

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

ISSUE NO 4 : 2025-2026 SY



HIGHLIGHTS

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

MATH WEEK

CHRISTMAS CHARITY FAIR

WELL-BEING

**PERMA FOCUS AREA:
R - RELATIONSHIPS**

EVENTS

**AUTUMN FAMILY
ACTIVITY CHALLENGE**

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



On behalf of all staff, I extend heartfelt thanks to our parents and students for the kindness and recognition shared on this special occasion. To extend this spirit of appreciation beyond our school, we encourage families to create a gratitude ritual at home. This could be a simple practice of sharing one thing you're thankful for with each other regularly - perhaps before a family meal or to start or end the day. Such activities help strengthen our community bonds and keep the spirit of gratitude alive throughout the year.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reflect on November and look ahead to the final weeks of Term 2, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the partnership, warmth, and community spirit that continue to define SIS@Gamuda Gardens. This has been a month rich in learning, celebration, and meaningful moments across all divisions of our school.

In Kindergarten, our youngest learners embraced Term 2 with enthusiasm, settling confidently into routines and exploring the world around them through various activities. One remarkable moment was during a nature walk, where children discovered a family of insects on a leaf. They watched intently, asking questions about the insects' colors and movements. Their curiosity and joy brought a new spirit of discovery to our early years classrooms.

Across Primary, Secondary, and High School, students have been actively engaged in classroom learning and exam preparation. A highlight of the month was our schoolwide Math Week, where students from Primary through High School participated in daily puzzles, problem-solving challenges, and collaborative activities that inspired creative and critical thinking. The enthusiasm and confidence our learners displayed was awesome.

November also brought our annual VN Teacher's Day celebration. Students across all year levels expressed their gratitude through thoughtful messages, handmade cards, and warm gestures.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

As we enter December, the atmosphere across the school shifts toward reflection, celebration, and togetherness. The final two weeks before the winter break offer a meaningful opportunity to acknowledge our students' progress, celebrate their achievements, and appreciate the relationships that support their growth. It is a season that reminds us of generosity, kindness, and the importance of family.



In the spirit of connection beyond the classroom, we are also pleased to highlight our Autumn Family Activity Challenge, inspired by Hanoi's beautiful autumn season. This month, we encourage families to step outdoors and enjoy simple, memorable experiences together. Families can share photos and descriptions of their favourite autumn activities for a chance to win small prizes that celebrate creativity, curiosity, and time spent together. We hope this inspires meaningful family moments during these cooler weeks.

We also warmly invite all families to join us at our Annual Christmas Charity Fair on Saturday, 13 December 2025. This cherished event teaches our students the value of compassion, with all proceeds supporting the Caritas Vietnam Foundation. Our KIK students are preparing festive performances, and across the school, we will have Christmas-themed fun. We look forward to welcoming you to a joyful morning of community celebration.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. We look forward to a warm, festive, and uplifting December with your children and a strong and positive finish to Term 2.

Best regards,

Charles Whalen Rutherford

November Highlights



KIK NEWS



Dear Parents,

November in KIK here at Gamuda gardens, turned out to provide us with lots of fun activities to participate in for our students, we had fieldtrips to explore our theme of occupations and as part of our KIK focus on nature we have had some very thrilling nature walks around our school, looking at bugs and critters as well as twigs, flowers and leaves which somehow stood out in our eyes and noses—carrying small baskets with them, our Kindergarteners collected, discussed and made some very beautiful art projects.

Incidentally, this also linked very well with our other ongoing theme of "my five senses." We had another great chance to look at flowers when we celebrated Teacher's Day at school. It was truly overwhelming to see all those flowers and fruits in the hallway, and all the teachers were left speechless by the sign of appreciation from parents and students.

Best regards,
Kim Horup - Vu Thi Thuy



Now that we are almost in the final month of the year, we will be practicing for our Kindergarten Christmas concert, which we will be performing for our parents on 18th December.

As the saying goes in Denmark, "Christmas is the festival of hearts," meaning it is a time to care for your loved ones and give to those in need.



KIK NEWS



Primary News



**A busy
and
productive
November!**



Dear Parents and Guardians,
November has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding month in Primary. Our students have been working hard on classroom-based assessments, revising key skills, and preparing for the upcoming exam period. Teachers have been equally dedicated, providing engaging lessons and meaningful learning opportunities to support every student's progress.

