

THE SUNWAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

# SIS MATTERS

SUNWAY CITY  
APRIL 2021

## The Future of Education with The Pandemic



**SUNWAY**  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL

Owned and governed by the

Jeffrey Cheah  
Foundation   
*Nurturing the Seeds of Wisdom*



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### PRINCIPAL

*George McEwan*

[georgemc@sunway.edu.my](mailto:georgemc@sunway.edu.my)



Hello to everyone in the SIS community.

I want to start by congratulating all of you. Support staff, teachers, maintenance and cleaning staff, students, and parents have all done a wonderful job helping all of us at SIS to transition back into the fully immersive, face-to-face, interpersonal, socially-motivating educational experience that to which we have all been looking forward to. I have been able to visit classes, greet students at the beginning of the day, and see students off at the end of the day and all of my observations and interactions with everyone indicate that SIS students who have been able to return to campus daily are really enjoying being here.

Our teachers have told me the same energy is exhibited in their classrooms as well. None of this would be possible without our usual commitment to excellence being mixed with strict adherence to SOP's related to the ongoing (but hopefully soon-to-be-completely-under-control) pandemic that our students have displayed and this is due to your support and help, so thank you!

Although we have definitely settled in to our new daily routines, we are still not yet back to where we would prefer to be. This means that our diligence must prevail a little longer. With discipline and a little luck, we will hopefully be given the green light to return to after-school ECA's and CCA's. Many ECA's are still available in online format and there is much for our students to enjoy. Stay tuned for more information about ECA's and CCA's that we will forward to you as soon as we can provide them. Many of our coming events, such as Parent Interviews, will have to remain virtual events until and unless the Malaysian Ministries of Health and Education change the SOP's that we currently follow.

As the education landscape continues to change and improve, we will continue to send out all relevant information via email and social media. Also, our students are able to access all of our current information through the SIS announcements. Please encourage your children to listen and read all of the information with which they are presented. We're all very happy to see our students every day.

# Thank You!

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL***Michael Owen*[michaelo@sunway.edu.my](mailto:michaelo@sunway.edu.my)

By the time you read this message we will have passed the one-year anniversary of the first MCO and lockdown to flatten the curve caused by COVID-19. This past year has seen SIS and our communities face many challenges with multiple iterations of the MCO. Here at SIS, we have been challenged with online learning, hybrid learning, and more recently a return to full face-to-face teaching and learning with a smaller portion of students continuing to remain online. Throughout all of this, we have remained positive and proactive. Our administrative team have focused on professional development to prepare our teachers and staff for the demands of multimodal learning environments and online communities. A great deal of professional learning and many new strategies have been explored and applied by our dedicated teaching staff. I could not be prouder of our teachers for their perseverance, persistence, and patience as we navigate new learning spaces with our students.

This extends to our student community. Our students have interacted and experienced a year like none other in our recent global history. As a whole, our students have demonstrated the same excellent qualities of determination and grit, adapting to new routines and participating in new learning spaces. Our guidance department, teacher facilitators, and school leaders have worked harder than ever helping our students developing the skills necessary to be successful in a growing online environment. Student achievement remained strong during our past and current semesters and this can only be done through our strong and diverse communities.

With news of the COVID vaccine rolling out here in Malaysia, it is with a hopeful heart that we are turning the corner and can see a return to normal school operations in the months to come. In the meantime, we need to continue to be aware of the most recent SOPs and expectations set by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and the National Security Council. For the time being, we need to continue to wear our face masks at all times, maintain a minimum of 1 metre of distance from others as much as we possibly can, and practise good hygiene by washing our hands regularly or using hand sanitizers when we cannot reach soap and water. Through these simple but effective SOPs we will continue to keep COVID rates down and do our part to flatten the curve.

Through these challenging times we have seen improvement and growth. In my role as Deputy Principal at SIS, I am continually impressed by our teachers, students, parents and admin teams. Together we have made wonderful progress and I am confident that we will continue to improve thanks to our amazing communities. Thank you, SIS, for all that you have done and all that you continue to do!

