



NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Principal's Message: The Power of Communication

Dear Parents,

When students learn English at Singapore International School, they learn more than words. They learn to communicate. Sometimes we need to listen to the message of our youth. You may have seen the news and social media about the virtues of expressing opinions about the environment. Most recently, much of the world has directed attention to the young Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg. Her message has brought inspiration and criticism. She knows how to communicate.

Greta jumped into the media spotlight. To millions of people young and old, the 16-year old is a motivator of environmental awareness. To the few and politically/corporate-biased, the Swede is regularly their focus of abuse. She is an adolescent with the ability to generate uninhibited warnings that creates reactions. Why? She expresses herself emotionally, undaunted by the jeers of those who tease about her manner of speech. Photographs of her angry facial expressions are misused. Some people tend to be so quick, so resolute, to weaken by mocking genuine convictions and realistic attempts to address issues facing us. Greta blames adults, and rightfully so. It is not the first time the younger generation blamed the previous generation before. The results were not as prominently achieved compared to today. However, this generation may make a difference.

Unlike Greta and a few other notable youths who made the media spotlight, most of our young people do not fully comprehend the power of communication today. They perceive that the world is merely interested solely in them as individuals. Yes, they're displaying that peculiar touch of hair dye here and there, relishing music their parents would never understand, writing or reading questionable foul language in social media, and so on. Is this indeed what makes an independent-minded teenager capable of communicating? There is plenty of issues for our youths to be verbal about - just as there was for their parents' generation and their parents before them. But what about now?

Our planet is changing. The scientific evidence is now unchallenged. The industrial revolution of from the past few centuries established alarming conditions in cities across the world. Regardless of the poverty and pollution, our Earth can manage and could rejuvenate itself. But, it takes the power of communication to create that message.



Greta may be noticed as an overexcited or unfortunate victim of media exploitation. Nevertheless, her message resonates the truth. The grown-ups on Earth must take action and do something quickly. Moreover, encourage our next generation of adults – your children – to be more positively and practically concerned and communicate change for the better.

Sincerely yours,
Larry Synclair
Principal



Everyone has a teacher that influenced their lives in some way. Whether it was learning a language,

developing critical thinking school or providing moral support, we know a teacher who was a part of shaping us into who we are today. There is a common saying passed down from generation to generation – “**Ăn quả nhớ kẻ trồng cây**” (“When you eat a fruit, think of the man who planted the tree.”) November 20th is that special day when Vietnam gives recognition for the teachers and their work. For the teachers of Singapore International School, it was a definite “Happy Teacher’s Day.” The celebration consisted of stage performances by the students to show their appreciation of the teachers. These performances include singing, dancing, and presenting flowers, cards, and gifts. Many heartfelt thanks to everyone from the teachers of SIS.



December 14 / 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Soon it will be time to celebrate the Christmas holiday at school with proceeds go to charity. This year KinderWorld will be supporting *Caritas Vietnam*. Programmes by

Caritas Vietnam aim to promote integral human development and to deliver emergency assistance. It organises workshops on HIV/AIDS to prevent the spread of the epidemic. The workshops include training and counselling. Caritas Vietnam's social service activities include campaigns to help dioceses boost education and life skills for young people, water projects to improve the health of leprosy patients and support to people living with disabilities. It runs a scholarship programme for poor students. Be ready for fun at the charity fair.



**OUTWARD BOUND
VIETNAM**

Overnight Fun at SIS

On November 21st, Mr. Phuoc's Year 4 students and Ms. Oanh's Year 5 students participated in an Outward Bound event: an overnight camping trip on campus. Just like a camping trip in the multi-purpose room, the students participated in various teamwork games and projects. At the end of the overnight event, the students received a certificate by Outward Bound Vietnam.



Each month, we will introduce a teacher and briefly provide some interesting facts about this person.

Nguyen Thi Linh – Nursery School Teacher

Ms. Linh has infectious positive energy – once you see and talk to her, you feel happy. She has been in the teaching profession for seven years and joined our school when the doors first opened in 2018. Ms. Linh says that she's not only the learner, but the learner. "The thing I like best about being a teacher is to watch the students' growth and success," says Ms. Linh. "Moreover, every day has new adventures and challenges. I also learn new things from kids each day." Ms. Linh is fluent in English. She praises her college teachers for her fluency: "They showed me ways to improve English by reading books, watching films, listening to music in English and especially self-study." Ms. Linh is also the proud mother of two boys. She says when she's not at school, she usually spends time taking care and playing with them. "I like travelling to places with family," Ms. Linh says, adding that she also like reading books and going shopping.





Congratulations to our Prep student **Phuong Nghi**. She is not only a good student but also a very kind friend to her schoolmates. Phuong Nghi always listens to teachers and finishes all the given tasks perfectly. Also, she's willing to help the other people with kindness. Phuong Nghi likes playing with cooking toys and enjoys building toys. SH can be quite creative with Lego. All in all, teachers, friends and her family are always proud of her.



November Recollections

