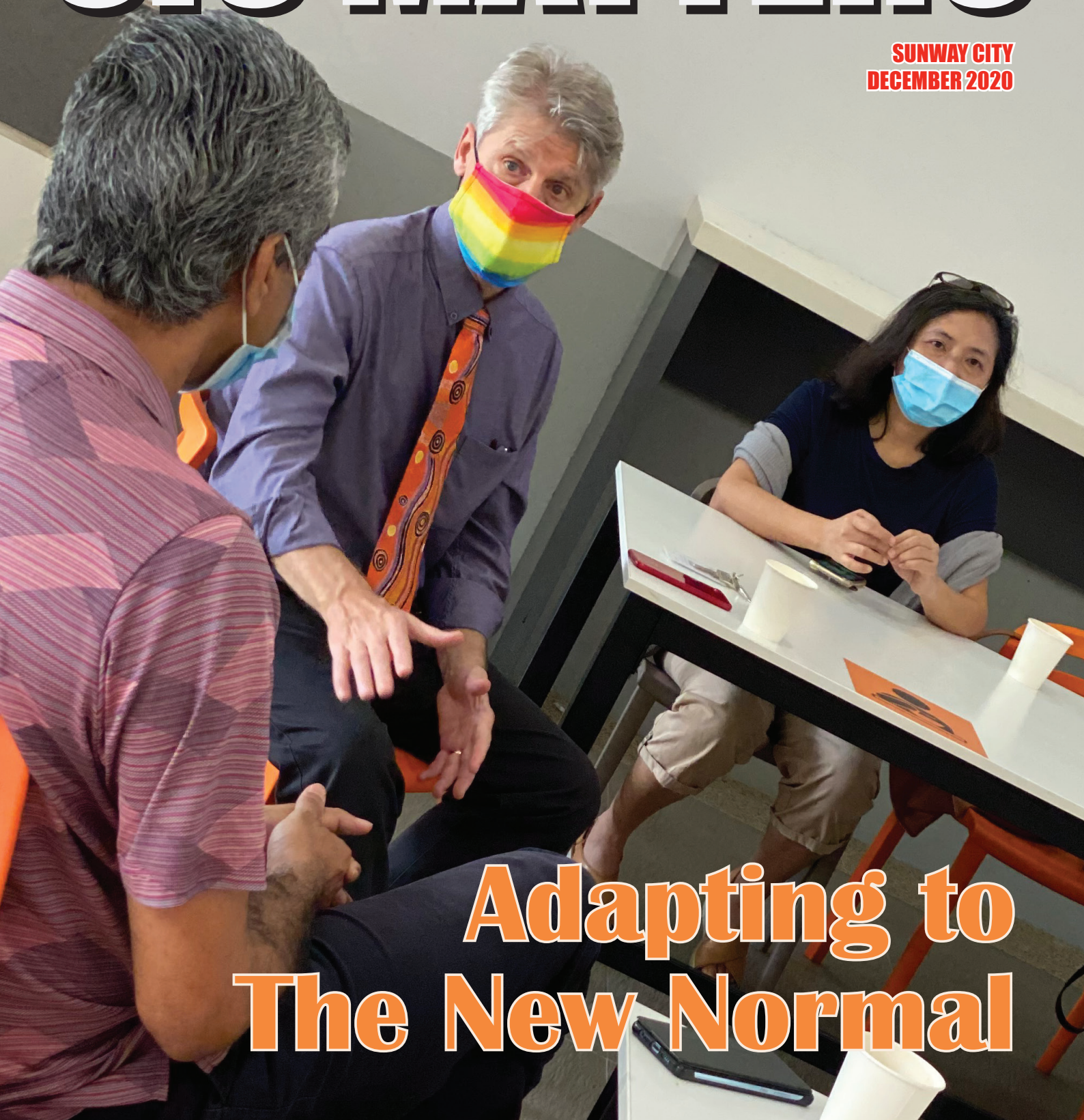


THE SUNWAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S NEWSLETTER

SIS MATTERS

SUNWAY CITY
DECEMBER 2020



Adapting to The New Normal



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



Parents, Guardians and Students,

Happy "End Of 2020" everyone! I'm going to go out on a limb and suggest that few, if any, of us are unhappy to see the back of 2020. However, let's not be too dismissive of the year that was. Many cultures have a version of the Japanese proverb, "Fall down seven times, stand up eight", and the sentiment is spot on for the calendar year we have just experienced. Instead of looking upon it because of the misery it brought us, I think we need to reflect on our responses to the hardships we've experienced over the past 12 months. We all stood up many times after being repeatedly knocked down.