One of the standout events this month was Math Week, celebrated from 24–28 November. Each morning, students kicked off their day with fun and challenging math brain teasers during form time, helping them to think critically and creatively. The highlight of the week was our Math Mania morning, where students rotated through a variety of hands-on math activities designed to strengthen their problem-solving skills, promote teamwork, and make learning truly enjoyable. It was wonderful to see students so enthusiastic and confident as they demonstrated their mathematical abilities.

With exams approaching in December, we would like to kindly ask for parents' continued support at home. Ensuring that students follow a healthy routine—getting enough sleep, going to bed at a reasonable hour, and having a nutritious breakfast—will help them stay focused and perform at their best during this busy period. Encouraging regular study habits and providing a calm environment for revision will also go a long way in helping them feel prepared.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and collaboration with our teachers.

Vincent Flynn - Chantel Lourens -
Tran Thi Thuy Van



PRIMARY NEWS



Secondary News

🌟 Spotlight

🎵 Teachers' Appreciation Ceremony – Vietnamese Teachers' Day (20/11)

This year's ceremony took place in a warm and respectful atmosphere, featuring a range of heartfelt activities:

🎵 School Band Performance:

The School Band opened the ceremony with expressive musical pieces dedicated to all teachers.

🌸 Student Representatives Presenting Flowers and Gifts:

Representatives from each class offered flowers and gifts to express deep gratitude for the dedication, commitment, and silent contributions of all teachers.

🏆 Student-Voted Awards:

Special awards were presented to teachers based on student votes, recognising their devotion, teaching style, and the unique impression they have made on learners.

Learning in Celebration of

Vietnamese Teachers' Day (20/11)

November

A Month of Gratitude and Dedication

Throughout November, the vibrant spirit of striving for excellence in both teaching and learning spread across the entire school as we prepared to honour Vietnamese Teachers' Day (20/11). Students and teachers alike participated with enthusiasm in a variety of meaningful activities, making this a truly inspiring month of academic engagement.



Open Lessons &

Subject-Based Workshops

Subject-based open lessons continued to be implemented actively. Students strived to achieve excellent marks as gifts of appreciation for their teachers on this special occasion.

Featured lessons included:

- KHTN (Science) Workshop – Class 8B
- Literature Workshop – Class 6A

These lessons were conducted with great enthusiasm, creating dynamic learning environments and demonstrating strong professional effectiveness.

Revision for the End-of-Semester I Examinations

Teachers have provided revision outlines, study guidance, and feedback to ensure students thoroughly grasp the required knowledge.

During the first two weeks of December, students will enter the End-of-Semester I examination period.


The school recommends that each student should:


- Allocate study time appropriately for each subject
 - Maintain a stable and balanced state of mind, focus, and well-being
 - Actively participate in additional support classes offered by teachers during break times

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. End-of-Semester I Examinations

 Date: 1–12 December 2025

 Participants: Lower Secondary students (including Integrated and International Programmes)

 Venue: Classrooms / Functional Rooms

Requirements:

- Review all previously taught content thoroughly
- Attend supplementary reinforcement classes to consolidate knowledge

2. Christmas Fair 2025

 Date: 13 December 2025

 Venue: School Yard & Canteen

 Participants: All students

Requirements:

- Discuss and select activities for each class booth
- Work collaboratively, plan effectively, and delegate tasks to ensure efficient booth operations

Reminder

Form teachers will continue to provide updates on academic plans and class/school activities every two weeks for parents' convenience.

Contact

For further assistance, parents are kindly encouraged to contact the form teacher or the school office.

Best regards,
Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh

Secondary News



Term 2 is in full swing, and our classes are working hard to deepen their understanding across all subjects, prepare for assessments, and tackle new challenges.

I've been warmly welcomed by hardworking students and I'm impressed with the progress made so far. Term 1 brings many new concepts and skills, which can cause some anxiety as tests and exams approach. Now, in Term 2, the pressure can feel higher. Please know that we understand, and we're here to help.

I would like to share a few practical tips to assist your children:

1. Review daily. After each lesson, revise the new concepts and vocabulary. Short, regular study beats last-minute cramming.

2. Use the resources. Check Teams, Cambridge Go, and the tools your teachers have shared with you so far this semester. These have been carefully chosen to help you understand and practice key skills.

3. Focus on English every day. Complete homework and assignments, and read daily. Consistent reading and practice build the language skills that lead to confidence and success in exams.