**Academic Updates**

During the month of March, we held our Course Option Selection Event. This event is intended for parents of children in Grades 9 to 11. Our administration and guidance department presented on the course selection process and clarify course choices high school students will have when they begin selecting their courses for the upcoming July – December 2021 semester.

This can be a valuable night for parents to better understand the pathways provided in the Ontario curriculum and to better participate in planning the next semester and beyond with their children. Official course selections have already been made but if you have questions or your child has changed their mind about a course they have selected, please contact the Academic Office.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

Midterm and Quarter 1 reports has been sent out, followed by the Parent Teacher Interviews on 1 April. This was an important event where parents have the opportunity to have discussions with your child's teachers about how they have been progressing in individual courses and what steps they can take next to improve.

**ACADEMIC  
COORDINATOR**  
*Nathan Shier*[nathans@sunway.edu.my](mailto:nathans@sunway.edu.my)**IBDP  
COORDINATOR**  
*Mark Milberg*[markm@sunway.edu.my](mailto:markm@sunway.edu.my)

Greetings from the IBDP Coordinator. I hope everyone has had a safe and healthy 2021 so far.

Our 2020 IBDP graduates received their final grades in early January and everyone exceeded our predictions. Looi Kai Xuan astonished us by finishing with an incredible total score of 39 points and Cai Niye's final score of 38 points was equally incredible; both scores are in the top 20% worldwide. The graduation ceremony for this group of students were held in February. Sara Kosumi was chosen as a valedictorian, and also a winner of the *Alec Peterson Award* for the student who exemplifies the ideal balance between academic success, community service and extracurricular involvement. Looi Kai Xuan won the *Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award* for having the highest overall score in IBDP. Yap Zhi Qian won the *CAS Award*, given to a student with the most diverse creativity, activity and service experiences.

The Ministry of Education has permitted our Year 2 IBDP students to have face-to-face classes since January, and many are staying after school to do research and experiments for their Extended Essays and internal assessments. The semester started with mock exams, to help familiarise students with the way IB's exam papers are structured and the way exam questions are worded, and there will be one more set of mock exams, run under exam conditions, at the beginning of the next semester.

This year's incoming group of IB students is the largest group we've ever had, which shows that excitement for our programme is growing within the community. I'm been amazed by how well the incoming IBDP students have adapted to online learning and I'm excited to start teaching them face-to-face this month. The students have already begun thinking of ideas for their Extended Essays and CAS projects, and deciding which three courses they want to take at the higher level. Students that wish to start IBDP in January 2022 can ask me, and the other IB teachers, questions whenever they think of questions to ask.

Applications to join IBDP usually begin in September. If you have any questions about IBDP, please contact me at [markm@sunway.edu.my](mailto:markm@sunway.edu.my).



## HOME AWAY FROM HOME - SIS House Updates

Not even a pandemic can stop our international students from making good use of their free time while living in SIS House. Although most of our international students have returned to their home countries, some are still staying in SIS House. Throughout the year, there were all sorts of happenings, including community engagement activities.

One visit, in particular, stood out as it was a simple act of kindness that radiated love and support to the Desa Amal Jireh community located in Semenyih. It wasn't a huge gesture, but we're proud of our SIS House Boarders who used their free time to prepare little gifts for all the residents of the home. Even with all of the past year's events, the boarders and wardens of SIS House still had all sorts of fun activities and regular physical activities such as badminton to keep themselves fit and healthy. They explored many interesting places during the weekends such as Sak Dato Temple in Lenggeng and Kuala Lumpur Tower.

While we do hope conditions will improve, let's all continue to stay safe and fight this pandemic!

