



SOUTHBRIDGE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CAMBODIA

SISC NEWSLETTER

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Head of School Letter

Dear parents,

This month is the start of our new school year focusing on studies, sports, and safety.

The size of our school has grown, so has the number of foreign and local teachers ready to assist in your child's education. We are proud to have teachers from South Africa, Australia, United States, England, Canada, Cambodia and many other countries. Additionally, SISC has

started new programs or is lining up academic plans such as Community Projects, an innovative Harvard University-supported program that offers students community service opportunities within our campus such peer-support and library studies. We are also in the works of establishing a Learning Support Centre: a resource room designed to assist in the academic development of students identified as in need of extra support.

SISC also launched its new athletic program by adapting its PE curriculum with the International Schools Sporting Association of Phnom Penh (ISSAPP). Recently becoming an associate member of ISSAPP, our school joins this organization's mission to provide sociable and competitive sporting exchanges in volleyball, basketball, football and swimming. Sports Week took off well for our primary students competing in physical activities. Swimming will be introduced at an elementary level with the expectation to have a swim team to compete in tournaments. We are also in the process of having some of our high school students learn the basic of golf at our neighboring Platinum Sport Centre. All equipment will be provided by the club students will have the chance to both practice on the driving range as well as playing on the six-hole golf course. This is fantastic opportunity to expand our students' sporting horizons and introduce them to a sport that has many facets and uses in the business industry that could potentially be useful in the future.

As with any school, there is always issues pertaining to the need of student support and safety. This month, we introduce the new Student Affairs Department. This division offers an array of academic counseling, guidance and support, and disciplinary intervention in order to establish and maintain respect, security and integrity for all. SISC is intent to deliver support services that will assist students, faculty, administrators and staff in the development of a solid and secure school community.

This is merely a start of what SISC aims at. Our teachers and staff look forward to the school year and are eager to proceed ahead to provide the best education for your children.

All the best,

Larry Synclair
Head of School

Student Orientation

The Dean of Student Affairs team at Southbridge works on behalf of students, parents, and teachers to ensure a safe learning atmosphere, where students can grow academically and socially. The dean also works in conjunction with other departments to ensure the security of the campus and the school community. In this role the dean position provides school counselling, careers counselling, gifted and talented programs, learning support and discipline. This person often acts as a liaison between a student and the school and serves as something of an advocate for student interests. The underlying philosophy for the team is to support developing a safe and happy environment where learning can then happen effectively.

By: Mr. Andrew Beecher



August 08, 2022 @SISC

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Settling in to the — new Academic year

Dear Parents and guardians,

It is now almost a month since the new academic year commenced on August 9. The first month has been a very interesting time for all of us as it is a period in which we are all getting to know one another.

The past first few weeks have required the cooperation of parents, teachers and the support system to come together so as to help the children settle in.

There have been areas that have needed to be ironed out and these have now been successfully completed.

The children now seem to be well settled and are enjoying their time in school. It is heartening to see the children forming friendships at this early stage as this always helps them settle in.

Our Back to School event was held over 17th to 19th August. It was great to see many parents at this forum as it resulted in some useful interactions. We hope you found the session informative and now have a better understanding of our plans for the year ahead.

We have lined up an interesting event: Literacy Day on 8th September and we look forward to your child's active participation in this event.

By: Ms. **Oshna Singh**
Early Years Principal



Meet The Teacher Event

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New beginnings are always exciting!

Many students came in on Friday beaming with anticipation but feeling anxious as well - who is going to be their teacher this year? Will the teacher be tall or short? Humorous or serious? Kind or strict? Curious children held onto their parents' hands stepping into their new classrooms. Each classroom met them with teachers' welcoming smiles and bright decorations. Children were all around! They were happy to finally meet their friends and teachers after the summer break. Ringing laughter and smiles, eyes bright with

excitement, and pattering of little feet filled the school hallways that were quiet just a day earlier. It was too early to feel at home, but many students were confidently marching towards their new classrooms on Monday morning waving their goodbyes to their moms and dads at the gate.

