

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ HALONG
NEWSLETTER
October— December 2019

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.

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School-Wide Learning Goals

At Singapore International School we seek to nurture students who are:

- **Academic Achievers**
- **Confident Communicators**
- **Critical Thinkers**
- **Technologically literate**
- **Active, Responsible & Global citizens**

Principal's News

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As the calendar year draws to a close and we ready ourselves for a new decade of the 2020's it is time we reflect and consider what progress we have made and where we are going as a school.

Recently I directed the teachers to

look more at their professional learning and asked them to self-reflect by asking themselves, "What impact am I having?" "How do we know we are having an impact?" "Is it worthwhile?" Is it sufficient?"

Our unique selling point in Quảng Ninh is our teaching is the most proficient in the province. Thus it is vital that our staff continually review their effect on learning outcomes. My emphasis as the leader of this fabulous school is to concentrate on the quality of the teachers. Success for your children in academic results and their holistic development depends entirely on teacher quality.

The strategic direction of SIS depends on this crucial focus of high expectations and teacher quality. However, this is a partnership and parents are vital to the process. Teachers are not a substitute for parents, and your help in encouraging your child to be motivated, disciplined and balanced is imperative to allow your child to be truly successful in life.

I wish you and your family a very joyous and safe Christmas and New Year break.

John Barratt
Principal SIS @ Hạ Long





Letter from Ms Lieu - Deputy Head of Vietnamese Studies

Dear Parents and Students,

The first semester of the school year 2019-2020 has ended with many successful activities experienced. New innovative education programmes set up in 2018 has meant that implementing them has significantly changed modern classrooms as the capacity and quality of students improves. No longer do we expect children to passively receive knowledge as previously, but instead, students must actively participate in learning activities. They are expected to explore, discover, cooperate, work independently, and exchange as a team or class. In particular, students are facilitated in carrying out their own tasks and are required to gain more practical experience than in previous years. This means that children are very excited to study with any subject not only the ones they may be very good at.

After one semester, and witnessing many strong relentless efforts, most students have successfully completed their Semester One examinations with a comfortable attitude demonstrated.

In parallel with classroom learning, experiential activities and educational activities outside the classroom have focused on practical work, where students have promoted their activeness, initiative, self-awareness and creativity, thus supplementing and supporting the students' learning from regular lessons.

On 11th October, the children participated in experiencing traditional culture at the Vietnamese village at the Quang Ninh Gate tourist area. Here, the children learnt about the history where they live and the architectural works built in the province. They learned about the making of pottery and studied the properties of Gac oil, coconut oil, and various other oils, to choose the best materials suitable to skillfully make natural lip balm.

On 31 October during Halloween, the children had a lot of fun and dressed up as their favourite character. They joined in "Trick or Treating" and shared the gifts they received. It was a very interesting and meaningful experience for all.

Best regards,

Nguyen Thi Lieu



Message from Ms Oanh K1 teacher

Dear Parents & Students,

Autumn has come and gone as fast as the changing leaves. We have had such fun and exciting months with lots of interesting activities and projects. We filled our classroom with colorful pictures and lovely cards that our children have made and decorated for their teachers on Teacher's Day.

We also discussed about Halloween. We learnt some Halloween vocabulary and described what children in other parts of the world do during Halloween. The children dressed as either a funny or horror character so they could be part of the festival, making it both memorable and interesting.

We were all excited about the Christmas performance. Everyone had been working hard during rehearsals and I am so proud of all our students! I would also like to thank all the families who came out to the school to attend Christmas Fair and thank parents for the support that you offer your children daily. We really had a great time at SIS KIK. We are looking forward to the numerous events happening at school over the next few months.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families at SIS Ha Long a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Regards,

Ms Oanh for KIK



"Happy time at school"



Happy Teacher's Day



Fishing at Christmas Fair



Happy Halloween



Merry Christmas



Bao Han and Tue Nhu



Mr Brooke with students and their final



Huy Hoang and Quang Hung

**Message from Mr Brooke Bertholét,
iPSLE Coordinator, Year 8 class teacher & EFL Support**

Dear Parents & Students:

November and December were particularly busy, though fulfilling, months for the IPSLE special program in Year Five and Six. The students and I were engaged in a hands-on project that allowed us to explore the properties of a circle.

