



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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Principal's Welcome and Report**
- **Excursions**
- **New English Programme**
- **Capstone Visit**
- **HPE Lessons**



Above: Swimming is a very important skill to learn. Not only does it keep you fit but Vung Tau is by the sea and so our students can make the most of this luxury!



Above: October's student of the month recipients. Well done every one.

Dear Parents

We have had a range of activities during Term 1. These include academic as well as sporting and social activities in our quest to provide our students with as much real life experiences as possible. During Term 1 we have experienced some staff changes and new additions to our staffing compliment.

Our student enrolment has grown from around 118 students to 203 students currently!!! We would like to thank our parents for their support in recommending our campus as a school of choice in our community.

In our Integrated Programme, many new changes were introduced as part of the improvement for student learning. Parents were informed of the changes required by the local authorities.

For Term 2, please note:

- Launching new school website
- Swimming Programme completed 19 December 2014
- Teachers' Day Celebration – 18 November 2014
- Teachers' Movember competition for Charity
- Christmas Holidays: 22 December to 2 January 2015
- Exam dates: 16 – 21 January 2015
- TET & Term 2 Break: 9 to 24 February 2015

Thank you again for entrusting your child's education in our hands. Happy holidays students and parents!!!

Kind regards

Dudley Schroeder

Principal

Excursions

The year 9 students went on a trip to the local fishing lake to experience the frustration and anxiety of not catching a fish! The students are currently reading Ernest Hemmingway's novel, "The Old Man and the Sea" in which the story is the struggle of one man and his relationship with the sea, the fish, and the nature surrounding him. When studying a novel it is important for students to empathize with the character or characters in the story. Doing this helps the reader become involved with the story and have a truer understanding of what the author is trying to communicate to the reader. In this instance, the old man goes 84 days without catching a fish and so experiences all sorts of emotions. So the year 9 students set off to Hai Luc and went fishing. Unfortunately (or fortunately) the students didn't get to experience the frustrations of not catching a fish because they caught 4! A good day was had by all and it was finished off with a swim in the sea – in which no fish were caught.

Recently the Kindergarten from K1 to Prep went to Paradise Beach as an extension of their 'Hobbies' theme which they were studying in class. We were lucky with the weather as it was a lovely sunny day, and the students really enjoyed making sandcastles, finding candy bags buried in the sand and finally having a tug of war competition before a delicious lunch under cover next to the beach. Students AND teachers returned to school happy but a bit tired!

The Year 1 Integrated and International classes have been studying the different food groups. As such we traveled to David Pizzeria to see how food is made for our excursion. The students were able to see how a pizza is made, what different food groups are on a pizza, and then of course taste the pizza! The students then experienced the importance of exercise at Smurf House where they were able to jump around, build houses with blocks, and practice their balance. It was a very fun-filled, educational, and exciting excursion! A big thank you to all the staff at David's Pizza for making this excursion possible.

The year 3 students went to Hai Dang Lighthouse on top of Small Mountain and discussed the wonderful panoramic view of Vung Tau. The view also gives the students a good idea of how the coast line of Vung Tau is formed. Discussions on why lighthouses were / are important, how these can be modernized and do these still form part of a need, followed. In Social Studies, students will further research the tallest, oldest and most fascinating lighthouses.



Above: Fish on! The students from IGCSE 1 enjoying a fishing trip to Hai Luc, Vung Tau.



Above: Carefully does it... Uyen is carefully attaching bait to her fishing rod. One false move and you may hurt yourself!



Above: Beach life. The K1 to Prep enjoying the beach and expressing their creativity by making some tremendous sand sculptures.



Above: The year 3 students enjoying a balloon race at the top of small mountain.



Above: Best day excursion ever! The Year 1 students went to David's Pizza to learn about the different food types found on a pizza.



Left: After a busy morning learning about the different food types and making the pizza, the students then enjoyed a sit-down meal.

