



SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
Since 1986

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ GAMUDA GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018

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.

Principal's News

Dear Parents and Students,

OUTSTANDING LEARNER RESULTS

It is with great pleasure that I get to congratulate our students for their great achievements in the Cambridge, June 2018 examination series. Students from Singapore International School @ Gamuda Gardens have received the following awards:



- Top in the World - AS Level, Mathematics - Jong In Lee (He achieved an impressive 100% for Mathematics.)
- Best Across All Four Subjects - AS Level - Jong In Lee
- Top in Country - Cambridge IGCSE - Global Perspectives - Shrija Pathak

These awards recognize the talent, dedication and commitment of both students and staff. Congratulations!

TEACHERS' DAY

Thank you parents for the wonderful flowers, gifts and notes of appreciation to all of our teachers and admin staff. We are overwhelmed by your generosity, kindness and support. This was most appreciated, thank you again!

OBV (Outward Bound Vietnam)

Our Year 4 and 5 students enjoyed a fun-filled, two-day OBV event held at SIS Gamuda gardens. The students were so excited to be able to sleep over in the school's multi-purpose hall. It was an absolute joy to watch them participate in team events and enjoy the many brainstorming activities. The excitement on their faces and the energy levels were high. These events allowed students to get to know their classmates better and many great friendships were formed. I want to thank Mr. Paul Batchelor and his OBV team for the organization and long hours spent working with our students; they too camped out in our multi-purpose hall. Needless to say, the OBV staff were exhausted.

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

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



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Lee Jong In - A level receiving his Cambridge awards

NEW STAFF MEMBER:

We would like to welcome Mr. Kleber Quevedo who joined us this month to replace Ms. Jennifer Beels, who is returning to the UK, due to her husband's health problems. We wish Ms. Jennifer all the best and thank her for the work she did at SIS Gamuda gardens.

Mr. Kleber taught Computer Science in China for the past 12 years and has more than 15 years' experience teaching IGCSE Computer Science and Design and Technology. I'm sure he is going to love our SIS family and Vietnam.

SIS READS WEEK

We are excited to announce our first SIS Reads week which will be held from 10 to 14 December. Our aim is to instill a love for reading in our students and therefore would like to ask you to support us by encouraging your children to read and participate in this event:

The program will be as follows:

★ CATCH ME READING THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

- ★ December 3 - 12 - Receiving books for the Book Exchange
- ★ Entries to Bookface competition by 10 December
- ★ Monday, December 10- Wear a message to school
- ★ Tuesday, December 11 - D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and READ!)
- ★ Wednesday, December 12 - Buddy reading
- ★ Thursday December 13 - Hats off to Reading
- ★ Friday, December 14 - Snuggle up and read

Please find more details in the attached document. We hope the students will have fun reading!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas fair will be held on Saturday 8 December at SIS Gamuda Gardens. All classes will be involved in setting up a stall or activity. Should you wish to set up a stall or activity, please contact Ms Lien our deputy office manager for the letters of confirmation and application. Her email address is lien.buithikim@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn. The fair will start at 9:30 and run till 11:30, please join us for a fun filled morning. All proceeds will be donated to Operation Smile.

CONCERT

Our KIK and Primary School Students are holding a Christmas concert, led by Ms. Chelsea and Ms. Tho on December 14. Details will follow soon. Please join us if you can. This will be an entertaining event.

CHARITY

We are collecting donations for the BLUE DRAGONS FOUNDATION, the coordinators visited our school last week. It is so sad to note how many homeless children are abused in Vietnam. I would like to thank our Junior Student Council and Mr Winkelmann for organizing this! From Monday until Friday 14th December we will have "The Giving Tree" in the foyer. Color coded ornaments (red, white, blue, yellow) can be plucked by students and brought to the front office.



Mr. Matt Philips receiving the awards on behalf of Shrija Pathak



Nurse Ms. Linh receiving an award of excellence issued by DoET

THE GIVING TREE



- ✓ = 20k VND for
- 🍷 = 50k VND for
- 📦 = 100k VND for
- ★ = 400k VND for

The donations are given to Blue Dragon Foundation to purchase items for the underprivileged children.



Our Christmas "Giving" Tree

Students you must the money to the ladies in the front office. Donations are as follow

- 20k VND for the symbol of a red candy cane this will be a donation for notebooks and pens.
- 50k VND for the symbol of a white ornament this will be a donation for pencil cases and water bottles.
- 100k VND for the symbol of a blue present this will be a donation for a raincoat.
- 400k VND for the symbol of a yellow star this will be a donation for a school bag or calculator

After handing in the donation the students will write their names and class on the back of the ornament and have taped it to the white-board in the foyer.

