



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL@HALONG NEWSLETTER

September –October 2023

Message from the Principal



September and October have been busy. The school celebrated a truly outstanding Mid– Autumn festival. Many thanks to the teachers, parents and community for their help in making this the best mid-Autumn festival SIS@Halong has seen, with a lion dance, a mini-concert with drama and dance performances from the kindergarten, primary and secondary students, and a food celebration to usher in this auspicious festival.

Our students also had the opportunity to go on 2 experiential learning journeys; with the KIK students going to Kids Fun Centre @Beverly Hills. The older students went on an all school field trip to Thong Zeo Complex, where they learnt about the contributions of one of Vietnam's famous admirals, by visiting his quarters and by going on a guided tour on Naval History and achievements in Quang Ninh.

Two teams have qualified for the final of The Vietnam STEM Robotics Championships, which saw 40 teams of Primary and Secondary students across the country competing in a virtual robot competition using VEX IQ Robotics. Nguyen Truong Tong and Nguyen Tri Duc from Year 5 as well as Hoang Vu Tuan Anh and Ta Quang Duc. From year 9 have made the school proud.

In Sports, Lee Chang Linh from Year 8 also did the school proud by getting 3 Silver and 3 Bronze medals at the provincial swimming meet in Quang Ninh. Nguyen Hoang Bao Han from Year 7 has also been selected to represent Ha Long City in Basketball, and has received 2 silver medals. Outstanding sporting achievements, students– well done.

The KIK also organized a Stay and Play parent workshop for our Kinderwonders, and we also had Mr. Paul Smith, from the World Bank Water Team, come in to do a special talk to our K2 and Prep students about the water cycle and water security.



Our Lion Dance performance in the Mid– Autumn festival saw 3 lions spewing fire



One of the exciting space day projects our students were engaged in, on the 27th of October.

In Early October, we also officially initiated the Ho Chi Minh Youth Pioneers for our students in Grades 4 and 5 with the help of the Youth Pioneers organization and Hung Thang ward in a solemn ceremony.

Our year 9 and 11 students had the opportunity to fly to Binh Dinh for their OBV programme . This 1 week OBV programme was the most challenging one so far.

Halloween was celebrated in the usual Halong style– with much pomp and participation. Our students once again participated in the Spooky Drawing Contests, and there were more certificates and prizes prepared for them this year for the Best Costume Contest. Many teachers also dressed up for the event in their costumes, and awards and certificates were also presented to them.

The Semester 1 examinations will be coming up soon. Preparing for exams can be a stressful time for children, and parents can play an essential role in helping their children pass exams. Below are some ways on how parents can help their children prepare for the exams:

Ensure children have the necessary resources and support: You can help them organize their revision schedule and ensure they follow and focus on the activities. It is vital to assume only a guidance role and not pressuring them to achieve too much quickly or distract them.

Lessen distractions and time wasters: Discuss with your child what would work best for them, and develop an ideal study scenario. This can mean setting aside a part of the house where they can study in peace, establishing a **no-phone studying time** (two to three hours) so they can focus better, limiting television, and/or cancelling Netflix or Cable TV until after exams.

Encourage early preparation: Cramming at the last minute often leads to surface-level learning and a higher likelihood of forgetting important details. To prevent this and make the studying process less daunting, encourage your child to start preparing for exams well ahead of time.

In November, we will celebrate Teachers Day and in December we will be having our annual Christmas Charity Fair.

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank our parents, and members of the community for their wonderful support .

Mustafa Fazal



Mr. Paul Smith, From the World Bank Water Team speaks to our Kindergarten students about the Water Cycle and water security in Vietnam.



Above: The Ho Chi Minh City Youth Council Initiation Ceremony with Officials from the HCMC Youth Pioneers organization posing for a photograph with student leaders.



Halloween Celebration in the school on the 31st of October saw many students dressed up in their Halloween costumes and taking to the catwalk. There were certificates awarded for the best costumes and best spooky drawing for each class.



From top to bottom: Students posing for a photograph at their class booth during the mid-autumn celebrations; The Lion Dance performance; Excited children eager to soak in culture and history on our experiential field trip to Thong Zeo complex; Lee Chang Linh receiving one of her silver medals at the Provincial Sports' meet.

Dear Parents,

Each school year is a meaningful journey on the path of accumulating knowledge. This year, in implementing the new General Education Program, we identified learning as the most important task for all three levels of education. Hopefully the 2023-2024 school year SIS Ha Long will continue to reap success and achieve more achievements.

One outstanding sporting achievement was the result at of the City and Provincial Swimming Tournament at the 11th Phu Dong Fitness Festival where Lee Chang Linh - Y8 achieved 03 Silver Medals and 03 Bronze Medals. We hope that Chang Linh and some of the school's potential students will continue to achieve honour and glory in fitness and sports.

With the educational motto "Eastern values, Global education", in addition to transmitting knowledge, SIS Ha Long focuses on experiential learning activities through diverse platforms. This is done to help children have practical experience and apply theories learned in books to daily life. In this spirit, on September 21, 2023, the school organized a wonderful picnic at Thong Zeo Complex (Ha Long City). While away from the classroom setting, the children had a day to enjoy every moment of immersing themselves in nature and the surrounding environment. They learnt about some historical and cultural aspects of the Naval Rehabilitation Group 22 Barracks - A place with much historical significance being the only command post in Quang Ninh. In the past, commemorating the resistance of General Vo Nguyen Giap.

On September 28, Singapore International School organized a bustling "Full Moon" festival for children with many activities. With the enthusiastic support of parents and teachers, the children were excited with the unique Lion Dance performance and student musical performances. The colorful Mid-Autumn Festival food trays have brought the children a lot of joy and memorable memories with friends and teachers.