We have all been in this together and the degree of collaboration, flexibility, support, well-wishes, and other examples of people helping other people has been pretty impressive. SIS is full of good-hearted individuals who have banded together to help everyone make the most of our time together in 2020. Also, we have seen uncountable incidences of students and staff displaying the value of those 21st Century skills that we hold so dear and that we embed into our Ontario and IBDP lessons. Creativity and collaboration have been especially prevalent, perhaps out of necessity, but it has still been really cool to witness the openness of mind and flexibility of thought expressed by so many in our school community.

Congratulations to our students who endured the changes from face-to-face to online learning, and who supported one another through those transitions. Congratulations to our staff who developed online teaching strategies seemingly out of thin air and with almost no time to prepare for the new normal in teaching and learning. Congratulations to all of the parents of our students for having faith in us as we navigated SIS through these new waters. We always had the best interests of your children front of mind and you showed us that you knew that. Together, we have successfully made our way to this point with our hearts and minds intact and with hope for a bright and prosperous 2021. All the best to everyone for a restful and celebratory year end break.

Thank You!

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL***Michael Owen*michaelo@sunway.edu.my

This message finds SIS seeing the end of the most unexpected and unique school year in its 12 year history. The COVID-19 global pandemic and the variations of the Movement Control Orders (MCOs) that followed have deeply affected how teaching and learning is conducted not only at SIS but at school across the state, country, and world. Never in my years as a teacher and school leader have I encountered such an incredible event that has impacted so many so deeply. To say that this was a great year would not be truthful. It has been a difficult year for many.

However, I am very proud to say that our learning communities at SIS continued with monumental dedication, persistence, and perseverance. Our teachers have made significant contributions and sacrifices to insure that teaching and learning can continue as best as it possibly can over the past 12 months. Our students have demonstrated excellent dedication to their learning and worked well with sometimes limited access to our classrooms. Our parents continued to support our students and teachers with positive reinforcement and steady communication. It is through COVID-19 that the true strength of our communities can be demonstrated. I am thankful for all that you have done and for your resilience over this year.

Please allow me to share a few updates for December here:

- Firstly I would like to recognize the work of our second cohort of IBDP students who have recently completed their final exams. Congratulations on two years of rigorous study and dedication to learning.
- Our Grade 8 students also recently celebrated their graduation from Middle School to High School with an online ceremony held on the morning of November 27th. Please keep your teachers advice in mind as you prepare for Grade 9 next year!
- I am pleased to share that our Grade 11 promotion to Pre-University is currently underway, exit interviews have been completed and students are finalizing their applications to the international Pre-U curriculums of their choice.
- On the operational side of SIS, I would like to welcome Mr. Keong Lye Choon as our new Operations Coordinator who joined SIS in November this year. In a short time, he has already demonstrated impressive attention to the school's needs and I am confident that he will work hard to keep SIS clean, healthy, and safe for our students and teachers.

While the next year may continue to appear uncertain, more recent news appears positive and that our current necessities may relax and see a return to more "normal" operations in 2021. How soon this may be, I cannot say with certainty but do know that we are all working hard to maintain and improve our current operations and standards of academic excellence. As long as we can remain positive and recognize that we are part of a larger community that cares, we will see this pandemic to its natural end. We are all in this together, and together we are strong.

Academic Updates

This school year has presented our SIS community with many unique challenges. I'm extremely proud of our staff, students and parents who have worked so diligently to ensure that even in these unprecedented times that we can continue to learn and grow. I hope that during this school holiday that everyone is able to find time to relax and recharge.