Using the famous Sun Wheel Ferris Ride, right here in Ha Long as a guide, we learned how to first properly use a compass and protractor. Important vocabulary was front loaded: the diameter of a circle is any straight line segment that passes through the center of the circle and whose endpoints lie on the circle $\{d=2r\}$; the center (from the Greek κέντρον) of an object is a point in some sense in the middle of the object; the radius of a circle is any of the line segments from its center to its perimeter $\{r=d \div 2\}$. We learned how to determine the circumference $\{c=\pi d\}$ and area $\{a=\pi r^2\}$.

A circle was drawn on A3 paper, using our compass, that had a radius of 12 centimeters. The circle was divided into its four quadrants and, utilizing our protractor, measurements around the circle were made every five or ten degrees as desired by the individual student. Once these measurements were indicated, a straight line was drawn, utilizing a ruler, from an angle in quadrant one to its corresponding angle in quadrant three, passing directly through the center. This was done with the angles in quadrant two and its “member” angles in quadrant four. In this way, we created a clear delineation of the three-hundred and sixty degrees.

The Sun Wheel is demarcated in the same way, with corresponding lines every ten degrees of the circle with seventy-two Ferris cars for tried and true thrill seekers. The students and I wanted to create a colour scheme something akin to that displayed by the Sun Wheel at night. What we opted for was to colour our circles symmetrically, meaning that a colour in quadrant matched the colour of the corresponding quadrant.

