



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
@ GAMUDA GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

MR. MEMO MATA
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

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SWIMMING GALA

LEADERSHIP MESSAGES

Dear SIS Gamuda Gardens Community.

It is an absolute pleasure that I write this letter to everyone today. My name is Memo Mata and I'm the new deputy principal of SIS Gamuda Gardens. Born in America and raised on a tiny farm in South Texas, I knew the value of education as a pathway to bigger and better life.

My studies and love for education took me to China, and for the past 2 decades I've been living and working in some of the top international and bilingual schools in China. 我会说中文. With over 20 years' experience in education, and 15 years of experience in IB education as a teacher, a vice principal, a principal, and workshop leader, I aim to bring in these teaching concepts to evolve our inquiry-based learning, create new frameworks for our experiential learning, create more internationally recognized award opportunities to our students, and grow our PBL and exhibition programs across the Primary, Middle, and High Schools.

With the support of Principal Rutherford, I'm also spearheading a new University Guidance Counseling Office (UGC) here at SIS that will directly support the students' academic success through university counselling, guidance through the UCAS and Common App systems, official transcripts, and student-centered education plans based on universities and majors the students would like to explore after high school.

During my first week here at SIS one of the first things that stood out was our "ripple effect walls". A simple idea where whiteboards were placed around the school and students could write and describe acts of kindness. This was highlighted by watching older students helping younger students off the bus and carrying their back packs. With every passing student, their smiles welcome me to this wonderful community. The staff have been equally welcoming, and helpful as I learn the systems and processes of this education community and the Vietnamese Culture.



Memo Mata



Positive emotions from the community through smiles and kindness, engagement through the "ripple effect walls" and assembly topics, the caring relationships between students and teachers, and the accomplishments on display in our front lobby has shown me that this school strives to embody a PERMA spirit in its culture. I feel lucky to be a part of this community.

Thank you again for welcoming me to SIS Gamuda Gardens. I appreciate everyone and I look forward to meeting many students, teachers, and parents in the future.

Sincerely,
Memo Mata
Deputy Principal

September Highlights



KIK NEWS



October will also bring us the KIK sports day, which is always a big hit amongst the students.

Thank you for your continued support. It makes all the difference as we guide your children through their early learning journey.

KIK September Kindness
Dear Parents and Carers,

September has been a month full of smiles and lots of excitement for our Kindergarteners. This is the time of year when routines really start to settle, and we can see the difference it makes.

For our youngest students, this means knowing their teachers and carers well, feeling comfortable with the flow of the day, and beginning to take part in activities with more confidence. For the older children, we are seeing stronger focus in class and a willingness to take on challenges in their learning, which is wonderful to watch.

KIK Team – Mr. Kim, Ms. Thuy



A real highlight was celebrating the 80th anniversary of Vietnam's independence. It was inspiring to see pride and creativity shining through in the work of all students, from Kindergarten to High School, with some truly impressive artwork and crafts on display.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for the Moon Festival in early October. This event is always filled with excitement, traditions, and a wonderful festive atmosphere. We are sure the children will enjoy the celebrations, and we look forward to sharing this time together as a school community.

KIK NEWS



Primary News

September – Joyful Learning, Connected in Kindness



Primary Team – Ms. Chantel, Mr. Vincent, Ms. Van

This month, Primary school has been promoting a 'Random Acts of Kindness' calendar. This calendar provides suggestions of kind actions students can do for others, for example, help a younger student or include someone who looks left out. These small acts of kindness help foster happiness and social connection. It has been heart-warming to see students participate in such an initiative and help promote a happy and inclusive learning environment in our Primary school.

As we come to the end of term 1, Students and teachers have been working hard completing various classroom-based assessments. I wish to thank all the students and teachers in Primary school for their contribution towards a successful term 1. Thank you to our parents for their support and partnership.

Upcoming items:

- Mid-Autumn Festival 2025
 - When/Where: Monday, 6 October 2025, at the school yard.
 - Who: All students.
 - Action Needed: Students are encouraged to wear Ao Dai or traditional costumes and prepare to join traditional games and the "Best Ao Dai" competition.
- Sports Day 2025 & Swimming Gala
 - When/Where: Monday, 6 October 2025, at the school yard.
 - Who: Primary students.
 - Action Needed: Students will participate in a variety of team sports and swimming activities.

Primary News

Student/Staff spotlights:

In Class 2A, Vietnamese lessons began in a lively way as students introduced their study corners and familiar school items. From pencils, notebooks, to color boxes, students expanded their vocabulary and applied it in writing meaningful sentences. A highlight was the combination of the Rotating Hotpot technique with information technology: students moved through stations to collaborate with different peers, practiced knowledge hands-on with iPads, and joined an exciting review game. Each child had opportunities to speak, share ideas, and be encouraged by friends.



In Class 1A, Mathematics lessons also brought many surprises. Teachers skillfully introduced addition through real-life situations, making the content relatable and easy to understand. Tasks were designed as knowledge stations, allowing students to rotate through different learning challenges. The dynamic classroom atmosphere kept every child engaged and eager to participate.

