



# NEWSLETTER

November 2020

## Principal's Message: The Power of STEM

Dear parents,

Young children often have a wonderful sense of curiosity and inquisitiveness that naturally leads them into exploring and learning. It is during their primary school years that this is often sadly lost. How many parents have watched as their child enters the school system, so excited to attend and learn, but by the time they leave primary school they lose that desire to learn in school. They complain bitterly about going every day. Learning is no longer enjoyable. At SIS, we are aware of this and this is why we have STEM.

STEM is important because it encompasses every part of our lives. It is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an integrative and practical approach. Science is everywhere in the world around us. It is found in our natural world – the trees, plants, butterflies, erosion on the creek bed, and so much more. Technology is continuously expanding into every aspect of our lives. It is part of our students' everyday lives – iPads, Kindles, computer programming, telescopes, and all the way back to the invention of the wheel. Engineering is found in the construction of bridges, homes, buildings, and other infrastructures. It also tackles the challenges of changing global weather and environmentally-friendly changes to our home. Mathematics is in every occupation, every activity we do in our lives. It is a crucial skill to help them balance checkbooks, buy groceries, budgeting, and so much more.



Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate subjects, STEM combines them into a unified learning paradigm based on real-world applications. At SIS, we give the students opportunities to explore STEM-related concepts so that they can develop a passion for it.

For example, some of the students have learned about gardening. Our school garden serve as a living laboratory to explore the world of Earth and life sciences. Teeming with possibilities, our garden provide students with the opportunity to conduct experiments, view seasonal and land-form changes and watch life cycles unfold before their eyes.

Plans are being made for students to learn about rocket model technology and how to get them to fly with the use of water pressure. This will be an opportunity for students to develop team working abilities, gain engineering and problem-solving aptitudes and showcase their physics skills.

Our teaching methods are inquiry-based, process-focused, and student-centered. Teamwork, collaboration and communication is a major focus. Students have the freedom to think critically, creatively and with innovation. What does all of this mean? Giving students challenges sets them up for life, as they'll learn how to think their way around a problem and try out solutions. In other words, it is these skills they'll acquire from school and will use them when they are older and in the workforce.

Sincerely yours,  
**Larry Synclair**  
Principal



## OZGUR SERDAR

Year 5 and 6 English/Social Studies/  
Global Perspectives teacher

He's respectfully known as Mr. Oz to teachers and students and he comes from an industrial town in Turkey called Kocaeli. According to Mr. Oz, his hometown gets so cold in winter that people often do not leave their homes. So, imagine his friends surprise and amazement when Mr. Oz shared a photo of him sunbathing in Viet Nam last December. He loves being a teacher because it's a challenge. "Teaching is the ultimate challenge as well as being fun," he says. "When your students grow up, they remember some of the things that you taught them. They cannot thank you then but you know you somehow touched their lives. It is priceless." In addition to being a teacher, he also enjoys indoor and outdoor activities. "I am a gamer. I like playing video games," Mr. Oz admits. "I have played every single Call of Duty game. My favorite game of all time is Max Payne. I love watching the NBA too. My favorite player is Kevin Durant from Brooklyn Nets." While playing games or watch basketball is fun, he also adores nature by taking hikes when he has the chance.



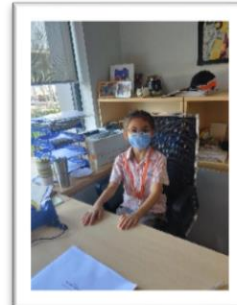
Singapore International School's Can Tho Campus will launch its annual Christmas Charity Fair for all students on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> (from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM). Proceeds of the events will go to Caritas Vietnam. Caritas Vietnam is a charitable organization and an official member of Caritas International. The organization supports the poor who are marginalized and lacking basic human living conditions through means of the following:

- *Providing aid*
- *Supporting people with HIV / AIDS, leprosy patients and people with disabilities by integrating them into the community.*
- *Supporting the poor in need of temporary residence*
- *Offering community development*
- *Assisting with sustainable agriculture*

As COVID restrictions still apply in terms of the arrangement of school events, parents and vendors will not be able to attend.



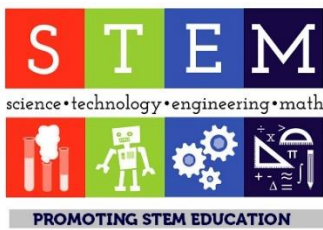
## Future principals?





## Nguyen Dang Khai Huy

Huy is always happy and very friendly with friends in K1. Teachers also say that Huy is a good boy. He always follows teachers' requests as well as obeys the classroom's rules. Huy also likes to speak English and can speak English well. He wants to be a firefighter when he grows up.



At SIS, students are learning STEM through CREST. It is UK's only nationally recognized scheme for student-led project work in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and math).



CREST gives young people aged 5-19 the chance to choose their own subject and methodology for their hands-on experience. A consistent, high standard of assessment and moderation is achieved for the scheme



via CREST's network of industry experts from STEM and education sectors. It has been running since 1986 with tens of thousands of young people taking part each year around the world. CREST provides activities and project ideas for a range of ages, group sizes and abilities. From off-the-shelf, one-hour long challenges through to large-scale, student-led projects of over 70 hours of work or more, CREST can be done by any of our primary and secondary students in SIS.

## Greenhouse greetings



Now we are about to begin the garden's second phase with a **greenhouse**. Recently built by the school's talented maintenance manager, Huynh Hoang Hiep, the greenhouse will soon become a haven of new agricultural ideas such as growing herbs, fruit, and flowers. Even hydroponics is a consideration. "The students enjoy coming out here to the garden and soon they will be able to study a lot more of their science core with the greenhouse," says School Principal Larry Sinclair. "We hope to keep it going all the time."

