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THE QUALITY OF A TEACHER



When I was the principal of an international school in Vietnam several years ago, a parent expressed her concerns to me about her daughter's English teacher. She questioned the teacher's qualifications to teach this subject because she was Asian. Consequently, the parent requested an American or British teacher. I could only shake my head in disbelief because it was apparent the parent was alluding to a preference of someone based on skin color or English-speaking origin. I perceived this comment as incredulous because the parent was also Asian and doubted the teacher's ability based on similar ethnicity.

The quality of a teacher is not based on what country he or she is from.

At SISC, teachers are hired due to their educational backgrounds and teaching experiences, not color, race, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and so on. These educators also work together to instruct students about the importance of fostering diversity and promoting inclusivity.

Therefore, our school prefers teachers of different nationalities to establish diverse perspectives. These foreign teachers who speak English bring their unique cultural backgrounds and experiences to the classroom. This can help students learn about distinct cultures and broaden their understanding of the world. Teachers from various parts of the world may also have different teaching

styles and approaches, which can provide students with a wider range of learning experiences.

A variety of ethnic backgrounds establishes greater cultural sensitivity. Foreign teachers with extensive experience working in many countries may be more aware of cultural differences and better able to help students navigate them. This can be especially important for international students who may be adjusting to a new culture.

There's enhanced language immersion. Teachers from different countries can provide a more immersive language learning experience. Students can practice their language skills with teachers who speak English fluently and naturally, which can help them develop their language skills more quickly.

Of course, hiring teachers of different nationalities can improve language skills. SISC's foreign teachers help students develop a more diverse vocabulary and better understand different accents and dialects. An accent is simply how one pronounces words—a style of pronunciation. However, a dialect includes not just pronunciations, but also one's general vocabulary and grammar. This can be especially beneficial for students who plan to use English in an international setting. At SISC, we have a variety of English dialects and accents such as American, Australian and British English. This assortment of dialects and accents within SISC can benefit the students who may wish to study, for example in The United Kingdom, which has among the highest levels of accent diversity in the English-speaking world. It is also wonderful to hear the language from non-native English teachers and learn to comprehend the vernacular in writing or speaking.

Overall, do not judge a book by its cover. Hiring teachers of different nationalities can provide

students with a more diverse and enriching learning experience, helping them to become more proficient in English and more culturally aware - just like the parent who became culturally aware of the Asian teacher who taught English. Imagine her surprise when she discovered the English teacher that she doubted was my "adopted" Chinese sister with a master's in education, a bachelor's in English, and approximately 15 years of teaching English and other subjects at international schools and universities.

All the best,

Mr. Larry Ross Synclair Head of School



Inside THIS ISSUE

> Head of School Letter

> Sangkran SISC 2023

> SISC Sport News

> World Scholar's Cup Awards

> Earth Day

Page 01 Page 02

Page 03

Page 04



SANGKRAN SISC-2023



Cambodia

has many holidays during the year, one of which is Khmer New Year. It is the greatest traditional festival, and also the greatest national holiday.

At SISC, we celebrated Khmer New Year early, which was on 7th April 2023. This special event was called Sangran SISC, one of the school biggest events with various fun activities for our students and parents or guardians to enjoy the whole day.











Big congratulations to the SISC's Got Talent's trophy winners!

By: Mr. **Thol Pich** Khmer Program Principal







SISC SPORT NEWS 1 1 1 14 1

pril would see the culmination of the ISSAPP Tournaments for the SISC senior students. Both the girls and the boys had achieved great success in both volleyball and basketball, and now it was time for the football competition. For the first time SISC had 2 teams in the boys tournament, showing the strength in depth of SISC football. The boys played 11 games under floodlights at CIS on the 28th and 29th April. After cruising through the quarter-final, the boys were faced with the tournament favourites... LFRD. The semi-final was an EPIC!!! It had everything including a heart wrenching disallowed goal for SISC, that at least 99% of the crowd thought should have counted. But unfortunately it was not to be. The game went to the dreaded penalty shootout and the footballing gods were not shining on us this time. However, every cloud has a silver lining and for me as SISC Athletic Director and my team of PE teachers and Sports Coaches, the great thing to see was the reaction from the boys. After the crushing disappointment of the semi-final, the boys rallied and defeated CIA 5-I to finish 3rd overall. A



massive team effort shown by our boys and our coaching staff. Well done everyone. Next year we will go one step further!

The girls had a slightly easier draw in the ISSAPP girls football finals tournament, but that cannot detract from the exceptional performances put in by all the team.

In very hot conditions, we traveled to ISPP and played our first game against Paragon. If they won this game the girls would achieve promotion from the B league to the A league (the league I believe SISC belong to). The girls played a super game in sweltering conditions that finished 2-0 to SISC. After a tough tie against ISPP B, the girls found themselves in the same situation as the senior boys... a penalty shootout!

This time fortune would favour SISC and with a cool, calm spot kick, from the player of the tournament, Chantkanikar Prak, and an unbelievable tip onto the crossbar from our goalkeeper Pagnapich Holl, the SISC senior girls would be ISSAPP champions again!

By: Mr. **Andrew De Freitas**Director of Athletics



World Scholar's Cup 2023 Awards

Debate and creative writing hone the students' creative thinking skills and allow them to Inspire and scrutinize the subject matter. Not only that, participating in these activities builds up the student's confidence as it is a vigorous and Interesting way of learning which grabs the attention of the mind thoroughly. Our Secondary students recently participated in the World Scholar's Cup 2023 in the Phnom Penh Regional Round. In the debate and creative writing process, our students gained lots of skills such as bolstering teamwork, clarifying ideas and presenting arguments, and understanding better content knowledge. We, therefore, congratulate our Secondary students, Duong Nicol and Riside Makanaka, who participated in the World Scholar's Cup 2023 in the Phnom Penh Regional Round. This exceptional experience demonstrated their knowledge and skills in their chosen topic. Due to their outstanding performance, they received multiple gold medals for essay writing and the scholar's challenge. They competed with students from other International Schools here in Phnom Penh. Along with the awards, these students passed to the next round that will take place in Thailand to compete with students from other countries. We are tremendously proud of them and look forward to seeing how far these students progress.

Congratulations, and we wish you the best of luck!

By: Mr. **Mathews Abuka** Head of High School Department







Earth Day



On Friday, 21 April, Southbridge International School Cambodia students celebrated Earth Day! Together, we honored our beautiful planet and learned about ways we can protect it.

Students wrote environmental pledges, learned about environmental conservation, made bird feeders out of recycled material, created nature art, and had a talk given by a special guest - an expert in renewable energy.

It was amazing to see the enthusiasm and passion these young students had for taking care of our planet. Let's all do our part to make Earth a cleaner and healthier place for future generations!









Is your child ready for the new school year 2023-2024?

Southbridge International School Cambodia (SISC) welcome your child to the international learning community. Come and join us to get our BIG PROMOTIOMS (Free Registration Fees and Early Bird Promotions) which is limited.

For more detailed information, please contact our admissions office via 023 231 122, 017 555 744 or through our email info@sisc.edu.kh.



The earth laughs in flowers.

Happy Earth Day



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