



Singapore International School Srinakarin

NEWSLETTER

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The Official Newsletter of Singapore International School Srinakarin

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NEW FACES

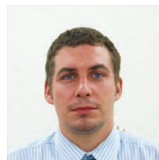


By
Principal Meriam D. Fordan

Welcome back to SISS this school year 2009-2010 to all our students and teachers. Being a new principal of this institution it is my privilege to welcome everyone and to introduce our new teachers in the SISS teaching force.



Teacher Ben



Teacher Nick

Firstly, SISS has a complete Kindergarten program this year! Our K1 Loving homeroom teacher is Mr. Reolof “Ben” Kusters. He is from The Netherlands. His new teacher Assistant is Ms. Jennelyn. Our K1 Obedient homeroom teacher is Mr. Nicholas Alan Mackintosh from the UK.



Teacher Brian



Teacher Justin

Our K2 Cheerful homeroom teacher is Mr. Brian Carroll from Seattle, USA, and our K2 Thoughtful homeroom teacher is Mr. Justin Bright from America with his new teacher assistant Ms. Lai.



Teacher Honey



Teacher Jennelyn

Due to the large number of students in Nursery 2 Sincere and Gracious in both classes, another floating teacher assistant is assigned to this level. Ms. Honey Lou Nequia will help out in both classes, to meet the need of the learners.

Secondly, the school layout has changed tremendously. A multipurpose school canteen,

fully air-conditioned with a capacity of 200 people has been prepared. The glass window of the nursery one area and the indoor play area has been renovated, to provide proper ventilation. The water play area has moved to behind the Thai Classroom, and has been outfitted with a proper shower area. The dressing room is equipped with hair brush and hair dryer. The sand play area is furnished with tools and materials for students' exploration. Our music room extension has 24 sets of marching band instruments and the PE area is laid out with Taekwondo materials. Among others there is a matted floor to ensure the safety of the students. In front of the new canteen, is the open field for some outdoor play, carpeted with green grass and shaded with a net. This area also serves as our flag raising line up area. The new computer room has been moved to a well designed room, more conveniently located for students to learn. The computer room before has been renovated and turned into our teacher's room.



New Water Play Area



New Canteen

Thirdly, the school's enrollment target was met. Therefore we've decided to organize a grand celebration on December 4, 2009. Everyone is invited to come and join this big event.

In the month of September, among the school staff the following people celebrated their birthdays. Mr. Wanchai and Mrs. Beth, the Manager and the Deputy Manager, Ms. Tess, the N2 Gracious homeroom teacher, and Mr. Jiang, the Chinese teacher. The school offered a big birthday cake party for them as sign of family togetherness and a symbol of UNITY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday October 30, 2009
K-1 & K-2 Assembly
&
**“Trick or Treat”
Halloween Activity**

Monday November 2, 2009
“Loy Krathong Festival”

**Parent - Teacher
Conference**

Nov. 30 - Dec. 1
2009

Singapore International
School
Srinakarin
**Christmas
Celebration**
December 4, 2009



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Tips for Easy Back-to-School Transitions

By T. Expedita "Baby" Cubilla
Source: National Association for the Education of Young Children

The summer is just over. No more going to bed late, sleeping in every morning. Or playing outside until dark. Now the routine has to change. Beginning Kindergarten, going back to school usually means two things to a young child: a stricter time schedule and adapting to a different teacher, classroom, school, friends, or academic challenges. These new experiences can bring on stress or cause children to resist necessary adjustments.

Here are some tips on what you can do to make going back to school pleasurable experience.

Prepare in Advance

Young children always feel comfortable if they know what to expect. Before the school year begins, family members can explain how children's daily routines change. Getting up earlier a couple of days before the new school begins and explain why you're doing it. If possible, allow child to meet the new teachers, visit the classroom, the playground and other school facilities because they'll be exposed to their new surroundings.

Talk about Feelings

Encourage children to describe how they feel about the "new year" and try to ease any fears they may have.

Exude confidence and good feelings when saying goodbye.

Avoid yelling if your child resist getting up from bed or getting dressed. Beginning something new can be stressful. Adjustment takes a lot of effort and concentration. Be prepared to handle a few tears and other emotional displays from young children.

Be There!

Arrive at school early on the first few days to help the child settle in. It is also important to arrange for predictable

pick-up schedules. Children need to feel confident from the beginning that they can count on a loved one to come back and to come when they said they would.

Those who love and care for children can help them adapt by making preparations in advance, clearly explaining the changes about to take place, and listening if doubts or fears develop.

K-2 Cheerful Corner

By T. Brian Michael Carroll



Song Bo of K-2 Cheerful

The Full Moon Festival is a time of warmth and joy. Here K-2 Cheerful student Song-Bo smiles after a successful

performance with his classmates.