Good-Bye and Good Luck!

As the years march on, we are fortunate to have so many dedicated and innovative teachers who come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Some staff have stayed on in the SIS family for many years and others just a short while. No matter the length of time, their presence and contributions to the school and community stretch both far and wide. Best wishes go out to Mr Perry Byrne and Ms Tara Mrav who will be returning home.



**ACADEMIC
COORDINATOR**
Nathan Shier

nathans@sunway.edu.my

**IBDP
COORDINATOR**
Mark Milberg

markm@sunway.edu.my

Our third cohort of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) students wrote their final exams in October and November and their final grades will be released on 2nd January 2021. We will hold the graduation ceremony in January 2021 and shortly after that those IBDP graduates attending Australian universities will begin their university studies. The dedication and acumen of these students was commendable and should inspire the students who are currently finishing the first year of IBDP. The very deserving valedictorian of the IBDP Class of 2020 is Sara Kosumi. Congratulations to Sara!

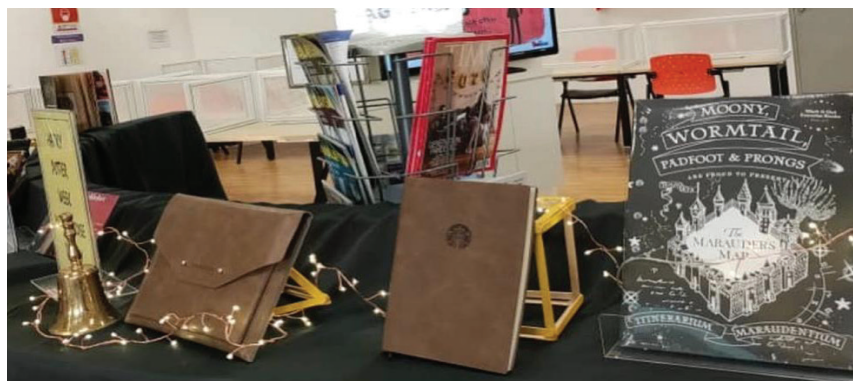
Our current Year 1 students will have mock exams during the last week of classes of 2020 and the first week of classes in 2021 as they begin the countdown to November 2021 exams. Earlier in the semester, before CMCO, Gradsmeat's representative came to SIS to discuss university applications with both the Year 1 and Year 2 students and Sunway's own International Office University Placement division has provided hours of useful university application advice to both cohorts.

SIS has one IBDP intake per year in January, and we are still accepting applications. For more information about IBDP, please contact me at markm@sunway.edu.my.

Harry Potter Week

There were many activities arranged to hype the Week, namely Guess the Number of Jellybeans in the Jar, Daily Word Search, Best Dressed, Hogwarts House Votes, Middle School Drawing Competition and High School Writing Competition.

The library was also elaborately decorated with Harry Potter merchandises, coupled with tantalizing Harry Potter potion drinks display.



Chess Tournament 2020

The online SIS Chess Tournament 2020 took place on the 10th of December. Congratulations to all of the winners and hope this competition will still be conducted in the future with more participants joining.

SIS-Chess-Tournament Arena

Adam Au Wing Tat

Ch'ng Khye Ahn

Arniesh Chai Sasheedran



Adventel Jr

Performance 1875
Games played 11
Win rate 91%
Berserk rate 9%



Adam_Au_0923

Performance 1595
Games played 14
Win rate 86%
Berserk rate 0%



unitedfan

Performance 1524
Games played 14
Win rate 71%
Berserk rate 7%

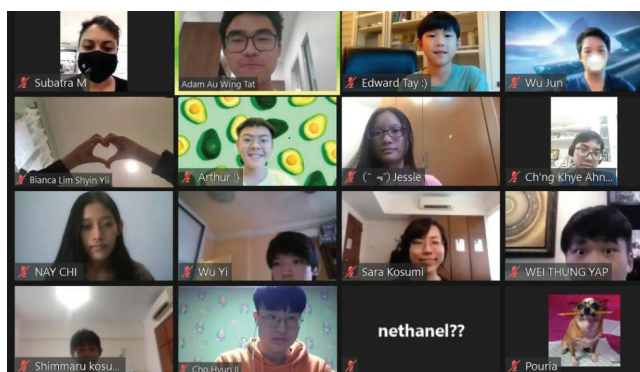


Teacher's Day



In conjunction with World Teacher's Day this year, SIS Parent Council was pleased to celebrate our teachers for their contributions as nation-builders, especially during this pandemic.

