book distributors; Dai Truong Phat and Phuong Nam Group (PNC). For every book sold, a percentage of the sales were given towards purchasing new books for the library. We are happy to say that we have had a successful book week and were able to purchase new books to the value of \$1000 USD.

Kaye Tamarua – Head of Studies (K – Year 4)

Dear Parents and students,

The students have returned to school after the Tet holiday. Since then they have been learning the virtues: patience, honesty and self-discipline.

From 16 March to 27 March 2015, the Integrated students sat mid-semester tests. The results you achieve will reflect your dedication and hard work.

On 1 April, the school will be organizing a talk about "Etiquette in school". Master Nguyen Hoang Khac Hieu - psychological lecturer from Ho Chi Minh City University of Pedagogy will be our speaker. This talk will help students to understand that it is important to care about your etiquette and how important social communication skills are when interacting with teachers and friends.

Phung Thi Tuyet Minh – Head of Vietnamese Studies



SIS' Got Talent - 2015



Football Tournament February 2015



SIS@SS Swim Team

Dear Parents and students,

The Student Council is pleased to announce 3 upcoming events for all students to enjoy. On 4 April, Saigon South will hold "SIS's Got Talent" or 'SGT', our successor event to the very popular 'Night of the Arts' held in 2013. Auditions have already been held and the competition was stiff, with many excellent talents being showcased for our judges. Straight after this event, Student Council will hold a 'Spring Dance' for Year 6 and up. We have a well - known South African DJ booked for the event so please join us for a day filled with amazing talents and dancing. Tickets for SGT only or for the dance and SGT together, will be on sale soon. For our junior year levels, we have another movie night planned where Doraemon the movie will be shown. Please refer to the posters placed around the school and speak with your teachers for more details. That's it from us! We hope to see all of you on 4 April.

Tu Minh Tri – Student Council President

Dear Parents and Students,

Football: We had an eventful month starting with the U14 boys and girls Football Championships. We hosted the Boy's tournament here at SIS. Five schools joined us on a sunny Thursday to battle out for the 2014-15 title. Our boys won 4 out of 4 matches to set the day off to a great start. Great team work and passion was shown throughout all games. Unfortunately we ran out of steam and took our first defeat of the day in the semi final. Great performances shown by all, giving a special mention to Michael (IGCSE1).

Swimming: The Year 2 to Year 5 swimmers have been busy in the pool the last few weeks with training and competitions. After coming second overall in last year's Championship, we were hoping to perform better but the competition was tough, coming home in 4th place. Two swimmers, who stepped up to the high competitive level, coming home with 3 medals each, were Haruta and Tony (both Year 5). Well done boys.

Badminton: Badminton players are taking part in an intra-schools tournament this month. Students from Year 6-9 will play singles and doubles matches against one another at lunch times and after school. The winners will be awarded a position on the U14 Badminton squad to compete in next month's Championships.

Athletics: The track and field event of the year was a huge success. Athletes from Year 3 up to IGCSE competed in running, jumping and throwing events. We came away with many wins, with the U14 Girls particularly excelling on the day.

Siobhan Synnott - PE teacher/ Athletic Coordinator