



**SOUTHBRIDGE**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CAMBODIA

# SISC NEWSLETTER

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## THREE IMPORTANT WORDS

Southbridge International School Cambodia (SISC) has always been committed to providing a holistic and empowering education to its students. At the heart of our educational philosophy lies our motto: Encourage, Embrace, and Empower. These three words encapsulate the essence of our school's mission and serve as guiding principles in shaping the educational journey of our students.



### Empower

SISC is dedicated to empowering our students to become confident, compassionate, and resilient individuals. We believe in providing them with the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to navigate the challenges of the 21st century. Our academic programs, coupled with extracurricular activities, help students discover and develop their unique talents and strengths. Through leadership opportunities and character education programs, we instill in our students a sense of purpose, social responsibility, and the belief that they can make a positive difference in the world. We empower our students to become lifelong learners who are prepared to face the future with confidence and contrib-

All the best,  
**Mr. Larry Ross Synclair**  
Head of School



### Encourage

At SISC, we firmly believe in the power of encouragement to inspire and motivate our students. Our dedicated faculty and staff provide a supportive and inclusive learning environment, where students are encouraged to pursue their passions, take risks, and overcome



challenges. We recognize and celebrate individual achievements, fostering a sense of self-confidence and a belief in one's abilities. Through constructive feedback, personalized guidance, and recognition of effort, we strive to cultivate a growth mindset and instill in our students a lifelong love for learning.

### Embrace

Embracing diversity and inclusivity is a fundamental value at Southbridge. We celebrate the rich cultural backgrounds, unique perspectives, and individual talents of our students and staff. We believe that by embracing diversity, we create an environment that nurtures empathy, respect, and global citizenship. Through cross-cultural interactions and multicultural events, we encourage our students to develop an appreciation for different cultures, perspectives, and ideas. By embracing diversity, our students become well-rounded individuals who are equipped to thrive in an interconnected and diverse world.

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# Dear Parents and Guardians

**Southbridge International School Cambodia (SISC)**

has always been committed to providing a holistic and empowering education to its students. At the heart of our educational philosophy lies our motto: Encourage, Embrace, and Empower. These three words encapsulate the essence of our school's mission and serve as guiding principles in shaping the educational journey of our students.

As the school counselor, my primary focus is to support the well-being and success of our students. I work closely with teachers, staff, and families to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Throughout the year, I will be providing a range of services and programs designed to meet the unique needs of our students. This includes individual counseling sessions, group workshops, and classroom guidance lessons that cover topics such as social skills, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution.

I am here to support students in navigating challenges, building resilience, and developing important life skills. Additionally, I am available to collaborate with parents and guardians to ensure that our students have the necessary support at home and at school.

I encourage you to stay connected and keep an eye out for upcoming events, resources, and opportunities for involvement. Together, we can create a strong partnership to support the growth and success of our students.

If you have any questions, concerns, or simply want to introduce yourself, please feel free to reach out to me. I am here to listen, collaborate, and support you and your child throughout the school year.

**Thank you** for entrusting us with the important task of supporting your child's educational journey. I am excited to work together and make this school year one filled with growth, learning, and endless possibilities.

By: **Mr. Kenneth Em**  
School Counselor

A Resounding Success!

## STEM Summer Camp 2023

We are elated to announce the monumental success of our STEM-focused Summer Camp 2023. Hosted at Southbridge International School Cambodia, the camp was a hotbed of curiosity, innovation, and sheer enthusiasm. Our young learners dove headfirst into a variety of STEM activities, from coding and robotics to hands-on science experiments.

**L**ed by our professional teachers, each session was not just instructive but also intensely engaging, sparking the children's innate curiosity. The camp truly became a haven where young minds could freely explore the fascinating realms of science and technology. The joy and enthusiasm exhibited by the students were palpable and served as a testament to the camp's success.



As we bid farewell to that memorable summer, we're already buzzing with plans for Summer Camp 2024. Our promise remains—to make it an even more enriching and exciting educational journey. We look forward to seeing our young explorers again next summer!

By: **Mr. Don Thisal**  
English/Business

# Phones and Digital devices are now a part of young peoples

Southbridge recognizes that mobile phones and digital devices are now a part of young peoples' culture and way of life and can have considerable value, particularly in relation to individual safety. It is recognized that such technology will play an increasing part in future learning practices, but, like existing ICT use, this should follow agreed rules and guidelines to prevent disruption and instill good learning habits. The school therefore accepts that pupils are permitted to bring mobile phones and digital devices to school but that their use is subject to the following guidelines.

1. Students must ensure that files stored on their phones do not contain violent, degrading or offensive images.
2. Cyber-bullying is completely unacceptable, and will be followed up by the school as serious misbehavior which the school, in turn, will invoke the necessary sanctions as laid out in the school's code of conduct.
3. Southbridge expects that phones will be switched off and kept in lockers during the course of the school day, including break-time and lunchtime, so as to avoid disrupting teaching and learning and a breach of data and child protection.

Students who break this rule will have their phone confiscated and in the first instance returned at the end of the day. A further issue will involve parents collecting the device.

By: **Mr. Andrew B**  
Dean of Student Affairs



# Seesaw Empowering Parents through Seamless Communication

At SISC, we recently conducted a successful session with parents, introducing them to the transformative power of Seesaw. This innovative platform revolutionizes communication and engagement within our school community, allowing Early Years and Lower Primary parents to actively participate in their child's educational journey.