"We will always be grateful for your efforts and thank you for inspiring our children! Happy Teacher's Day!" - SIS Parent Council



Career Week 2020 (21 - 25 September)

By moving this year's annual SIS Career Week online due to the pandemic, it has become limitless. We have panellists joining us not only from Malaysia, but also from all over the world such as Canada, Laos, USA, Australia, and Switzerland. And this has given the opportunity for students from Sunway City and Sunway Iskandar to come together and learn from the panellists.

Throughout the week, there were two major sessions organised virtually and face-to-face for middle school and high school students, workshops, and panellist sessions respectively. The sessions were designed according to this year's theme; "New Normal".

Thank you to all panellists for joining us this year. It has been an amazing session of sharing and caring for each other through the theme of "New Normal". Your words of wisdom are well received and shall be planted within the journey of our students whilst working towards their passion and their dream.



Scan to check out the full highlights of the SIS Career Week



SNaPS™ 2020

This year's Sunway National Poetry Slam™ (SNaPS™) grand finale was held virtually on 20th November. Despite the limited access to public gathering, we are glad that we are still able to bring everyone together for this year's annual event.

The competition started back in September saw participants from 40 schools nationwide submitted their original poems and video citations for the Online Submission (Preliminary) Round. 10 schools had been shortlisted for the Grand Finale, competing for the 3 categories: Junior, Senior, and Group.

Thank you to our guest judges Mr Adam Rais, Mr Colin Kirton, and Ms Arisha Akhir for gracing our annual poetry slam. Great job to all participants and congratulations to all winners!!



WINNER

Junior :

- 1st - Anggun Soracca Jaya (Sri KDU)
- 2nd - Aaliya Ibrahim (Alice Smith School)
- 3rd - Teioh Nuan Ning (HELP)

Senior :

- 1st - Anandita Abraham (Alice Smith School)
- 2nd - Lillian Lai Ruey Yee (Sunway College)
- 3rd - Nidhi Ravindran (SIS)

Group :

- 1st - The M's (SIS)
- 2nd - The Mozarts (Sri KDU)
- 3rd - Two Piece of a Pot (SMK Sultan Abu Bakar, Kuantan)

Helios : Sri KDU Secondary School





Food Drive for Sunway Mentari Refugee School

The High School Student Council (HS STUCO) has undertaken the initiative to fulfill their part in the Sunway community by organising a food drive for Sunway Mentari Refugee School. The collected donation was delivered by the president, Bianca Lim to the school.

The obvious backlash of the global pandemic has definitely not gone unnoticed, however, it has taken a particularly devastating toll on charities all across Malaysia, causing many to go into a financial crisis. The beauty of this drive is that it brought a sense of perspective—whilst some fuss over trivial matters like shopping and meeting friends in-person, others simply do not even have that privilege.

It truly shined a light on the fact that notwithstanding these uncertain times, there are still many things to be grateful for, and moreover proved how much we can achieve as a community; even if we were socially distanced, together.

Middle School Bahasa Malaysia Contest

2020 is a tough year with the pandemic of COVID-19 which leads to an online teaching-learning with its own challenges. Hence, there are a lot of outdoor activities and events such as field trips and Middle School BM Cultural event have to be cancelled. Despite, Middle School BM Homework Club in collaboration with Cultural Club managed to organize an annual activity for middle school students.

