



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**



Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Principal News

Dear Parents and Students,

On November 18, we celebrated Teacher's Day. It was so nice for our teachers to be recognised by parents and students for their hard work and dedication to teaching. Our teachers were very touched by kind words, flowers, letters and gifts to honour this day. Thank you for taking the time from your busy



schedules to share this day with our teachers. We are very thankful and appreciate all of your support to our school.

iPSLE Certificate of Outstanding Performance

Recently, students from Year 6 in the school year 2015 – 2016 received their results for the International Primary School Leaving Exam (iPSLE). The iPSLE exam tests students at the end of their primary education in English Language, Mathematics and Science. It provides a benchmark for students against Singapore standards. I am very pleased to announce that one of our students, Tran Chi Cuong received the award of 'Outstanding Subject Performance (Maths)' for Vietnam. This is an excellent result for Chi Cuong and we are very proud of his achievement. Well done Chi Cuong!

The Voice Kids Vietnam

It is always a pleasure to share with our school community the achievements of our students. This also extends to the personal achievements of our students. Milana from Year 5 International recently competed in the very popular television series 'The Voice Kids Vietnam'. Milana travelled back and forth during the competition from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City. I am very pleased to announce that Milana came second in the competition. Milana has a real talent for singing and I am sure she will go very far in her future with singing. Congratulations Milana on this excellent personal achievement.



Korean Mom's presenting gifts for Teachers' Day



Teachers' Day flowers from parents



Tran Chi Cuong receiving his iPSLE Outstanding Performance Certificate

Christmas Charity Fair

SIS @ Gamuda Gardens will be holding our annual Christmas Charity Fair on Friday 16th of December from 10:30 – 12:45 pm. All parents are welcome to join in the fun. Our students are currently busy planning for the event. We will also be holding a special Christmas Concert for primary parents, from 10 am to 10:30 am in the MPH. We look forward to seeing you all!

American College Test (ACT)

SIS @ Gamuda Gardens is a test centre for the American College Test (ACT). If you are interested in studying in America, then it is highly advisable to take the ACT. The ACT test will be offered on two test dates:

- April 8, 2017
- June 10, 2017

Both the ACT and SAT are accepted and equally valued by all four-year universities in the United States, but more students now take the ACT. Of the 2015 High School Graduates in the US, 59.2% took the ACT, compared to 47.7% that took the SAT.

7 reasons to take the ACT Test:

1. The test is reliable and consistent

Students and universities have relied on ACT scores for more than 50 years. More than 3 million students took the ACT last year. The ACT is accepted for admissions by all four-year universities in the United States and more than 225 universities around the world.

2. The ACT is designed with advice from educators and business professionals

ACT surveys thousands of US educators about the knowledge needed for university-level courses.

3. The ACT test stays up to date

Ongoing research affects every update to the test. ACT continually improve the test to make sure it always measures what students need to succeed.

4. The ACT is the only university admissions test that offers a science section and score

The ACT science test:

Is used to help calculate the ACT STEM score, which is compared to the ACT STEM Benchmark to indicate readiness for university courses.

Includes a STEM ranking to show students how their STEM scores compare to other students' scores.

5. ACT understands the importance students place on STEM careers

ACT research show that 49% of students have an interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) majors and careers.



Nguyen Duyen Ngan and Nguyen Le Hoai Thuong receiving their 'Top in Vietnam' Award



Flowers from student for Teachers' Day



Milana from The Voice Kids Vietnam

6. ACT offers study resources

The best way to prepare for the ACT is to take rigorous courses. Students can find additional practice resources to help them do their best on the test at www.act.org/theact/international.

7. The ACT is more than a university admissions test

The test also gives students tools to help them plan for the future using the **ACT Interest Inventory**, the **Student Profile Section**, the **Career Map**, and the **Career Readiness Indicator**.

If you are interested in finding out more, or planning on registering for the ACT exam, please visit their website www.actstudent.org/intl.