During the session, parents discovered Seesaw's user-friendly interface, intuitive design, and easy navigation. They were thrilled to access assignments, announcements, and communication channels with just a few clicks. Features like leaving comments and providing feedback on your child's work were highlighted, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

Seesaw's multimedia capabilities provide a great insight to students' journey with us, as students showcase their projects, share videos, and create digital portfolios. This opportunity helps develop a sense of pride and inspiration for parents and teachers who witness children's growth and creativity through photos, videos, and voice recordings.

The session also emphasized community-building, connecting parents with one another and encouraging the exchange of ideas and support. Parents actively participated in discussions, sharing experiences and collaborating on strategies to enhance their child's educational journey.

Seesaw's benefits became evident, with parents expressing gratitude for the school's commitment to seamless communication. They are more connected and invested in their child's journey, staying informed about academic progress and engaging in timely updates.

Moving forward, this collaborative effort will foster stronger relationships, inspire greater involvement, and lead to enhanced academic success and holistic development for our students. By embracing Seesaw, we have unlocked new avenues of communication and support within our school community, ensuring a brighter future for all. Looking forward, we will conduct more sessions about tools that are available on Seesaw to enhance students' progress.

If you have not got access to Seesaw yet, please, make it your priority - we are here to help you. Reach out at [cindy.yegorova@sisc.edu.kh](mailto:cindy.yegorova@sisc.edu.kh).

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



# Secondary School Principal

From Eric Albert Heim



By: Eric Albert Heim  
Secondary Principal

**Hello, SISC Community! As the new Secondary School principal, it is my pleasure to introduce myself and tell you about a few things that we are doing in the Secondary School this year.**

From the chilly winds of Ulaanbaatar (average annual temperature of about -2 °C), my family (including our cat "Terro") arrived in balmy Phnom Penh in late July. Joined by my wife Desiree Rivas, who is teaching in the Secondary School, and my daughter Paula, who is in Grade 12, I have been getting to know the wonderful students, staff, and parents at SISC while diving head first into my work.

I have had the good fortune to be in a career that allows me to



experience the varied cultures and people around the globe, from Central African Republic, where I began my career in the Peace Corps teaching mathematics in a village school, then as a professional educator in the USA (Maryland as well as Arizona), Germany, Venezuela, Thailand, China, Bolivia,

**I sincerely thank the whole community for supporting us in realizing our school mission and vision in this new school year.**

Mr. Heim was born in the US state of California, but during his youth his family moved several times, so he grew up in the Philippines, Japan, Virginia, and Florida, and then Kansas. He has been a professional educator for 35 years, including as a school leader for more than 7 years. For most of his career he has been a teacher of physics, astronomy, and mathematics for students in grades 6 to college years. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Astronomy from the University of Kansas, Master of Arts in Teaching from Towson University, and a Graduate Certificate in Executive Educational Leadership from the University of Kentucky. Mr. Heim's professional certifications include Arizona State Professional Teacher Certificate (Physics, Mathematics), US National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS, Mathematics), State of Kentucky School Superintendent License, and the Principal's Training Center Certificate of International School Leadership. He has experience in numerous curricular systems, including the US Common Core, Advance Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Cambridge programs. His interests include history, world cultures, bicycling, languages, learning to play the saxophone, and cooking.

distinction, 43% with distinction, and 22% with high credit. Such a big achievement clearly demonstrates that Southbridge International School is actively partaking Royal Government's vision and missions in cultivating competent human resources for the future.



Mongolia and now Cambodia. My experiences have taught me that we have much more in common with each other than differences. Parents everywhere want their children to have meaningful, holistic learning experiences in school, so that they attain the skills that will lead to success at each stage of their education, and prepare them for college and careers after secondary school. I am committed to doing my part to make that possible. Our team of teachers, counselors, support staff and school leadership have demonstrated tremendous teamwork, collaboration and dedication towards our goal to make SISC a better place for our students

**With new leadership very often comes change, and some of the positive changes that we are working on are:**

- Raising expectations for student achievement, for example by placing strong emphasis this year on Cambridge exams and sending a strong message to all students and parents that success is not only possible but it is expected.
- Improving the quality of teaching and learning by creating that

benefit students and teachers in their mission of education, such as the new roles of academic Department Managers who will help guide the implementation of curriculum in the classroom.

- Increasing the profile of our Learning Support program and Student Affairs offices in order to ensure that the students have the support and guidance that they need.

- Creation and expansion of student leadership roles and activities, such as Prefects, the House system, and

**More positive change is already being planned for next year, including**

- Creating a set of clear and coherent curriculum pathways that will lead students successfully through the middle years, to IGCSE courses, and through the Cambridge As-A level courses that lead to the Cambridge AICE Diploma

- Expanding our world language program in middle school to include Spanish and French, with pathways for these through the IGCSE and A-levels.

## G9

### National exam

We arranged the Grade 9 national examination is known as "Diploma of Lower Secondary Education Examination" at Southbridge International School (SISC) herself. Students are required to sit various subjects including Khmer literature, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, history, geography, moral civics, earth science, and English. SISC is one of the private international schools, which Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) offers the authority to organize this important exam on her own, meaning that the Ministry trusts the educational quality provided by us.

In the school year 2022-2023 examination, students did it so well, hitting the highest passing rate, as a result. Reported by the SISC Examination Board, 35% of our students passed with high

With this fruitful result, on behalf of Khmer program management team, I would like to thank senior management team, teachers, parents for their priceless support and trust in Khmer programme department. 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 provide your children with a rich learning environment and



is taught by international teachers. Our Khmer General Education (KGE) 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  
Secondary Khmer Principal



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