



SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
Since 1986

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ GAMUDA GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

September 2021

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
- Active and Responsible citizens



Gamuda Gardens 2 Road, Gamuda Gardens, Km 4.4 Phap Van, Hoang Mai District, Hanoi City
Email: office@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn
Tel: (84-24) 73041777

Principal's News

Dear Parents,

HAPPY MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL!

We trust you enjoyed this event despite the COVID restrictions.

However, we were all so excited when the restrictions were eased.

Our students completed their Mid-Autumn projects at home and submitted them to their teachers;

thank you very much for your support; some parents videoed their children making the lanterns and walking around the gardens with their lit lanterns. The participation from students and parents was so exciting to observe.

LITERACY WEEK

September 8th was international literacy day; our students were encouraged to write essays and submit them to their teachers. We received many wonderful essays and have a couple of winners:

Congratulations go to:

Year 6: Ly Gia Minh (6LA)

Year 7: Nguyen Hoang Minh Phuc (7B)

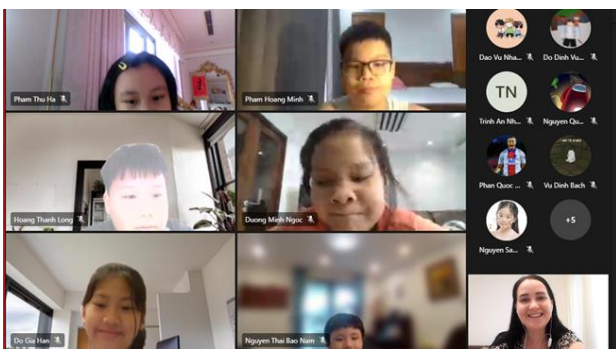
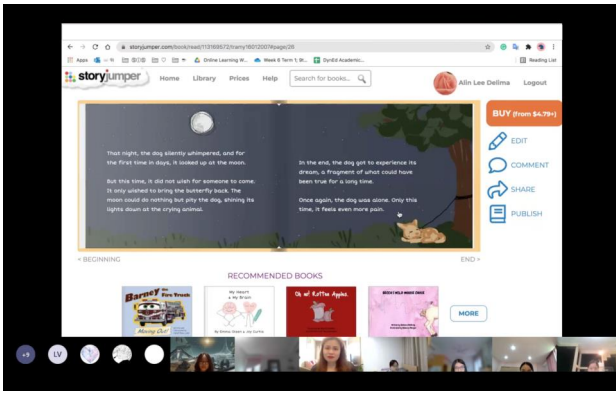
Year 8: Tran Bao An Thu (8LA)

IGCSE 1: Nguyen Minh Nguyen (IGCSE 1D)

IGCSE 2: Hsu Yu-Ting (IGCSE 2A)

We have also added this to our website.





STUDENTS SAFETY

As per my email regarding the tragic accident when a 10-year-old student was electrocuted, we continue to make sure our students are educated on how to follow the rules on how to stay safe when working with electricity and during online learning. Please note the video we created has also been uploaded to our website. If you missed it, we urge you to continue educating and talking to your children about the importance of staying safe and using safety measures around electricity, especially at home during online learning.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

We are planning to have a parent-teacher conference at the end of Term 1. This will be conducted online, and you and your child will be invited to meet with your child’s teachers to discuss their progress. The progress report cards will be sent to you before the conferences.

WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges)

We are an accredited WASC school, which means we meet international standards. WASC awarded us with a 6-year accreditation cycle, and now we have to submit another Self-study report, which is followed up with a visit from the WASC Committee in May or June. I urge you to ask your children what they understand about the School-Wide Learner Goals and what skills and values they need to be classified as Global citizens.

We aim to support student learning to those who find academics challenging and extend the gifted students. Please support us to achieve the goals.

Please note the school will close on the 22nd of September for the Term 1 break, and we will return on the 1st of November.

Thank you for your continued support, especially during this challenging time, and your positive comments and feedback.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at lorraine.els@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn



Message from High School Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

As we finally start to move out of lockdown, talks of planning students' return to campus are being directed by the government; it looks promising that we can return to school in the future. We will ensure that if and when we can return, all necessary guidelines issued by the Vietnamese government are followed correctly to ensure a safe environment for all. But until then, please rest assured that our teachers are preparing our students with the knowledge and skills to perform well in our Cambridge exams. We are currently looking at holding our November series for all the students who have registered to rewrite their exams and the June series for all our IG2, ASL, and AL students.

I would still like to remind parents that I will be helping all AL students who are considering universities and colleges for next year to contact me so that I can help support them through this process.