- SIS is still accepting boarders. If you have any queries regarding boarding please email to [sishouse@sunway.edu.my](mailto:sishouse@sunway.edu.my)





## 1<sup>st</sup> SIS Coffee Talk Series



### “Why Choose International Baccalaureate & Canadian Curricula for Your Children?”

Most families we’ve met have had the same question at some point or another. We decided to get our school’s administration team together to answer some of the questions that you, parents and guardians, have about SIS in the first session of the SIS Coffee Talk Series on 17 March 2021 at 7:45 pm. Here’s some information about the panellists leading the discussion:

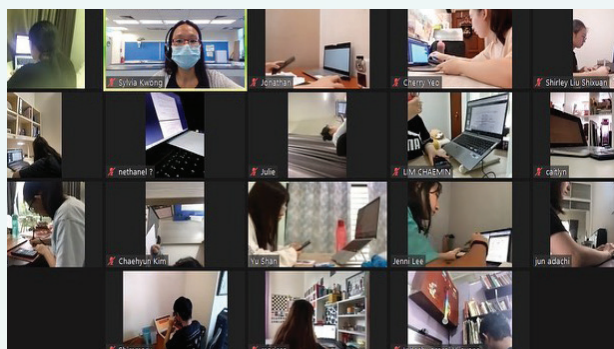
- **Dr Cheng Mien Wee:** Executive Director, Sunway International Schools & Director of Pre-University Studies, Sunway College KL
- **Mr George McEwan:** Principal, Sunway International School Sunway City & Director of Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP), Sunway College KL
- **Mr Heath Kondro:** Principal, Sunway International School, Sunway Iskandar, Johor

Before the talk, participants had the opportunity to submit their questions, and we noticed that there were many common questions. Most questions revolved around common topics like why a strong education group like Sunway would choose to offer the IB and Canadian curricula in SIS and what the future holds for students who embark on this path.



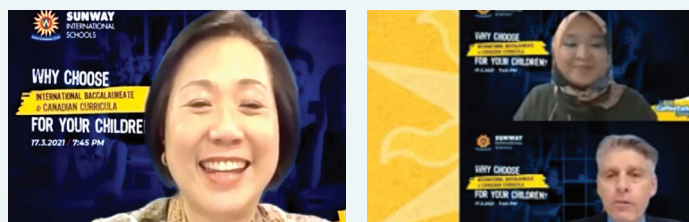
## University of Waterloo’s Mathematics Contest

17 SIS students participated in the online University of Waterloo’s Mathematics Contest in Pascal, Cayley, and Fermat Categories under the supervision of Ms Kwong. Kudos to all students for working hard for this competition.



Setting your children up for success means we can’t just rely on academics alone and should also heavily emphasise the soft skills they need to take on jobs that don’t even exist today. During the session, our panellists also talked about what academic pathways of SIS students and where our graduates can go and have gone.

SIS Alumni are all over the world with tertiary education and career choices that are as interesting as one can only fathom. We can proudly say we’ve not only prepared students for the future but also students who will shape the future. We had quite a number of difficult questions, but we’re glad to answer your questions, and we can’t wait for the next Coffee Talk!

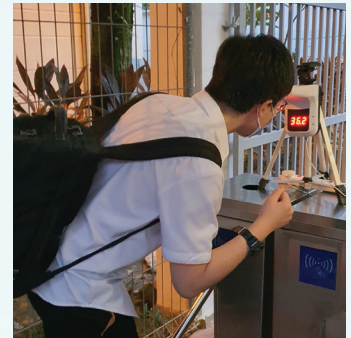




## First Day of School

Finally, the school feels like a school again! The halls are alive with the buzz and energy our students bring. We are glad to welcome everyone back, and what makes us even happier is how the community has adjusted to the new normal.

For many of us, coming back to school on 8 March was not a typical day. There were new SOPs in place, but thankfully, most families had already gone through the communications sent out the week before. It's been a whole year, but we'll pull through together as a community! #KitaJagaKita

