

# SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ HALONG NEWSLETTER

August—September 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,**

A fabulous start to the year has been witnessed as we welcome many new faces and continue to expand both in numbers and in programs offered. One area which I want to improve on is parent, teacher and leader relationships.



I hope to see more parents involved within the school and asking more pertinent questions regarding the curriculum and their child's holistic development. Parents feel they only need to come and see us when something is amiss or of a serious nature but be reassured that you are most welcome to discuss even small issues.

"When school staff engage in caring and trusting relationships with parents that recognise parents as partners in the educational development of children, these relationships enhance parents' desire to be involved and influence how they participate in their children's educational development" (*Henderson and Mapp*). Thus I want parents to see this as a partnership between you and the school. Research consistently shows that the greater parents are involved directly with being part of their child's education the greater the effect size is with the child's progression and overall success in the future. Don't leave it just to your child's teacher to educate your child. Ask what you can do to help your child learn and encourage them to be curious and responsible. The success of your child

**Message from the DHOV SVIS**

**Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,**

This school year has already been going for eight weeks. Classes settled quickly at the start of term and have been actively participating in all the learning and activities since..

Grade 2—10, completed initial assessments at the beginning of the year. The analysis indicated the following percentage of students reaching average or above average results:

**Primary: Mathematics 97% & Vietnamese 94%**

**High School: Mathematics 89%; & Language Arts 82%**

Some secondary school students may not have achieved the desired outcomes so to help the students improve their learning, the school has arranged extra CCAs in writing and maths.

During this term children have enjoyed the Mid-Autumn Festival which included musical performances, quiz games and saw the special Lion dance, meant to bring spiritual gifts to all children.

To ensure the health of students, the school also organised dengue prevention training at the beginning of the flag salutation week and during class / daily activities. To further protect children on September 26 & 27, the children had a health examination thus taking care to ensure the children have good health as much as possible.

On October 9 & 10, students in grades 4 and 5 will take part in the mid-term exam. Presently they are actively practising for these exams under the enthusiastic guidance of their teachers.

Shortly, the children will also participate in the experience activities in Dong Trieu Town. Which is meant to help them understand our historical past with "Vietnam - the old memories". They will see an ancient Vietnamese village culture and hand-make some safe chemical cosmetic products from the village's natural ingredients. The children will also be able to participate in some folk games to partly understand the customs and cultural life of the ancient Vietnamese. After finishing that they will have a week's vacation which is meant to allow downtime for you as a family.

During this school year the school administration look forward to continuing to receive your support and companionship as Mr John has also reiterated in his address on the front page.

We value your contribution and invite you to ask any questions by phoning or emailing me directly: [lieu.nguyenthi@halong.sis.edu.vn](mailto:lieu.nguyenthi@halong.sis.edu.vn)

**Best regards,**



*Yr 1 Students at the Moon Festival*



*Mr Sean and Yr3 at the Moon Festival*



*Y5 Students ready to answer the answers to Life, the Universe and Everything!*



*Y3 Students working well*

ĐẦU NĂM HỌC MỚI,  
THAM GIA  
HOẠT ĐỘNG NÀO ĐÂY?



How to start a great school year?  
What activities are waiting for you?

Dự án nuôi tinh thể



Purple cabbage experiment used to extract pH indicator as shown in the bottom RH corner photo



Before going on stage for the Moon Festival

SIS @ Halong, Hung Thang Urban & Service Area,  
Hung Thang Ward, Halong City,  
Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam  
Email: [quynh.baotranhai@halong.sis.edu.vn](mailto:quynh.baotranhai@halong.sis.edu.vn)

### Message from the Science Department

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

My name is Hoang Thi Hue and I teach Chemistry at Singapore International School @ Hạ Long. It is not only an amazing subject to teach but is an amazing school to be part of. I am sure that this is the type of place that I can spread my love for Chemistry to students, and in the process stimulate their curiosity and creativity for the world around them.



With my experience, I hope to bring inspiration to students through invigorating lessons and develop their academic abilities. I aim to help students to explore Science naturally and will explain the scientific method to them so they understand why Science is credible to explain the physical world around us. I have also promised to myself to become a teacher with a warm heart and a high level of knowledge and thus able to do well with students and be fair with all in my care.

Chemistry is an experimental Science and students are excited performing chemical reactions and come up with creative solutions for difficult problems.

During this school year, we are preparing for some upcoming projects such as: crystal growing and making natural indicator; We hope that after these practical experiments we will enhance the students love of





*Our KIK students engaged in ART activities*



*KIK students developing gross motor skills through PE lessons*



*KIK students practicing mouse control during ICT*

**Message from the KIK**

**Dear Parents, Caregivers and Beloved Students,**

What a fabulous first few weeks I have had! I would like to extend a very special welcome to our new students and families who joined KIK @ Ha Long this year. It was wonderful to see all the smiling faces, familiar and new, on the first day of school!

While you were away, our committed teachers had been working hard throughout the summer preparing their rooms and resources in order to get ready for a wonderful, rewarding and enjoyable new school year which is now in full swing.

