



# NEWSLETTER

August –September 2020

## ***From the Principal***

***Dear Parents,***

*Welcome to the August-September edition of our Newsletter.*

*Our commitment at SIS@Halong is to provide a creative and intellectually challenging environment that will empower students to become innovative thinkers, creative problem solvers and inspired learners prepared to thrive in the twenty-first century.*

*High standards and expectations for each student in regard to academic performance, co-curricular participation, and responsible citizenship are the foundation of our school. It is with pride that we hold these high standards and ask each of our students, with the support of their family, to commit to maintaining the extraordinary record of achievement and contribution that will be, we hope, the legacy of the education and experience at SIS@Halong.*

*Since my last update to parents, 2 more teachers have arrived, I would like to welcome our new faculty members who have joined us this year:*

- Mr. Robert McKinnon, from Scotland (UK), teaching English and Physical Education.*
- Ms. Lai Di, teaching Mandarin, back after a long period away due to Covid-19.*

*We welcome them, wish them every happiness and success in the school and the community.*



*A spectacular lion dance performance, dance and song items, a quiz and a dragon dance were part of the Mid-Autumn festival celebrations.*

*Our teachers have put in much planning, construction and hard work which has gone into preparing for a successful school year.*

*The success of our school and of our students also depends upon the continued involvement of our parents. After all, parents are the primary educators of their children. I urge you to consider ways that you can be involved, in a positive way, in helping the school continuously improve.*

*Earlier this month, the Police and Firefighting Department had a special assembly and training session for teachers and selected students from the Primary and Secondary sections. Participants first attended a short and informative briefing in our Multi-Purpose Hall, and later experienced putting out fires, with an extinguisher, and also conducted a mock fire drill.*

*Festivals promote diversity, they bring a community into dialogue, they increase creativity, they offer opportunities for civic pride, and they improve our general psychological well-being. In short, they make communities better places to live.*

*Our Vietnamese students had a special assembly celebrating the start of the new academic year as well as National Day. However, the most fun was celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival. Students took great enjoyment in our Mid - Autumn assembly programme and some of the displays went beyond expectations. They took great delight with our assembly highlighted with a Lion Dance performance. We look forward to celebrating more cultural and national events in the future.*

*We are looking forward to a productive year, working closely with you and your children to ensure that they succeed.*

**Mustafa Fazal**  
**Principal SIS@Halong**



*Some of the creative celebratory items associated with Mid-Autumn festival, such as the Vietnamese fruit tray. Here we see some fruits which have been creatively shaped into frogs, owls, and dogs.*



*The lion –dancers taking off their lion heads and taking a bow at the end of their thrilling acrobatic Lion Dance performance.*



*The first batch of OBV students this year came from Year 4 and Year 5. They had their 2 day course in school and participated in many confidence-building and team building activities.*

### **From the Head of Vietnamese**

Dear Parents,

We have undergone the school year 2019-2020 with many challenges and difficulties due to the effects of the Co-vid 19 epidemic. However, with the best efforts of teachers and students, along with the strong support of parents, we successfully completed the school year's mission. On behalf of the teachers, we would like to sincerely thank parents for always sharing and accompanying us through these difficult times, and for having contributed to the success of the school.

The academic school year 2020-2021 is the first school year implementing the revamp of the General Education Program for Grade 1. For the remaining grades, we continue to focus on innovating teaching methods, innovating testing and evaluating by improving the quality and ability of students in order to improve the quality of education. This school year we are still facing the hardships of the pandemic. Along with the implementation of the learning tasks, we continue to execute disease prevention measures to ensure safety for our school.

On August 17, students returned to school with a warm welcome from teachers and friends. After one week of review, study routines as well as extracurricular activities are still performed as planned.

In tandem with the jubilant atmosphere of children looking forward to Mid-Autumn Festival, on September 30, we organized the "Mid Autumn Festival" with many interesting and engaging activities. This was a good chance for students to become more united, share their emotions together, and help them understand more about festivals and customs. The Mid-Autumn Festival has tightened the rapport and school spirit among teachers, parents and students.