The National Qualifier - TIMO International Math Olympiad was held on the morning of October 21-22, 2023. We are anticipating good results.

The school hopes to continue to receive the support and companionship of all parents. Wishing all of you and your families health, peace and happiness!

Mdm. Nguyen Thi Lieu

Deputy Principal, Head of Vietnamese

Message from Head of Studies - Secondary

Dear Parents & Students,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. I want to take a moment to commend each and every one of our students at SIS Ha Long for their outstanding efforts and achievements so far this year.

It has been truly inspiring to witness our student's dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to their studies. All their hard work in the classroom, active participation in extracurricular activities, and positive contributions to the school community have not gone unnoticed. The students have set a remarkable example for their peers and have made us all proud.

As we approach our SA1 exams, I also urge all of you to remember the importance of balance. Use your spare time wisely to catch up on any pending assignments, review your notes, or simply engage in activities that bring you joy and relaxation. Remember, a healthy mind and body are essential for continued success.

As we move into the new term, I have no doubt that all students will continue to excel academically and personally. Your potential knows no bounds, and I am confident that you will make the most of the opportunities that come your way. Remember to set goals, stay focused, and seek support whenever needed. Together, we can achieve greatness.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the teachers, parents, and staff who have played a pivotal role in supporting our students' growth and success. Your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts are deeply appreciated.

Let us continue to work together to create a nurturing and inspiring learning environment where each and every one of you can thrive.

Jayden Kevan Almirall
Head of Studies (Secondary)



From Top: Our 4 finalists in the National-wide Robotics championships, Students studying on the Neo platform, Students of the month for October, posing with their certificates, Halloween Celebrations 2023

SPACE WEEK

Singapore International School Space Week: 9th October to 12th October

STEM Education at SIS@Halong focuses on the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and Robotics. These activities are crucial for students as they help develop critical thinking, problem-solving skills, creativity, and teamwork in the 21st Century.

SIS Space Week at Singapore International School Ha Long was an exciting event that celebrated the wonders of science and technology. During this week, students engaged in various activities to explore the endless possibilities of space exploration and its impact on humanity. From educational workshops and interactive presentations to stargazing sessions and space-themed art exhibitions, SIS Space Week provided a platform for students to learn, create, and innovate. By embracing SIS Space Week, Singapore International School Ha Long joined the global community in recognizing the immense potential of space science in shaping a better future for all.

Learning about space is particularly significant in schools as it not only broadens students' knowledge of the universe but also ignites their curiosity and fascination about celestial bodies, space exploration, and the mysteries of the cosmos. By engaging in space-related STEM activities, students gained a deeper understanding of scientific concepts, enhanced their analytical skills, and were inspired to pursue careers in space science and exploration.

Our exciting Activities: Our Line-up for Space week included:

1. **Holographic Planets** – Students explored holograms of planets in our Solar System.
2. **Introduction to Spacecraft AR** – Students discovered special vehicles used for space exploration.
3. **Using a Space Telescope** – Students investigated planets and stars that are situated in the galaxy.
4. **Rocket Launches** – Students assembled rockets, made them launch and recorded the rockets going into space using application technology.
5. **Sending messages to space** – Students sent a message that will virtually go to space by USB.
6. **Taking part in the Global "Hour of Code"** – Students did coding activities focusing on space themes.
7. **Fun with Codey Rocky** – Students used coding activities, guided their robots through space obstacles and beyond.
8. **Drone Challenges**– Students completed a drone challenge and used the drone to put out a fire.
9. **Building your own Solar Powered Moon Rover** – Students built their own moon rover using a solar power kit. Using an Electric motor catalyst – Students built their own moon rover using an electric motor catalyst kit.



We would like to sincerely express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of our KIK parents for giving us all your support for Term 1. This term our KINDERWONDERS have learnt and achieved so much.

What a fantastic excursion start we had in the month of September! We made our first field trip to the Kid Fun Beverly Hills on September 14. It was a momentous time for our KIK students. With the right planning and preparation, our field trip for our KIK students engaged them with all their peers across their class levels which turned out to be a meaningful educational day for all involved.

It has been absolutely awesome to see all our students come in school uniform and enjoy a change of scenery and spend time outside the classroom doing more hands-on learning. In addition to the memories students created on field trip, it has been a valuable opportunity for our KIK educators to reinforce lessons, a quintessential school experience for all our students.

The next exciting event that we just had for our KIK this term was our 'Stay and Play' event on September 22. We would like to express our gratitude to all KIK parents for being very supportive and proactive by joining in our 'Stay and Play' event by sharing with us your precious and valuable time to play an active role in your child's event day with us. Having our KIK parents doing hand-on activities, playing and enjoying with their children on our 'Stay and Play Workshop' had truly been wonderful which made this event super successful; and the presence of our parents was a cherry on the cake for our event. The team of dedicated and skillful KIK teachers carefully planning and preparing an appropriate range and variety of exciting activities, such as fruit models, threading, spelling and board games, etc. These were suitable for all class levels made it more exciting for our young learners. Our students had a delightful time learning through play and exploration. This was an excellent way of moulding young minds to develop their sensory and fine motor skills as learning became fun and meaningful.

We applaud parents' efforts in sending their children to school in the correct school uniform, and would like to thank them sincerely for their effort. When children wear their uniforms, they realise that they are going to school to study seriously, not just have a day of fun and games. Thanks again for this, parents.



Above: Our prep students in their costumes take to the catwalk at our Halloween celebrations



Our Stay and Play Parent workshop saw parents coming in on 22nd September to work with their children and teachers in a range of multi-sensory educational activities



Our Kinderwonders having a ball of a time during their first excursion to



Our kindergarten children joining in the celebrations for the Mid-Autumn festival with our primary, secondary and high school students

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