

THE SUNWAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S NEWSLETTER

SIS MATTERS

SUNWAY CITY
DECEMBER 2019
BUMPER ISSUE

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WITH ODAWA WIINGUSHK

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SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear parents, guardians and students,

It has been another successful academic year in SIS. We see the progression of many grade 11 students to go to CIMP and other Pre-U pathways. Our IBDP and Grade 12 graduates will be off to universities around the world in a short time and another big change, our Grade 8 students make their big jump to high school.

While the haze and rainy season put a damper on the soccer teams and outdoor sports, as the semester progressed, we saw a number of games in volleyball and especially basketball with SIS Hall packed with spectators. Coming back in January we'll see more basketball and other teams competing and representing SIS. The coaches and players and athletics department have done a great job and 2020 will help us build on this year's momentum.

The year 2020 will be another year for our Ontario inspection process. Every second year, as an overseas school, SIS and CIMP are visited by an inspector from the Ontario MoE for an in-depth inspection for all things related to our license. For 29 years of CIMP, and for the 12 years of SIS, we have excelled and consistently exceeded the expectation laid out for us as a school. I have every confidence that with the feedback from previous inspections and the hard work and experience of our teachers will lead to continued success.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the contributions of our departing staff. It is never easy to see the departure of staff that have had such an impact upon the education and lives of the SIS students and our community but that is what all international schools do. We are fortunate that so many of our staff stay as long as they do and even with the departure of terrific teachers, we continually find equally terrific teachers to join our community and in January, we will again welcome new teachers to our community.

After a semester of unique challenges that we've successfully navigated, we're all looking forward to focusing back on our Ontario courses and providing the best education possible in Malaysia. On behalf of SIS, we wish you a happy and restful break and we'll see you back in January.

Enjoy your holidays. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!




PRINCIPAL

Heath Kondro

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DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

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With the end of 2019 coming upon us, the energy and excitement of year-end and semester-end activities are buzzing through the school. As we reach this conclusion to another wonderful year, I am honoured to share a number of milestones and departures for Sunway International School.

Congratulations to both Ontario Grade 12 and the IBDP class of 2019 on your graduation. We wish our students all the best on their departure to universities and colleges.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers that are leaving SIS family at the end of this year. No matter the length of time, their presence and contributions to the school and community stretch both far and wide.

For those returning students, see you in 2020!

As 2019 draws to a close, the academic office continues to be impressed by the sheer volume of academics, community service, athletics, and co-curricular activities that took place this semester. These commitments to learning and community demonstrated by our students is a testament to the dedication and efforts of the teachers and administrators of SIS. We continue to excel as our school grows and this can easily be recognized by the amount of pride and school spirit all members of the SIS community demonstrate every single day.

Here you can find a few academic updates that leads to the closure of this semester and what to look forward to in the year to come.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Preparation

On 1 April 2020, approximately 300 of our Grade 10, 11, and 12 students will be writing the OSSLT, the only external examination from Ontario, Canada. Successfully passing this exam will fulfil the literacy requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). To prepare for this exam our students will engage in a mock test on 21 February 2020, as well as participate in class workshops. Furthermore, OSSLT clinics will run throughout the first half of the semester leading up to the test to offer additional support to students.

Hats off to our Graduating Students

Congratulations to all of our successful Grade 11 & 12 students! Over 120 graduates will continue their studies at a wide variety of educational institutions both within Sunway and abroad. Our appreciation goes to our Guidance Counsellors, **Ms. Nicole Bidwell** and **Ms. Vega Lee** who committed themselves to working with and supporting a student body of over 750 students! Their hard work and perseverance led to initiatives to support our students progressing to Pre-University programmes.

We wish all of our graduates luck in their future academics and endeavours!



ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

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Earlier this semester, our IBDP Year 2 students submitted their coursework, Extended Essays and Theory of Knowledge essays, and wrote their final examinations in the recent November. Final marks are released on 3 January, but university applications have already begun, with much assistance from Sunway's University Placement centre. Carina Gnanou, the IBDP Class of 2019 Valedictorian, has already been accepted into an Engineering programme in France and many of her classmates are applying to American, Australian, British, and Canadian universities.

The Year 1 students wrote mock exams in early December and are hard at work on their Extended Essays. They, too, have started researching university programmes. We've started accepting students into next year's cohort, but if your child wants to join IBDP in 2020 and has not yet applied, please call the SIS admissions office, to register interest.