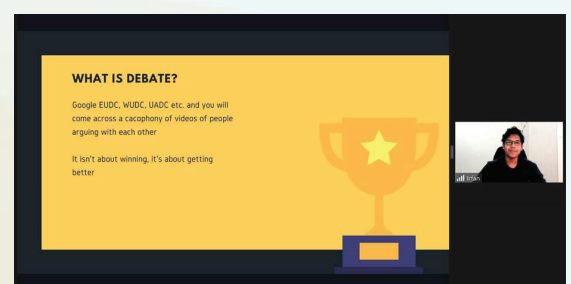
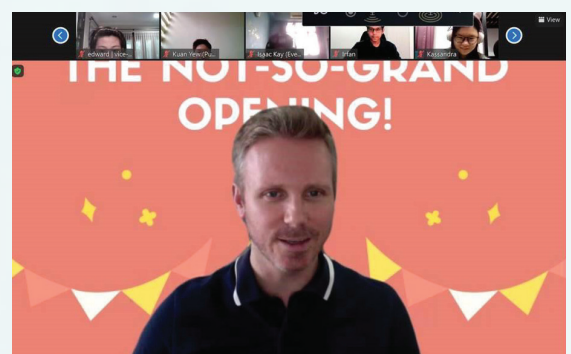


The Not-So-Grand Opening of the SIS Debate Club was officiated by Mr Ahmad Irfan, President of Sunway University Debate Club and Co-Founder of Podium Academy, who has been debating since he was 15 years old.

Mr Irfan parted his knowledge and tips to our students. Quoting interesting words by him, debate is "Learn to think without the influence of others, and learn to think with everyone!"

With the launch, SIS Debate Club welcomes more participation of SIS students which will offer many interesting and beneficial activities throughout the year.

## SIS DEBATE CLUB The Not - So - Grand Opening





# IBDP GRADUATION

The IBDP Class of 2020 Graduation Ceremony ended beautifully on Friday, 25 February and took place in a very lively manner even though it was online. The virtual graduation ceremony saw 9 IBDP students received their IB Diplomas.

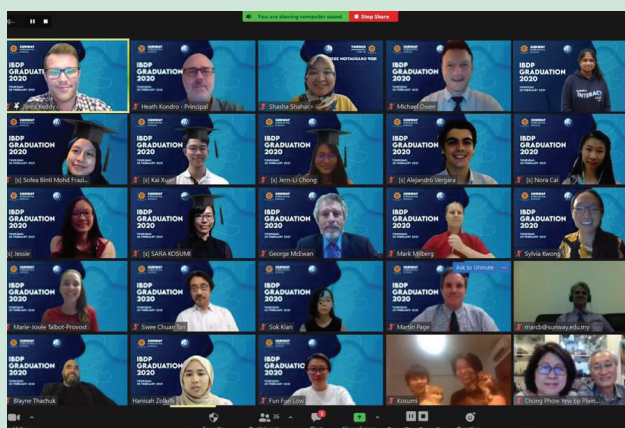
Sunway Education Group CEO Professor Elizabeth Lee and Mr Faizol Musa from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) commended the students for their efforts in this challenging year. "You have managed to stay on top of your studies as well as keep up with multiple assignments and projects amidst all the disruptions to your studies caused by the pandemic" - Professor Elizabeth Lee "Every IB graduate should be proud of their achievements not just in reaching this milestone but also in the great flexibility and commitment they have shown in overcoming such obstacles" - Mr Faizol Musa

Well done, graduates! Your hard work and determination have paid off.



**Mr. Faizol Musa**

Development and Recognition Manager  
Bangladesh, Pakistan & South East Asia  
International Baccalaureate Organization



## AWARD RECIPIENTS:

IBDP Valedictorian: SARA KOSUMI  
Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Award: LOOI KAI XUAN  
Maple Leaf Award: SARA KOSUMI

## The High School STUCO 2021

Get to know your newly elected Student Council Member!

