



# NEWSLETTER

October-November 2019

## **From the Principal**

Education is a Journey

I came upon this story some time ago and found the message relevant to everything we undertake in life.

There is a story about a group of martial arts students who have finally achieved the peak of their ambition - the Black Belt. After many years of discipline, training and striving, they at last kneel before their master to receive their reward. But first the master says he has one more test for them to pass.

Tell me, 'what is the true meaning of the Black Belt?' The students quickly reply, 'it is the end of our journey. It is the reward for all our years of hard work.' The master pauses, 'You are not ready for the Black Belt. Return again in one year.'

The next year, after much hard work, the students kneel again before their master. 'What is the true meaning of the Black Belt?' he asks them. The students reply, 'It is the highest honour in martial arts. It is the sign that we have achieved the highest goal.' The master pauses. 'Alas, you are not ready for the Black Belt. Return in one year.'

The students go away for a further year of effort. When they return one year later, once again they hear their master's question. 'What is the true meaning of the Black Belt?' This time the students reply, 'The Black Belt is not the end of our journey. It marks the beginning. From now on we begin a never-ending effort for higher and higher standards; to learn all we can about our discipline, to become masters of our art.' The master pauses. 'That is the answer I was seeking. You are now ready to receive the Black Belt and begin your work.'

All learning leads to new beginnings. All knowledge opens up opportunities for even greater achievements. Education is change and growth. The more we learn the more we recognise we need to learn. The journey to excellence has no finish line.

**Costas Gikas**

**Principal SIS@Ciputra**



*Above: Our Principal awarding the Students of the Month for September during the assembly. The students in this photograph are from Upper Primary.*

### **From the Deputy Principal**

Dear Parents,

We have had a great start to our second term this year. The students have shown progress in both behavior and attitude towards work, and I have been delighted with their holistic growth and positive thirst for learning. Our students continue to demonstrate global citizenship and many are embracing the virtues of Singapore International School with confidence.

### **Halloween Celebrations**

We celebrated Halloween in style again this year. Almost all the children had costumes on the day with a few students going the extra mile and crafting their own original designs for the day. Students collaborated with their classmates to make the displays in and out of their classrooms spectacular. Our students participated in the Best Dressed Costume Competition, the Best Decorated Classroom Contest and the Spooky Drawing Contest, with prizes awarded to students at each year level. Thank you to all parents that supported us with extra candy in the “trick or treat” segment of the day. The students were very happy during the celebrations and everyone had a truly fun-filled and memorable day here in school.

### **Afterschool Activities:**

Last term we had great participation levels and the students were pleased with the options that they were allocated. This term we hope to surpass those expectations and encourage the participation of our all our students even more with the introduction of Fabric Crafts Club, Judo and Girls Football, as new options for the students. We have also continued to streamline the days for Afterschool clubs to only Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, to give children more time to focus on their academics and classwork, in the lead-up to the SA1 exams. Fridays have been set aside for the school team training so to free up slots for other students, due to the overwhelming response for Football as an afterschool activity.

We are always looking out for new and innovative ways to increase both academic and extracurricular activities and we would welcome any assistance with suggestions for activities you believe would be enjoyed by our student population. We are very excited about our activities for Term 2 and look forward to receiving feedback on the success of some of our new programs.

### **SA1 Exams**

The SA1 Exams have been brought forward this year to the last 2 weeks of school before the Christmas break from the 9 – 18 december. SA1 timetables have been sent home to parents on the first week of school in Term 2, along with the TOS or table of specifications which indicates the scope of the chapters covered in the exam.



*Year 2 International (above) and Year 1 Integrated (below) students and teachers, seen here dressed up in their colourful and creative Halloween costumes, posing for the camera.*



*Above: Students from Year 3 International singing a mandarin song as part of the Teacher's Day Concert in school.*

## Teachers Day

20th November marks one of the most special celebrations in school. Vietnamese Teachers' Day celebrations saw students handing personalized cards, and multiple bouquets of fresh flowers to their beloved teachers in appreciation of all that they had done for them in school. The event kicked off in the Multi purpose Hall with a fun assembly, which included games and performances by the students for the teachers. The students and teachers were very happy during the celebrations and everyone had a truly fun-filled and memorable day here in school.

### **Mustafa Fazal**

#### **Deputy Principal**

### **From the Head of Vietnamese**

Autumn in Hanoi is like a young lady walking around gracefully, pure, splendid, beautiful and lovely.

Autumn in Hanoi was also an endless source of inspiration for the "Junior Artists" at SIS@Ciputra who created paintings showing the multi-dimensional beauty of Hanoi during Autumn.

The theme for this year was "My Beloved Hanoi", 65th Anniversary of the Capital Liberation Day (October 10, 1954 - October 10, 2019)." The organizers of the contest awarded 21 aspiring junior artists from our school First Prize and Commendation Certificated

TT	STUDENT NAME	CLASS	PRIZE
1	Evans Sophia Truc An	1A	1st
2	Nguyen Ngoc Minh Chau	1A	Commendation
3	Tran Vu Nam	1A	Commendation
4	Nguyen Phuong Linh	2A	1st
5	Bui Thi Minh Ngoc	2A	Commendation
6	Tran Nha Minh	2A	Commendation
7	Vu Hong Duc	2B	1st
8	Ha Quang Hong Quan	2B	Commendation
9	Vu Ngoc Diep	2B	Commendation
10	Phan Anh Bao Ngan	3A	1st
11	Vu Ho Minh Anh	3A	Commendation
12	Nguyen Ngoc Diem	3A	Commendation



*Many of the students came in dressed up as their favorite characters for Halloween Celebrations in school.*



*Our head of Vietnamese, Mr. Nai, speaking to the students at the assembly on Teachers Day.*

13	Luu Hong Hoai Anh	3B	1st
14	Nguyen Thai Tue Minh	3B	Commendation
15	Bui Ngoc Nhu Y	3B	Commendation
16	Nguyen Ngoc Bao Anh	4B	1st
17	Luu Chi Hieu	4B	Commendation
18	Zoe Ngoc Han Koh	4B	Commendation
19	Vu Ha Thu	5B	1st
20	Nguyen Anh Vy	5B	Commendation
21	Tran Ha Phuong	5B	Commendation

This was also the avenue for administration, teachers and students of SIS@Ciputra to express the Enduring Love for Hanoi for thousands of years of culture.