Ms. Munira Lila, our IBDP Biology Teacher has added the role of student support and specialized counselling to her job scope here at SIS, which will continue into 2020. Unfortunately, we say goodbye to Leigh Key, our IBDP English Language and Literature teacher. Jared Keddy, currently our IBDP Theory of Knowledge teacher and English Department Curriculum Chair will teach IBDP English Language and Literature next year.

If you have any questions about IBDP, please contact me anytime.





SIS GRADUATION 2019

The **SIS Grade 12 and IBDP Graduation Ceremony** ended beautifully on Friday, 13 December here at SIS Hall. The graduation ceremony saw 14 Grade 12 students received their Ontario Secondary School Diplomas, with 8 graduated as Ontario Scholars, and 15 IBDP students received their IB Diplomas.

Political Counsellor of the High Commission of Canada in Malaysia, Ms Esther Van Nes and Mr Faizol Musa, Development and Recognition Manager, Bangladesh, Pakistan & South East Asia of the International Baccalaureate Organization, were both here to confer the diplomas to the students.

Kim Yeonwoo (Grade 12) and **Carina Anne Gnanou** (IBDP) were selected as the class valedictorians. Kim Yeonwoo was also the recipient of the **Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award** and the **Community Service Award**, while Carina Anne Gnanou was named as the **Maple Leaf Award** winner.

The graduates have been accepted into universities worldwide such as, *University of Prince Edward Island (Canada)*, *Australian National University (Canada)*, *Singapore Institute of Management (Singapore)*, *ESIGELEC (France)*, and more.

Congratulations to all graduates and SIS wish you all the best in your future endeavours!



AWARD RECIPIENTS:

OSSD Valedictorian: **KIM YEONWOO**

IBDP Valedictorian: **CARINA ANNE GNANOU**

Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award: **KIM YEONWOO**

Community Service Award: **KIM YEONWOO**

Maple Leaf Award: **CARINA ANNE GNANOU**





CANADIAN FIRST NATIONS DANCE - ODAWA WIINGUSHK



On 18 November, SIS was very privileged to host a Canadian first nations dance couple known as **Odawa Wiingushk** as part of the Malaysian dance tour. Mr. Leslie McCue and Ms. Lindy Kinoshameg gave their time to perform a number of dances for and with our SIS staff, students, and parents.

We also heard the words of award-winning author Mr. Darrell McLeod. Mr. McLeod shared his thoughts and views on number of topics related to Canadian first nations issues and spoke to the assembly about his story-telling background and what has led to his career as an author.

Special thanks to the **Canadian High Commission** for their support and helping the only Canadian school in Malaysia connect with these amazing performers for this once in a lifetime opportunity. As a school, we appreciate the good fortune of hosting these artists and look forward to future Canadian connections.

SNaPS™ 2019



On 8 November, the 6th **Sunway National Poetry Slam™ (SNaPS™)** grand finale was held at SIS Hall. **SNaPS™** has become a reputed platform for students to stretch beyond their comfort zone and speak out.

This nationwide competition saw students from 23 government, international, and private schools submitting their original poems for the preliminary round, extending to poetry workshops held in Sunway College Ipoh (Northern), SIS Sunway Iskandar (Southern), and SIS Sunway City (Central). For the grand finale, 11 schools competed across three categories: junior (solo), senior (solo), and group.

Thank you to our featured poet, Mr. Jack Malik, and our guest judges Mr. Dhinesha Karthigesu, Mr. Christopher Ling, and Mr. Terence Toh for gracing our annual poetry slam.

WINNER

JUNIOR :

- 1st - Teioh Nuan Ning (HELP)
- 2nd - Farhad Imam Iffat (SM Imtiaz)
- 3rd - Aqiel Mohd Sharifzal (Idrissi)

SENIOR :

- 1st - Lillian Lai (Sunway College)
- 2nd - Erika Chee (SIS)
- 3rd - Shahana Suresh Naidu (SMK Subang Utama)

GROUP:

- 1st - The Personificators (Beaconhouse)
- 2nd - Taboo (Idrissi)
- 3rd - Goblin & Gremlin Co. (Sunway College)

HELIOS AWARD : Idrissi International School

Congratulations once again to everyone and we hope to see everyone again next year!