4. Ask for help early. If you don't understand something, contact your teacher and communicate openly. We're here to support you.

Our SIS team is dedicated to your progress. Keep engaging, keep practicing, and keep talking to us. With steady effort, students will see real improvement and feel proud when exams arrive.

Thank you, as always, for your support,

Michael Adam Christensen

SECONDARY NEWS



Science Workshop – Class 8B



Literature Workshop – Class 6A

High School News

Hello Students, Teachers, and Parents.

As I continue to meet many of the parents and students from Kindergarten to AL, I'm amazed at the variety of students we have. I see every student with a unique talent and quality. Even students that struggle with behavior or academics, still have a talent or quality that has yet to be revealed.

With this in mind, I often tell the student of my favorite quote from Mark Twain. Mark Twain once said, "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born, and the day you know why."

This quote is at the heart of what makes me an educator. I believe it's vital that every student at SIS, no matter at what point of their journey here, can find a purpose or a dream for their lives.

A dream is a powerful thing. A dream gives you the strength to get up in the morning when you don't want to get up. A dream makes you push yourself further than what you think you can go. Most importantly, students with a dream will put down the cell phone and work hard because they are chasing that dream.



High School News

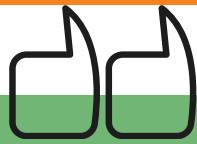


So I ask all the student's to ask yourselves, how are you going to find your dreams. I encourage all parents and teachers to ask their children or students what your dreams will be. No matter how silly it sounds, or if you don't think you can make a career out of what you love to do, never the less, chase that dream. And as parents, we hope you support your child's talents and dreams as well. This is how students will discover their purpose in life.

As a school, we aim to create more opportunities for students to find their talents and discover new things they can be passionate for. From our variety of ECAs, to our OBV camp weeks, to our evolving curriculums to include more project based opportunities in the classrooms, we hope that every student will leave SIS with a dream or passion in their hearts, and determination in their minds. Here at SIS, I challenge all students to figure out why they are alive and make an action plan to make their dreams come true. Thank you.

Mata Memo





Following this, the school held its annual Math Week, and we were pleased to see students participating enthusiastically in the various Math Week activities, especially those with a strong interest in mathematics.



Dear Parents,

As November came to a close and the weather grew colder, the Senior Student Council (SSC) reminded all students to dress warmly and in accordance with the school's uniform policy.

Student Council



We successfully concluded our Teacher's Day event on November 20th. Throughout KIK to High School, all teachers, administrative staff, and support personnel received keychains and gifts. We sincerely hope these tokens of appreciation convey our immense gratitude for their dedication and support. We would also like to extend our thanks to parents for your contributions toward the Teacher's Day gifts and for helping make this day special for our staff members. The Teacher's Day sale, featuring stickers and cards, was well-supported by our students.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support of the SSC and its events.

Sincerely,
Nguyen Phuc Linh
President of the Senior Student Council

Parent Hacks

Hanoi's autumn is short, magical, and made for family time. With cool breezes, blue skies, and golden leaves everywhere, it's the perfect excuse to step away from screens and explore the city together. If you're looking for quick, low-hassle ideas that work for all ages, here are three top family-friendly activities to enjoy this season:

- **Explore Hoan Kiem Lake + Old Quarter Snacks Walk**

Take a relaxed walk around the lake, then stop for simple treats like dumplings, fresh juice, or ice cream. For younger kids, create a "photo treasure hunt": find something red, something tiny, something that makes you smile. It keeps them engaged without extra prep.

- **Picnic and Playtime at Yen So Park**

This massive green space is perfect for bikes, frisbees, or just a slow stroll. Pack easy snacks or buy nearby. Wide-open fields allow kids to run freely, while parents enjoy the rare peace and quiet of an almost-countryside setting.

- **Sunset Adventure at West Lake**

Bring scooters or bicycles and enjoy the lakeside breeze. Stop to watch the sunset and spot boats, dogs, or kites. For an extra hack: bring instant art supplies—crayons + a few leaves = easy autumn craft on the go.

*Contribution by Trinh Le Thuy Truc
- Well-being Counsellor*

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- Explore Hoan Kiem Lake + Old Quarter Snacks Walk
 - Picnic and Playtime at Yen So Park
 - Sunset Adventure at West Lake



🍁 Join Our Autumn Family Activity Challenge!