Over the weeks the board will hopefully be filled with names. Thank you parents for your continued support!

EXAMINATIONS

The SVIS examinations started on 25 November and will finish on 7 December. Parents whose children are sitting these examinations, please make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast, spends time revising their work in the afternoon and goes to bed early to be refreshed and ready for their examinations the next day

The Singapore examinations will commence after the Christmas holidays. The Heads of Studies will send you the timetables.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Our school closes at December 14th and will resume after new year as January 2nd. Enjoy the short break and return re-energized and ready for the examinations.

Once again parents, thank you so much for your continued support. Please do drop me a line should you wish to discuss anything or have some great suggestions to make.

I am available at lorraineels@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn.

Warm Regards,
Lorraine Els

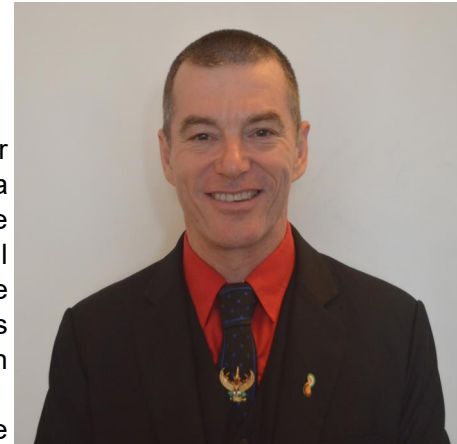


We enjoyed a wonderful Teacher's Day at SIS@Gamuda Gardens

Message from Secondary Deputy Principal

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

As always it has been another fabulous month at SIS Gamuda Gardens! Nearly every day I see our kids actively participating in all sorts of extra activities be it in the classroom with academic pursuits or competing on the field with young people from other schools. Sometimes we may win these competitions and sometimes we



may not, but really it does not matter so much if we do not. It is just fabulous to see that our kids are enjoying themselves and participating fully in so many extra activities and enjoying their school life. It is also an important life lesson for them to be able to deal with when we don't win. Life will throw many challenges at us all constantly so dealing with failure is also a vital life skill that we hope to teach to our children and adolescents.

You as parents also can help us in their journey to become successful adults and be part of guiding your child with us. We have a partnership here and we appreciate parents that support the school in so many ways whether it be cooperative discipline between the school and your child, regular encouragement, financial support, moral guidance or coming to support us at events or parent student & teacher meetings. The vast majority of our parents fit this category and the community link between all of us is what really makes us a great school!

Thus I advocate that we maintain and evolve this partnership between home, your child and the school. Each child has the opportunity to be the next President or corporate CEO and we hope that they can be not just another boss but a true leader that can inspire others to make a change in the future world.

Kind regards,
John Roydon Barratt



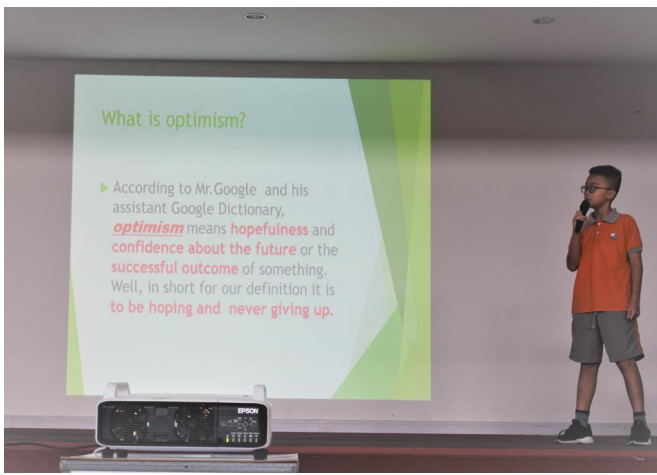
Our Principal with students in Teacher's day.



Presentation from the University of Melbourne for our GAC and A – Level students



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The Year 6LA presentation on the virtue "Optimism" during assembly

Message from Primary Deputy Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

I am happy to be working with the teachers, students and their families at SIS Gamuda! In my first weeks at the school, I have been busy observing in classrooms, teaching lessons and learning students' names.

Year 4 and 5 students participated in our first Outward Bound Program for Primary students. The students learned team-building skills in their activities with their teachers and the Outward Bound instructors, and stayed overnight at the school.

Classes are busy planning their stall for the Christmas Fair, which will be on Saturday, 8 December, from 9:30 - 11:30. All families are invited to attend and enjoy these festivities before the break.