Welcome to Brian's Stationary Store! Here K-2 Cheerful student Piihu enjoys a friendly conversation while buying supplies from a familiar merchant.

Anyone interested in a blind taste test? Here K-2 Cheerful student Jonathan sharpens his sense of taste



Jonathan of K-2 Cheerful

while sampling various vegetables. His very curious classmate, Paint, awaits his reaction with much interest.

Now, what do we do after the first month at school?

By T. Pimkarn "Micky" Kometsopa
Source: www.direct.gov.uk

Since this is the first newsletter of this academic year, I believe it will be useful for the parents to read articles about adjustment and how to help your children settle down in their new classes and with their new friends and teachers. After heart-pounding excitement of the first few days, your child might find fitting into the new environment challenging and that they may regress or become more difficult or defiant, in response to the stress of a new routine. Sometimes, your child may also have concerns about making friends or be more withdrawn than usual.

So what should the parents do...

In order to provide support or help your child through what can sometimes be a difficult first phase, it may help to:

set aside time with your child to talk about school and take an interest in what they have been doing

listen carefully to any worries your child might have

find out as much as possible about your child's school and what happens there during the day

try to keep a regular routine at home to keep stress to a minimum

make sure your child knows what is happening on a day-to-day basis and is informed in advance about any changes to their routine

encourage your child to build friendships with children in their class

stay positive as some problems may be resolved as your child adapts to a new way of life

(Continued on page 3)

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If you cannot sort out problems your child has by talking to them, you may find it useful to talk to your child's teacher about these problems.

I hope this article helps you more or less on how to help your child deal with their new experiences which will soon prove to be very fun-filled and productive ones!

K-1 Loving Corner

By T. Roelof "Ben" Kusters



K1-Loving has started the new year with a very busy schedule. During circle time we have done some team building, and



bonding. We've been preparing hard for our show on October 30th, and many



students have made an effort to make a lovely sand cake for teacher Ben or teacher Nick to be enjoyed. And all that next to our regular classes. We barely make it all before our parents want us to go home again!

What we going to learn in Kindergarten

By Principal Meriam D. Fordan

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learnt in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sandbox.

These are the things I'm going to learn. Save everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some, and draw and sing and dance and play and work a little every day.

Take a nap in the afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up, and nobody really knows why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice — and even the little seed in the plastic cup — they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Sounds Fun and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: A a. everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The golden rule and love and basic sanitation. Science and Moral Education

Think of what a better world it would be if we all had cakes and milk about two forty five every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap for nursery one and two. Or if we had a basic policy in our classroom and other classrooms always to put things back where we found them and to

clean up our own mess.

And it is still true; no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

10 Ways to take charge of the class

By T. Carmen Miralo

Teacher's Survival Kit (excerpts) Julia G. Thompson

1. From the first class meeting onward, establish that you control the class. Demonstrate that you will regulate the behaviour in your classroom for the good of all students.
2. Be prepared. Staying organized is essential when you have a potentially unruly class.
3. Keep the expectations for your class high. Children live up to the expectations of the adults in their lives, so let them know that you expect a lot of them.
4. Smile at your class. If you were videotaped while teaching them, would your body language reveal positive or negative feelings about your students?
5. Call parents or guardians as soon as you can when a problem arises.
6. Work on the noise level everyday until your students learn to govern themselves. Teach students which volumes are acceptable and which are not. Establish signals to help students learn to control the noise.
7. Plan activities around your student's short attention spans. Make sure that these activities offer plenty of time for practice and review.
8. Never allow time for students to sit doing nothing but disturbing others. Keep them busy throughout each period.

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(Continued from page 3)

- 9. Stay on your feet and monitor. Students who know that you are watching over them will hesitate before misbehaving.
- 10. Be clear that you expect your students to do their work well and that you will help them learn to do it.

7 Strategies for keeping your cool under pressure

By T. Carmen Miralo
Teacher's Survival Kit (excerpts) Julia G. Thompson

There are many things you can do to cultivate grace under pressure. Here are seven strategies that other teachers have found useful:

- 1. Keep in mind that losing control will only make the situations worse.
- 2. Count to ten before you speak. While you are counting, make your face appear as calm as possible.
- 3. Instead of shouting , lower your voice to just a whisper.
- 4. If there is a great deal of noise and commotion without a threat of violence, stand quietly and wait for it to subside. Shouting at your students to settle down will only add to the noise.
- 5. Use a journal to vent your frustration and plan ways to manage the situation differently.
- 6. Keep in mind that you determine what happens in your class. If you lose control, then you are not working to solve the problem. Channel your energies towards managing the situation.
- 7. Ask your students to help you when you are getting upset. This will redirect their attention towards making a positive contribution instead of adding to the problem.