Regards,
Shane Blood
Principal

2. Message from Head of Vietnamese

Dear Parents and Students,

November, the busy month of studying and revising for the Semester 1 exams has just ended. The school already sent the exam schedule and revision outline to students of each class. Parents please keep an eye on and encourage them to study and prepare well for their exams. We arrange one exam per day to reduce stress and tiredness for students.



The exam dates will be from 28 November to 13 December 2016.

Please try not to plan your family holiday during the exam period in order for your children to sit all exams. Especially with year 1 and 6 students, parents please make sure they eat, play and sleep properly during the exam days.

Here are some tips for you to have good results:

- Thoroughly revise the topics in the Revision Outline. Seek help from teachers if you are unsure about something.
- Don't stay up too late or play computer games. Eat and sleep on time.
- Make sure you have all stationery needed so that you don't have to borrow them from your friends during the exam time.
- Be confident and read the questions carefully. Answer the easy questions first then the difficult ones.
- Keep your paper presentable. If you make some mistakes, use a ruler and a pen to cross it out and write again under it.
- Go through your paper once again for mistakes before handing it in!

This month we had a very special day - 20 November - the day when the society expresses gratitude towards teachers who silently devote to the cause of "growing humans". We would like to say thank you to parents and students for your beautiful flowers and nice wishes on this Teachers' Day.



Students receiving certificates during Primary School Assembly



Year 2A and 3L excursion



Year 2A and 3L excursion

Once again, I wish you all good health, success and happiness! Good luck to my students in the Semester 1 exam and have fruitful results!

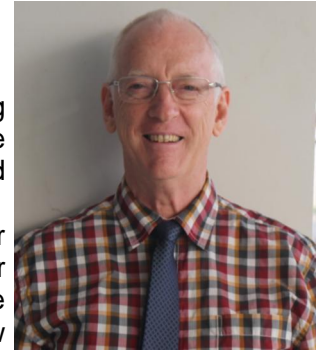
I am happy to share and discuss with you at nghi.duongthanh@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn.

Regards,
Duong Thanh Nghi
Head of Vietnamese

Message from Head of Studies (Primary)

Dear Parents and Students,

With the Christmas holiday break coming quickly, it is now time to make arrangements at home for revising and reviewing school work covered in Terms 1 and 2 in preparation for the end of semester exams in early January. Please help your children allocate time and effort over the coming weekends and week days to review their school work so far this year.



Throughout the whole year, our school emphasizes and celebrates a range of human virtues. These virtues are taught to help students develop good character and positive social skills in the hope that as people they will understand the importance these virtues play in their daily lives, personality and future life opportunities. The virtues include honesty, integrity, cooperation, responsibility, teamwork, etc. This last month, cooperation and responsibility have been emphasized. Unfortunately, some students have not been paying attention and have stooped to stealing from other children in contravention of school rules and expectations of good moral character. As parents, we all have an obligation to teach our children good character. Stealing is never acceptable. We would like all parents to speak to children and reinforce constantly that stealing is disrespectful and inappropriate behaviour. Please do this for your children's and others' sake.

I asked Year 2 recently, "Who helps a dog when the dog gets sick?" I was anticipating a student might answer, "A vet," but the answer I got was, "A dogtor.....get it?!" I believe the answer was spontaneous and original. It certainly exemplified the creative thinking of which young minds are capable. If we make learning fun, then children will want to learn more and more.

As we head towards the Christmas Charity Fair and holiday season, I hope we can all make the time ahead a happy and joyous celebration of learning, sharing and caring.

Regards
Dr. Noel Geoghegan
Head of Studies (Primary)



Gaelic Football Club



Gaelic Football Club



Nguyen Duyen Ngan and Nguyen Le Hoai Thuong receiving their 'Top in Vietnam' Award

Message from Head of Studies (Integrated Secondary)

Dear Parents and Students,



On Saturday 19 November, our Gaelic Football Club competed in the first ever Gaelic Athletic Association Asian Youth Championships in My Dinh, Hanoi. The event was a very successful one for SIS Gamuda Gardens, as we were champions of the Under 12 division and came second place in the Under 15 division. The tournament, which featured teams from ten schools and organizations coming from Korea, China and Hanoi, was an excellent experience for our boys as it allowed them to practice their skills against both local and international teams while also testing their mental toughness and physical endurance as they played game after game on a very warm and Sunny November afternoon.

