



# Singapore International School @Halong

# NEWSLETTER

February-March 2022

## From the Principal

Dear Parents,



Welcome to our newsletter for February and March.

The months of February and March have been rather challenging months as we saw Covid-19 numbers increasing in Vietnam's Northern provinces and some classes having to switch to online learning. In this regard, the school has worked actively with the Department of Education and Training (DOET) and complied with new instructions and guidelines for school opening/ closures while "living with the virus".

It is understandable that some parents have kept their children home a while longer, for safety reasons. For these parents, the school understands your concerns, and our teachers have been adapting to hybrid learning (teaching students in-class and online, via web cameras to those who are home) to deliver lessons in preparation for their mid-Semester tests and the SA2 examinations. Each classroom and special room has been equipped with a web-camera, to allow children to attend lessons at home so that they do not miss out on content and topics, in preparation for their exams.

In spite of these challenges, our children managed to celebrate Tet in controlled-environments under the supervision of their teachers, with no mixing of classes, and traditional Tet performances recorded and shared with the rest of the school, digitally.

I am very proud to announce that 65 students from SIS@Halong have brought honour and glory to the school, by achieving outstanding results in the HIPPO 2022 International English Olympiad. Our students have achieved outstanding results in the 3 test categories- Applied English, Listening and Reading Comprehension. In total SIS@Halong has achieved:

- 1 Gold Award
- 10 Silver Awards
- 23 Bronze awards
- 31 consolation prizes



Truong Anh Duy, Y9, was the only Gold awards recipient of the Hippo English Olympiad in the whole of Quang Ninh



Above: Students in the school attending classes have masks on and maintain the 5K's in keeping Covi-19 at bay.

Truong Anh Duy from Year 9, has made us exceptionally proud being the top student emerging from this competition in the whole of Quang Ninh province, and the only student to achieve a higher distinction (Gold Award) in the competition. He will be participating in the International Semi-Finals on March 26th, in the final selection round and if he succeeds here, will represent Vietnam in the English Olympiad World Finals, to be held in Italy. We wish him the best of luck! The HIPPO 2022 International English Olympiad, in which our students took part in, is an international English competition with the participation of 42 countries for candidates from 6 to 19 years old around the world. The main goal is to promote English language, challenge students around the globe to compete in English language knowledge; nourish friendly relations, international understanding and a spirit of sporting competitiveness between young people interested in English language from all around the world.

I am also proud to announce that one of our teachers, Mr. Osama Rehan (English/IELTS teacher, Year 12) took part in the Danang Marathon in mid-March. He finished in 16th place among 1406 participants, placed 15th in his gender (male runners) and 6th in his age group (30-39 yrs old). This is a remarkable achievement. Please join me in congratulating him on his efforts and his achievement, in bringing honour and glory to the school.

With the nation-wide relaxation of rules, and living with the virus, we hope that our students, staff, parents and community can gradually return to normalcy, and celebrate events such as the Open House, Literacy Week and Sports Day in the months ahead. With covid-19 restrictions being lifted gradually, we hope to involve parents and the community in these events, in an atmosphere of festivity and fun.

The End-of –Year Examinations or SA2 exams are quickly approaching and soon students will need to sit for these examinations. I Hope that you can help to support the children's learning and revision at home, stepping in where necessary, to help the children develop a sense of discipline, a balance in their study and play routines, so that they can improve their time-management and have adequate study, relaxation and sleep time.

I thank you sincerely for your continued support and understanding during this challenging period. Your feedback, opinions and suggestions are important to me. My email is: [mustafa.fazal@halong.sis.edu.vn](mailto:mustafa.fazal@halong.sis.edu.vn) Do reach out to me, in either English or Vietnamese, if you have any concerns, positive feedback, comments or suggestions to help the school and children grow. I would love to hear from you.

Mustafa Fazal

Principal



Above: Our high-school students posing for a photograph with their teachers during this year's Tet celebrations.



Above: Students engaging in giant-Volleyball during their health and Physical Education lessons.



Above: Although covid-19 restrictions prevented us from having our usual concert, classrooms were decorated, and students managed to capture special moments in their well-decorated classrooms.



