



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ CAN THO
NEWSLETTER
May 2021

Principal's Message: We are all in this together

Dear parents,

These are exasperating times for students, parents, teachers, and staff of Singapore International School. The COVID-19 crisis caused widespread school closures in almost 200 countries and affected nearly two billion children.

For several weeks, concerns about another outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has raised worries and increased levels of tension in Can Tho. It has interrupted the way we teach and learn, the way our families gather, the way we socialize and the way we live.

I've felt those frustrations too.

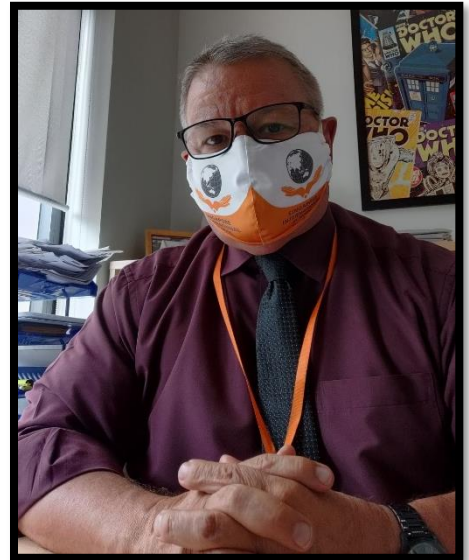
But I want to express my appreciation to all of you — students, parents, teachers, and staff — who have made the difficult decisions to choose the health and safety of your communities first. It is never an easy decision to close school buildings and, within a small frame of time, have everyone prepare for online teaching and learning due to a pandemic.

I understand the frustration of parents and family members who hope for a sense of normality for their children. There are many people in Can Tho and outside of the city struggling to balance their work, having their children remain at home all the time and then trying to assist their children with schoolwork while we are using distance learning. It is understandable why parents wish for schools to reopen to in-person classes because that, of course, is the best type of education for their kids. At SIS, we want you to know that we want your children to return to their classrooms, too — when it is safer for them to go.

Now is not the time to forget all of the hard work that the city did earlier this year in preventing the spread of this deadly pandemic. If we reopen schools too early, no matter how good the intentions and no matter how good our reopening plans, our students, our teachers and our communities will suffer.

Let's stay the course and wait for officials to announce when school can reopen. A short-term wait with distance learning will only result in a greater probability of a long-term return of in-person classes. We are all in this together.

Sincerely yours,
Larry Synclair
Principal



Tips for parents teaching from home



Children have more chances to use and improve their language with support from both teachers and parents. But parents raise the question, can I support my child if I don't speak English well?

The answer is, yes.

You can help your child to gain in confidence and feel more motivated by giving them lots of praise and opportunities to practice their English lessons. It's easier for children to learn when they get encouragement at home. You could also all learn some English together. If you are enthusiastic about learning the language, they will be too.

Naturally, there are questions about practicing English at home. Very simply: learn little and often. Regular practice helps children to learn a language. Don't think that much learning will generate many positive results. Actually, it may create burnout. Keep activities short and fun (for younger learners, try 3–10 minutes). However, if your child is enjoying working on their own, let them control their own activity times.

Always instill ways to build their confidence. Children are sometimes afraid of making mistakes in front of their classmates. They often feel more comfortable trying things out with their parents. Praise them to create a sense of success and encourage them when they take "risks."

Another suggestion is to focus on your child's interests: teachers prepare lessons that they hope will interest the whole class, whereas you can really focus on your child's interests. Choose materials together that your child will enjoy the most, whether it has to be about dinosaurs or dancing.

Rewards can sometimes produce one-time actions, rather than developing long-term study skills. It's really important to praise effort, not just results and intelligence. This means praising your child if they have kept going when they've found something hard or found a way to solve a problem by themselves. Research shows that children who receive this type of praise make the best progress in their studies. Teachers usually can't offer rewards other than praise. Parents have many options – and the rewards don't have to cost anything. For example, you could try the following:

- Activity rewards: your child earns extra free time to do their favorite activities.
- Social rewards: your child earns extra quality time together with family and friends.
- Asking your child to think about how they would like their effort to be recognized. Their ideas may surprise you.

Parents play a vital role by giving children the courage and confidence to do their work, providing encouragement and helping them develop study skills.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SEMESTER 2 EXAMS

Because recent increases in COVID-19 infections in Vietnam have forced Government Authorities to direct schools to close and switch to online learning, exams for English in the International Programme were replaced with multiple assessment tasks for SIS students to complete during online lessons over the next three to four weeks. These online assessment tasks have been consolidated with classroom assessments that have already been completed throughout Semester Two, to obtain a final overall result for Semester Two Report Cards. Report cards will be prepared and available in the final week of school from Monday, 28 June 2021.

Our garden waits for our students...



A Global Finalist

Singapore International School is proud to announce that Year 11 student Khắc Thông Nguyễn (Dan) was chosen from thousands of submissions of students of many countries as finalist in the RISE Program.

The Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme is a global research endeavour that seeks to understand how education systems in developing countries can overcome the learning crisis. In this case, project proposals, video submissions and interview were conducted. Dan's proposed project involves water management and battling salinization in the Mekong Delta.



Both in Stage 1 submissions and throughout his Rise Challenge, the official say Dan shows “exceptional brilliance, perseverance, integrity, empathy, and calling.” Each Finalist, like Dan, will participate in a “Finalist Day” during a weekend in June that involves a series of individual and group activities and interviews. By completing these activities, they will receive a financial package of benefits to be used toward education or social impact. There will be 100 winners for lifetime benefits.

Rise global winners will attend a residential summit to explore leadership, service, and their future career plans. They will receive a technology package, along with access to free online courses and need-based financial support for education and internships. As winners enter the workforce, they'll receive mentorship and career services. If their work involves their community, as Dan's project involves the Mekong Delta, they'll be able to apply for funding to scale up their impact. Winners will become a part of a global community of leaders and have early access to educational and funding opportunities through the network of RISE partners, including universities, businesses, and non-profits.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Mr. Ludwig Santos Mindo de Varona has two bachelor’s degrees and a master’s degree but soon he will have two master’s degrees.
- Ms. Lizelle MacLachlan is part-owner of a private school in South Africa.
- Ms. Lam Thi Thuy Ngan (administrator) was an English teacher.
- Mr. Aaran Meusen is a fifth-degree black belt in taekwondo.
- Mr. Larry Synclair’s first teaching job was at Washington State University in 1986.

Twenty scholarships will be offered next school year for Vietnamese students who are currently studying in a local/private school. The value of scholarships for students entering Year 6 or Year 10 Integrated Programme at SIS@Can Tho is the following:



Value of Scholarship	Year 6	Year 10
90%	3 scholarships	3 scholarships
70%	7 scholarships	7 scholarships
TOTAL	10 scholarships	10 scholarships

Academic requirements are the following:

- 1) Academic record: Excellent (Học lực Giỏi) for School Year 2019 - 2020 and Semester 1 of School Year 2020 - 2021
- 2) Behaviour Record: Good (Hành kiểm Tốt) for School Year 2019 – 2020

In addition to submitting required documents, candidates will undergo two rounds consisting of English and Vietnamese academic tests and interviews.

Children of KinderWorld Group employees and existing students in Year 5 of Can Tho campus or from any SIS campus are not eligible.

Please contact the office for more information.

A teacher’s face when a student claims not knowing how to electronically submit assignments,



but magically knows how to use TikTok, You Tube, SnapChat, Twitter, Zalo, Facebook, and Pinterest