Also next month, SIS will host a SIS Reads Week, where the focus will be on reading for fun. There are fun activities planned, including buddy reading with other classes, and a book exchange. **Students should be reading for pleasure in English and in their native tongue every night.** Parents can support this by encouraging reading at home before TV or games, and by asking your child what they are reading and what the book is about.

Regards,
Julie Schaefer



Message from Guidance Officer

Dear Parents and Students,

This has been an exciting month at our campus! We had a presentation from the University of Melbourne for our GAC, AS and A level students. The presentation was given by the Deputy Dean of the Business and Economics Faculty, Professor Paul Jensen. This presentation gave the students an opportunity to see how a lecture at the University of Melbourne would work.

The topic that Professor Jensen discussed was how economists and governments create public policies and how these policies affect business and trade around the world. We hope to have many smaller, focus driven presentations for our students in the future.

As always, please email me if you have any questions!

Regards,
Michael Ogden



Our Year 4 students engaged in team building activities during the OBV program



OBV activities were fun.



Message from SVIS Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents and Students,

November is coming to an end! This is the peak month for study and revision in preparation for the first semester examinations. We hope parents will urge their children to review carefully and thus do well in their examinations.

In order to avoid stress and fatigue for the children, the school has arranged one exam only per day. I would like to announce the schedule for the first semester exams at SVIS as per below:

- Secondary school exams are scheduled from November 26th to December 7th
- Primary school exams are scheduled from December 4th to December 7th.



Parents should arrange their family vacation so that it avoids interfering with any of these semester exams, so that their child can attend all compulsory examinations. The exam cannot be run again if a student misses it as there are strict limits to when and how formal examinations can be administered, particularly with the 1st and 6th grade regarding legal requirements. Parents please take care of your children especially in terms of ensuring an adequate well-balanced diet, appropriate rest and sleep, and a reasonable playtime compared to study time. This will establish a strong base for your child to allow them to perform well during formal assessments. Students, in order to achieve the best result, you are advised to do the following:

- Take initiative in revising everything which has been listed in your subject revisions. Ask the teacher to clarify any unclear question.
- Do not stay up late! Eat well, sleep on time and avoid using devices (such as cellphones), that produce blue-light, just prior to bed time.
- Prepare all needed stationery. Avoid lending your belongings to others just before or during examinations.
- Calmly and carefully read the first question. Be confident in your answers and complete the easier questions first. Read the whole paper *first* so your mind can process the difficult questions and you can solve them later.
- Write down the solution clearly and coherently. Avoid erasing. Use only a ruler and pen to cross out wrong words and write neatly the correct answer under it.
- Spend the last five minutes reading through your work carefully. Check from the beginning till the end to amend any mistakes. Then submit the exam to your invigilator at the allotted time. Do not go over time.

November also had a special day, November 20th, where Vietnamese society displayed honour and show their gratitude towards teachers. Our teachers have spent many hours in attempting to cultivate and nurture the love of learning in our students. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our parents and students for contributing fresh flower bouquets and several gifts with warm greetings to celebrate our 36th year anniversary of Vietnamese Teachers Day.



OBV activities continuing



OBV team building activities.



Student engaged in an OBV activity.





Students communicating and sharing ideas



Students participating in OBV activities



Students engaged in OBV activities.

Once again, we wish you always a healthy, happy and successful life. Have fun and joy in the process and students be prepared to enter the Semester One exam period confidently and thus receive excellent grades after your hard work.

I am happy to share my email with you and invite you to communicate with me any concerns you may have:

nghi.duongthanh@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn .

Regards,
Duong Thanh Nghi

Message from KIK Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents and Students,

Firstly, I would like to send my deepest thanks to all the parents who sent sincere sentiments to all of our teachers on Teachers' Day November 20th, 2018.

November is about to pass, and this month has left us with a strong impression of beautiful memories which are hard to forget in each and every one of us, as well as our students. The Halloween Costume Festival took place along with many interesting activities. The children were embodied in characters such as Spider-Man, Batman, a Witch, a Monster, a Skeleton and even Snow White. We also had the opportunity to ask for a Trick or Treat from Ms. Lorraine, Ms. Thuy and Mr Michael from class 1L. The children also participated in collective activities such as fashion shows, movies and eating popcorn with classmates, both with older and younger students.

Every day, we have witnessed our children going to school where they have studied, ate, participated enthusiastically and were eager in all the activities in the class as well as the school as a whole. I have identified that our students are now more confident, energetic, friendly, and more mature than they were in the beginning. Thus, we are very excited and proud of students.