These engaging lessons are vivid examples of an active, creative, and compassionate educational environment—where every child is supported, encouraged, and able to shine in their own way.



Reminders:

Parents are encouraged to help students maintain a 15-minute daily reading habit at home to foster a strong reading culture.

PRIMARY NEWS



Secondary News

Confident in Exams Excited for the Festival

The first weeks of the new academic year have passed with great effort from the entire team of staff, teachers, and students of Singapore International School. During this time, our students have experienced several important events:

Spotlight:

- Opening Ceremony: In harmony with the nationwide celebration of the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the National Ministry of Education (now the Ministry of Education and Training) and the start of the new school year, our school's Opening Ceremony on September 5 brought to both teachers and students an atmosphere of excitement, joy, and readiness for new challenges and goals.

- Mid-Semester 1 Examinations for Integrated Classes: These took place in the final week of September. In preparation, we witnessed the students' diligence and determination through their completed study guides, collaborative revision, and the extra effort taken to consult teachers and peers during break times. We believe this active and proactive attitude will yield the best academic results.

- Opening Lesson of the Annual Teaching Festival – Class 6A, Mathematics: The lesson was conducted in an enthusiastic, positive, and creative spirit. Students successfully practiced the steps of prime factorization—a core foundation for solving problems in arithmetic, cryptography, and computer algorithms. The school highly commends Class 6A and their teacher for delivering such a dynamic and well-prepared lesson, creating an impressive start for this year's Teaching Festival.

Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh



Secondary News

Mid-Autumn Festival

 Time: 8:45am – 11:15am,
October 6, 2025

 Venue: Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH), 4th floor, Block B, and the schoolyard

 Participants: All students

 Dress code: Traditional ethnic costumes or school uniforms

oPart 1: Musical performances, lantern parade, and lion dance show

oPart 2: Traditional folk games in the schoolyard, bringing a warm, joyful, and memorable experience for all students

Reminders:

Form teachers will continue to update parents on study plans and class/school activities every two weeks for your convenience.

Contact:

For further assistance, please kindly reach out to the form teacher or the school office.

School office:

 office@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Upcoming items:

For Grade 9 Students OBV Life Skills Course

The school has sent detailed information to parents.

 Time: October 20–24, 2025

 Venue: Binh Dinh Province

Parent-Teacher Conference

Detailed information will be shared by the school and homeroom teachers.

 Time: October 29–30, 2025

 Venue: School campus



High School News

Recent Academic Milestone:

In September, our High School students completed their first major summative assessment of the year with the **Checkpoint 1 examinations**. These assessments mark the first major summative event of the school year. The results provide valuable insight into each student's current understanding of knowledge and skills. Teachers will use this diagnostic information to identify areas of topical mastery and set targeted revision goals. Students are also encouraged to take an active role in their own topical mastery diagnosis. By analyzing their Checkpoint 1 results, students can effectively plan their revision. They should focus on reviewing topics where they showed weaknesses, seek feedback from teachers to clarify any misunderstandings, and create a structured study plan to address these areas. This proactive approach will help students prepare thoroughly for the upcoming checkpoints and the official CIE assessments.

Cambridge October-November 2025 Examination Series

The Cambridge Autumnal 2025 Examination Series will take place from **30 September to 13 November 2025**. This is a significant time for our students. It is especially important for those resitting examinations to improve their results, and additional revision, teacher support, and mock examinations are underway. We commend all candidates for their commitment, resilience, and determination as they prepare for these important assessments.

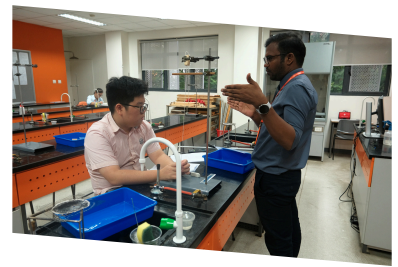
Key Information for the Exam Series Attendance During Term 1 Break (13-17 October):

Students with exams during 13-17 October attend only their scheduled sessions.

Arrival Time: Students must arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled exam start time.

Uniform & Conduct: All candidates are required to wear the full school uniform and adhere strictly to school regulations and Cambridge International examination guidelines. This includes compliance with rules regarding permitted and prohibited items in the exam venue.

We extend our best wishes to all students as they approach this important milestone. Success is achieved through preparation. We are confident that our students will make the most of this opportunity to demonstrate their hard work, learning, and progress.





Dear Parents,

As we conclude the month of September, we are pleased to inform you of the numerous exciting school activities that have been introduced and will continue throughout the academic year. The SSC and the Prom Committee has been diligently organizing various sales, such as the Prom Committee's macaron sales on September 18th and drink sales during Sports Days. As we transition into October, the SSC is actively preparing Halloween-themed activities.



Nguyen Phuc Linh

As September draws to a close, the SSC encourages students and faculty to reflect upon the Kindness Calendar and the numerous acts of kindness that have been demonstrated throughout our school community. We hope to serve as positive role models for our peers, particularly through initiatives such as Kindness Month, which fosters meaningful relationships and personal growth among students and teachers alike.