You can reach me at the following email address: michael.ogden@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Kind regards,

Michael Ogden



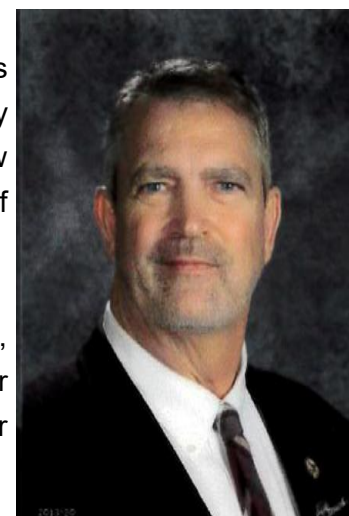
Message from Secondary Deputy Principal

We began this month by highlighting literacy. Throughout the secondary, students focused on their writing. Working with their teachers in English and Library classes, they had the option to author their own short stories, create graphic comics, or write a review of a book they had recently read. The English department received a variety of wonderful submissions, with recognized entries to be announced in this newsletter.

Mid-Autumn Festival followed. After looking at the history and traditions of the festival, Form teachers and their classroom monitors shared a variety of project ideas to honour this festive time of year. Students submitted some terrific work in a celebration of colour and culture.

Parents, we appreciate you for supporting your children and their teachers in these efforts. Nurturing children's imagination and providing them with an outlet to showcase their work is so important. We put a high value on academics at SIS Gamuda Gardens, but culture, creativity, and self-reflection are important parts of educating the whole child. Thank you for being an important part of your child's experience at SIS on behalf of the secondary teaching staff.

Mark J. Hemphill



Message from KIK & Primary Deputy Principal

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that October is just around the corner and that we have already completed eight weeks of school. October promises to be another busy month with mid semester progress reports, parent teacher conferences as well as other events such as poetry day, mental health awareness week and of course Halloween.

Through the course of the September, we have had opportunities to celebrate a virtual world literacy day as well as the mid-Autumn festival. Students produced some excellent work for world literacy day as each class marked the occasion in their own special way.

Mid-autumn festival was also celebrated online, students created masks and made lanterns. Many decorated their houses and enjoyed delicious mooncakes at home with family. Many students made short videos with their lanterns outside during the night, now that some restrictions have been lifted and was nice to see them enjoying the outdoors.

Over the next few week parents should look out for some important information that will be sent out from school. The sign up for parent teacher conferences will begin two weeks before the day on Monday 11th October. The conferences will be held on the 20th and 21st October. This will involve the class teacher only. Parents should expect progress reports for Term 1 on Tuesday 19th October, so I encourage any outstanding work to be submitted to teachers as soon as possible. The school term will finish on Friday 22nd October, and will recommence on Monday 1st November.

In addition, parents will receive a parental survey at the end of the term, this relates to the schools accreditation with the Western association schools and colleges and your feedback will play an important role in our mission, vision and goals over the next year.

If you have any questions or enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me roy.donnan@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Best Regards

Roy Donnan



Message from Head of Vietnamese Studies Secondary

Dear Parents,

September has passed with great efforts from the Integrated teachers and students at Singapore International School. During this time, although students participate in online learning under the authorities' requirement, they still experience exciting learning activities. The most outstanding is the competition: Students designed products to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. Please see some pictures of the products from the students and thank you for your support.



In October, we hope to receive some positive news from the authorities regarding COVID control of Hanoi City; students will hopefully soon be able to go to school to study and participate in face to face activities with teachers and friends. In the next two weeks, the Integrated Programme will organize a midterm exam. The form teachers will soon send you and your children a detailed schedule, content and sample of the test; we will also review the content knowledge for all the students before the exams

Please continue to spend time encouraging, and taking care of your children, to ensure they are both physically and mentally healthy.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to email me anh.nguyenthihuyen@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Best regards!

Nguyen Thi Huyen Anh

Message from KIK & Primary Deputy Principal

It is hard to believe that we are already more than halfway through Term 1; we have had a busy start to the term but ensured that lots of fun learning have been taking place along the way!

On September 8th, the whole school took part in activities to celebrate International Literacy Day: a day to recognize the importance of reading and writing for people worldwide. Students in the primary school took part in various activities from making bookworm bookmarks, writing acrostic poems, designing book covers and drawing fictional characters.

The Mid-Autumn Moon Festival was another important event that we made sure to celebrate. Students were excited to make lanterns, face masks, learn about why the Moon festival is celebrated and discover about the phases of the moon. It was

wonderful to see so much creative learning taking place throughout the primary school.

Towards the end of Term 1, Progress Reports will be sent out to keep you informed of your child's progress. Students must keep up with their classwork and submitting work to their teachers. We thank you for your continued support in helping your child with their studies during online learning.

Kind Regards

Sharon Beazley



Message from Head of Vietnamese Studies Primary

Dear Parents,

After 2 months of online learning, the classroom has become the second home of the children. The teachers were so happy that the students had fully participated in the study, most of the students had complied with the school policy. The school would like to thank all the parents who have supported the school to overcome the immediate difficulties, while complying with epidemic prevention and control, and supporting the students to fulfill their school year tasks.