## From the Deputy Principal

Dear Parents

The first semester of the school year 2021-2022 of SIS Ha Long ended well, amidst uncertainties of the pandemic season. With most of the schools in the system/in the city having to study online, our students still managed to go to school every day with friends and teachers. It is also a worthy reward for the efforts and seriousness in the implementation of anti-epidemic measures by teachers and students and the dedicated co-operation of parents. With their best efforts, the results of study and training reached 86% good and good (secondary level) and 78% completed well (elementary level) - This is encouraging achievement for all the children. And also the most meaningful gift for teachers.

In line with improving the quality of teaching and learning, during the last semester, the school organized many extra-curricular activities such as: "Halloween-2021 festival, Vietnam Teachers' Day celebration November 20, Christmas festival, and Tet culture and festivities. Employing experiential activities to help children practice life skills, creativity in learning and daily activities as well as to promote their positivity, initiative, self-discipline and creativity, teachers actively contributed to supplement and support the learning activities of students during regular school hours.

After the Lunar New Year, the COVID-19 epidemic affected most of the schools in the city; every day there were hundreds of F0 cases of students with unknown sources of infection. Following the direction of the city, to ensure the safety of the school environment, on February 18, 2022, the whole school switched to online learning at home. With maturity, the children adapted very quickly to online learning. The teachers clearly felt the students' self-discipline, hard work and efforts through each lesson and that was also a great source of encouragement for all teachers. During the time when the students were studying at home, we hope that the parents showed care about creating conducive conditions so that they can hear the whole lecture. They also urged and reminded children to come to class on time, eat well, exercise regularly and schedule study and rest times appropriately.

In February, students of the school from grades 1 to 10 participated in the HIPPO 2022 International English Olympic qualifying exam. This is an international English exam with the participation of 42 national, for candidates from 6 to 19 years old, to demonstrate understanding of subject knowledge; enhance the ability to think creatively; develop exchanges and cooperation among students around the world.

The time of the 2nd midterm exam will also finish soon, we hope you will pay attention and encourage your children to prepare well, actively review for the exam to get the test results as expected.

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

We always listen and share with you!

**Nguyen Thi Lieu**



Clockwise from above: Students engaging in various forms of experiential learning, outside the classroom, experimenting with STEM projects, and hands-on lessons in Science.



### From The Kindergarten (KIK)

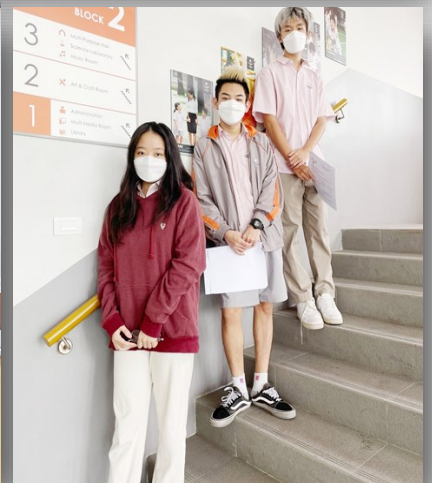
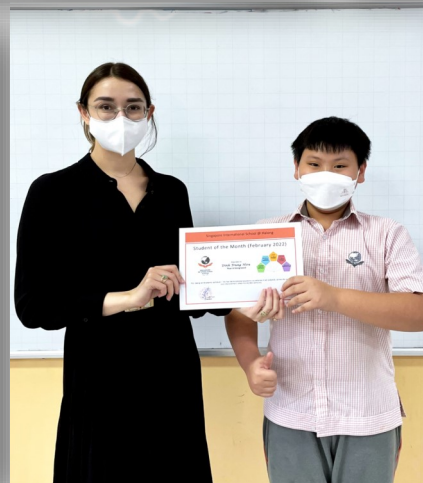
The February and March curriculum theme focus for our kindergarten was learning about and celebrating Tet. Our children in all four classrooms got to learn about this special holiday focusing on customs and traditional food. They learnt about the Lunar calendar including the Chinese legend of the Jade emperor and the race between the animals. The children got to make tigers during art and craft lessons and some classrooms even made their own lucky money envelopes.

Children learn best by getting actively engaged in an activity. With this in mind, the kindergarten teachers planned a range of activities for the children. The highlight was making Chung cakes where the children got to take turns adding the ingredients. This activity was enjoyed by children of all ages and they were excited to try the Chung cakes once they were cooked.



Clockwise from above: Our KIK students seen here in their traditional ao dais enjoying activities for Tet.







# GALLERY