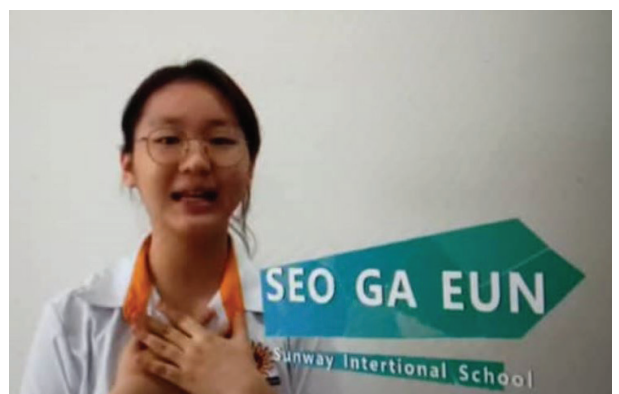
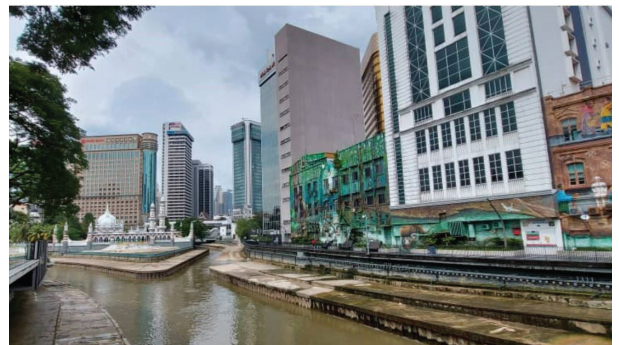
Middle School BM Contest was held online for four months starting August until end of November 2020. However, 'Pidato' (Speech) and 'Cultural Contest – Congkak' have begun earlier in March and May 2020.

Meanwhile, 'Class Deco Contest- Malaysia Day' was held for a few weeks when students were allowed in school in July and final round for the 'Pidato' Contest was held virtually in September. The contestants have to submit a video of their speech for evaluation.

The objectives of this annual event are to create a fun learning for BM and to equip students with new skills and experience through the activities held. Class project was also assigned to provide students the opportunity to improve their language skill, creativity and at the same time expanding their vocabulary.

Terima Kasih' (Thank You) and 'Tahniah' (Congratulation) to all contestants, committees, Cultural Club members, teachers and parents for your help and support. We look forward to organizing this annual event in 2021 with other more fun categories.

- Cikgu Shimah, Bahasa Malaysia Teacher



HAPPY GRADUATION

Grade 8 Virtual Graduation

Congratulations to our Grade 8 students on your Middle School Graduation! Although we hoped the ceremony could have been done in person, we are still happy to be able to celebrate your milestones virtually together. See you in High School Grade 9 next year.

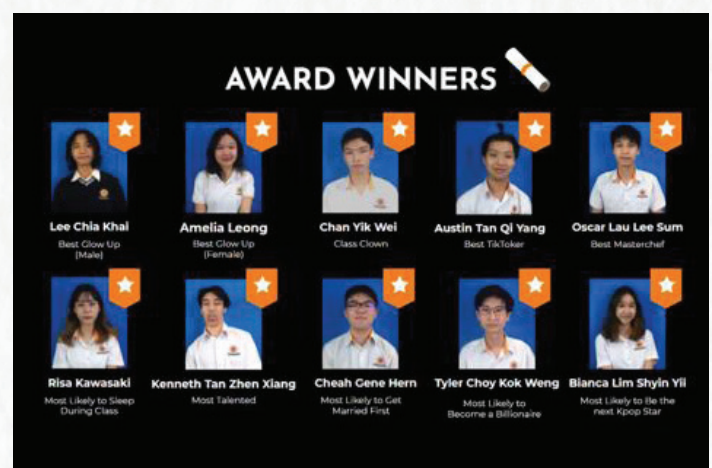
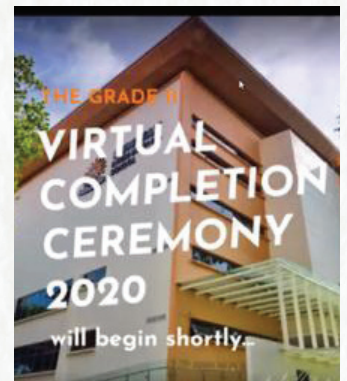
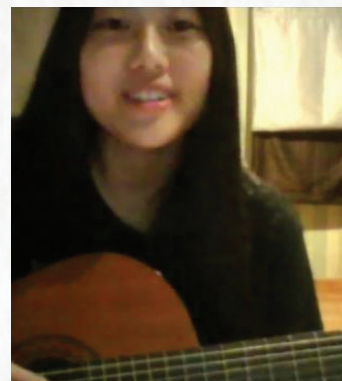