Meet the Teacher Event was an important step to establish communication between parents and teachers, lessen anxiety for all, and have some fun. We were delighted to see our existing and new students, their parents, international teachers, Khmer teachers, and teaching assistants.

We hope these new relationships bloom throughout the year and bring its fruit - academic, social, and emotional development and success of each and every child at Southbridge!

Welcome back, students! School missed you!

By: Ms. **Cindy Yegorova**
Primary Principal



A Brand New Day

It should come as no surprise that students experience the first day of school differently from teachers. Students progress through grade levels and come to school with a sense that there will be fewer older students and quite an increase in younger ones. New responsibilities emerge for students as they transition from 5th to 6th grade or 8th to 9th, and the far off graduation day moves steadily closer.

Southbridge students will surely notice some changes as they enter campus. The school continues to grow rapidly. New faces appear. A new teacher may arouse curiosity or excitement and new student faces present the possibility of new friends. Sometimes students returning for their fourth or fifth year can feel like aliens in a familiar place. These students may feel compelled to take on new personalities and explore new friend groups.

New hallways have opened up, and students venture into once distant regions of campus to find their bustling homerooms. As they walk the halls, students may ask questions about an important new test called MAP. Others might comment on the challenges of entering two year IGCSE courses. Still others might mention IELTS, SATs, or A Levels.



New programs offer a wide scope of opportunities for students. Students will have many platforms to showcase their work and engage with the surrounding communities. Student Council, the Yearbook Staff, and the Student News Service will serve as the main engines to a newly energized school culture. As the pandemic wanes and COVID cases become more manageable, we have a renewed commitment to our athletics program. Swimming will take a more central place in our physical education curriculum and football, basketball, and volleyball will offer students plenty of opportunities to test themselves against students from other schools. Go Tigers!.

New administrators walk the hallways and reassure students that their needs and problems will be addressed quickly. Student well-being is the top priority, and students should understand that there is a committed team of patient adults ready to devote time, energy, and insight to helping them overcome obstacles and set higher goals.

A spirit of optimism surrounds us here at Southbridge. Surely students arriving on the first day could already sense the new opportunities and resources available to them. Uncertainty that daily life may never return to normal characterized the previous two years for schools around the world. Now at Southbridge, students in every grade charge ahead to that fateful graduation date in the future. The words of Abraham Lincoln serve our students well: "The best way to predict your future is to create it."

By: Mr. **Daniel McIntyre**
Academic Director





Where Are My Glasses?

“ Hello there. I am Huy Sok Oudom Edward, or Edward for short. I am the screenwriter and producer of the film that the secondary students are making right now. This film is titled Where are my glasses? This film, as you might be able to tell, is about a boy, Julian, who wakes up and cannot find his glasses anywhere. He is a little hard of hearing, which makes it difficult for him to hear everyone telling him that his glasses are on his head!

The idea for this film originally started from an assignment I got during last year! I was supposed to write a script for others to act out for a subject called Performance Studies. The first draft I wrote

was really short! It was barely anything like the current script I have now, with the only similarities being the characters in the house and the concept of Julian losing his glasses. From then, I was asked to make a longer version of the play into a film. I immediately accepted, as it would give me the opportunity to help the school grow, as well as the fact that I wanted to see what filming would be like. The script turned into a comedy that could be easily acted out.

My experience helping with the production of this film has been amazing so far, it is the first time I have made a small movie, or even filmed something with a real camera. When I first met

the team and started planning, one of the obstacles and challenges was finding suitable backgrounds and locations. We had to think very hard, looking for locations that would suit the scene perfectly. Once, we chose a location but ended up not using it in the film.

Behind the scenes, it is a lot of work for the actors and Director. Actors must remember lines while at the same time saying them in an appropriate tone. The director and cameraman work hard, telling the actors what positions they should be and changing the camera angles. One thing we have learned from this process is that everything you see in movies, videos, and short skits were meticulously planned and carried out. The film is currently being produced as one of Southbridge's new community service projects since it is launching a new student film channel. I think that the film channel is a good idea and will help the school learn and grow. It will help student's creativity and performance. When you film, even if you are backstage or a director, it boosts your confidence to lead, act, or speak. This channel will help shy students find their inner voice, and increase confidence for public speaking and presentation. When people watch the videos, they also feel inspired to create an amazing project, or even just use a little more imagination.