Time flies so fast! One day of the year that we all look forward to is just around the corner. The "Christmas Charity Festival" is going to take place on December 8. Our KIK will prepare two booths with activities such as making cards, ringing, braiding hair, nail polish, and will sell the products made by the children themselves. Along with the activities of KIK, the children will be able to participate in many other interesting activities at the SIS fair. This is the first year KIK@GamudaGardens will participate in this charity festival. This means there is a great chance to contribute in a small part to Operation Smile so I invite parents as well as the children to join this important event.

If you should experience any doubts, questions, or wish to make comments, discussions or suggestion, then please feel free to contact me via my email:

thuy.vuthi@gamudagardens.kinderworld.edu.vn.

Regards,
Vu Thi Thuy





A football match between SIS and TH School



Students enjoying the match and displayed excellent skills.



Our football team after a match against Hanoi Academy School,

Message from Head of Studies (Primary)

Dear Primary School Parents and Students,

First, a big THANK YOU to everyone for Teacher's Day; it was a wonderful event and your kind thoughts were appreciated.

It is now time to start arrangements for reviewing school work covered in Term 1 and Term 2 in preparation for semester exams straight after the holidays. Please help to allocate time over the coming weeks and weekends to re-view work completed so far at school.

Throughout the year, our school emphasizes a range of human virtues. These virtues are taught to help students develop good character and positive social skills. The virtues include honesty, integrity, cooperation, responsibility, teamwork and diligence. We are grateful to parents who also teach good character and reinforce the importance of "living virtues" with children – it is a good investment in everyone's future.

As we head towards the Christmas Charity Fair and holiday season, there will be more celebrating, sharing, caring and learning together. Our belief that learning together can be fun is a major purpose of education.

Thank you again for your support in for encouraging students to do their best.

Regards,

Dr. Noel Geoghegan



Message from Head of Studies (International Secondary)

Dear Parents and Students,

It has been another busy month at school and teachers are working hard to prepare our middle school students for their upcoming semester exams. I have been getting around to different classes and have seen some of the great work that students are producing in lessons. This is great to see and I hope it continues.

Sports clubs have continued to excel and it has been fantastic seeing our teams compete in so many fixtures against other schools. There have been games we have won and games we have lost in both football and basketball – but the biggest thing is that our students are having fun and learning how to cooperate in a team environment. Congratulations to all of them.

On Wednesday 21st November we had a representative come to school from the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation – a charity that rescues street children in and around Hanoi and helps to give them education, shelter and most importantly, love. This is a charity that is close to our hearts at SIS and we have been supporting them over the last few years with various charity work. Thank you for all of your support and generosity in helping us to do this. It was really important for the students to see what their money goes towards.

Kind Regards

Sean Stokes



Message from Head of Studies (Integrated Secondary)

Dear Parents and Students,

As the school year continues on, the students have been working very well to ensure they learn everything that their teachers require.

We have made it easier for students to have access to the Library so that we can encourage more reading and to help develop their language skills and promote a love of learning.

We will also be having our Christmas Fair on December 8th and I hope you can all attend; to spread joy and cheer during this holiday time.

We would request that all of the parents and students work together to make sure that learning continues at home as well as at school.

Encourage your children to review what they have learnt that day. It helps them to retain what has been taught. Also please ensure that your children are getting enough sleep. During the middle school years, children are growing and maturing at a fast rate and their bodies and minds require enough good sleep to achieve all that we want for them.

Lastly, we want our school to be like an extended family. We need to continue to encourage our students to be respectful at all times. Not just to teachers, but to any people they meet in their daily lives. Respect and politeness are two great ways to make positive impressions on new people and to show you appreciate the people in your lives already.

If you ever have any questions about your child's education, please make sure to contact the teachers and myself. We can make sure that your child achieves everything that is desired.

Sincerely,

Paul McKenney



Message from Head of Studies (High School)

Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to thank you for the terrific Teacher's Day we had at SIS. The Senior Student Council organized a cupcake sale and The Korean Moms Community also brought in a lovely mug for each teacher at our school and a cake. Plus, there were many other individual gifts, flowers and cards going around. The SIS community sure know how to make the teachers feel special. We are very grateful, thank you.

There are only a few short weeks before we break for Christmas and once we come back in January the semester 1 exams will be in full force starting on day one. Please make sure your student is not absent from January 2nd - January 11th as these are testing days. This means over the holidays, students should be revising and studying as to not forget the material they learned before break.

Have a wonderful holiday!

Regards,

Erin Roetker



Our boys give of their best



"SIS Tigers" cheerleading team coordinators



Our first ever cheerleading team with our Principal

