

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ VUNG TAU

NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Outward Bound Vietnam

The Year 6 and 7 students came back filled with self-confidence due to learning how to “cook by ourselves, work together so no one was left behind, and to follow the Leave No Trace principles,” (these include decrease the impact of campfires, be considerate to visitors and walk on durable surfaces among others). The students had opportunities to enjoy the natural landscape and participate in a wide range of activities. Nights were spent around the camp fire singing songs and eating.

They also loved the fact that they got free snacks every day, they made their own slogans for the groups (Barracudas, Hakuna, Matata, Seven Shades of Rainbow and Oceans’ Survivors). For many of the students OBV was the highlight of the year and something they look forward to doing again. All-in-all, they would love to go back and urge any student to go when they are allowed to.

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Principal’s Message

Well done to our Yr 6 and 7 students who have recently returned from their OBV camp. It was amazing to see the great satisfaction on their faces upon their return to school.

A few reminders:

- ❖ We are looking forward to the next WASC visit to take place in May 2019
- ❖ iGCSE exams starting 23 April 2019
- ❖ Vietnamese exams starting 22 April to 10 May for Primary students (Years 1 to 5)
- ❖ Vietnamese exams starting 10 May to 15 May for Secondary students (Years 6 to 9)
- ❖ School Holiday 15 to 19 April 2019
- ❖ The next big STEM activity will take place during the week of 8 April 2019 titled “Aquabotics”
- ❖ Graduation and Concert Ceremony will take place on Friday 21 June at Maxim’s Hall @ 6:00

Overview of IGCSE results

The below table shows us where our campus stands with our iGCSE results comparing to our sister campuses across Vietnam and also against the world averages. Looking at it from a competitive angle, there are over 96,000 entries for the iGCSE exams and our students at Vung Tau campus have achieved at or above the world averages over the last 6 to 7 years. This is truly amazing results and attest to the dedication, commitment and work ethic of our staff and students.

System Wide Data - IGCSE World Totals - C and Above (7 Years)



| Subject | SIS @ SS | SIS @ GG | SIS @ VT | SIS @ DN | SIS @ BDNC | SIS In Average | Cambridge World Total |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | % C and above | | | | | | |
| Business Studies | 73.21% | 69.33% | 73.20% | 66.6% | 75% | 71.5% | 70.56% |
| Coordinated Science | 55.50% | 74.99% | 93.75% | 41.0% | 67% | 66.4% | 84.44% |
| English Second Language | 69.67% | 77.93% | 92.85% | 71.0% | 25% | 65.3% | 68.80% |
| English First Language | 66.70% | 85.75% | 100.00% | 100.0% | | 88.1% | 70.73% |
| Global Perspectives | 67.19% | 88.56% | 81.25% | 100.0% | 75% | 82.4% | 82.77% |
| ICT | 77.91% | 74.79% | 100.00% | 91.0% | 50% | 78.7% | 75.71% |
| Mathematics | 83.34% | 90.29% | 93.75% | 83.0% | 100% | 90.1% | 74.50% |
| Art and Design | | 64.30% | | | | 64.3% | 64.60% |
| History | | 60.00% | | | | 60.0% | 83.45% |
| First Language German | | | | 100.0% | | 100.0% | 88.20% |
| Additional Mathematics | | | 85.70% | | | 85.7% | 88.50% |

We have maintained the 100% pass rate and with the manageable class size, students are constantly driven to produce their best work.

In order for students to enter further education, great results will matter when these institutes need to make their selection of which students to allow to study at their campus. Final results reflecting A's and B's will certainly put our students in the forefront of being selected at more prestigious institutions. To achieve these type of results, mean hard work on a consistent basis for the 2 years. The application of knowledge is what is most important and what is being tested in the exams.

We wish this year's candidates the very best. We look forward to excellent results from our students once more. Keep the 100% pass rate!

STEM Training

On Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March Mr Kieron, Miss Anna, Mr Ray, Mr Mark and Miss Phuong attended a 2-day STEM training course at SIS Saigon South. The event was hosted by Alan West MBE of Exscitec. Mr West has been involved in promoting STEM in education since the 1980's and is currently advising the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training on STEM.

His organisation is offering training and access to awards such as CREST. CREST offers an accreditation for students who complete 8 hours of CREST STEM projects. This award is open to students from primary all the way up to secondary. The CREST programme offers an engaging series of activities for students and presents science and technology in an accessible way.

The training allowed staff to take part in some of the challenges that might be set for students and gain a better understanding of how CREST could fit into the current SIS curriculum. We were joined by staff from SIS throughout the south of Vietnam and were able to share knowledge, expertise and experience teaching STEM based subjects.

What is STEM?

STEM is an acronym standing for Science Technology Engineering and Maths. STEM is recognised to be a vitally important part of the current and future economy and therefore important for schools, colleges and universities. STEM is now a global initiative with countries throughout the world recognising the importance of these key subjects in education. For economies to grow successfully it is important that school leavers have skills and knowledge that is relevant in some way to these subjects as they will be the generation of people to build the world of tomorrow.



Above: STEM Training Saigon South

What is the benefit for students?

As we live in an increasingly technologically advanced society it is important that students are able to engage with this world not just as consumer of technology but also as creators, innovators, engineers and entrepreneurs. We would like to have a generation of students at SIS Vung Tau who not only use technology but understand many of the ideas, principles and science behind these technologies. We hope that students leaving SIS Vung Tau will be confident in these subjects no matter what they go on to study and achieve in life.

The Future

Teachers at SIS Vung Tau hope to build on the success of the STEM activities over the last 12 months and embed STEM into the curriculum of SIS. In term 3 we will be having another day of STEM activities and hope more will follow towards the end of the year.

Spelling Bee

The Annual Spelling Bee Competition was held on Friday 23 March in the school hall with students enjoying the competition. This year particularly, the competition was quite fierce and the finalists were Brian, representing Primary, Anh for the Secondary and Stephen representing the High School programme.



The students managed to go through all their year group words, with Brian stumbling first, even so, he managed most of his second sheet, so well done Brian of 4L.

Stephen and Anh got through two year groups of words with Stephen of IGCSE1 stumbling next. That left Anh from 6L to get her last word correct and is now crowned Spelling Bee Grand Champion 2019.

Congratulations to a well-deserved winner with Stephen and Brian in 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Thanks to Mr Samy and his team for having arranged the wonderfully successful competition once again.



Outward Bound Vietnam – Student Quotes

“I really enjoyed the hiking because I got to see much more of nature than in Vung Tau.” – Jacky

“When we went to the ocean, I really liked working together on get to our raft activity.” – Quan

“I loved how we learned how to cook amazing food without our parents help.” – Anh

“Teamwork makes dreamwork.” – Polly



Some of the fun activities at Outward Bound Vietnam



Below: OBV Yr 6 & 7

