



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ DANANG NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

Coming events

Beginning Term 3 – Monday 11 Feb
NB new gate opening time of 7.45am
Parent-Teacher Interviews (EN) –
Saturday, 16th Feb (8am – 11am)
STEM Week – Week 8
End Term 3 – Friday, April 12



Message from Principal

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the Christmas break.

Change to morning gate opening time

A reminder that from Term 3 the school grounds will not be open until 7.45am. Only Buses 2, 5, 7 and 11 will be affected by leaving just a few minutes later in the morning. Parents of children on these buses have already been contacted.

Form Time (8.15 – 8.30am)

In Form Time, important announcements can be given without interrupting class time. Teachers also use this time to focus on Schoolwide Learner Goals (SLGs) and the Virtue of the Week. This month, teachers have also been reminding students about our 8 School Rules and next month there will be special activities for all classes to focus on anti-bullying. For the greatest benefit, students and parents are reminded to be at school by the time the bell rings at 8.15am.

STEM Academy

The STEM Academy commences in Term 3 with a Robotics programming unit in conjunction with TinkRworks in Chicago. Eight students in Years 8,9 and IG have been invited to be the foundation members. They will programme the TinkRbots which some students built earlier this year. We are very excited that our new building will have a state-of-the-art Maker Space as a home for the STEM Academy and available for all classes to use.

Building Phase 2

As you know, work on the new building has already started. By demolishing part of the fence, a temporary gate was opened to Truong Minh Giang Street (near Swimming pool area) to allow heavy machinery onto the site.

A fence will separate the construction site from our facilities. Parents will be updated as the building progresses and every attempt will be made to reduce negative impact. We are very excited that our new building will be ready in August for the next school year.



New music teacher, John Raymund Pajarillo, has commenced work. Mr. JR, as he will be called, is excited to finally be here and has met most of his classes.

Bus Safety

The safety of our students is paramount and I would remind all parents about the compulsory wearing of seatbelts on our buses. Students have also been reminded about showing respect to the bus monitor and driver.

Tet Fair

This year the whole school joined together for a Tet Fair on the last day, with Kindergarten holding theirs on Thursday, 24th January. There was a competition to judge the best decorated stalls and then students could go around and purchase food, flowers and other items as well as participate in traditional games and craft activities. There were also class music and dance performances. The school and classrooms were beautifully decorated. It was a great way for all to better *understand and respect our own and others' cultures* and is one of the ways that we want students to demonstrate *being an active and responsible citizen* (a SLG).

Chúc mừng năm mới, 새해 복 많이 받으세요 to our Korean parents and 新年快乐 to our Chinese parents.



Anne Matley
Principal

Message from Deputy Principal

It was a busy time between Christmas Break and Term Break with our Year 1 to 9 students completing their SIS exams and IGCSE 2 students completing their mock exams. Congratulations to all students for the effort they put into the assessment tasks. We are very proud of the progress that students are making. Some student report cards have already been distributed and please come to the parent-teacher interviews after the break.

After-school Clubs

Students have already received information about term three clubs and registration for this has now closed. The new clubs will begin on Monday 18 February and will run for 6 weeks, finishing on Friday 29 March. If classes did not meet their minimum numbers students will be notified during the first week back after break.

Parent-teacher Interviews

Parent-teacher interviews will begin on Saturday 16 February and continue into the next week so that all parents have the opportunity to speak with their students' teachers. More information will be distributed by form teachers in the coming weeks with regard to booking interviews with specific teachers.

Obstacle Course Race

During the last two weeks of term our Year 6 – IGCSE students were in training for an Obstacle Course Race during their HPE lessons. Mr Ignacio designed a challenging but exciting course for students to complete. The top 2 male and female competitors for each class then competed in a final during the last week of term. Congratulations to all students who participated and to the winners! The first race was a tight contest between the Year 6 and 7 classes, the winner in a close finish was Year 7 Integrated. The next race was between Year 8, IGCSE and the teachers, the Teacher's team overtook Year 9 Integrated on the last obstacle to be the overall winners.

After school pick-up

I would like to thank those parents and drivers who continue to follow our pick up rules. Cars need to move to the edge of the pickup area. This is not a stopping zone. Thank you to those families who have put student name/s on display in their windscreen. This speeds up the process as the teacher on duty can read the name. A reminder also that between 3.30pm and 4.30pm the street is one way and only a right turn is permitted on exit. Your support in following this routine is greatly appreciated and ensures everyone is safe during this very busy time of the day.

Use of facilities after school

Just a reminder that students are not permitted to use the playground equipment, football field or basketball courts after school. Students being picked up by private transport must remain seated at the front of the school building where there are members of staff on duty.

Start of the school day

A friendly reminder that our school day starts at 8.15am for all Year 1 – IGCSE 2 students. For the first 15 minutes of the students are in Form Class. In this time, they are further taught about our School Wide Learner Goals, Virtues and our 8 school rules. This is an important time of the day that our students should be present for. If students in Year 1 – 5 are late to school, they need to go straight to their classroom for the day. If students in Year 6 and up are late to school, they need to stop at the office to get a note and to be marked present for the day.

Chelsea Donaldson
Deputy Principal

Message from SVIS Principal

Dear Parents,

In January / 2019: Semester 1 assessment was conducted under the instructions of MOET. Overall results as below:

***Primary:**

- 100% of the students made satisfactory academic progress. 143 students had excellent achievement (83, 14%), - 28 students had good achievement (16.28%) – 01 student for average achievement (0.5%), 0 student received weak.
- 100% of the students achieved good behaviour.

