## SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ DANANG

October, 2014



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Since 1986

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Students caring for each other

### **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 Message

### Dear Parents.

It is hard to believe that we have now completed the first term of the 2014-2015 academic year. Once again, it has been an eventful and productive term for students and teachers.

Our Student Council and class representatives are off to an excellent start to the year's student activities. One of our schoolwide learner goals for our students is to teach them the skills to be confident communicators, demonstrating proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening; working collaboratively with others and using creative forms of expression. Our student leaders certainly proved that they are well on the way to acquiring these skills through their organisation of the Halloween party held today (31 October). Students reported it to be the best Halloween party yet.

### **Virtues Programme**

The students have completed the first term of our Virtues programme with the overarching theme being 'Getting Along'. Within this theme students have been learning about caring for others, integrity, patience, generosity and teamwork. Every two weeks a class in the primary and secondary school is responsible for presenting the virtue to the other students. This term we have been very impressed with the presentation from the following year levels:

Year 3: Caring for others

Year 8: Integrity
Year 5 Integrated: Patience
Year 6 Integrated: Generosity
IGCSE 1: Teamwork

We congratulate all students and their teachers on their creative presentations.

Parents are welcomed to attend the Virtues assemblies which are held every second Friday.

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### **MC Online Training Workshop for Parents**

On Saturday, 11 October, we held an MC Online training session for parents. MC Online has excellent tutorials and exercises students can do at home as well as at school. The programme aligns with our Singaporean English, Mathematics and Science programmes.

### **Christmas Charity Fair 2014**

We will be holding our annual Christmas Charity Fair on Saturday, 13 December.

The success of a Charity Fair depends on the school community working together to make the event enjoyable for all who attend and to raise money for a Vietnamese charity. The money raised at this year's Christmas Charity Fair will once again be going to the organization, 'Operation Smile Vietnam'.

In the past, parents have been involved in food stalls, White Elephant stall and Secondhand Book Stall. We would appreciate your ideas and support again for this year's Charity Fair. We also welcome new ideas that will help us host an event that will not only be enjoyable for all, but will also be able to raise money for a very worthwhile charity.

We would like to hear from parents who would like to form a committee that will ensure the success of the fair.

### **iPSLE** Results

Students who sat the iPSLE in July will be receiving their results on 10 November. The iPSLE aims to provide certification and benchmarking for overseas schools which are interested to benchmark against Singapore's standard. It provides a recognized certification of the knowledge and achievement that students have attained. The iPSLE also assists in preparing students to apply for schools in Singapore.

### **New K1 Class**

Due to a demand in Kindergarten enrolments this year, we will be opening another K1 class after the November break. Ms Lien will be the teacher for the new K1 Class. Ms Lien has a degree in Early Childhood Education as well as certificates in English and Early Childhood Intervention. Ms Lien has been with SIS @ Danang since 2011 and has had 10 years teaching experience in international kindergartens.

### **Maternity Leave**

Next term we will have three teachers going on Maternity Leave. Ms Cao Phuong (K2) and Ms Julia (Years 7-8) will be taking leave from 10 November.



Above: Year 8 students demonstrating their creative abilities



Science Club experiments
Below: Multi-cultural Day for Kindergarten





Kindergarten Multi-cultural day



Nursery class loves art time.



Secondary students performing their play

We have replacement teachers for both Ms Phuong and Ms Julia. Ms Oanh will be taking Ms Phuong's place for the six months Ms Phuong is on leave and Mr Philip will be replacing Ms Julia. Later in the term Ms Nhi will be taking leave and Ms Trinh will return to take her place in Year 6. I wish you all a very happy holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Walker

### **Message From the Deputy Principal**

### **Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA)**

We have been very pleased to see the number of students in ECA grow this year. Students enjoyed participating in ECA this term and we hope to see them continue to participate in these activities in Term 2. There are a few new activities on offer for Term 2 and students should have registered by 30 October. Students will need to register for Term 2 activities, even if they wish to continue from Term 1. As always, whenever money is sent to school, please send it in a sealed envelope with your child's name, year level, the amount of money and what it is for, written clearly on the envelope. As teachers and students will be busy preparing for examinations after the Christmas break, Term 2 ECA will run from 10 November until 19 December. If you would like your child to participate, please have her/him bring the registration form and money before the end of Term 1.

### Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) Visit

Secondary students were visited by representatives from RMIT in Ho Chi Minh City on Friday, 17 October. Visitors not only shared information about the programmes on offer at RMIT, they also gave some tips to students for applying to university.

They encouraged our students to not only look into one university, but that they should be looking at many different universities.

Students should consider the programmes the university offers as well as their own strengths when deciding where they would like to attend. Agents are not necessary to help students enroll into a university. Students should be contacting and applying to universities directly. Students are encouraged to check on a university's accreditation to ensure they can get a good job with a degree from an accredited university. They may also be interested in whether exchange programmes are on offer with that particular programme.

Students working collaboratively on their technology project



More colourful costumes for Multi-cultural Day



Kindergarten children practicing with hoola hoops

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The more students know and understand about the process, the better equipped they will be when it comes to making decisions about what to do after graduating high school. As well, students are encouraged students to check out careers that alumni from the university pursues after graduation.