*Above: A spectacular dragon dance performance, as part of the Mid-Autumn festival celebrations, seen here being performed in the Multi-Purpose Hall on the 29th of September.*



*Drummers for the Lion Dance gave an awesome performance*

The pandemic is still complicated, and for the safety of the students, we should not be neglectful. Please remind your children to prepare for the day a little more carefully before school: prepare enough energy, check that they have their masks, hand sanitizer, water bottles, monitor their temperature measurements and to be at school on time.

In order to understand students' daily activities as well as their duties when returning home from school, we propose that parents should regularly update themselves with information from Class Dojo and the Student Handbook and remind children to complete their learning tasks.

We hope to continue to receive strong support from all parents in this new school year.

We wish all families and students health and to be safe. We would also like to wish all students a successful and memorable school year!

We always welcome all your feedback and sharing.  
Please kindly contact us at: 0948545288  
Email: [lieu.nguyenthi@halong.sis.edu.vn](mailto:lieu.nguyenthi@halong.sis.edu.vn)

**Best regards,  
Nguyen Thi Lieu  
Deputy Principal**



Students Some of the Items that students were treated to during the Mid- Autumn Celebrations. Here we see pomelo's crafted into the shapes of dogs and frogs as well as some snacks and goodies



Members of the staff and students enjoying the performances during the Mid- Autumn event



Spectacular performances were put up by both the younger and older students



Above: Grade 7 boys doing a spectacular drums duet that showed off impressive skill and teamwork



Students were treated to an array of snacks and goodies at the end of the concert as part of the celebrations

**From the Office Manager**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

I enjoy working with children because they represent hope and the future to me. Being a part of the growth of a child carries great responsibility and rewards.

Children are so vulnerable, yet so brave. They are energetic and optimistic. They have hope and they are sincere. They believe the best will happen. They are so authentic and show their emotions without fear.

I am proud to be a member of a team that focuses on the whole child, not only through academics but also socially and emotionally. In order for this to be a success we need open communication.

Please know that I am here for everyone and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or celebrations you might like to share.

The first few months of the new school year have passed, together we have written down beautiful memories in the diary called SIS. I hope that parents and students will keep their spirit of optimism together with the school in the coming time.

I wish you all a Very Happy New Academic Year!

**Warm regards,**

**Ms. Bao Trang Hai Quynh (Quinn)**

**Office Manager of SIS@Halong**



*Our kindergarten children came over from Block A and joined in the festivities, both as spectators and as performers.*



*Our kindergarten prep class, see here posing for a photograph on the main stage at the end of the celebrations.*

# Classroom Matters

## Spotlight on Grade 8: STEM: Plastics Challenge



At SIS Ha Long we encourage our students to be active and responsible global citizens. This term our Y8 STEMists were busy with their STEM group project - "The Plastic Challenge", one of the projects earmarked by the British Science Association, and Practical Action, a partner of the BSA and the CREST AWARDS (Silver Awards) They were busy doing research on different types of plastics used by humans and learning about the 3 R's (reduce, re-use and recycle). They were also learning about the effects of plastic on the environment as well as what they can do to make a difference.

Group work is a fantastic way to get students sharing ideas and building stronger bonds and relationships in the class. It also prepares them for the outside world. As a preliminary activity of this challenge, We wanted our students to be able to think, pair and share within their groups, come up with ideas and solutions that would impact the world positively. With guidance and support from their teachers, they would need to create their own PowerPoint presentations, research portfolios, awareness posters and models., and also to present their ideas to other groups/ the whole school.

Their final task (DIY) would be to create an innovative or artistic recycled product using old plastics that they have collected and present it to the rest of the class. Here they are seen sorting out and learning about the types of plastics that can and cannot be recycled.

*(Right):  
Stemists from  
Year 8 pose  
for a class  
photograph.  
(Below): iden-  
tifying and  
presenting  
their findings  
of types to the  
class*



# SIS@HALONG GALLERY



# SIS@HALONG GALLERY



# MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL