



Singapore International School @Halong
NEWSLETTER
March-April 2021

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our newsletter.

As we look back it is lovely to note all the experiential lessons, learning journeys, field trips, incredible after school activities that so many of our children have participated in. We hope to offer even more options next time around, when there are fewer complications and distancing restrictions due to Co-Vid 19.

Since the last update, most recently, our students had a field trip to go to the Quang Ninh Museum and the Quang Ninh Orphanage. It was a whole-school excursion and although the events of the day were carried out in scorching heat, the students came away with valuable life-lessons of compassion and empathy for the less fortunate and giving back to society. At the orphanage, boxes of food items and rice were handed over to the social workers. Our children went on a short tour of the dormitory and facilities and were graciously treated to a performance by the hearing-impaired children. There was also ice cream provided for every child in the orphanage on this day.

At the Quang Ninh museum, the children had a chance to learn about the natural history of the flora and fauna of this region, with the chance to touch life-size skeletons of whales, sharks, turtles and other large creatures. There was also the section on the history of the region and also the history of the Coal War.

Our older students from Grade 9 and 11 collaborated in yet another community outreach programme as part of Community and Social Responsibility. Year 9 students organized a mini-charity bazaar where they sold some snacks and titt-bits to raise money to bear the costs to send 1 underprivileged child to school for 1 year, under the auspices of the Blue Dragon Foundation. The target amount needed for this to happen and with support from students, teachers and parents, managed to achieve this. Grade 11's also organized a mini-bazaar and raised enough money to hand over more than 8 million VND to the local animal shelter: Halong's Hung Thang Ward Cat and Dog Animal Shelter. The students bought lots of food and animal accessories to help the shelter care for their animals.

The Kindergarten students also took part in a school-based planting field trip here in the SIS garden. Accompanied by their teachers, they first attended a short talk on plant health and nutrition and then used their gloves and started planting their cruciferous vegetables and plants. They have been visiting the plant site regularly to water and tend to their plants.



Mr. Mustafa Fazal , Principal



Above: Students and teachers are amazed by the scale of some prehistoric fossil remains on display. Below: Students browsed around and had many questions about the fossils they saw and how they were preserved through time.



In the field of STEM education, our students had the opportunity to engage with Dr. Chuong Nguyen, who is the STEM Programmes manager for the SIS schools in Vietnam. Dr. Chong surprised our students with STEM 2.0, the next branch/facet of stem education that we have in store for our students in the near future. Our children had a chance to learn and apply coding and issue commands to their robots based on these commands. The coding exercise was simplified for the younger children, with less intense programming jargon/ technical language. Everyone, however, from the smaller children to the advanced secondary and high school children had fun and learnt something new about computer coding and programming.

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.

Mr. Mustafa Fazal

Principal



Above: Our students looking at the displays of different types of eels and aquatic life in Quang Ninh. Below: Dr. Chuong, Mr. Robert and students explore coding as part of STEM2.0 in the PC Lab.



Clockwise from left: KIK Open Day on 24 April saw many parents attending the briefing and demo classes. Kik students planting cruciferous vegetables at SIS Garden, KIK football afterschool clubs



From the Deputy Principal

Dear Parents

The Covid-19 pandemic has been causing many disruptions to every individual, every family and the whole community. For education in particular, the pandemic has prevented students from going to school for over 2 weeks (before and after Tet holiday). With slogan "Delay school but not delay learning", we promptly conducted the online learning program since the first day of school closure due to Covid.

With online learning, besides curriculum knowledge and skills, students excellently learned how to apply technologies and achieved many important skills like time management; emotion management; negotiation; critical thinking; stress management; Most importantly, students cherish valuable spirits: love for family, friends and teachers, following for discipline ...

And the most hotly awaited moment came on 1 Mar 2021 when all students were allowed to be back to school happily with necessary Anti-Covid 19 precautions: wearing masks, checking body temperature, washing hands, sterilizing, keeping a safe distance and so on.

Students had been busy in Mar due to the preparation for Mid Semester 2 tests. In general, most of students tried their best to finish all tasks. In parallel with the test, students also have to finish all subjects and educational plan as well. The support of parents played a very important role during this time. Once again, I would like to thank you for your help in reminding and supervising students. At the end of Term 3, students finished all tests successfully.

Term 3 break has started from Monday, 05 April 2021 and all students return to School on Monday, 12 April 2021. Teachers hope that all students have a wonderful, safe holiday and are eager to return to School.

Term 4 will be a challenging time. Besides daily tasks, students will have to prepare for End Semester 2 tests as well as the Concert at the end of the school year. To help students fulfill all tasks of Term 4, we hope that parents will always co-operate with the school.

Mdm. Lieu

Deputy Principal



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)

Dear Parents,

During Term 3, the children from KIK Ha Long got to engage in a range of new and interesting experiences. After a long break due to Covid19, returning to school in March was the perfect time to learn about plants, flowers, vegetables and fruit, as it was the beginning of spring and planting season. The children participated in a school-based experience where they planted vegetables in our school garden. There was huge excitement as they used their small trowels to dig holes in the soil. Once the vegetables were planted watering them was a lot of fun too! We have been nurturing our plants over the past weeks by checking and watering them regularly. This learning experience strengthened the children's knowledge and skills as they explored and discovered alongside their peers. We look forward to harvesting our produce after the April holidays!

March has also seen the beginning of our KIK after-school programmes for our K2 and Prep students: arts and crafts and football. It has been lovely seeing the excitement and enthusiasm in the children. The art and craft lessons have provided opportunities for them to create some beautiful and detailed works of art and strengthen their fine- motor skills, concentration and creativity in the process. Our "Football Club" has also been a success with its young participants. The children have shown great motivation and teamwork on the field and have improved their strength, hand-eye co-ordination and accuracy. Football is great for children's self-esteem and we would like to say a big "Thank you" to Mr. Robert McKinnon, our football coach, for all his coaching efforts.



Clockwise from above: Our KIK students are sent here in and around the SIS Garden. They had a short briefing on what helps plants grow, and what stops them from growing. With clean gloves and under the supervision of teachers, they headed to our garden to plant their seeds.



GALLERY



Our Students are sent here on their excursion to the Quang Ninh Orphanage and later to the History Museum. Here are more photos of them taking in the cool exhibits and learning about the History of Quang Ninh. The museum offers an impressive collection of fossilized flora and fauna found in the region. There is also a very interesting session on the Coal trade, extraction and war, in this the greatest coal producing region in Vietnam.

GALLERY



Our Students seen here on their excursion to the Quang Ninh Orphanage and later to the History Museum. Here are more photos of them taking in the cool exhibits and learning about the History of Quang Ninh. The museum offers an impressive collection of fossilized flora and fauna found in the region. There is also a very interesting session on the Coal trade, extraction and war, in this the greatest coal producing region in Vietnam. Some students below are trying their hand at robotics.

GALLERY



Our Students seen here on their excursion to the SIS Garden where they had a chance to plant cruciferous vegetables as part of their field trip. Some photos of the Open day and demo teaching are also included.