Our final products were very aesthetically pleasing and fun to complete. The work is on display in each of the Fifth & Sixth Grade classrooms and you are welcome to visit.

~~~With Warm and Fond regards,



**Message from Mr Brendan ICT Coordinator & Year 5 Teacher**

**Dear Parents & Students,**

As I mentioned in my last message, students have been learning more about 3D printing. When I last wrote, we had just unboxed the FlashForge printer and were learning how to set it up and use it. I am happy to say that we have successfully printed our first models!

Students helped assemble a large model of the Eiffel Tower that consisted of several individual pieces. They are fascinated with the detail apparent in the model. Each strut and crossbeam is faithfully restored at scale. After about 60 hours in total of printing, students in Year 6 helped assemble the pieces using glue. Before we could assemble it, however, minor alterations were made with a rotary tool and sandpaper.

Since then, we've printed models of Big Ben, the Empire State Building, and the great Pyramids of Gizeh.

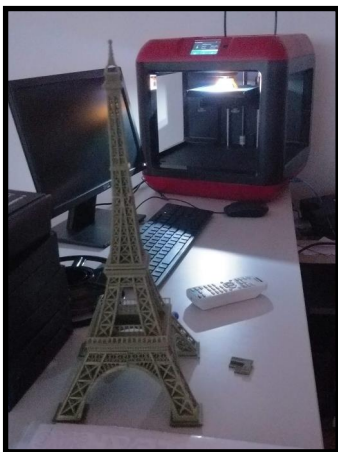
3D printing represents an important trend. It is one emerging intersection between software and robotics, which will impact a broad range of industries: home construction, fashion, health care, automobiles, and beyond.

Each development in this modern technology shows contributions from established industries as well as hobbyists. This is exactly how personal computing technology developed. It's important that young people gain experience with these technologies, as they are the next generation of innovators who will use them to change our world.

What will happen to this model of the Eiffel tower? I think we'll give it away to one lucky student by way of a raffle later this academic year.

**Regards,**

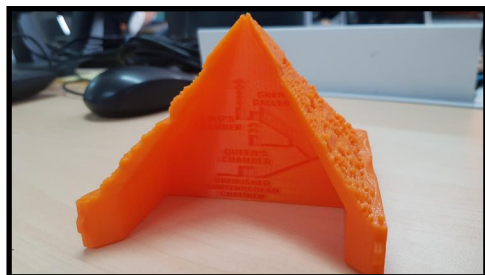
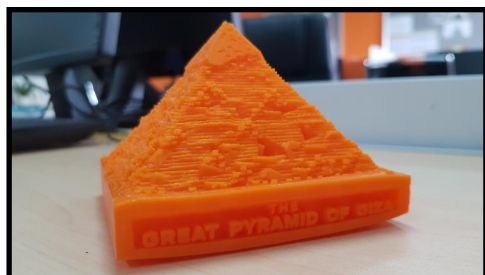
**Brendan O. Downey**



*A Year 5 student loads PLA filament into the printer with the finished Eiffel Tower in the second photo*



*Year 6 students assemble the model (left) and Year 4 students admire it (right).*



*One of the Great Pyramids of Gizeh.*



*Year 2 students display the finished model.*



**Học sinh tích cực**



**Lễ kỉ niệm Ngày Nhà giáo Việt Nam**



**Lễ hội Giáng Sinh**

**Message from Ms Hien Year 2 Teacher for SVIS**

**Dear Parents & Students,**

Tháng 11 và tháng 12 đã trôi qua, các con lại có thêm thật nhiều kiến thức bổ ích. Chúng tôi, mỗi thầy giáo - cô giáo của ngôi trường thân yêu này luôn cố gắng, nỗ lực không ngừng trong việc nâng cao chuyên môn, bồi dưỡng lòng yêu nghề, mến trẻ. Trong môi trường học tập đầy năng động và sáng tạo, các con được thỏa sức tìm hiểu, tiếp thu các kiến thức mới một cách chủ động, tích cực. Tôi tin rằng, mỗi học sinh đều cảm thấy “mỗi ngày đến trường là một ngày vui.”

Năm học 2019-2020 đã diễn ra được 19 tuần, tuần học thứ 18 đã khép lại chương trình học kì I. Ngày 3, 4 / 12 khối 4, 5 đã thi Khoa học, Lịch sử - Địa Lý . Ngày 16, 17/ 12 tất cả các lớp khối Tiểu học đã hoàn thành bài thi Toán, Tiếng Việt. Thay mặt các thầy cô giáo, tôi xin gửi lời cảm ơn chân thành, sâu sắc đến các bậc Phụ huynh vì đã luôn quan tâm đến việc học của con, giúp đỡ giáo viên rất nhiều trong việc giảng dạy và giáo dục con ở nhà.

Tháng 11, 12, tháng của sự tri ân và những ngày lễ hội. Chúng tôi vô cùng xúc động khi nhận được những lời chúc mừng, những lời ca, tiếng hát của học trò tặng thầy cô nhân ngày nhà giáo Việt Nam 20 –11. Và tuyệt vời hơn nữa, khi các con đã có một Lễ hội Giáng Sinh rất tuyệt vời tại trường vào ngày 14/12.

Sau khi kết thúc tuần học thứ 19, các con sẽ có một kì nghỉ thật thoải mái và vui vẻ bên gia đình. Kính chúc Quý phụ huynh có một kì nghỉ Giáng Sinh đầm ấm, hạnh phúc. Chúc các con luôn giữ vững phong độ, đạt kết quả học tập tốt hơn trong học kì tiếp theo.

Trân trọng,



*Learning colours, shapes and matching with the use of concrete operational resources*



*Using interesting puzzles to reinforce concepts and keywords*



*Small class sizes means increased individual attention to the students' specific needs*



*Students enjoy the increased interactivity with the teacher and classmates*

### Message from Mr Jayden, EFL Coordinator and Year 1 & 2 Teacher

Dear Parents & Students,

*What is Extra EFL and what does it offer?*

English as a Foreign Language (EFL) is an English programme that offers students the opportunity to improve their English skills. The Extra EFL course is a fee paid programme with special outcomes that each child needs to achieve in order to move to higher level outcomes. EFL is key for reinforcing what is learnt in our curriculum at SIS Ha Long. It allows students to learn English in smaller isolated groups where qualified teachers can use a variety of teaching methods to better your child's speaking, writing, reading and listening skills. English in-school support is also offered during the day to students who need specific curriculum support. Extra EFL of an afternoon teaches base English.

*Who needs Extra EFL?*

Any student with a WIDA score lower than 3 out of 6 should participate. It is designed for students who lack basic English skills or are struggling in their current year level. Students who are reasonably good at English and want a boost are encouraged to join *English Enrichment* or *English for Fun* during CCA time. Extra EFL gives students an opportunity to see what level of English they are currently on and what they need to improve on.

*What makes EFL special?*

EFL is very different from normal school classes. It has smaller groups and it allows more one-on-one teaching time. Teachers can identify and focus on learner needs. The programme focuses on improving certain skills using specific outcomes related to the student's English level. Lessons are fun, students are actively engaged and there is more time for hands-on activities.

*When does Extra EFL take place?*

Sessions: 3 times per week for a student

Days: Tuesday to Friday

Time: 1600—1645 hrs

*Yours faithfully,*

**Mr Jayden Almirall**