Share your own outdoor family idea in Hanoi!

How to join:

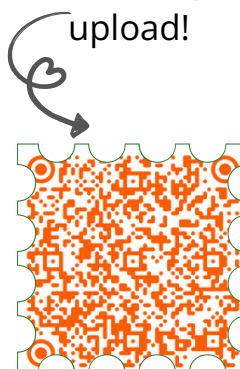
1. **Enjoy an autumn activity with your child(ren)**
2. **Take 1-3 photos**
3. **Send photos + a short description**

We're awarding fun prizes for the most creative, simple, or heartwarming ideas.

Think books, art kits, family treats, and more!

Let's celebrate the season, spark inspiration, and make unforgettable family memories together.

🍁 Ready to join? Scan the QR code to upload!



**3 Best Outdoor Activities
for Families in Hanoi's Gorgeous Autumn**



Clubs and ECAs

Growing Minds & Building Skills ECA Monthly Roundup!

Dear Parents,

Our sports ECAs have been especially lively this month.

Football groups have focused on teamwork, communication, and game awareness, showing strong improvement each week.

Badminton and Basketball students are progressing well, demonstrating better technique, discipline, and understanding of game rules.



Our Pickleball groups continue to grow in popularity, with students quickly learning strategy and hand-eye coordination.

Across all sports, we are reinforcing sportsmanship, respect, and positive behaviour both on and off the field.

Creative & Skill-Based Clubs

Students in creative ECAs have also been thriving this month:

Lego Club remains a favourite among Primary students, encouraging imagination, fine-motor skills, and collaborative building.

Clubs and ECAs

Academic Enrichment

Academic clubs have been making strong progress:

Maths Extension and STEM Clubs are helping students build confidence in problem-solving and experimentation.

English Enrichment groups are practicing communication, reading comprehension, and structured writing.

Behaviour & Expectations

We appreciate the positive behaviour shown by most students during clubs this month. A few reminders have been reinforced about respect, responsibility, and safe participation—particularly in sports-based ECAs—to ensure all students can enjoy their activities in a supportive environment.



Looking Ahead

As we move into the next month, we will continue to focus on:

- Strengthening student engagement
- Providing diverse, meaningful club experiences
- Improving communication between coaches, teachers, and families
- Preparing for club showcases and end-of-term reflections.

Best regards,
Hendrik Prinsloo





WELL - BEING

October–November Highlights Engagement & Elevate Months

Theme:

Theme: Rooted in Nature, Growing Through Engagement

Over the past two months, SIS students and staff explored creativity, curiosity, and “flow” through hands-on, nature-connected workshops. These activities were part of our Engagement & Elevate program, supporting the E (Engagement) pillar of the PERMA well-being framework.

Our E&E Impact

- Active participation and enthusiasm across all levels
- Visible environmental projects (bug hotels, nature art, eco-crafts)
- Increased engagement and focus in classrooms
- Strengthened relationships through shared experiences

Nature-based learning continues to enrich our well-being and strengthen community spirit.



December Focus

Warm Connections Month

PERMA Focus Area: R – Relationships

Theme:

Connecting Souls, Growing Community

To celebrate the festive season and nurture meaningful bonds, December introduces a whole-school activity designed to cultivate gratitude, unity, and positive social connection.

WELL - BEING

Whole-School Activity: Warm Connections Paper Chain



Every student and staff member will decorate a strip of paper with a guided prompt. These strips will be linked together to form a giant paper chain wrapped around the SIS Christmas Tree—symbolizing that each individual strengthens our community.

Prompts by Age Group

- KIK: "I like..." (draw or write)
- Primary: "Thank you... for..."
- Secondary: "I'm proud to be..."
- High School: "In 2025, I'm proud that..."

Classes will build their own chains before connecting them into one school-wide display.

Why We're Doing This

- Build a culture of kindness and gratitude
- Encourage appreciation and positive social behaviors
- Create a memorable whole-school ritual
- Celebrate belonging and togetherness as the year closes

Looking Ahead

December marks the start of our Relationships Campaign, continuing through January and February with activities that support self-awareness, empathy, cultural appreciation, and community belonging.

Thank you for helping SIS grow into a community rooted in connection, kindness, and well-being.

We look forward to celebrating a warm and meaningful December with all of you!

Best regards,
Trinh Le Thuy Truc