



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ CAN THO

NEWSLETTER

September-October 2021

Principal's Message: Moving Ahead

Dear parents,

Singapore International School is pleased to see your children join us in school again, although we wish we could open our doors. We are going through an extraordinary global predicament today. Covid-19 has made dramatic changes in our lives and, according to educational experts, we could expect these changes to be permanent.

Educators from around the globe are wondering if we're headed for a "blended everything" world. In academia, a blended education is a combination of face-to-face education with online education. While education experts debate the potential length of this hybrid learning, the reality is that we currently have an existence with a virus that challenges all schools to re-evaluate not just technology's place in (and out of) the classroom, but also how to reach and teach students more effectively. What about outside the class? Can we acclimatize to a "blended everything" environment? Questions are raised about human beings having the ability to adapt to greater use of technology and lesser means of being physically in public, at work, being transported with others to a location, and so on.

I've spoken with educators in various countries during the past six months. Because this is the COVID-19 period, many teachers and staff would also love everything to get back to life just as it was. However, I tend to question if life is going back to just as it was. Will SIS change? We can't say we will drastically become something different, but we will adjust so that teachers are able to provide the best education possible for your child. So, yes, it's uncertain, and it's difficult at the moment – but honestly, we'll figure out a way. We will do it. That will be the future and what some experts call "the new normal." It's not going to be over when COVID-19 is over. It's going to be the way the world moves forward – not backwards.

The government called for various levels of lockdowns in Vietnam, so we closed the doors but opened online. We could never consider closing the school and denying your child an education. After all, a Singaporean education, which encourages project work and creative thinking, is noted for its highest achieving students in international rankings, according to the OECD's Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA). We looked at every opportunity, examined what was permissible by authorities, and moved ahead rather than look back and wished for the past.

SIS will be there for the children, teaching them about various subjects, and helping them learn about life no matter how much it changes.

Sincerely yours,
Larry Synclair
Principal



Singapore International School

VISION

To be an educational institution of excellence from Kindergarten to University Foundation level combining Eastern Values with an International education to produce global citizens.

MISSION

To provide quality educational programmes in a creative and challenging learning environment, embracing innovative teaching pedagogies to empower every student to become a life-long learner.

SIS's new ICT teacher, Michelle Parita, loves her technological teaching profession, but she also

Teacher Feature



has a creative side. She earned her Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Computer Education from The National Teachers College in her home country, the Philippines. She recalls, "My parents taught me as a child that schooling was vital to succeed in life. I was blessed and fortunate to have teachers who prepared me for a wider society." Indeed, she considers teaching a rewarding experience: "I love helping students understand the content of my subject and I get so excited when I see improvements and when students become proficient on what they are doing." Michelle was also a researcher, working eight years as a scholar for an academic scholarship foundation based in Vicenza, Italy. Aside from being a technology enthusiast knowledgeable in programming languages like Visual basic, Python and C++ programming, Ms. Michelle is a freelance hair and makeup artist as well as fan of fashion shows, beauty pageants, and modelling. Welcome to SIS!

ONLINE LEARNING

Our students and teachers quickly prepared themselves for online teaching and learning, which started on the 9th of August. This year, due to concerns that there will be gaps in student learning, we offered online learning to our students. They have amazed us with the ease they settled down and participate in online learning. They are actively involved and participate in lessons, they sing, recite and follow the story the teacher reads to them. It is wonderful to watch them engage in the learning activities. Please remind your children to be on time to class, put their cameras on and complete the assignments and tasks given to them.

Please note:

1. Cameras:

- a. MUST be switched on during their lesson, this is a school policy.
- b. The teachers MUST be able to see the student's whole face, from shoulders up.
- c. If student cameras are not on, the teacher or assistant teacher will send you an email, to inform you that your child will be marked absent for that lesson.
- d. As a parent, if there is a problem with your child's camera or Wi-Fi PLEASE contact the form teacher and inform them of the problem and how long it will take to fix.

2. Why should students have their cameras on?

- a. Teachers need to observe students while they teach, they must be able to "read" students as to whether they understand what they are teaching or not.
- b. Students need to get the "classroom" feel –all students must be in class.
- c. Students need to answer when called upon.
- d. Students MUST NOT be playing games or using social media during the lesson, if cameras are on the teacher can see them.

4. Students must inform the teacher if they need to leave the lesson.

5. Students have breaks and lunch times, they should not be eating during lessons.

Thank you for your continued support during the online lessons.

Many congratulations to DynEd students who earned DynEd Achievement Certificates. They devotedly applied themselves to the DynEd programme with spirit and determination. During Term 1, many students succeeded by reaching new levels thereby showing much improvement and new levels being achieved. The DynEd programme is proving more and more effective as students practise their speech, pronunciation and reading skills. We are looking forward to awarding many DynEd Achievement Certificates during this semester.

Year 3

Duong Quynh Anh Level 1
Vo Huy Thinh Level 2

Year 4

Kieu Bao Duc Level 2
Bui Thai Bao Ngoc Level 3
Huynh Nguyen Thanh Lam Level 3
Nguyen Minh Khoa Level 3
Phan Ha Thanh Level 3
Tran An Khang Level 3
Le Duy Quang Level 4
Vo Ngoc Song Tu Level 2, Level 3, Level 4
Tran My Anh Level 6

Year 7

Nguyen Minh Dang A2
Vu Que Hao B1+

Year 8

Phan Dinh Thien An A1+

Year 12

Doan Dong Thy A1+



COVID-19 Safety Reminder at School

As per the guidance of our local authorities, parents, students and guests are reminded that anyone entering our campus must have their temperature checked, health declaration, apply hand sanitizers and wear a mask when on the premises. We apologize for the inconvenience, but safety for everyone is priority.