Thank you your ongoing support of the SSC, Prom Committee, and Yearbook Committee. We encourage you to remind your children to stay informed about upcoming announcements and events.

Sincerely,
Nguyen Phuc Linh
Student Council President



Student Council

The Power of a Great Sleep Schedule



Sleep is one of the most important parts of a healthy lifestyle, yet it is often overlooked — especially for children and teenagers with busy school schedules. A consistent sleep routine doesn't just help students feel rested; it plays a key role in their learning, behavior, and overall well-being.

When children get enough quality sleep, they are more focused in class, have better memory retention, and are able to manage their emotions more effectively. On the other hand, a lack of sleep can lead to irritability, difficulty concentrating, and lower academic performance.

Here are a few tips for building a healthy sleep schedule:

- **Stick to consistent bedtimes and wake-up times**, even on weekends.
- **Create a calming bedtime routine**, such as reading a book or practicing gentle breathing exercises.
- **Limit screen time** at least 30 minutes before bed, as blue light can disrupt the body's natural sleep cycle.
- **Ensure a comfortable sleep environment** — quiet, dark, and cool.

By prioritizing sleep, families can help children feel energized and ready to take on the school day with positivity and focus. A great night's sleep is the foundation for both academic success and emotional resilience.

Let's work together to make healthy sleep habits a priority for our school community!

Parenting Hacks

Clubs and ECAs

Exciting Term of Sport, Kindness, and Well-being



Hendrik Prinsloo

This term has been full of exciting opportunities for our students to shine in both sport and character. We are looking forward to our Secondary Swimming Gala, Primary Sports Day, and the Secondary & High School Sports Days, where students will showcase their athletic skills in the pool and on the field. In line with our Kindness Campaign, we have already seen thoughtful gestures across Year 6LA, Year 7A, Year 8B, and Year 8LA, demonstrating Positive Emotion and strong Relationships.

These small acts of kindness highlight how sport and teamwork bring us together. As we look ahead, we are preparing for the Badminton League to begin and are keen to get our football teams underway for the league as well.

Upcoming items:

- Football Fixtures – Dates to be announced soon. Our school teams will proudly represent SIS.
- Badminton League (Term 2) – Defending champions return!
- Gaelic Football Tournament (Term 2) – Our first official competition.
- SIS Gamuda Gardens Tournaments – Plans underway to host our own events.
- Event details (if applicable):
 - Secondary Swimming Gala - Y6–8 students
 - Primary Sports Day - October
 - Secondary & HS Sports Days- October.

Reminders:

- Students must wear proper footwear for HPE lessons to ensure safety and correct form.
 - Always bring a hat, small towel, and water bottle for outdoor sessions.
 - For Term 2 clubs, we encourage all students to get involved—clubs build friendships, skills, and confidence beyond the classroom.
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HIGHLIGHTS



WELL - BEING



Trinh Le Thuy Truc

Spreading Kindness Across SIS Gamuda Gardens

A big thank you to everyone who joined hands to make our school a more joyful and supportive place. Congratulations to the classes that completed the Kindness Calendar Challenge — you'll be receiving Kindness Champion Certificates to recognize your effort and dedication!

October Preview: Rooted in Nature, Growing Through Engagement

As we move into October, we shift our focus to the E – Engagement pillar of PERMA with a brand-new series of hands-on, nature-inspired workshops. This month's theme, "Rooted in Nature, Growing Through Engagement," is designed to help our school community discover the joy of flow, creativity, and deep connection through meaningful activities. Launching Plan Engagement Works...

Here's a sneak peek at what's coming:

- Kindergarten: Nature Painting Party – sensory play through outdoor art using leaves and flowers.
 - Primary: Bug Hotel Builders and Mandala Flow Art to encourage teamwork, creativity, and eco-awareness.
 - Secondary: Eco-Engineering Challenge – designing water filters or wind turbines from natural and recycled materials.
 - High School: Passion-to-Zine Studio – expressing passions through creative publications.
 - Staff & Teachers: Recharge Retreat – relaxing yoga sessions and nature painting to foster team well-being.
- Workshops will run weekly, with each group having its own special time to explore and connect. Let's continue nurturing our well-being journey — from acts of kindness to engaging experiences that connect us with nature and each other.

This September, our school community came together to launch the very first initiative of the PERMA Well-being Framework, focusing on P – Positive Emotion. Through the Random Acts of Kindness Campaign, students, teachers, and staff actively participated in creating a culture of care and compassion. Highlights from the month included:

- Kindness Pledge Walls filled with heartfelt signatures and inspiring messages.
- Kindness Calendar Challenge, where classes completed daily acts of kindness together.
- Engaging classroom and assembly activities that encouraged reflection and connection.
- Weekly shout-outs celebrating outstanding kindness moments.

Engage & ELEVATE



WELL-BEING CAMPAIGN
OCT & NOV

**KIK
Nature Color Party**

**Primary
Mandala Flow Art &
Bugs Hotel Builders**

**Secondary
Eco Engineer - Wind Turbines**

**High School
Passion to Zine**

**Teachers/Staff
Recharge & Retreat**

