



## 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

**From the Principal**

**From Acting Deputy Principal**

**From Student council Coordinator**

**From the Vietnamese Department**

**Important Dates**



Singapore International School at Ciputra  
including KIK

Candidate for Accreditation

Approved by the Schools Commission of the  
Western Association of Schools and Colleges.



### From the Principal:

Dear Parents and community,

Welcome to the October issue of the Singapore International School newsletter. Each month we send important information to you in letters, emails and the monthly newsletter. I encourage you to read each letter or email to understand and to be updated on events and key elements that affect your child.

It was a pleasure seeing each of you during the recent Parent/Teacher interviews. As stated many times when parents are involved in their child's education children make better grades, enjoy school more, behavior problems are lower and the student feels self-worth.

To keep you updated I would like to provide you with a few ways we work and assess your children's academic growth. We use a varied array of assessments at SIS@Ciputra. One of those assessments is formal assessments. Formal assessments are typically used as a standardized measurement of student progress. Teachers use the end-of-unit tests after each class has finished a section in the textbook. Formal assessments are typically multiple choice exams, though short answer questions and essays may be included in some instances.

Additionally, we keep portfolios on each student. Portfolios track a student's learning over time, often throughout the entire school year. Portfolio assessments focus on long-term learning gains and allow teachers to see how a child has made progress throughout the year. Portfolio assessments often include rough drafts and final works, graphic organizers, classroom assignments and student reflections.

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Here at SIS@Ciputra we have very high expectations for all of our students. According to the Association of Colleges and Universities, raising expectations can lead to higher achievement, and numerous studies show that students with high expectations perform at a higher level than those with low expectations, even when their abilities are equal. High expectations can even transform a student's belief and behaviour and turn a low-performing student into a successful learner.

Several factors can project higher expectations to students. First, we create an environment conducive to learning in our classroom. Increase the input we give to students, because expending more time and effort shows that you expect more. Finally, we encourage students to give responses and increased output; students will do the work you expect them to do if they feel you support them.

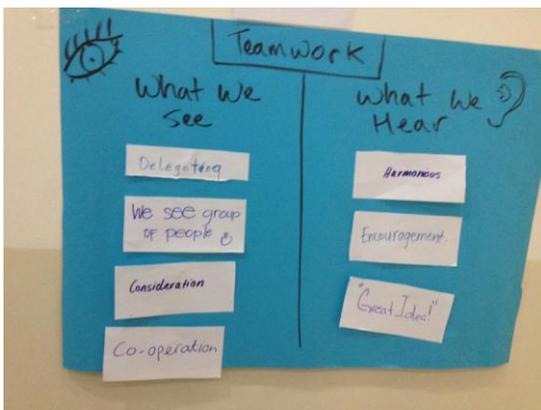
In closing, as you can see SIS@Ciputra is continuing to make our learning community a place where all children learn and enjoy their education. Come join us on this journey of improvement and support your children to be lifelong learners.

#### Teacher Professional Development:

In the current workplace environment, teachers are finding themselves faced with stressful situations. There are deadlines, professional development requirements, and performance reviews, among other things.

Successful teachers must have a strong knowledge and understanding of the subject material that they are teaching their students. Teacher professional development works to strengthen teachers' perceptions on how students learn and process the information that they are being exposed to and tested on. Additionally, teachers will be able to practice new strategies that they will later implement into their classroom environments, such as cooperative learning and role playing. Due to the incorporation of various teaching methods, students are likely to perform at much higher rates and both students and teachers will benefit from greater achievement.

During the month of October teachers participated in weekly professional developments on Wednesday afternoons. One professional development given was Guided Language Acquisitions and Designs G.L.A.D. This Professional Development was presented by Mr. Shawn Standiford. Using this modality teachers instruct students on inquiry methods of learning. This helps them to think, predict and hypothesize and address misconceptions. Additionally, it increases vocabulary and concepts, encourages brain imprinting and organizes information.



Our goal as educators is to provide the best lessons to not only motivate our students but help them achieve their goals.

Mr. Dwayne Lehman, Principal

### From the Acting Deputy Principal

It has been an exciting start to the new school year and it is hard to believe that we are already in October. Many changes have taken place in the school this year and I am happy to say that as the new Deputy Principal I am delighted to be part of the administration of such a great school.

As you have seen from the newsletters that have gone home from your child's teacher, I am sure that you can see that there are very exciting activities taking place in the classrooms. Students have been actively participating in all areas of their education and there is an excitement in the air everyday they come to school.

There is now a new "Student Council" and the children involved in this are very excited about their involvement in the direction of the school.

### **Halloween**

We had a spooktacular Halloween celebration on Friday 31 October. Seeing the children dressed in their Halloween costumes was a real treat for us all and they seemed to greatly enjoy the activities that were taking place on campus. The Trick or Treating in the administrative offices gave the office staff great pleasure and the students were simply adorable. What a great way to end the month of October. Filled with treats, candy, spooky faces and smiling children.

