



SOUTHBRIDGE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CAMBODIA

SISC NEWSLETTER

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The Power of Communication

Dear Parents,

When students learn English at Southbridge International School Cambodia, they learn more than words. They learn to communicate. Sometimes we need to listen to the message of our youth. You may have seen the news and social media about the virtues of expressing opinions about the environment. Most recently, much of the world has directed attention to the young Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg. Her message has brought inspiration and criticism. She knows how to communicate.

Greta jumped into the media spotlight. To millions of people young and old, the young activist is a motivator of environmental awareness. To the few and politically/corporate-biased, the Swede is regularly their focus of abuse. She is a young woman with the ability to generate uninhibited warnings that create reactions. Why? She expresses herself emotionally, undaunted by the jeers of those who tease about her manner of speech. Photographs of her angry facial expressions are misused. Some people tend to be so quick, so resolute, to weaken by mocking genuine convictions and realistic attempts to address issues facing us. Greta blames adults, and rightfully so. It is not the first time the younger generation blamed the previous generation before. The results were not as prominently achieved compared to today. However, this generation may make a difference.

Unlike Greta and a few other notable youths who made the media spotlight, most of our young people do not fully comprehend the power of communication today. They perceive that the world is merely interested solely in them as individuals. Yes, they're displaying that peculiar touch of hair dye here and there, relishing music their parents would never understand, writing or reading questionable foul language in social media, and so on.



Is this indeed what makes an independent-minded teenager capable of communicating? There are plenty of issues for our youths to be verbal about - just as there was for their parents' generation and their parents before them. But what about now?

Our planet is changing. The scientific evidence is now unchallenged. The industrial revolution of the past few centuries established alarming conditions in cities across the world. Regardless of the poverty and pollution, our Earth can manage and could rejuvenate itself. But it takes the power of communication to create that message.

Greta may be noticed as an overexcited or unfortunate victim of media exploitation. Nevertheless, her message resonates with the truth. The grown-ups on Earth must take action and do something quickly.

Moreover, encourage our next generation of adults – your children – to be more positively and practically concerned and communicate change for the better.

All the best,
Larry Synclair
Head of School

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▶ How you can help your child

1 Partnership with SISC

As a parent, it's important to take a close interest in your child's schooling. As well as attending parents' evenings, you could engage in a continuing dialogue with their teachers to find out what support they think your child would need. From their teachers, you will be able to confirm which areas your child might need additional help from you. Showing interest in your children's education can spark their enthusiasm about school and they will see it as important. As a parent, you are in partnership with us so that all of us can provide the best for your child.

2 Spend time with your child – talk to them

Talking and listening play major roles in children's school success. By hearing parents and family members talk and respond, your children begin to pick up the language skills they will need if they are to do well. For example, children who don't hear a lot of talk and who aren't encouraged to talk often have problems learning to read. This can lead to learning difficulties and behaviour problems at school. In addition, children who haven't learned to listen carefully often have trouble following instructions and paying attention in class. Talk to them about they have done at school; perhaps ask them to explain things to you; or maybe ask their opinion about a topic.

3 Read with them

Helping your child become a reader and enjoy reading is the most important thing that you can do to help the child to succeed in school. Reading helps children in all school subjects. Reading everyday with your child for 10 to 15 minutes will make them better at reading and their learning.

4 Limit screen time

Monitor your child's television, video game, and Internet use. Children on average spend far more time watching TV, playing video games and using the Internet than they completing homework or other activities like sports or family time. Do not have TV, iPad or computers in their bedrooms. Research shows they will sleep better without screen time before bed.

5 Reward them

Acknowledging your children's successes is an important part of motivating them and supporting them. Set up a reward system for when they bring home excellent feedback from school. You don't have to spend lots of money on these rewards; for example, a little bit of extra pocket money is an obvious choice, but you could also offer a little extra time on video games, cinema, bowling or other fun activities. Find out what your child would like as little treats or rewards.

6 Get them ready for the school day

- Make sure your child's school bag is packed the night before.
 - Ensure they wear the correct the school uniform and shoes. Not Crocs!
 - Get your children to school on time so that they don't miss out their lesson at the beginning of the day.
 - Ensure they have had breakfast – food feeds the stomach and the brain.
- There will be more information for you when we see you at the Parents Coffee Morning.

Ms Shaheena Pall
Learning Support leader

27th feb AD sports stories



Last month saw the return of the SISC junior football teams. During the ISSAPP grading tournament, the two teams (boys and girls) distinguished themselves by achieving very good results, giving themselves every chance for success in the finals on Saturday February 4th. The boys' team went all the way to the Semi-Finals only to narrowly lose to stronger opponents. A great effort team, and a lot of positives to work on for next year!

At the same time the SISC Junior Girls team were in action and they went a step further than the boys and made the final! The eight players that formed the girls team played with poise, precision and passion. After a thrilling final against Hope International School, the SISC Tigers were crowned champions of the ISSAPP Division B tournament! A fantastic result!

Thanks again to all of the supporters, the SISC staff, the parents for their support in all of our Athletics projects... and most of all to our student players! GO TIGERS!!

The Senior sports teams were also in action in January and February. The girls traveled to ISPP to compete in the ISSAPP Senior Basketball Tournament. They played valiantly but eventually succumbed to injuries and faded towards the end. It was a spirited performance, especially due to the short notice and lack of training time

pre-competition. We will be back next year, more prepared and stronger for it!

The Senior Boys Basketball Team had more success under the expert coaching of Mr Timothy Ochasan. The senior boys raced to the final of the tournament where they came up against an All Star LFRD Team. Unfortunately, our boys could not compete at this level and took second place. This was an excellent showing and proves how far the SISC Athletics Department and Teams have come in such a short time.