Completion of Grade 11 Celebration

Bidding farewell to our Grade 11 students as they are embarking their journey to Pre-University level be it in Sunway College or others.

This virtual celebration was organised by High School Student Council 2020, which is so much different than our past celebrations.

SIS teachers and staff wishing you the best of luck in your next journey.



A Cuppa Coffee with The Principal

"A Cuppa Coffee with The Principal", the Monthly session was organised every month to give parents opportunity to get to know our principal and at the same time to get the latest update on the school first hand.

Following the new standard operation procedure due to the current pandemic the information was shared by Mr McEwan regarding the upcoming events and activities. It's always a great way to stay informed of both parents and school initiatives to make our SIS community stronger!



In light of the recent pandemic, it is undeniable that SIS High School STUCO had to look for newer methods to bring everyone together. However, as students entered online classes and had far less ability to do anything recreational outside of their houses, it also became more necessary to organize events and remind everyone that life is more than endless work-sleep cycle. STUCO had made the most use of its time before the quarantine period by organizing popular events such as the Sports Carnival, as well as encouraging people to help those in need by setting up donation drives for Sunway Mentari Refugees.

Within the online context however, we continued to organize activities that would help students improve certain skills at home; such as the writing contest with the theme: Challenges of 2020, to not only put SIS students' writing skills to practice but also to shed light on some of the many important issues that have risen since 2020.

We had also adapted major events like the Completion of Grade 11 event so they would still be able to be carried out even within an online context. This year has been one of many challenges and hardships, and required much creative thinking to organize events but still get a popular turnout; however, the collective efforts of our committee have allowed us to adapt and continue to include students in our events, helping all of us make the most of year together.

- Eng Gelson, G10

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

MARCH	 Law Jia Yu (Grade 8) Middle School	 Kim Bandi (Grade 9) High School Lower	 Tan Chiao Pin (Grade 11) High School Upper	
	MAY	 Dariya (Grade 7) Middle School	 Lim Ee Xiing (Grade 10) High School Lower	 Lim Yong Bin (IBDP Year 1) High School Upper
		SEPTEMBER	 Jeong Hayoon (Grade 8) Middle School	 Ayenkaren (Grade 10) High School Lower
APRIL			 Kim Hyein (Grade 8) Middle School	 Caitlyn Xin Ling (Grade 9) High School Lower
	AUGUST		 Kathleen Wong (Grade 7) Middle School	 Wong Sze Xuen (Grade 9) High School Lower
		OCTOBER	 Gan Tze Xin (Grade 7) Middle School	 Yeow Song Wei (Grade 10) High School Lower
NOVEMBER			 Dillon Choo (Grade 8) Middle School	 Rance Wong (Grade 9) High School Lower

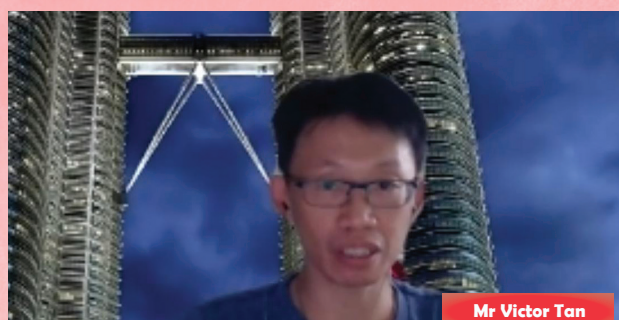
"Let's Talk Teens and Mental Health" Webinar



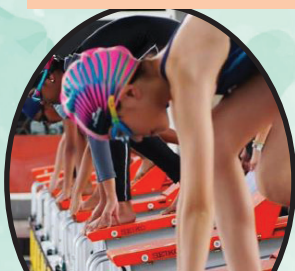
On 7 November, SIS was very privileged to host a webinar to talk about the impact of COVID-19 on mental health and teach us how to tackle the topic with the teens.