1. **U18 Boys Volleyball Team** : 1st place @ the AISM Division 1 - U18 Boys Volleyball Tournament
2. **U18 Girls Volleyball Team** : 1st place @ the AISM Division 1 - U18 Girls Volleyball Tournament
3. **U15 Girls Volleyball Team** : 1st place @ the AISM Division 1 - U15 Girls Volleyball Tournament
4. **U18 Girls Soccer Team** : 3rd place @ the AISM - U15 Girls Soccer Tournament



5. **U15 Boys Volleyball Team** : 2nd Place @ the AISM Division 2 - U15 Boys Volleyball Tournament
6. **U18 Boys Soccer Team** : 4th place @ the AISM Division 1 - U18 Boys Soccer Tournament
7. **U15 Boys Soccer Team** : 5th place @ the AISM - U15 Boys Soccer Tournament
8. **ISAC Swimming Competition** : 2 X Gold - 50m & 100m backstroke, Bronze - 200m team medley





Sports Scholar
Representing Malaysia

Liew Zi Hin (Grade 7)

World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA) Asia Sport Stacking Championship 2019 @ Xiamen, China.

Top 2 - Male category,
Top 3 - Cycle category.

Champion - International Challenge category and HTH 363 Relay category



Sports Scholar
Representing Malaysia

Bianca Lim Shyiin Yi (Grade 10)

International Gymnastics Tournament

1st - Senior category

Get The Beat, Taiwan Regional

1st - Solo Lyrical 15-19 years category

1st - Ms. Get The Beat

2nd - Solo Student Choreography 15-19 years category

3rd - Solo Contemporary 15-19 years category

Get The Beat, Kuala Lumpur Regional

2nd - Trio category

3rd - Solo Jazz 15-19 years category

3rd - Solo Lyrical 15-19 years category



Sports Scholar

Arniesh Chai Sasheedran (Grade 9)

Selangor Long Course

Gold - 200m Backstroke

Bronze - 400m Freestyle



Sports Scholar

Eng Kelvy (Grade 7)

Badminton Talent

Development Programme

Silver - Single Female



Sports Scholars
Representing Malaysia

Trixie Poon & Cherry Yeo (Grade 9)

2019 World Dance Sports Federation

Taipei Open

Bronze - Junior All Girls Grade C Open Latin

Silver - Junior All Girls Open

Bronze - Youth Under 21 All Girls Open Latin

4th - Youth Under 21 All girls Grade C Open Latin



Sports Scholar

Tan Xin Hui Ashley (Grade 7)

MSSS - Recipient of Overall Champion Award (Cross Country)

Silver - U12 Girls 5km category for 'Run for National Unity

3rd - BHPetrol Orange Run 2019
13-17 year old Girls Category



Sports Scholar

Gan Yeong Jin (Grade 9)

8th ETA Open Taekwondo Tournament
2019 @ Yogyakarta

Gold - Individual Pomsae Junior Female

Bronze - Pair Pomsae Cadet Category



Dillon Choo (Grade 7)

National Taekwondo Championship

Personal Best - 2.2m & Gold - Junior Black

Belt U12 category

(Kyukpa - Jumping Side Kick)

English is Fun Workshop



The "English is Fun" workshop is a community project by SIS to promote English literacy amongst students in primary schools within Klang Valley. Each year, the SIS team visits at least 4 schools in the region to conduct the complimentary workshops.

The objective is to encourage students to speak English, in a relaxed and fun environment, as opposed to the classroom setting. It focuses on enhancing English proficiency through interactive and engaging activities to develop students' confidence and fluency with the language.

The initiative is in line with the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation vision of giving back to society through education.



SIS High School Student Council had a wonderful opportunity to visit Rumah Juara in Puchong to talk to the children about the importance of education, as well as engage with them in different activities. Games such as Tic Tac Toe relays, giant skipping rope & origami folding encouraged the children to work as a team and develop their social skills by communicating with SIS students.

The children had a great time playing these games and the SIS students enjoyed spending quality time with them.

Visit to Rumah Juara



Bukit Gasing Hike

SIS Grade 9 students took part in an outdoor physical activity and hiked Bukit Gasing as part of their Healthy Active Living class.

Despite the morning drizzle, students enjoyed a peaceful nature setting and worked up the sweat-climbing stairs, navigating muddy slopes and crossing a rope bridge. A fun morning enjoyed by all!



Visit by Mayor of Markham



SIS were honoured to be visited by Mr. Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of the city of Markham, Ontario, Canada, to our campus!