By: **HUY Sok Oudom Edward**
Student Grade 7



SISC Amazing IGCSE Result



Education is regarded as essential for both individual development and the development of the entire community and nation. According to educationalists, no one can advance in any field unless they acquire the necessary knowledge and skills.

SISC is proud to announce the IGCSE results of the first F2F IGCSE exams, which took place between May and June 2022. Despite a short preparation period and months of online instruction, the first SISC cohort of Cambridge IGCSE students achieved excellent results. Out of the entire 10th grade, eight of our students received As and A*s in various subjects. This excellence is attributed to both the arduous work of our students and the experience and quality of our teaching staff.

The IGCSE curriculum courses are well-known for developing important educational skills, knowledge, and understanding, and also give students the best opportunity to explore their subject in a variety of ways. It is also one of the most widely recognized qualifications in the world.

Southbridge International School is fully committed to the program and providing excellent preparation for our students' future academic careers. The foundation provided by these IGCSE courses is invaluable to the future education of Southbridge students, many of whom have achieved outstanding results that will enable them to attend many of the world's top universities.



By: **Ms. Juliet Ramos**
Secondary Principal



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Southbridge International School Cambodia

Grade 9 National Exam

On 17-18 August 2022, we arranged a grade nine national exam at Southbridge International School Cambodia (SISC). SISC is one of the private international schools, which Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) provides the authority to organize the exam on its own. It has been two years in a row that MoEYS offers us the authority and rights to arrange such an important examination. It also means that the Ministry trusts the educational quality provided by SISC.

Our students did well. As a result, we achieved 100% passing rate in the academic year 2021-2022. There is 27% passed with high distinction, 43% with distinction, 16% with good, and 14% with high credit. With this result, it is such a big achievement for Southbridge International School itself and Cambodia as a whole in taking part of cultivating human resources for the future.

On behalf of Khmer program management team, I would like to thank senior management team, teachers, parents for their priceless support and confidence in Khmer programme department with



August 17-18, 2022 @SISC

this fruitful result.

SISC offers a unique bilingual programme with excellent learning facilities and a strong curriculum that enables your children to achieve their full potential and prepares them for future success.

Our accredited international programmes (IEYC and Cambridge) provide your children with a rich

learning environment and is taught by international teachers. Our Khmer national programme is fully accredited by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) of Cambodia and is taught by highly qualified and licensed Cambodian teachers.

By: Mr. Thol Pich
Khmer Principal



August 15-19, 2022 @SISC

Primary Sports Week Event

Primary Sports Week was fun! Each grade had one class earning their trophy. The trophy will brighten classes for this year and will be given to next year's champions in August, 2023. Here is what our G5 champions have to say about the Sports Week Event:

"... We won the trophy for Grade 5! I was so happy, all the other people in my class were happy, too, but the other classes weren't. They were sad, but I cheered them up a little and made them feel better."

- Heng Daroselyn

"... I'm so happy that we won! If it weren't for teamwork this would have never happened."

- King Marin Rainy

"... I heard a lot of people saying 'we are going to lose' or 'see I told you we are losing', but I didn't think much about it. I felt very confident, but I didn't think that we were going to win so it was kind of a surprise for me."

- Kong Sopattra

"... If you want to win like me and my classmates, you have to exercise, eat healthy food and sleep. Also, to be able to win more easily you have to work as a team or help each other, cheer on your friends so that they are happy."

- Heng Derrick

"... When I came I was excited, by the end I was even more excited. There were long lines of students, there was even a score board. Everyone was instructed to bring full water bottles. The first game was chain run. In that game there was a lot of chaos, people falling, chain splitting and people screaming loudly. There was horrible communication, one guy went that way, another guy went another way. We got three points, I was sad."

- Sansouci Felix



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