Thank you to Dr Alvin Ng, Ms Sue Shiew and Mr Victor Tan for your guidance and advice at the weekend's "Let's Talk Teens and Mental Health" webinar.

- SIS Guidance team



CONGRATULATIONS



Kathleen Wong
(Swimming)

- MSS Selangor
- Milo/PRAKL Age Group
Swimming Championship

Lee Zi Xuan
(Swimming)

MSS Selangor
- 100m freestyle : 3rd Place
- 50m freestyle : 3rd Place
- 50m butterfly : 5th Place



Cherry Yeo Xiao Wei
(Rhythmic Gymnastic)

- MSS Selangor
Rhythmic Gymnastic

Joelle Phuah
(Squash)

MSS Selangor
6th Place



Shalini Isha
(Swimming)

- MSS Selangor :
4th Place relay



Teh Wei Ji
(Weiqi Game)

- 5th Confucius Cup
National Weiqi
Tournament : 2nd Place
- The 1st Jianqiao Guolv
Cup Weiqi Tournament
- CCTV World Youth
Amateur Online Weiqi
Tournament



Arniesh Chai
(Swimming)

- MSSS : 3 x Silver
- 30th Selangor Age Group
Swimming Championship :
1 x Gold & 3 x Bronzes
- Malaysia Invitational Age
Group : 1 x Gold



Chan Le Yenn
(Dance)

Asia Open Dance
Championship:
- 1st place in Modern
Contemporary Solo
- 1st place in Ballet Repertoire Solo
- 1st place in Troupes



Gan Yeong Jin
(Taekwondo)

- TKL Online Championship
2020 : Bronze
- WuKwon Online 2020
- 1st Oceania Open Online
Poomsae Championship.

PTPI Club: Mask Campaign

This semester, People to People International (PTPI) Club helped to ensure SIS's safety while providing a helping hand to local underprivileged children through a customized face mask campaign.

The idea was first proposed due to its relevance amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the process of getting started was quite simple, we encountered several obstacles due to the unpredictable pandemic.

Firstly, we found a company who customised face masks, carefully selected the most attractive designs and ordered masks with our logo on them, designed by our publicity officer, Wayne. Everyone was thrilled when the samples arrived, but they were wrongly printed. This unfortunately delayed our progress.

Promoting the fundraiser was also challenging because we had to rely mostly on Social Media and other online platforms which might not reach as many people. Nevertheless, the teamwork and dedication of our members made the journey smooth and everyone completed their tasks to the best of their abilities.

As the secretary of the club, I learnt how to overcome unexpected hardships and how to adapt to the sudden changes. Through our donations from this fundraiser, we successfully improved the lives of orphans and children from broken families in the Malaysian welfare home, Agathians Shelter.





Voon Yik Jin - Class of 2019

Voon Yik Jin joined the Canadian (Ontario) programme at SIS in 2018. She's an SIS & Sunway College A-Level alumna. She has been accepted into the **Imperial College London** for Medical Bioscience programme commencing October 2021.

What do you love most about SIS?

- I joined SIS in Grade 10, kind of late, from a rural Malaysian public school. Even then, SIS enabled me to learn French Language from scratch. Within a year, I had a good foundation in it and became quadrilingual, together with English, Malay and Chinese.
- I also had great fun studying diverse subjects including Canadian History After World War I. I spent hours researching topics such as Prohibition, Treaty of Versailles, and Hitler, learning to analyse and construct arguments for and against. I also enjoyed the teamwork, we work in teams a lot when we are collaborating in any project or presentation.
- On the pastoral side, the teachers were caring and compassionate. Even the Principal Mr Kondro and Deputy Principal Mr Owen themselves picked me up with comforting and encouraging words and gave me renewed confidence to carry on on occasions when I feel defeated. So yes, I had a great time and fond memories of my time in SIS.