Mini Library Project with SMK Alam Megah 2



SIS has sponsored a mini library project for SMK Alam Megah 2. The reading corner was officiated by Mr Heath Kondro and a mini plaque was delivered and installed at the school. An initiative by the Library Committee, SIS have donated 2 bookshelves, books and novels, and some decorations to uplift the ambience of the reading corner.

PADU Workshop

Principal Kondro was out in Putrajaya in September, putting on a session for government administrators and teachers at Education Performance and Delivery Unit (PADU) on the strengths and characteristics of the Canadian education system.

On this day, PADU specifically focussed on the progressive elements of Ontario education in an effort to continue their mandate to improve Malaysian education. Over more than 2 hours at the PADU headquarters, the participants and Mr. Kondro engaged in information sharing and a question-and-answer session.

The day was very productive and hopefully SIS will have the opportunity to continue to work with PADU.



MS STUCO Donation to RCK

The Middle School Student Council graciously donated RM1,000 to Mr. Craig Telford & Mme. Heather Brooks' charity Roots "Cultivating Knowledge". The donation will pay for over 140 students of the Southline School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive an education for one year.



Photography Week



SIS celebrated the appreciation towards the art of photography with SIS Photography Week in October. The Library together with Mr Lahey, Mr Milberg, Mr Velji, and Ms Gaetan have organised a contest for the week in 4 different categories; Landscape, Food, Abstract, & Portrait/Street/Fashion. Final contestants' photography work were displayed at the balcony and winners were picked at the end of the week.

Winners are:

Champion: Teoh Zi Yin (Harry)

Portrait/Street/Fashion: Teoh Zi Yin (Harry)

Food: Ooi Zhen Lin (Amanda)

Landscape: Sara Kosumi

Abstract: Sara Kosumi



PTPI Club Reaching Out to the Communities



This semester, People to People International (PTPI) club hosted different fundraisers to help the global and local communities.

The first project was the Kuala Gandah Elephant Conservation Centre. This is an organization that raises orphaned elephants and ensures the protection and management of the elephants. They also increase the public's knowledge of the importance of the conservation of these endangered animals. With the money raised, they bought powdered milk for the baby elephants at a special vet store for big animals.

The second project was to help the Agathians Shelter, a home for orphans and abandoned or broken families' children. This shelter offers food, education, care, attention, and love for the children. PTPI donated money to help them purchase items that they need.

The final activity of the semester was to show their appreciation to the non-teaching local staff at SIS. They bought colourful mugs and filled them with goodies. They also wrote a card for each of the staff as a token of their gratitude for all the good work they've done.

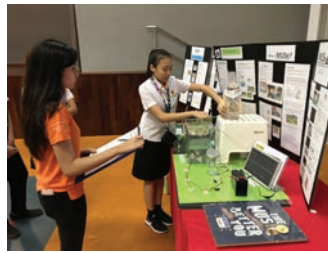
MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR



A month of problem-solving, perseverance, creativity, and critical thinking came to fruition at SIS 6th Annual Middle School Science Fair.

Grade 7 and 8 students were tasked to come up with either a design project or an experiment that met the theme of the Fair: *the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals*. Students were able to narrow down their initial brainstorming ideas to be more specific and meaningful.

Congratulations to all the participants for their hard work, and well-done to our award winners.



Outstanding Achievement Award : Renee Marie Joseph
Outstanding Grade 8 Award : Isaac Kay & Piong Kuan Yew
Outstanding Grade 7 Award : Myra Rosman Lai
Perseverance Award : Julie Jeong & Karen Tan Ying Jie
Teacher's Choice Award : Olivia Xu Yun Zhu & Lyra Thea Gnanou
Originality Award : Nyew Win Chie & Goh Zhi Xuan
Engineering Award : Bandi Kim
Sustainability Award : Edward Liew
Discovery Award : Emily Goh Ee Xuan & Alexis Hew Yuchen
Up-and-Comer Award : Quah Wayne Hann

ADDAM'S FAMILY MUSICAL



The Addams Family Musical played for 2 nights in a row on 24 & 25 September at JC Hall in Sunway University.

It was a student-led play, led by Jonathan 'JT' Spears. This is JT's second year directing and leading the school play with help from the other casts, crews, and teachers.

The casts and crews have been prepping for the play for over 6 months. More than 300 audiences were entertained by the talented students-actors with their musical numbers and dancing skills.

Kudos to all the students and we look forward to next year's play!