SISS students celebrates Courtesy Week

By T. Justin Bright



K1's teacher Ben and two of his students respectfully leading the way during Courtesy Week!



A polite gesture or a kind remark goes a long way... but a nice, big hug is an excellent way to spread love!



Celebrating Yayee's birthday

Comic Strip



THERE ARE A LOT OF ORGANIZATIONS YOU MAY HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THAT DO THE WORK OF CHRIST.

www.PrayerPups.com

Nursery 2 Sincere Corner

By T. Pimkarn "Micky" Kometsopa

Last month, our children learnt about 'Living Things' and we grew our green beans! We watered them everyday and the beans grew very tall!



Here we are..tracing our feet! We learnt about 'Our Body' and this picture shows when we were learning about our feet. We put a great effort into tracing our feet and it was so much fun!

Please feel free to add our Nursery Sincere's facebook account (mickchicks@gmail.com) to see more photos of our fun activities!

Nursery 2 Gracious Courtesy Week

By T. Marites "Tess" Rosete

Courtesy

One of the greatest gifts we can give to our children, is to teach them the importance of using our good manners.



Using common courtesy is a powerful tool in the world of communication and when interacting with one another. It is not only about what we say but how we say it that counts.



The act of courtesy includes politeness, good behavior, showing respect as well as doing good deeds. In today's fast paced life, we often forget its value to our communities and to each other. The lack



of its practice can make or break a day; it

never hurts to be nice to the people we encounter!

K-1 Obedient Corner

By T. Nicholas "Nick" Mackintosh



K-1 obedient have started the new academic year in excellent fashion. All of the class have shown a willingness to learn and have hopefully had some fun as well. We have been studying short 'a' vowel words, such as mat, map and man, in phonics and reading with success. In science we have been concentrating, in



detail, on the five senses and, as part of the science course, they have been having one period a week of sand play. This is so they can improve their motor skills as well as encouraging creativity.

In language and literacy we have mainly covered the home, with topics such as Toys and Pets. They have also thoroughly enjoyed their moral values, art and English speaking classes. They have been practicing Taekwondo and water play during P.E. Lessons. The students have shown a great versatility in their studies and are settling well into their kindergarten life. We have also been practicing hard for the kindergarten assembly on the 30th October. I hope you can all make it!

N-1 Respectful joins in the celebration of Courtesy Week

By T. Sally Develos

Courtesy Week is one of the activities that the school celebrates. This celebration is done for a week. The school is covered with posters and streamers about proper behaviour. This week we give more emphasis on how to be courteous, but of course we encourage the students to continue to display this good behaviour, hopefully until they grow up.



As shown in the pictures, they are taught how to "wai" when they meet teachers or people with authority as a sign of respect. They tidy things up when they are scattered. They say sorry when they hurt someone. They are taught not fight but to love and make friends instead. For life is travelled only once. Today's moment becomes tomorrow's memory. Let's give them wonderful memories to ponder upon when they get old. When that time comes and they try to look back on the time when they were young, they might say "I've been there, done that. I've become a better person now."

Trivia?



How did the word bug come into the computer language?

Back when computers were huge and room sized a couple of programmers were trying a new computer and it was not working. So they got to looking inside the mammoth computer and seen a moth. After removing, the moth that one of them called a bug the computer worked fine. The term bug came to represent any line of code within a program that did not work, as it should.

Full Moon Festival

By T. Jiang Zhifan

一年一度秋风尽，又到中秋佳节时。每逢此刻，无论是天南海北，相聚与别离，把酒望月，皎洁的月光无不牵起世人无尽的遐想，浓浓的乡思。甜美的月饼仅能带来片刻的唇齿快意，这里奉上的是一盏回味悠长的文化清茶……

每年农历八月十五日，是我国传统的中秋佳节。这时是一年秋季的中期，所以被称为中秋。这也

是我国仅次于春节的第二大传统节日。

中秋节有悠久的历史，和其它传统节日一样，也

是慢慢发展形成的，古代帝王有春天祭日，秋天祭月的礼

制，早在《周礼》一书中，已有“中秋”一词的记载。后来贵族和文人学士也仿效起来，

在中秋时节，对着

天上又亮又圆一轮皓月，观赏祭拜，寄托情怀，这种习俗就这样传到民间，形成一个传统的活动，一直到了唐代，这种祭月的风俗更为人们重视，

中秋节才成为固定的节日，《唐书·太宗记》记载有“八月十五中秋节”，这个节日盛行于宋朝，至明清时，已与元旦齐名，成为我国的主要节日之一。

中秋节的传说是非常丰富的，嫦娥奔月，吴刚伐桂，玉兔捣药之类的神话故事流传甚广。

中秋传说之一——嫦娥奔月

相传，远古时候天上有一日同时出现，晒得庄稼枯死，民不聊生，一个名叫后羿的英雄，力大无穷，他同情受苦的百姓，登上昆仑山顶，运足神力，拉开神弓，一气射下九个多太阳，并严令最后一个太阳按时起落，为民造福。