It is hard to believe that we have already been in school for over half the term and students have had a wonderful start to the 2019-2020 academic year. They have all settled in nicely to their new classrooms and routines. During August we focused on getting to know the new students, teachers and classroom rules. Prep students had fun exploring new topics, such as; Back to School, My Family and My Feelings, whilst younger learners were investigating letters, shapes and numbers through games, art and music.

Weekly newsletters and photos of KIK students are updated by email every week. If parents should have any concerns, please feel free to contact your class teacher through email at anytime.

**Kind regards,**



*Mr Jace teaching K1 during his transition phase taking over from Mr Elena*



4th Grader - Vinh



4th Grader—Hung



2nd Grader Calvin's Mothers' Day Card



1st Grader—Rosy's Mothers' Day Card

**Message from the Leader for the  
New Year 10 Special Integrated  
Programme  
@ SIS Hạ Long**



**Dear Parents and Students,**

Allow me to introduce myself as a new addition to the wonderful staff here at SIS Hạ Long. My name is Nicholas, and I have recently relocated from Can Tho to Hạ Long for my wife, Huyen, and our son, Vincent An Di, to live closer to their family.

I am excited in beginning this new school year which is filled with limitless potential for learning and growth. The Grade 8 and 10 classes, which I am teaching, have already shown a budding curiosity and willingness to work hard in the pursuit of knowledge.

This term I have been facilitating a **Graphic Design Class** for Year 2 and above. Students are able to utilize graphic design software programs to modify pictures and images. I have taught these activities previously at SIS Can Tho. Examples of the student's work are shown here. Children and adolescents find the class to be a fulfilling experience and a great opportunity to express their creative and imaginative side. I hope your children will enjoy it.

**Faith-  
Nicho-**

**fully,  
las Na-**





Year One Class with Mr Brooke



Our Olympiad students working on the Sierpiński triangle



Hoang preparing part of the pyramid

### Message from our Newest Primary Teacher, MOEMS Olympiad & iPSLE Coordinator

Dear SIS Primary School Community of Learners,

It is a true honor for me to be working and living here in Viet Nam, especially in such a beautiful place as Ha Long. I have joined the SIS community as the co-teacher with Ms Lai Thi Thu Thao's Year One Class. My responsibilities for these marvelous young students is English Language Instruction and Social Studies. Additionally, I teach classes in EFL for Grades Three through Eight. As a special bonus, I get to facilitate classes in Grades Five and Six to help prepare students for the international version of the Singapore Primary School Leaving Examination, or iPSLE. Teaching such a wide range of students, in varying subjects, brings not only variety but much pedagogical satisfaction during the course of a school day.

Perhaps my most beloved duty is being the facilitator of sessions for the Mathematical Olympiad for Elementary and Middle School Students. The Olympiad brings great rewards for the participating students who are genuine Maths enthusiasts. We meet once a week, throughout the entire school year, and may anticipate holding our very own "Math Quest" inter-scholastic tournament in the forthcoming Spring. It is an exciting time for all participants!

I hail from Fairfax Virginia, but have taught in countries such as Spain, China, Saudi Arabia, and North Macedonia. My wife, of twenty-five years, Alicia, is a native Spaniard and teaches Spanish Culture, Language and Literature in the Fairfax Public School System. Our oldest daughter, Arantxa, is a graduate of George Mason University and an archaeologist currently working in Turin Italy. Our youngest daughter, Itziar, is just entering George Mason University this month as a communications major. There will hopefully be a time when my beloved family comes and visits with me here in Ha Long.

Many thanks to the whole community for the genuinely earnest welcome that I have received and for the kindness that all have shown to me as I gain my own footing here at Singapore International School. I thank you for the privilege you have given me to be your child's teacher.

It is truly appreciated.



Students working on Robotics in STEM



Students working in collaborative sessions



Happy after learning so many things!



Having some downtime with a little party in the canteen

**Message from the Lead Teacher for SVIS Secondary & the Year 6 Class Teacher**

**Dear Parents & Students,**



I'm Ms Hong Anh. I am a high school maths teacher and currently the new lead teacher for the Secondary school in the Vietnamese programme.

I am a teacher with many years of experience in teaching I have been a class president and subject leader in secondary schools prior to this. Before I started teaching at Singapore International School in Ha Long, my friend had told me, "It is a very professional school". When I was recruited to work at the school, I found that it was a lot more than just professional as it has a very strong holistic approach to all teaching and promotes both soft and hard skills within its School-Wide Learning Goals as standard.

The school always encourages, supports and creates the best conditions for teachers to develop their competence and professional qualifications. As for colleagues, everyone here is open, encouraging and attempts to help each other as a wonderful family atmosphere. With the students I teach I observed that that they are very confident, independent, creative and have natural communication skills. This is true to the overall development goals of the school and the present government initiatives to improve education in Vietnam to much higher levels for a much better trained future workforce. These skills include, critical thinking, using technology effectively, communicating confidently, achieving high academic results, and eventually become dynamic, responsible and global citizens.

"We all have our own life to pursue, our own kind of dream to be weaving, and we all have the power to make wishes come true, as long as we keep believing." (*L M Alcott*) I believe in SIS Ha Long School, and am proud to be a teacher here. I feel passionate about my work