**Teacher Advisors :** Mr Terrance Tam, Ms Myriam Lacerte, Ms Maggie Zhu

1. **President :** Aaron Yeong Jienn Kaam (Grade 11)
2. **Vice President :** Lim Han Jun (Grade IB Year 1)
3. **Secretary :** Yong Wei Anne (Grade 11)
4. **Editor :** Renee Marie Joseph (Grade 10)  
& Hanna Lee (Grade 10)
5. **Treasurer :** Indeshwararaj Vijayanand (IB Year 1)
6. **Publicity Officer :** Aoba Mori (Grade 11)
7. **Arts Representative :** Kim Bandi (Grade 10)  
& Poppy Buse (Grade 10)
8. **Sports Representative :** Edward Liew (Grade 10)  
& Shalini Isha (Grade 11)
9. **Social Action Representative :** Marissa Mahadzer (Grade 11)
10. **Hostel Representative :** Kim Chaehyun (Grade 11)
11. **Grade 9 Representative :** Myra Rosman Lai (Grade 9)
12. **Grade 10 Representative :** Jolin Chua Weng Ting (Grade 10)
13. **Grade 11 Representative :** Brittany Lau Shun En (Grade 11)
14. **IB Representative :** Indeshwararaj Vijayanand (IB Year 1)



**Ms Maggie**



**Mr Tam**



**Ms Lacerte**



**Aaron Kaam**



**Han Jun**



**Anne Yong**



**Hanna Lee**



**Renee**



**Aoba Mori**



**Kim Bandi**



**Poppy**



**Edward Liew**



**Shalini Isha**



**Marissa**



**Myra**



**Jolin Chua**



**Brittany Lau**



**Kim Chaehyun**



**Indeshwararaj**



## JPN Visit

SIS Sunway City had the honour to welcome the Deputy Directors of the State Education Department (Selangor) to our campus.

We are proud to announce that SIS Sunway City met all the SOPs set by both the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health Malaysia. To ensure the safety of students, the school has taken very proactive steps to ensure that SOPs are followed and the school environment is always safe for all.

The school is always looking forward to welcoming the students face to face and re-enliven the atmosphere at the school which was relatively quiet during their absence.



## Dillon Choo - Taekwondo

One of the SIS Sports Scholarship recipients competed in the Belgian Open Poomsae 2021 Taekwondo Competition against participants from countries such as England, Belgium, Greece, Mexico, Germany, Iran, Greece, Sweden and the USA. The competition was held online where all 500 participants from around the globe performed. Dillon competed under the Dan-Cadet U15 Male category and was the only participant from Southeast Asia.

It was definitely a good experience and exposure for Dillon competing in the world stage. Dillon will be taking part in another competition - UK Virtual Mayor Cup Poomsae Championship between 9 - 11 April 2021. SIS wish Dillon all the best for his upcoming competition(s)!





## Library Updates - VIDStream



Since the pandemic has affected many of the school's activities, the Librarians came up with a new talk show to connect with the SIS students and staff.

The online talk show **VIDStream** is a series of interactive online shows that includes different segments: Ask Your Teacher, D-I-Y, Mukbang (food review), and quizzes for the online audience who stand a chance to win interesting prizes.

We kicked off the series with the topic "**Online school: How are you coping with it?**". As it was during the Chinese New Year festive season, we ran the session with the festive theme, with our first guest being our very own Mandarin Lao Shi, Ms Low. Towards the end, we also had Yee Sang and introduced this Malaysia-Singapore tradition to our international community.

The topic for our second episode was "**Vaccine: How our lives are going to change after this..**" and we invited Mr teBogt to join us! He taught our hostel students some simple exercises and tested Ms Yati and Ms Mimi's simple yet refreshing fruit and vegetables salad with an Asian twist!

For more info and updates, subscribe to our Google classroom **Code: bp57i2e**

See you soon (virtually!)





## Parent Teacher Interviews

SIS Sunway City kicked off April with a very successful Parent-Teacher Interview (PTI) session. To ensure we take care of everyone's safety, we had the session virtually so families could join the PTI from wherever they were. We hope parents and guardians had a fruitful session with the teachers discussing their children's progress.



## Introducing The New Member of Parent Council Executives Year 2021

SIS Sunway City is pleased to present our newly elected 2021 Parent Council Executive. For this year's Parent Council, we have some familiar faces, and also some new ones too.

