

# NEWSLETTER

December 2020

## Principal's Message: See you next "year"

Dear parents,

We hope you had a Merry Christmas. All of us at SIS express good wishes that your child is having a relaxing and enjoyable school break. We are smiling about the positive results of the Christmas Charity Event: a great way to end the year. As we are about to begin soon the second half of the school year, we have much to look forward to 2021.

Although the parental restrictions were imposed by officials for the Christmas Charity Fair due to COVID-19, that did not slow down coupon sales. Students had a wonderful time playing games, enjoying snacks, watching performances and participating in the lucky draw. The event was, overall, a big success with all proceeds going to Caritas Vietnam.

Caritas Vietnam programmes aim to promote integral human development and to deliver emergency assistance. It organises workshops on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The workshops include training and counseling. Caritas Vietnam's social service activities include campaigns to boost education and life skills for young people, water projects to improve the health of leprosy patients and support to people living with disabilities. Caritas Vietnam has also established a scholarship programme for students of low-income families.

This new year is going to begin as another good year with more activities. As the weather warms up, students will be participating in swimming again. The annual water rocket competition and popular egg toss contest are about to blast off. More excursions and holiday events are being planned.

Please remember that school begins Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Education is going to be fun -- again. Until then, have a safe holiday and we will see you next year.

Sincerely yours,  
**Larry Synclair**  
Principal





Big smiles and lots of cheers were everywhere at Singapore International School's annual Christmas Charity Fair. Just before the Christmas vacation, teachers, staff and students participated in numerous activities in which all proceeds were donated to Caritas Vietnam, a humanitarian aid charity. Santa Claus made a visit to every KIK classroom to provide a gift each students. Later, he met with students for a photo op.

Meantime, students scrambled from one table to the next with their coupons. Food, drink, activities and games were everywhere including excellent musical and dancing performances by students.



Congratulations to our first DynEd Certificate winners: Phan Ngoc Anh Thu (Roseanna) earned her A1+ certificate. Ngo Hai Toan (Dragon) completed the requirements for his A1 certificate. Singapore International School recently introduced DynEd, which is the world's leading provider of English language learning software.

### ***Is it safe to swim during COVID-19?***

Singapore International School is committed to keeping students safe and healthy and preventing the spread of COVID-19. SIS receives up-to-date information from the Ministry of Health and Department of Education & Training pertaining to the virus. An important concern that SIS has inquired to officials is about swimming pools and virus contagion. Experts around the world concur that there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads through water in pools, hot tubs, spas or water play areas.



According to experts at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Sweden, disinfectants used to clean water – including chlorine and bromine – will kill the virus that causes COVID-19. Unlike bacteria, which can survive in water that is not properly cleaned, viruses don't survive well on their own in water, in the air or on surfaces. Dr. Lakshmi Chauhan, who specializes in infectious diseases, and is an assistant professor at the University of Colorado's School of Medicine (USA), agrees. "Viruses are just a strand of RNA or DNA. They need a host to survive," Chauhan said. Some illnesses like cholera and typhoid can be transmitted through water, but these are bacterial infections. COVID-19 is a viral infection transmitted primarily through droplets when people cough or sneeze. "This is a respiratory virus," Chauhan said. "It's unusual for respiratory viruses to be transmitted in water."

The potential for COVID-19 to spread at pools, lakes and beaches relates to crowds attracted to these places, not from the water. The virus can spread from person to person on the deck of the pool or as children and adults play and relax at beaches and lakes. In countries facing severe outbreaks of COVID-19 such as England, Russia, Brazil, India, and the United States, social-distancing is essential. Sadly, it has not been respectfully practiced there compared to Vietnam that quickly immobilized testing, aggressive contact tracing and a mass multi-faceted public health campaign. Moreover, the government understands the need to focus on the safety of pools and young swimmers.

Local public health departments are working with recreation managers about decisions to ensure safety in pools, lakes and beaches for the public. Evidence of virus spreading through pool water is not present; however, evidence of child drowning is predominate in the country. At the end of October, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs announced the draft of a program in which half of all Vietnamese children should be able to be swim by 2025.