后羿因此受到百姓的尊敬和爱戴，后羿娶了个美丽善良的妻子，名叫嫦娥。后羿除传艺狩猎外，终日和妻子在一起，人们都羡慕这对郎才女貌的恩爱夫妻。

不少志士慕名前来投师学艺，心术不正的蓬蒙也混了进来。

一天，后羿到昆仑山访友求道，巧遇由此经过的王母娘娘，便向王母求得一包不死药。据说，服下此药，能即刻升天成仙。然而，后羿舍不得撇下妻子，只好暂时把不死药交给嫦娥珍藏。嫦娥将药藏进梳妆台的百宝匣里，不料被小人蓬蒙看见了，他想偷吃不死药自己成仙。

三天后，后羿率众徒外出狩猎，心怀鬼胎的蓬蒙假装生病，留了下来。待后羿率众人走后不久，蓬蒙手持宝剑闯入内宅后院，威逼嫦娥交出不死药。嫦娥知道自己不是蓬蒙的对手，危急之时她当机立断，转身打开百宝匣，拿出不死药一口吞了下去。嫦娥吞下药，身子立时飘离地面、冲出窗口，向天上飞去。由于嫦娥牵挂着

丈夫，便飞到离人间最近的月亮上成了仙。

傍晚，后羿回到家，侍女们哭诉了白天发生的事。后羿既惊又怒，抽剑去杀恶徒，蓬蒙早逃走了，后羿气得捶胸顿足，悲痛欲绝，仰望着夜空呼唤爱妻的名字，这时他惊奇地发现，今天的月亮格外皎洁明亮，而且有个晃动的身影酷似嫦娥。他拼命朝月亮追去，可是他追三步，月亮退三步，他退三步，月亮进三步，无论怎样也追不到跟前。

后羿无可奈何，又思念妻子，只好派人到嫦娥喜爱的后花园里，摆上香案，放上她平时最爱吃的蜜食鲜果，遥祭在月宫里眷恋着自己的嫦娥。百姓们闻知嫦娥奔月成仙的消息后，纷纷在月下摆设香案，向善良的嫦娥祈求吉祥平安。

从此，中秋节拜月的风俗在民间传开了。

在中国的农历里，一年分为四季，每季又分为孟、仲、季三个部分，因而中秋也称仲秋。八月十

五的月亮比其它几个月的满月更圆，更明亮，所以又叫做月夕、秋节、仲秋节、八月节、八月会、追月节、玩月节、拜月节、女儿节或团圆节，是

流行于全国众多民族中的传统文化节日。此夜，人们仰望天空如玉如盘的朗朗明月，自然会期盼家人团聚。远在他乡的游子，也借此寄托自己对故

乡和亲人的思念之情。所以，中秋又称“团圆节”。

据说此夜月球距地球最近，月亮最大最亮，所以从古至今都有饮宴赏月的习俗；回娘家的媳妇是

日必返夫家，以寓圆满、吉庆之意。也有些地方将中

秋节定在八月十六，如宁波、台州、舟山，这与方国珍占据温、台、明三州时，为防范元朝官兵和朱元田的袭击而改“正

月十四为元宵、八月十六为中秋”有关。此外在香港，过了中秋兴犹未尽，还要在十六夜再狂欢一次，名为“追月”。

“中秋”一词，最早见于《周礼》一书，而真正形成全国性的节日是在唐代。我国人民在古代就

有“秋暮夕月”的习俗。夕月，即祭拜月神。到了周代，每逢中秋夜都要举行迎寒和祭月。设大香案，摆上月饼、西瓜、苹果、红枣、李子、葡萄

等祭品，其中月饼和西瓜是绝对不能少的。西瓜还要切成莲花状。在月下，将月亮神像放在月亮的那个方向，红烛高燃，全家人依次拜祭月亮，然

后由当家主妇切团圆月饼。切的人预先算好全家共有多少人，在家的，在外地的，都要算在一起，不能切多也不能切少，大小要一样。

《水调歌头》

(宋)苏东坡

明月几时有？把酒问青天。

不知天上宫阙，今夕是何年？

Family Bonding

By Principal Meriam Fordan



SISS Family bonding started with staff's gathering in commemoration of September, 2009 birthday celebrants held in the new school canteen. Among the celebrants were Mr. & Mrs. Wanchai Sae-Ngow, the School Manager with his better half, Mrs. Beth the Deputy Manager, Mr. Mark, Ms. Tess and Mr. Jiang.



“An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't.”

“Anatole France”