**Chairperson :** *Elizabeth Wong*

**Secretary :** *Joy Gan*

**Treasurer :** *Meria Rosman*

**Middle School Representative :** *Jacqueline Cho, Maggie Chin, & Selina Chong*

**High School Representative :** *June Yee, Juri Suzuki, & Norshima Mohd Salleh*

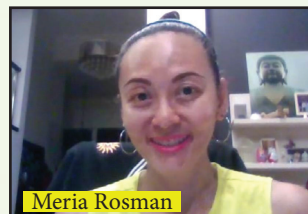
If you want to volunteer or to contribute towards our activities, kindly email [parentcouncilsis@imail.sunway.edu.my](mailto:parentcouncilsis@imail.sunway.edu.my)



Elizabeth Wong



Joy Gan



Meria Rosman



Jacqueline Cho



Maggie Chin



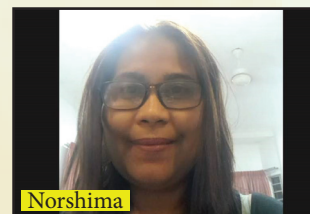
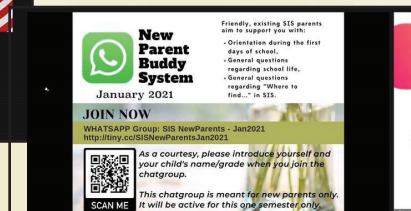
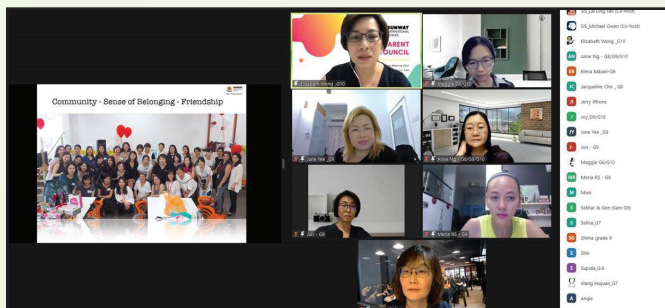
Selina Chong



June Yee



Juri Suzuki



Norshima



**Aaron Yeong Jienn Kamm****- High School STUCO President -****What are your favourite subjects and why?**

- History would be a subject of my liking because it allows me to learn more about the world and what we could learn from past events. I also enjoy art as a regular hobby, mostly pen sketching.

**What kinds of extracurricular activities do you do and why?**

- I am currently the president of the Student Council in SIS. I joined the Student Council because I've always wanted to do something for the school, making a difference and allowing students to shine as we thrive to be the best versions of ourselves.

**What is your ambition?**

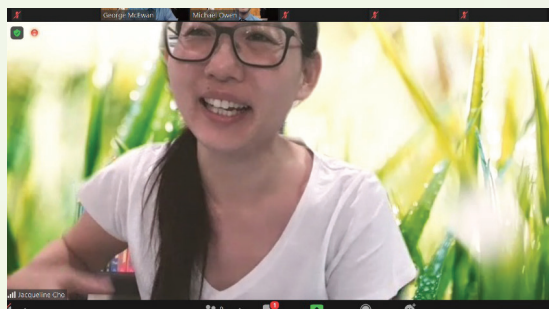
- I hope to study Architecture or Performing Arts as I enjoy art, mathematics, and acting. I believe those are my strong points that I could succeed in in the future.

**What opportunities has your school given you that you would not have had otherwise?**

- SIS has given me many opportunities, one of them is being part of the school musical. In the beginning, I never liked performing and acting, let alone singing in front of people but this opportunity allowed me to be more confident in myself. SIS has also given me the opportunity to take part in a variety of extracurricular activities like sports clubs (volleyball, basketball, badminton, etc.), student council, debate club, and many more. There are also events like our SNaPS™ (Sunway National Poetry Slam™), SIS Got Talent (Talent Show), and many more! These opportunities allow me to grow and experience many things that I may be good in and leverage these skills in the future.