November was warmly celebrated by the students of SIS@Ciputra. During the Vietnamese Assembly Program at the beginning of the month, the students were very moved when watching the inspirational video of Teacher Nguyen Ngoc Ky - a teacher who is a living example to the younger generation of Vietnam. He spoke about the will to live, about his aspirations and ambitions to rise up in his studies, and also about the desire to be productive, to persevere and to be devoted to life. Later, he was recognised as an inspiration to fellow teachers, an engineer of young minds, devoting himself wholeheartedly for the cause of molding the future of the young.

As part of our "Teachers' Day" celebrations, Students across all grades finished seven wall posters to express their gratitude towards their teachers.

There are beautiful and well thought of verses:

My teacher is very gentle  
 Who Individually teaches me handwriting  
 Even through the whole of meal and break times  
 I love my teacher!

Some simple verses, which keep intact the beauty and innocense of the students in the lower primary classes:

I wish my teacher  
 Increasingly fair, beautiful, fresh, pink  
 Thank you, Ms Thao for the hard work  
 Hard to teach, but not to speak  
 Thanks to her for teaching us Kindness  
 Now I know where Vietnam is.

The teachers were overwhelmed by the love expressed , the sincerity of the words and the gratitude from the hearts of a generation of students who are also deeply loved, proud and cherished by the teachers!

Of course, the most valuable and meaningful gift that the teachers will want to receive from their dear students is that they will revise well to get the best results in the final semester 1 examinations.

**Head of Vietnamese Studies**



Mr. Nai says a few words to the students and staff on Teachers Day before the assembly.



Our students performing a song for Teachers day as part of the Teachers Day Assembly.

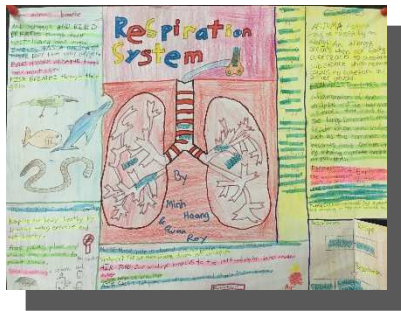
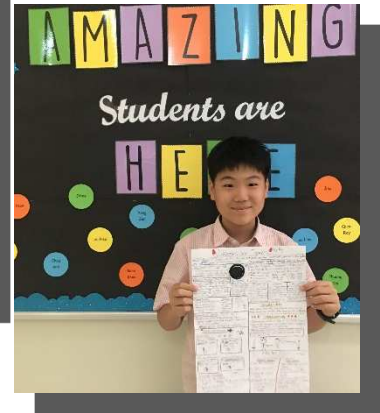


Our teachers on stage to receive their cards and gifts from students.



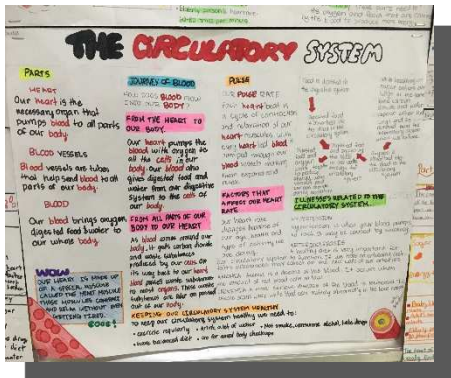
Integrated students with poetry and well wishes for their teachers displayed on the notice boards as part of teachers day celebrations.

# CLASSROOM MATTERS



IT'S A FIFTH GRADE THING

**"We Map the Word"**  
In Science we have been making creative mind maps for each of our units. We use the objective questions at the beginning of each unit to help guide the content of our mind maps. It is important that we do our mind maps in the way that we enjoy the most so we can have fun while learning.



# CLASSROOM MATTERS

## Comment Section:



Roy: I learned that if someone has a heart attack, you should check if they are breathing. If they aren't, you should push the middle of the chest as hard as you can, 2 times a second. You should always try to find an adult first or call 115.



Anh Minh: I learnt that blood is produced inside your bones!



Tri Nam: After learning about the Nazca Lines, I am pretty sure that Aliens might exist.



Ji Hu: We've learnt about cells recently and the plant cells functions may be difficult, so some students need to review more. We've also learnt about first aid and we watched a video and if there was an emergency, call 999, but I have learnt never to do that because in Vietnam the number we should call is 115



Paula: If there was more playtime then I would be grateful.



Sohee: I've learned that we should always finish our work by the time given and listen before we do something. I've also learned about cool stuff like human cells etc. I hope we learn more cool stuff!



Minh Khoa: I want everything to be GREY!



Sewon: I need cold water! Please!



Gia Linh: I learned that if you put blood in a smoothie maker and turn it on, it will be filled with oxygen and turn bright red!



Young Jin: We learnt how to do first aid!

# Our Gallery



# October-November