

NEWSLETTER

May 2020

Principal's Message: Welcome and thanks...with caution

Dear Parents,

First, let me say how much all of the teachers and staff missed having students at Singapore International School. The hallways were quiet and lonely without the energy and enthusiasm the students bring here every day. The past few months were challenging for all of us and certainly a learning experience like no other.

Nevertheless it is time to try to get school back into our lives, but we cannot forget virus prevention.

To date, we have not had a confirmed case of the virus amongst our students or family members. That said, we must not be complacent and we must all show the same level of diligence over the coming days, weeks and months to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Medical experts and disease professionals have emphasized that maintaining good hygiene is critical to keeping our school community as healthy as possible. In order to assist in promoting good hygiene, we are reminding our students and faculty through announcements of the importance of washing hands thoroughly and consistently after using restrooms and before and after eating meals. We currently have a number of hand sanitizer pumps in various locations throughout campus. We are also encouraging our students and faculty to carry their own personal hand sanitizers to school. Our staff consistently sanitizes the school, including common areas and classrooms. Daily, our staff also checks everyone's temperature and is prepared to take immediate action if there are potential signs of the virus.

This was our teachers' first experience with a pandemic and having to go to remote learning with little time demonstrated they really do have the students' best interest in mind. The teachers had the delicate job of meeting the standards in the curriculum while also balancing the notion of not overwhelming their students. It was a difficult balance but one they were committed to.

Consequently, I would like to thank all of the magnificent teachers and staff. It needs to be acknowledged that for teachers and support staff, this has been a stressful time. But, the school's response to the current and emerging challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic has very much been a team effort and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts to maintain a sense of calm and consistency for our students and their families. Appreciation must also be given to the parents who provided support by making sure students attended their online lessons. With my graciousness, thank you for your help.

Let's make the best of this school year.

Sincerely yours,
Larry Synclair
Principal



New faces at Can Tho campus

Please welcome **Do Thi Bich Nga**, Head of Vietnamese Studies (KIK). This Can Tho native brings almost 40 years of experience working in kindergarten as well as impressive credentials to Can Tho campus. Many of the KIK teachers remember her as their university teacher. She was a lecturer of education at Hong Ha Vocational College in Can Tho. Nga supervises the KIK staff, including the implementation of academic courses as well as conducting observations of classrooms and teacher performances. "Working with kids is never a simple job," says Ms. Nga, noting that her profession resulted in improving patience and perseverance. "Besides, children are so innocent," she muses, noting that they make her feel comfortable and, in turn, finds it refreshing.



La Van Phu (Peter) is no stranger to KinderWorld and he joins Can Tho campus as the school's new Office Manager. He is a graduate from Ba Ria Vung Tau University, earning an Associate's degree in Business English. For seven years in his hometown Vung Tau, Peter worked at SIS as their office administrator. Well versed in corporate administrative responsibilities, Peter will manage Can Tho campus's student enrollment, monitor daily school operations, and maintain the school budget as well as provide administrative support to staff in order to assist with the effective management of the school. "Teachers here are professional, friendly and supportive," he says. "They are always willing help students as much as they can and do the best for students. Hopefully with the great support from teachers, together we will create the best educational environment for students."

Nobody likes going to school on a weekend, but school had to be open on Saturdays to make up for days lost due to the virus. Looking for something to enlighten our Saturdays at school, the Student Council brought up the idea of wearing clothes that were wild and "freaky": in other words, clothes you normally don't wear. So on May 23rd, we had a Freaky Fashion Day contest which was a fun Saturday to dress up for school. Our winners are Huynh Ai My (1st place), Tran Hoang Thien An (2nd place) and Year 1 Class (Team Winners' place). British Fashion designer Alexander McQueen said it best about everyone being different but equally acceptable: "I think there is beauty in everything. What 'normal' people perceive as ugly, I can usually see something of beauty in it."

FREAKY FASHION



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



Janet Lizelle MacLachlan

Year 6/7 English and Social Studies Teacher

Ms. Lizelle is true professional teacher. Since 1998, she has taught in four countries: Qatar, UAE, Vietnam, and South Africa. "No day is ever the same," she says about teaching. "Love watching students develop and grow in confidence. I also believe that teaching keeps one mentally alert and 'current'".



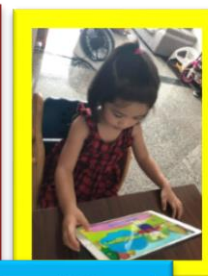
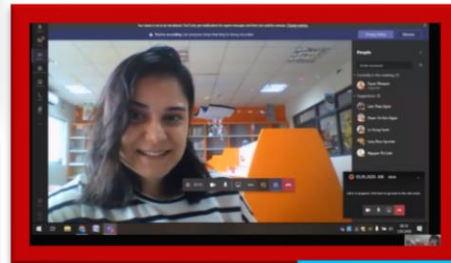
She is originally from Cape Town, South Africa and has spent the great part of her teaching career in the classroom although she has also held many leadership and administrative positions such as Head of Faculty and Grade Lead Teacher. Ms. Lizelle was also part of a group of educators who opened and developed their own school in Cape Town.

When Ms. Lizelle is not teaching, she loves travelling, reading, cooking, and watching movies.



Learning from home

More than 300 million learners worldwide were affected by the spread of Coronavirus. It was the same for us in Can Tho. Teachers at Singapore International School strived to ensure that learning would continue, in spite of massive disruption. Therefore, the best of online teaching was provided for students.



Back to School... AGAIN

It is common for students to count the days and hours before vacation begins. Things were different as everyone faced the lockdown and online teaching began. Staying home just didn't seem to be as fun. Students were eager to return to school and enjoy good times with their classmates. Needless to say, there were big smiles on the students' faces when school started this month.