**What lessons did you learn in 2020?**

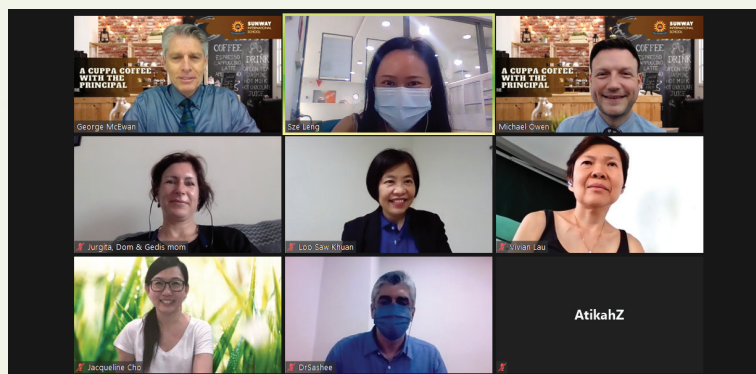
- I learnt quite a lot from the year 2020, overcoming obstacles, being flexible with time, and being more organised.



## Virtual "A Cuppa Coffee" with The Principal

On a blissful Friday morning at the Cuppa Coffee with the Principal event in Sunway City, our SIS parents and guardians talked about how we could remind our children to physically distance themselves from others. While we understand that our children can get excited to be back in school with their friends, we must all continue to be vigilant and take care of each other. The fight against the pandemic is not over yet.

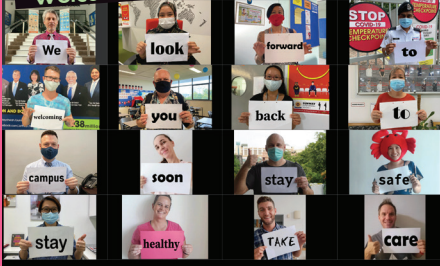
On a lighter note, we would like to thank all parents and guardians who registered and joined us, and we welcome everyone to join us for the next one. Just keep an eye out for our email for more updates on the next Cuppa Coffee event!





# What's Happening?

## Welcome Back Message from SIS Staff



## From Students with Love

"I have thoroughly enjoyed your classes as you have always found a multitude of ways to engage students and help us craft brilliant digital masterpieces."

"Thank you for being there, for guiding us even through the toughest times, and for always being patient with us"

"Because of your fun teaching, my entire grade 7 curriculum has become more interesting"

"The Math methods that you teach us makes it much easier to get the work done! I am looking forward to having a great year with you."

"You're like the wheels of a bicycle, without you, we can't go far!"

"You've made me step out of my comfort zone to try out new things that I wasn't comfortable doing which I'm very grateful for."

## WALL OF GRATITUDE

- IN CONJUNCTION WITH VALENTINE'S DAY -

"Thank you for putting in so much effort to help students during the online schooling period through the various workshops and wellness checks!"

"Your commitment and dedication are most appreciated. We are extremely fortunate to have all of you to motivate our desire to learn and to help us reach our full potential!"

"Your clarity in speaking was excellent and you thoroughly gave clear examples of what was expected in the lesson course."

"We really appreciate your sense of humour in classes, it makes lessons a lot more entertaining!"

"I've never been a big fan of P.E however you make it really fun to do sports. Thanks for everything in middle school"

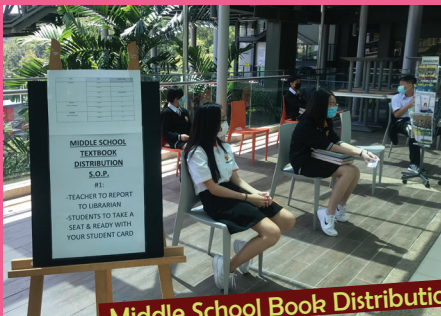
"You were really kind and understanding both inside and outside of class. You would take time to carefully explain things to us if we didn't understand."

"Your patience and smiles was really helpful in the environment of our classes. I'm really thankful that even during the online period of school, you continued to encourage us to exercise"

## Theme Day - Wear Anything Comfy



## Always Keep Your Distance



## Middle School Book Distribution

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## Upcoming Events:

1 April	Parent Teacher Interview
23 - 25 April	e-Open Days
26 Apr - 7 May	Application Week
29 April	Nuzul Al-Quran
30 April	School Holiday
1 May	Labour Day
13 - 14 May	Hari Raya Puasa
21 May	Parent Info Session
26 May	Wesak Day

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