By: Mr. Andrew D

Juniors Volleyball (grading tournament – 25th March; ISSAPP Finals – 6th May)

Seniors Football (grading tournament 28th April; ISSAPP Finals – 29th April)



Next up...

Southbridge Joins the 17th Annual Stem Festival

Cambodia recently held its 17th Annual STEM Festival, a two-day event held at Premier Centre, Sen Sok. This festival recognizes, inspires, and unites the best students with innovative minds who share a love and passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. All public and private schools were invited and encouraged to participate in order to showcase their STEM projects. Each project or entry should reflect on and consider their personal contribution to a clean Cambodia, as well as incorporate sustainable green practices into their daily activities. SISC supports this by implementing a "zero plastic" policy on campus, in which every student is encouraged to bring their own water bottle.

Since 2019, SISC has participated in this festival, and this year's STEM festival entries were those chosen as winners at the school's STEM fair in November 2022. Students in lower secondary were encouraged to create investigative or research projects out of recyclable materials. This research project may one day result in a new invention or discovery of great value to the community or the world.

Many schools attended the STEM festival with interesting projects or research on the sustainability of the environment. Those who attended were treated to engaging and inspiring STEM talks, stage presentations, and enjoyable games.



By Marites Nario-Chang



The Purpose of Education

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."
- Confucius.

A teacher is not a usual 'nine-to-five' job, a teacher never stops being a teacher, once a teacher, always a teacher. We are expected to teach one-two specific subjects, but we do more than that. Since students spend almost whole working day at school, they learn, make mistakes, and experience things for the first time in their lives, they need someone who will guide their learning path as well as corrects them when failing, supports and listens to them.

We encourage learners to develop and obtain a set of skills and attributes that help them get success in life. A SISC student should tend to become:

- ▶▶ Principled - acting with honesty and integrity;
- ▶▶ Caring - showing empathy and respect to both schoolmates and teachers;
- ▶▶ Risk-taking when facing unfamiliar and uncertain situations with courage;
- ▶▶ Balanced - understanding the vitality of emotional, physical and intellectual balance;
- ▶▶ Reflective - being able to produce thoughtful consideration to their own learning experience;
- ▶▶ Open-minded - respecting and understanding cultural and personal diversity.

Teachers are not robots, they can get ill, sad, make mistakes and ask for help. Thus we demonstrate this to our students - no one is perfect. SISC teachers give the students chances to get knowledge as well as life lessons, that potentially may help them to find the answer even to the most complicated riddle and as a result become successful.

By: Ms. Cindy



Grade 4 Field Trip to Smiling Gecko School

As a school, we have been supporting Smiling Gecko. Now we finally got a chance to visit them. It was an amazing experience! Here at Smiling Gecko, children from unprivileged families receive schooling according to international standards and young adults receive professional training. The Smiling Gecko philosophy sees "guidance for self-help" clearly in the foreground. But in rural Cambodia, there are always situations in which they also provide emergency aid. They help the people in the area around the campus and in the slums of Phnom Penh. They regularly supply them with medical products and, above all, with the food they urgently need, many of which come directly from their campus. Unlike the smallholders, they have professional water pumps and can farm their land longer than the rest, even in difficult conditions. Students had a wonderful learning experience talking about farming, fishery, and carpentry. It was a good getaway into rural Cambodia!

By: Ms. Cindy



SISC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME



The afterschool program runs from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, and students have the opportunity to participate in soccer, swimming, taekwondo, guitar and piano etc. These sports have been carefully chosen to provide a well-rounded physical education to the students. Soccer is a team sport that helps develop teamwork, coordination, and agility. Swimming, on the other hand,



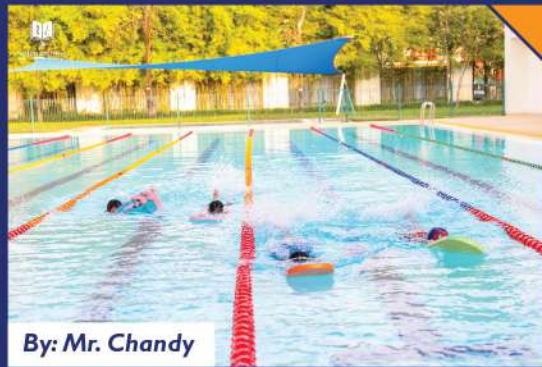
Southbridge International School Cambodia (SISC) is committed to providing a holistic education to its students. Education is not just about academic excellence, but also about developing a child physically, mentally, morally, emotionally and socially. That's why SISC has an extensive afterschool program that includes a variety of sporting disciplines.



is a low-impact exercise that improves overall fitness, endurance, and flexibility. Taekwondo is a martial art that teaches discipline, self-defence, and self-control. Apart from physical development, sports participation has mental and social benefits too. It helps build self-confidence, improves focus, and reduces stress levels. Team sports like soccer enable students to develop

communication skills and build relationships with their peers. Martial arts like karate teach respect and discipline, which are essential life skills.

We encourage all students to participate in the after-school program and take advantage of the opportunities it provides. At SISC, we are committed to providing a holistic education to our students. The afterschool program is an integral part of this.



By: Mr. Chandy



Primary CEP Unit 3 Fair: Great Inventor, Great Invention

Inventions have transformed the way that we live our daily lives – from the simple paperclip to the latest mobile device. By learning about the important inventions that have changed our world, we can discover how we could become great inventors too!

On the 24th of February, our CEP students celebrated their learning with their parents. This time our students explored what it is like to be an inventor. There were many exciting projects and performances! Cannot wait for the next CEP Fair!



By: Ms. Cindy



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