### **Meal Passes**

As our school continues to grow, we must set in place procedures such as the latest policy from PIU. Students will now be required to show a Meal Pass at lunch and snack time to the canteen staff. If you have not paid your child's meal fee by the start of each term, they will not be served lunch or snack until this fee is settled. In order to cut down on the chances of students' misplacing cards or forgetting their passes, duty teachers will pass out and collect these passes every lunch and snack time with the help of assigned students from each class. This new policy will help to ensure that students who have paid the meal fees receive lunch and snack each day.

### **Uniforms**

The majority of our students are now wearing the correct sport shoes to school each day. We appreciate your support regarding our uniform policy. As of Term 2, all students must be in the correct shoes for school.

If you are still having trouble finding sport shoes that are mainly black, grey or white, please contact the office staff who will be more than happy to suggest where these can be purchased. Upon returning to school in Term 2, if a student is not in correct uniform, including the correct shoes, teachers will send a reminder to parents and the student will have to sit out of sport and play time. This is a system wide policy which all KinderWorld schools are to follow.

### **Progress Reports**

Term 1 Progress Reports went home on 29 October for Year 1-9 students. If you did not receive your child's report, please contact the form teacher for a copy. Teachers will contact parents individually to arrange necessary conferences. You may also request a conference with your child's teachers and should make these arrangements with the teacher directly. IGSE students receive Progress Reports at the beginning of Term 2 as their examinations do not finish until the last day of Term 1. GAC students will receive official reports from ACT solutions after completion of Level 1.

Warm regards,

Elizabeth Henderson

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IGCSE 1 students discussing their next project

Chess club



Kindergarten children love being creative

### Message from Head of Vietnamese.

Ms. Le Thi Yen, a new teacher from Hanoi, has been assigned to teach Year 2 Integrated. She has replaced Ms. Phan Thi Xuan who resigned due to personal reasons.

Ms. Yen has had 3 years' teaching experience at the Singapore International School @ Van Phuc, Hanoi.

She is committed to assist our Year 2 class achieve the Schoolwide Learner Goals.

All primary teachers have been trained by OET on the DOET curriculum to improve the primary student assessment. Primary school students' marks will be based on comments and formative assessments which aim to act as a guide to enable students to be independent and self-motivated learners committed to improving their academic results

Students' final assessments will be based on marks (1-10) only for the semester tests.

Parents can study circular no 30/2014 / TT-BGDDT on 08/28/2014 by the Ministry of Education and Training for more details.

This month, the Vietnamese quality survey for all primary students was organized at school.

\* Results: 67.77%: Excellent - 30%: Good - 2.23%: Average - 0%: Poor/ Weak

The mid-semester test for primary students will be held over two days:

23, October, 2014: Vietnamese (reading and writing)

24, October, 2014: Mathematics

Ms. Phan Thi Hau (History teacher) trained the students who participated in the competition "History of Vietnam". Vo Thi Kieu Tien (Anna), Year 7, won the competition in the Ngu Hanh Son District. Anna's submission has been chosen to represent the district in the Danang final competition. We congratulate Anna on her achievement.

The Vietnamese subject teachers are training primary students for the Internet Mathematics Contest. Secondary students will attend the English speaking and writing contest about Hoang Sa Islands. We wish all competing students the best possible outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Mme. Vu Thi Lan

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Academic Achievers working hard



Computer Time for our early learners



Secondary students' learning time

**Cultural Fair** Laurel Dosman (Social Studies and Music Specialist)

In an attempt to nurture globally minded citizens, SIS students from Year 5 and above participated in a cultural fair on Friday, 24 October, 2014. Each class presented information on a specific country to the Primary and Secondary school students. The students also worked together to bring a national food which they shared in an "International Food Fair" during morning recess. The students enjoyed learning about different countries from around the world and tasting the different foods during the food fair. They demonstrated their confident communication skills through their collaborative group work.

### **Choir Update**

The elementary choir, IGCSE I, IGCSE II and GAC students participated in our first morning recess "Music Appreciation Day" on Tuesday, 28 October, 2014. The elementary choir and senior high students have been working hard all term putting together musical arrangements in small groups which they performed for the rest of the school. We loved to see the musical talents of so many of our students and look forward to future "Music Appreciation Days".

### **Secondary English Classes**

Year 7 English Ms Julia

Students have been demonstrating their communication skills through their study of Aesop's fables which is part of their Unit 3 English programme: Folktales.

Students have read a selection of fables and analysed these to discover the lesson portrayed in each one. They created their own picture book retellings of a favourite fable, which they shared with younger students in the school.

### Year 8 English

Students completed Unit 2 – 'Traditional Tales', with students presenting their own creative adaptation of a traditional story of their choice. Students are working in groups to present a live performance of a well-known traditional tale.

### **Important Dates:**

31 October: End of Term 110 November: Term 2 commences

21 November: Parent Morning Tea to discuss examinations

and Schoolwide Learner Goals
13 December: Christmas Charity Fair
22 December: Christmas Holidays
5 January: School resumes

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### This month's snapshots