How SIS /Ontario programme has shaped you as the person you are today?

- SIS is a non-judgmental and forgiving environment that heightened my sense of values like compassion and care for one another within the community, and shaped me in that mold.
- As an international-bound student, the Ontario curriculum in SIS has equipped me with diverse knowledge, wide perspectives, an open mind, and an adventurous spirit.

Describe a fond memory of you in SIS and how the event has impacted you?

- I enjoyed so many events in SIS, ranging from dramas to yoga classes. Perhaps my fondest memory of SIS are French language classes, rather than any single event. I really enjoyed those. Within a year, SIS has taught me the language to a sufficient level that I can continue to build on it myself.
- Post SIS, I have continued to take Saturday classes in French, and intend to continue at university. But it was SIS that gave me my fourth language that may open up avenues later.

Mr Chew Chin Choong (Guardian)

How did you come across Sunway and what makes you choose Sunway for your children?

- We came across SIS when my elder daughter joined Sunway A-level. I have 2 younger children and I thought it would be a great adventure to cut across education systems to join SIS's Ontario programme to gain wider educational experience, and to learn French from people who takes their French seriously!

What do you love about SIS and how you feel SIS has contributed to your children's learning/developments?

- Both Yik Jin and Hui Lin love languages, and they were looking forward to picking up French as part of their formal syllabus in school. In Malaysia, SIS is a rare school that offers its students the compulsory opportunity of French as an additional language.
- Then there's the fantastic but non-compulsory opportunities to study fun stuff like Canadian History After World War I with the diverse subjects offered in SIS. Above all, noble values such as compassion, integrity, honesty, openness and many more are taught and practiced by teachers as leadership by example in daily school life. These, and more, are the things we love about SIS.
- In terms of learning and development, as a non-Canadian parent, I feel that my children's time in SIS has given them a new-found confidence that they can adapt to and succeed in a different system. The Ontario programme has also given them a wide perspective of the world, while working with Canadian teachers gave them cross-cultural skills and experience, all very valuable in today's global society. The noble values they lived and experienced in school everyday molds them into a respectable person.

Would you recommend SIS to another parents and why?

- I would highly recommend SIS to other parents, especially those whose children are headed to Canada and US, where components like community service and extracurricular-cum-sporting activities are very important considerations for university admissions. SIS education is also good for those headed to Australia and New Zealand as those are K12 systems similar to Canada and US.
- Even for those headed for UK, where academic achievements carry greater weight, SIS offers opportunity for students to progress into the IB DP or A-Level, as in the case of Yik Jin who was just accepted by Imperial College London for undergraduate studies.
- It is also notable from statistics published by the University of Cambridge in UK that, in certain years at least, more Canadian than Malaysian students are accepted for undergraduate study, and I would venture to say that the majority, perhaps great majority, of these Canadian students in Cambridge are graduates from Canada's own secondary education systems. Just to note for interest, the present Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Professor Stephen J Toope, is a Canadian. So is the immediate past Governor of The Bank of England, Dr. Mark Carney.

What's Happening?

Happy Retirement Mr Foo!

Mr Foo Lai Tuan, our House Master for more than a decade has retired in December 2020. Mr Foo has been a father figure to more than 400 boarders throughout the years.

SIS community thank Mr Foo for his service all these years and hope he enjoys his retirement. So long and farewell!



Inaugural Intake
GRADE 6
January 2021

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ENROLMENT

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Upcoming Events:

13 Dec - 14 Jan 2021	<i>School Holidays</i>
15 January	<i>Orientation Day</i>
18 January	<i>First Day of School</i>
28 January	<i>Thaipusam Day</i>
11 - 13 Feb	<i>Chinese New Year's Holiday</i>
April	<i>Parent-Teacher Interview</i>
29 April	<i>Nuzul Al-Quran</i>

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