SIS-Parents Council Updates 2019

ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR BECKONS WITH ... SIS PARENT COUNCIL 2019

Key Event Highlights:

16 January 2019 (Sem 1); 16 July 2019 (Sem 2) - New Parents Meet & Greet

A taste of life in SIS. Quick orientation and 1st hand real scoop from current SIS parents. Follow suit to this warm welcome was a 1-semester WhatsApp buddy initiative.

19 February - SIS Parent Council AGM 2019

The Parent Council 2019 Executives were elected, with the motion of a continuity in contributing and fulfilling several key goals. Mainly in the areas of promoting greater communication, collaboration, understanding and camaraderie amongst the parents and SIS Management Team.

27 March - Support for Our Beloved Student, Jeany Tan of Grade 11

Memorial service in school was graciously and solemnly attended by many loved ones - friends, parents and teachers. She shall be dearly missed by all.

24 April 2019 - 'Cakap-Makan' Social Get-Together

A relaxed breakfast setting of getting-to-know-you session and sharing of ideas on how parental support helps in charting their children's educational journey at SIS. This parent gathering was engaging more so with the informative presentation by an experienced physiotherapist, Ms Joy. Her helpful tips enlightened parents in understanding and taking good care of our body as well as posture. A demonstration of exercises and massage techniques to get you through the day, painlessly! Thanks Joy for bringing back good physical health!

16 May 2019 - Teachers' Appreciation Day

A heartwarming gathering bringing together all SIS community - teachers, administrative personnel, and parents. Notably, a display of appreciation to the SIS community brought about smiles and happy gastronomic delights. With much pride for our teaching staff, many parents came forward through various contributions - mementos, prizes, food and labour of love.

28 August 2019 - Support for BM month

A collaborative effort in creating awareness and educating the Middle School students on cultural elements; cutting across the various multifaceted races in Malaysia. Parent Council added some final touches to the colourful, vibrant fanfare with their sky scraper national and state flags in rows and rows...

23 October 2019 - Food Waste Management Field Trip

An educational walk through of food waste composting organised by the Sunway Pyramid Mall Management. The channel management starts from the tenants/retailers, processed by the food composting machine to pick-me-up-for-free fertilisers at the mall itself. A laudable initiative adhering to the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs).

Parents Workshops : Mindfulness hands-on workshops were a hit with parents of interest.

October 2019 - Interactive, fun processes with handmade natural soap and scrub.

November 2019 - Essential Oils Parfum Making. Another invigorating educational session for parents and the administrative team.

15 - 29 November 2019 - Joy of Gifting

Small, mindful gestures as a symbolic adulation for our tireless SIS teaching and administrative staff. A big thank you to all our SIS educators and management. This is the point where successful journeys begin... for all the children of SIS!

A group of parents assembled to personalize the mementos with happy hearts and minds. From base zero to a production of natural essential oil scented soaps and scrubs. The presentation was done at every department space in school. A charming array of gifts, flowers, popcorn, snacks etc with a hint of distinct Xmas fragrance, greeted our most beloved SIS teachers and staff!

Throughout the year of 2019

Regular meetings of the Parent Council Executives with Mr Kondro and his team had been most productive and constructive. A special thanks to our Principal and his SIS mates! Minutes are available for parents' perusal at the Admin Office.

Merry Xmas, Happy Holidays and Season's Greetings to all our SIS family...! Ho Ho Ho

Warm regards,
Elizabeth Wong

on behalf of Parent Council 2019
(Collaborative editorial with Meria)

Interested to Volunteer?

Email us at:
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Click! Click! Click!



Recording at Astro for Open Day



Parent-Teacher Interview



Mooncake Making



Green Team @ Good Earth Run



Recycle & Repurpose Drop Box



SNaPS™ Workshop Ipoh



Music Class Performance



IB Appreciation Dinner



Cuppa Coffee with Principal

Upcoming Events:

14th Dec - 13th Jan 2020

14th January

15th January

16th January

17th January

13th February

23rd - 28th January

31st January

6th February

14th March

1st April

14th April

25th April

School Holidays

Orientation Day

Subject Enrolment &

Timetabling Day
(for High School students only)

First Day of School

Middle School Relay Race

SIS-Parent Council AGM

Chinese New Year's Holiday

Clubs & Societies Fair

Meet-the-Teachers Night

Parent Info Session

OSSLT Exam Day

Parent-Teacher Interview

Open Day

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- Waiver is a one-off benefit and not transferable or exchangeable for cash.
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Jeffrey Cheah
Foundation
Nurturing the Seeds of Wisdom

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