***Secondary:**

- 47 students got excellent achievement (58.02%) - 30 students had good achievement (37.04%) - 4 Students had average achievement (4.94%) – Poor / weak (0%).
- 80 students received good behaviour (98.77%) - 01 student had Fair behaviour (1.23%).

Other activities:

- 12/01: secondary students took part in student Sport Competition in ping pong
- 19/01: (9:00-11:00am) integrated parents and teachers meeting. Teachers will report student learning results in Semester 1 and listen to comments/ ideas from parents to review and adjust appropriately in Semester 2.
- 25/01: school organized a “rural Tet market” to help students better understand Vietnamese traditional culture and show cultural performances for the theme "Mừng xuân".
- 21/01: school coordinated with a medical unit to organize periodic health examinations for all students.

For students with health problems, teachers will discuss with parents to continue care and treatment.

On behalf of the school, we sincerely thank to parents who have supported the school to achieve such good results in Semester 01

Wishing parents and students lots of joy and good luck on the traditional Tet holiday!

Sincerely

Vu Thi Lan
Principal of SVIS

**Message from Head of Studies**

Message from Head of Studies

Dear Parents

I wish you a wonderful 2019. The End of Semester 1 exams are now complete and I would like to commend students for their preparation and hard work so far. I know that all students tried their best. Time is drawing nearer to when the IGCSE 2, students will be doing the Cambridge IGCSE Official exams so we have made these exams and the procedures as authentic as possible by creating the **mock** exams.

We've also had our Secondary workshops on a healthy lifestyle by Family Medical, a presentation on hygiene by our IGCSE 2 students and a follow up about plagiarism which

has also been a focus. All these presentations and workshops were created for all classes in Year 6 and above. In the last week of term hip-hop group *New Fame* presented workshops on anti-bullying for secondary students.

I would encourage all parents to attend the Parent Teacher Interviews to be held on Saturday, February 16th 8:00-11:00 am where you can discuss your student's report and progress and see some of their work samples. Both primary and secondary parents will receive an email about this but please contact me if you need further clarification.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy and prosperous TET holiday!

Daan Ebbers

Daan Ebbers
Head of Studies



Message from Guidance Officer

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break.

Firstly I would like to highlight, for students of IGCSE 1 & 2, the Elmhurst Summer Immersion Programme which is held for 4 weeks at Elmhurst College in Chicago, USA. The students will get the opportunity to experience university life on campus, and study at university level. The trip is an opportunity for students to study internationally and develop lifelong skills such as communication and organisation skills. If you would like further information, please see the school website or email me: Catherine.burgess@danang.sis.edu.vn

In January, we held an information session on 'Educational Pathways at SIS,' for parents of Year 8 International, 9 Integrated and IGCSE 1 students. Thank you to the many parents who attended and the slides and information have been sent to all parents of these year groups. If you missed the meeting, or would like to discuss educational options at SIS past IGCSE, please contact me to arrange an appointment.

As many parents will know, this term I have been working with SIS students to help them to gain an understanding of what bullying is, and how we can work to stop it. During the last week of term, the high school students from SIS took part in an anti-bullying workshop with hip-hop duo, *New Fame*, and they were extremely lucky to also see an amazing performance from the girls. The work that *New Fame* is doing is part of a wider project called, 'Fight for Futures,' which works with various artists to fight human trafficking in high-risk areas alongside many other causes. To find out more information you can have a look on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/fightingforfutures/>.

This leads into '**SIS Anti-Bullying Week**', which will happen during the first week following TET break. During 'SIS Anti-Bullying Week' there will be various activities for students, including activities and discussions in Form Time, competitions and *Wear White to Unite Day*, where students can choose to wear a **white T-shirt** instead of their usual uniform to show our unity in standing up against bullying. *Wear White to Unite* day will happen on Friday 15th of February. I hope all students participate on this day to show a united front as a school against bullying.

I wish you all a happy Tet holiday, and look forward to seeing everyone in term 3.

Catherine Burgess
GO and EFL Teacher

Message from Head of Kindergarten

The Kindergarten had a fantastic month learning all about “Transportation”, “Money” and “the Vietnamese Lunar New Year-Tết”.

In the first topic, we learned to identify different types of transportation and got to know some traffic signs and safety rules.

The children enjoyed playing with the pretend money. They had fun role-playing a shopping game using cash registers and money. Most students showed their amazing imagination when pretending to be sellers and buyers. Everyone was feeling confident enough to go shopping independently! It was also good to see the children understanding the concept of grown-ups working hard to earn money.

As active and global competent citizens, while learning to understand and respect our own and other cultures, the Kindergarten children had an enjoyable time discovering the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. Different activities reinforced the theme such as making ‘Chúc Mừng Nam Moi’ cards, painting Tet pictures, making lucky envelopes, decorations and singing Tet songs. Everyone was eager to express their ideas and plans for Tet. They loved to talk about what we do before and during Tet with their family. They were keen on the traditional cuisines and costumes that Vietnamese people have for Tet.

It was our first time organizing the indoor Tet Fair. Everyone looked amazing in their Tet outfits and traditional Ao Dai. The concert was a huge success with outstanding performances from all classes. Although the fair was new, it was a great success and enjoyed by all. Traditional games were played and lots of trading and marketing happened in the class market. Everyone happily went home with their Tet stuff bought from the market!

Last but not least, we would like to say “Thank you” to those parents who were able to come to the Parent/Teacher interviews.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, safe and prosperous Lunar New Year. We will see you again on Monday, February 11th, 2019.

Vo Thi Thuy Ngan
Head of Kindergarten



Snapshot