### **Book Fair**

On Friday 24 October 24 we had our annual book fair and what a success it was. The students were very excited to see all the new books and the reading materials that were presented from Fahasa Book store were of top quality. The performance from the Year 1 students was fantastic and everyone in the audience enjoyed the choir singing. What a fun day!

I want to thank all the parents that came to support their child's literacy and help them learn that reading can be fun. A special thank you goes out to all the staff that helped in putting this event together. Without their support and dedication we would not been able to have such a successful book fair. I can't wait for next year!

**"Reading is dreaming with open eyes"**





## Curriculum Updates

Our curriculum has been going through some refinement and I am very excited about the new direction we are taking toward improving our already rigorous curriculum. Our progress reports have been reviewed and revised so that you are better informed of your child's progress through the academic year and when parent teacher conferences start I am sure that you will be pleased with the new process.

I look forward to getting to see you all at the many school activities that we have planned for the year.

**"Education is a gift that none can take away"**

## Afterschool Activities

Afterschool activities have been a great success this term and we are already planning for the next term. We have had a great turn out and student and parents have been giving us some great ideas. This term we had Taekwondo, Karate, badminton, soccer, art and model building to mention just a few. Additionally we have had some great success with the Homework Club where students are given a bit more individual attention so that they can complete the assignments that the teachers have given.

I look forward to the next term and know that we will be equally successful as we were this term.

## WASC

At SIS@Ciputra we continue to work on our recommendations for WASC and believe that in the short time that we have been involved in this process we have been able to make significant changes to our school and the education that we offer to our children. Through this process we have been able to streamline our effectiveness as educators and offer our students a competitive edge in education.

During the next few months we will be pulling together all the data that we have gathered and compiling it for our first completed review. Our projections are that by next year we will have everything completed and ready for submission.

**"Quality is the most significant paradigm of this century"**

Mr. Gregory R.van Goidtsnoven , Acting Deputy Principal

# WASC





### Student Council at SIS Ciputra

The Student Council is a representative structure for students only, through which they can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students. We have started the year with great participation from students in all year levels.

We have a Board of Management, Active Members, and Classroom Representatives who participate in the decisions. Students who are active part of the Student Council here at SIS, are those who: academically perform really well, are responsible and reliable, are helpful to everyone, and have integrity and respect for all members of the community. The Student Council meets every Monday from 12:35 pm-1:00 pm in room 22.

I am proud to present the **Board of Management:**

President: Elly - 4Intl; Deputy President: Hari - 4 Intl; Secretary: Khanh Linh- 5A; Treasurer: Ye Dam- 5 Intl; Public Relations Officers: Dieu Anh- 5A, Dang Linh- 5A, Hoai Le- 5A, Ha Lan- 4B, Quynh Nhi - 4B, Zubaria - 4 Intl.

**Active Members:** Dahyeon, Jeong Hyun, Jiwoo, Kim Gyu Rim, and Yeo Rim (5 International), Thien Huong - 5A, Thao Hien - 4A, Kevin- 4 Intl;

**Classroom Representatives:** Johannes- 3A, Dang Khoa- 3B, Jiany- 2 Intl, Aru- 1A Intl, and Alice- 1B Intl.

The Student Council is now working on its first project: Literacy Week to promote reading awareness during the week of the Book Fair. Students have put together different activities to get all year levels involved in the habit of reading.

A Bake Sale will also be part of this project in order to collect funds for the Girl's Orphanage. Following this, the Student Council will be in charge of judging the Halloween Contest on the best classroom drawing. I am happy and proud to see the commitment of students, and to support them throughout this year of leadership.

**Ms. Maia Bassett**  
Student Council Coordinator

### From the Vietnamese Department:

During the last few weeks, we organized the classroom observations for all year levels in the Vietnamese Program. Congratulations to all the students for having a very good routine and embarking on learning activities quickly right from the very start of the school.



I am also very impressed to see the improvements in all grades. Thanks to all the teachers for creating a learning experience that are not only enjoyable but is effective in promoting student learning.

Many teachers have implemented new teaching strategies and organizational approaches that promote learning activities and increase the learning experience.

Students have had more opportunities to experience, practice, self-evaluate. Through group activities teachers have been able to differentiate the learning and support each child's development.

We can always do better things and we will all continue to work together to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

The assembly of October was very dignified, expressed pride for the traditions of the people of Vietnam and in particular the people of Hanoi. 60 years ago, the victory of our troops took over the occupation of the French that was held for 8 years. We reviewed the historical traditions and promoted the love and pride for our country through the performance of the 2A class.

We have informed our staff, teachers and students about Traffic Safety Month and students watched a short skit about Traffic Safety that was performed by the 5B. The performance was very successful in teaching the student the importance of Traffic Safety and rules.

I believe that with the continued effort of the students and teachers along with the support of the parents the students of Singapore Vietnamese International School will have a very successful school year

Sincerely,

Vu Thi Bich Lien, Head of Vietnamese Studies

**Important dates in November:**

- 10, November: Term 2 Starts
- 20, November: Teacher's Day Celebration