New English Programme

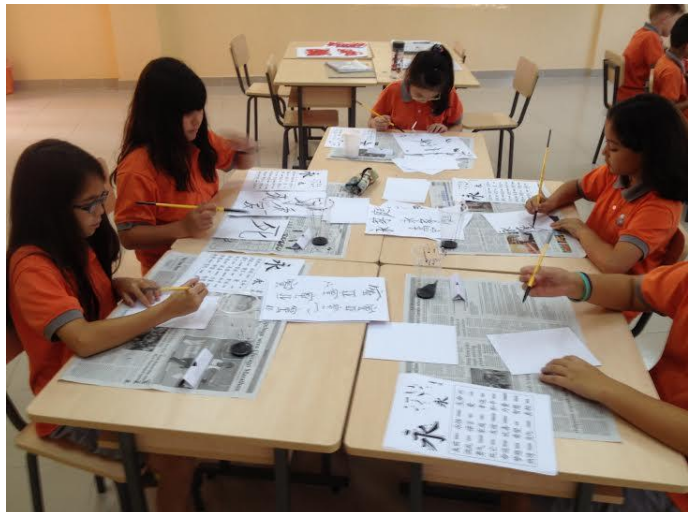
Since SIS Vung Tau is such a special school with a diverse student population, we are able to design an English programme that best fits our school community. The new programme has been running three weeks and will run for a total of ten weeks. It has been designed for all students who are at English reading levels equivalent to that of Year 1 to Year 6. These students are working on fundamental speaking, listening, reading, and writing English skills. The students who are at or above a year 6 reading level are continuing with the regular curriculum and are focusing more on analyzing literature, giving presentations, and more nuanced English grammar. Each student has been placed into a group of their peers who are on similar levels so that they may practice together and achieve success together. The programme has been designed to build the most confidence and skills possible in terms of the English language. English is a very difficult language but through the collaboration of the teachers and staff at SIS Vung Tau we are confident that students will be able to succeed.

Capstone Visit

The Capstone College Fair held on September 16th brought representatives from 13 colleges and universities in the United States to talk with students from Years 5 through IGCSE. Students learned about different admissions requirements as well as study pathways available in America. Ms. Janelle Baker, the deputy principal from SIS @ Saigon South, was also present that morning to speak with the IGCSE students about the GAC program. It is our hope to host more college fairs in the future as it helps students and parents begin focusing on options after completing GAC.

HPE Update

In Term 1 the students learned some new skills and games in their physical education classes. The focus was on learning and also refining their soccer and basketball skills as well as improving their own fitness. One of the main goals of the health and physical education program is for students to develop an enjoyment of physical activity so that later on in life they will continue to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. This term we also started our swimming program and many of the students are becoming more confident in their swimming ability and are improving their swimming strokes.



Calligraphy

Calligraphy, (originally a Greek word meaning "beautiful writing") is an art which has developed over many centuries in China. Ms. Meiling encourages her students to experience the rhythm and sense of design in Chinese writing, thereby bringing an aesthetic dimension to their understanding of the Chinese language.

As each character is made up of a series of single brushstrokes, our students will soon learn to recognize these as components of the completed character and the written Chinese language will become much less forbidding to them. Moreover, calligraphy is often used to decorate articles of everyday use. For instance, when you go to a Chinese restaurant you may notice that the dishes are painted with characters as well as colorful pictures. The art of calligraphy is something that is enjoyed and appreciated by all the students at our school.

School-Wide Learner Goals

One particularly important goal for our students is for them to become **confident communicators**. We want them:

To demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Our new English programme does this by giving each student the confidence in using English in everyday situations. They are learning at their appropriate level with other students at the same level of understanding, thus making the learning experience a less daunting time than if they were with others who are levels above them.

To work collaboratively with others: Be it either in English or Vietnamese, our students enjoy working together inside and outside of class to give each other the confidence they need to do their work. A good example of this was when the IGCSE 1 group worked together to reel in the fish on their excursion.

To use creative forms of expression: An example of this was when the students participated in the calligraphy lessons. It gave them the chance to choose and create special words that have a special meaning to them.

Student v Teacher Football Matches

There have been some very exciting games after school recently and the older students have played some very hard fought games against the teachers, even winning some of the games! Well done students keep it going! We are all looking to future competitions in other sporting activities as well.

Above: The students are busy working on their calligraphy projects. Calligraphy requires a lot of concentration and skill in order to produce an accurate word. It looks great as well!



Above: The IGCSE 1 students hard at work in their Business Studies lesson.



Above: The students have regular football matches against the teachers and the games are very competitive and good fun to watch.

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