In the final match of the day, our U12 team, led by captain Kim Ji Woo of 7LA and a great team effort in defence, showed their quality and heart in defeating the Seoul Gaels Youth Club for the second time of the day to finish 7- 0 for the tournament and earn the championship as the undefeated top side in the seven team division. Also playing admirably and improving throughout the day, our U15 team came up just short in their division, narrowly losing their final match against the champions from Vietnam Australia School to finish as first runners up.

For being among the top finishers, both of our teams were presented medals by Irish Ambassador Cait Moran and GAA Asian County Board Chairman Joe Trolan. Overall, it was a fantastic day for everyone involved and as a coach I am very proud of the effort, sportsmanship and teamwork that our players displayed in representing our school.

Regards,

John Shoulders

Head of Studies (Integrated Secondary)

Message from Head of Studies (International Secondary)

Dear Parents and Students,

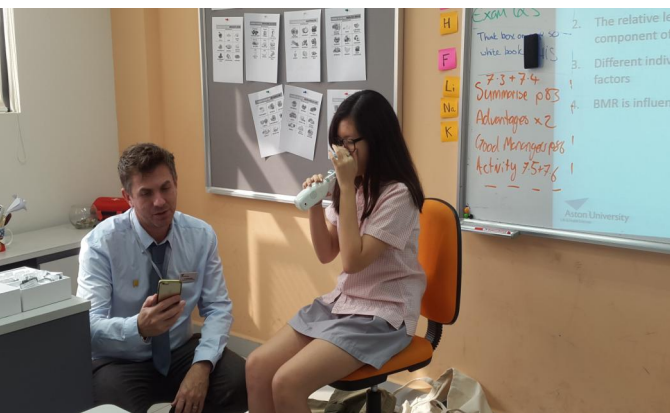


My name is Timothy Bryan Bikowski I am the new Head of Studies for year 6-8 international. In addition to this responsibility I will be working closely with the staff in terms of WASC accreditation and helping revise certain areas of the curriculum.

I have been in international education for the 16 years. I have masters in educational leadership and supervision and certified secondary education in history and political science. I hale from Boston Massachusetts, USA. So far, I have really been enjoying my experience here at SIS. I'm still trying to deal with the traffic here in Hanoi, as it is the quite chaotic but yet still seems to work. However, I am sure over time I will get used to it.



Students participating in STEM lecture



Students participating in STEM lecture

The students have proven to be very respectful and extremely polite. I think that the small time that we have spent together they have enjoyed me in the class when I substitute. If I have had to speak to a student for behavior or academics, they understand that I am patient and understanding, but I have the expectations that they will be successful and will work with them to be so.

I hope that if any members of the SIS community want to speak to me for any reason they feel free to make an appointment with me and I will more than glad to make myself available upon your request.

Regards,
Timothy Bryan Bikowski
Head of Studies (International Secondary)

Message from Head of Studies (High School)

Dear Parents and Students,

This month we welcomed two universities from the UK who are part of a group of universities visiting Vietnam on the UK STEM LECTURE TOUR 2016 organized by the British Council.



Dr James Brown is a Lecturer at Aston University, Birmingham where he leads the teaching and research into obesity/diabetes/aging and breast cancer and Prof. Anna Barney is a professor of Biomedical Acoustic Engineering at the University of Southampton. Both came to our school to run experiments in their area of research with our IGCSE 1 students. Dr James Brown delivered an interesting talk about *'The role of metabolic rate in health and disease'* and the factors which affect it throughout our lives and Prof. Anna Barney engaged our students in a lecture about *'Understanding and Analyzing Sound'*.

We are very proud of the students who attended the lectures. Both visitors commented on how enthusiastic and pleasant our students were and how well they represented our school.

Regards,
Louise Ellis
Head of Studies (High School)