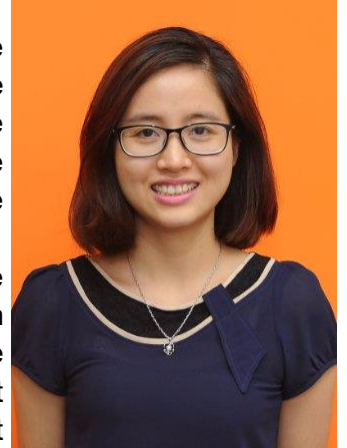
Besides supporting lessons that teachers teach the children in the classroom, the school is always interested in organizing extra-curricular activities to help the children have fun and enjoy the festivals of Vietnamese cultural identity. The organization of the Mid-Autumn Festival this year is slightly different from previous years due to the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic. The students together participated in activities to learn about the legend of Uncle Cuoi - Ms. Hang, the Mid-Autumn Festival, making lanterns, and masks, drawing posters... with the theme "Full Moon Festival".

We hope that the epidemic will soon be controlled so that students can go to school and have face to face learning with teachers and classmates.

We thank you for your continued support and positive comments.

Best regards,

Nguyen Thu Huong



Message from Head of Studies - Mathematics

Dear Parents,

We thank you for the unwavering support that you have extended to your child and the school.

We started the school year with distance learning, and I have seen good progress with our students amidst these challenges. The students have been working hard to achieve their desired outcome, and their teachers are proud of them.

Our IGCSE 2 students are learning and finishing the content to prepare for the upcoming Cambridge Examinations next year for June 2022 series.

The IGCSE students are preparing as well for their Semester 1 Exams in December. We will provide the details as soon as everything is ready.

The Parent-Teacher will be held in October, and we are looking forward to meeting you to discuss your child's progress.

Please continue assisting your child on these trying times, and we hope to see them soon in school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at maria.batac@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn.

Regards,

Maria Batac



Message from Head of Studies - English

Dear parents,

Another month of virtual learning here at SIS has passed.

The Year 6 students have been hard at work, and most of them have now adjusted to the more rigorous pace that secondary learning demands. I want to encourage students to reach out to teachers or their classmates if they feel overwhelmed or need any help with their learning, as help will always be given at SIS to those who ask for it.



I want to thank our families for supporting our students to connect to online learning platforms; we understand that this is a difficult task. All our teachers appreciate your effort in helping us educate your children.

As always, please continue to contact us should you have questions about learning or wellbeing

Kind Regards

Lizl Beneke

Message from Head of Studies - Specialist Subjects

Dear Parents,

I am proud to see that the Year 8 and 9 learners have adjusted to online learning. Most students have shown that they grasp the concepts and have become independent in their studies. Our students continue to remain positive and on task during lessons. Thank you to the parents for their support during online learning and for keeping the communication open regarding your child's progress.



Term 1 is slowly drawing to an end and teachers are starting to compile Term 1 progress reports. Teachers are notifying parents where students show signs of concern. If you identify that your child is struggling with concepts, please contact the subject teacher or myself. You can find all the subject teacher email addresses in the Bi-Weekly notice. Students are also encouraged to contact their teachers directly on MS Teams if they have any questions.

I hope to see the students back in the classroom soon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at: claudine.vanrensborg@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Claudine van Rensburg

Head of Specialists



Message from Head of Studies - Humanities

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the end of Term 1, and teachers will be writing Term 1 Progress Reports for your child. The students are working hard to meet and maintain expectations, and it's important that this continues in order to ensure the best results possible and provide them with a strong foundation for the learning that is to come in Term 2.

If you feel that your child is struggling, either with the work or with online learning requirements, please do not hesitate to contact their teachers or me. The teachers' contact details can be found in the bi-weekly notices and my email is below. In secondary, it is also desirable for students to approach their teachers themselves when they have difficulties. This is part of being an active, independent learner, a core learning skill that can play a large role in determining a students' level of success. If your child expresses that they are having difficulties, please encourage them to speak with their teachers. This doesn't have to be done in front of everyone in the class, we understand that many students find this uncomfortable and confronting, but teachers are contactable through Teams chat and email.

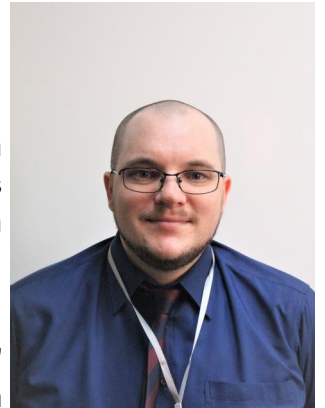
I appreciate your support so far, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the best outcomes possible for your child.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at brett.grant@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

Mr. Grant

Head of Humanities

Pastoral Care Leader for Grade 7



Message from Head of Studies - Science

Dear parents,

We are fast approaching the end of Term 1 and the time when teachers write Term 1 Progress Reports for your child. The students are working hard to meet and maintain expectations.

If your child is re-sitting their Cambridge exam, please tell them to ask their teachers for support. This next exam series will be taking place in early November.

Thank you so much for being so supportive, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the best outcomes possible for your child. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact the teacher or contact me.

Kind regards,

Nils Hartevelde

nils.hartevelde@gamudagardens.sis.edu.vn

