



Message from Secondary Principal



Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal

Dear SBS International School Bangkok Families,

As we rapidly approach the final week of Term 1, one would think our school community would be winding down. However, quite the opposite is true—the school has been busier and more vibrant than ever! It has been wonderful to welcome new prospective students for trial days recently. I want to give a massive shout-out to our current students who have been amazing buddies, making these new faces feel instantly welcome and integrated into the mix. This spirit of inclusion truly defines our school.

Our students have been actively helping out across the school site. A huge thank you to our dedicated House Captains who have done a phenomenal job organising the Shoe Box Appeal donations. The generosity shown by our community has been absolutely amazing!

Last Call: If you require a little extra time, the final deadline for the Shoe Box Appeal is now Monday. The Gift of Happiness Foundation will be collecting all the donated boxes on Tuesday.

We are pleased to share the latest in our series of articles written by our dedicated teaching staff. This week, we hear from Mr. Richard Phillips, who delves into one of the most famous constants in mathematics in his article, "Maths in the Real World: The Enigma of π (Pi)!" He explores the fascinating history and surprisingly common applications of this irrational number, reminding us that maths is not just an abstract subject but a fundamental language of the universe. We encourage all parents and students to take a moment to read his insightful piece.

Secondary students have spent the last couple of weeks busy preparing for their skit as part of the whole-school Christmas performance, which took place yesterday. They certainly captured the younger students' attention as they entertained everyone with a brilliant and hilarious take on modern technology glitches with a festive Christmas twist. Well done to all involved for such a creative performance in particular Mr Bowley and Ms Riegal.

The Basketball team was back out on the court this week, competing against the Singapore International School - Bangkok. Although the result did not go their way this time, the match was a superb demonstration of the team's determination and resilience. It was a great learning opportunity for the players as they continue growing as a team. We are incredibly proud of your effort, Tigers!

Despite the holidays being on the horizon, the curriculum continues! Students have been busy in class, diligently finishing off assessments and consolidating their learning from Term 1.

Behind the scenes, I have been busy interviewing new staff for positions starting in August. This is an incredibly exciting part of my job as the school continues to grow, and it's a wonderful opportunity to share the story of SBS Bangkok with talented teachers from around the world.

Yesterday's Christmas celebrations concluded with our Open House event—a very busy evening with a number of interested secondary families visiting. I wanted to publicly thank pretty much the whole secondary student body who helped out in some manner throughout the evening—from giving tours, sharing their school experience or demonstrating their PE lesson with Mr PJ. You all made me super proud, showcasing the very best of our student community. Finally, a special public thank you to Khun Pimpawee, who spoke on behalf of the PTA at the event. Your support and contribution are greatly valued.



Thai

Year 7 Thai Language

Students learned to use royal vocabulary in various contexts and researched information through activities like knowledge stations and word-picture matching. They learned how to use royal vocabulary appropriately in context and sentences. Additionally, they also learned about the royal family in modern society.

Year 8 Thai Language

Students learned how to write short paragraphs, focusing on the recent flooding news in central Thailand, gathering information, and creating mind maps. After discussing their findings, they wrote sentences and presented like reporters in front of the class.

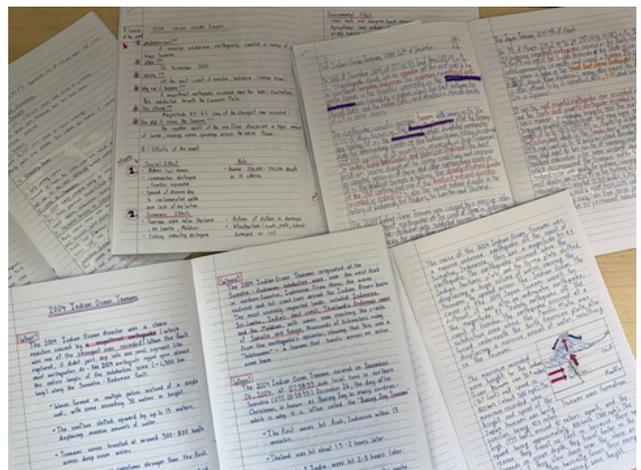
They've made a lot of progress. They've really shown so much effort and increased their skills, and I'm truly happy to see that.



Humanities

Students in humanities did a phenomenal job in finishing off their Tsunami Reports (assessment).

Students demonstrated their grasp of understanding the cause of two tsunamis and how the impacts from the two events played out very differently for the countries affected.





English

Year 7 Cambridge English: Irony, Vocabulary, and Assessment Success!

Over this term students have immersed themselves in a fascinating exploration of literature, language, and assessment. We're incredibly proud of the hard work and insightful thinking demonstrated by every student.

Unmasking the Power of Irony

Our literary journey this week took us into the compelling short story, "Examination Day" by Henry Slesar. This narrative served as a powerful introduction to the concept of irony. Students learned to identify and analyze the three main types:

- Verbal Irony: Saying one thing but meaning the opposite.
- Situational Irony: When the outcome of a situation is contrary to what was expected.
- Dramatic Irony: When the audience knows something the characters do not.

By dissecting the unexpected and often unsettling events of "Examination Day," students developed a much deeper appreciation for how authors use irony to build suspense, deliver social commentary, and create memorable twists.

Building a Robust Vocabulary with Membean

Vocabulary development remained a central focus. Students continued to build their personal lexicons using Membean, a powerful tool that tailors word-learning to individual needs. Consistent daily practice has helped students:

- Acquire new, challenging words.
- Understand the context and nuance of word usage.
- Improve reading comprehension and written expression.

We encourage all students to continue their vocabulary work over the break to ensure their new words become permanent parts of their active vocabulary!

Term-End Assessment

The term culminated in a comprehensive term-end assessment. This evaluation tested students' understanding of:

Literary concepts, particularly irony, reading comprehension skills and the vocabulary they acquired throughout the term.

Year 8 Cambridge English: Data Literacy, Research Skills, and Vocabulary

Over the term, students have transitioned from initial research planning to the crucial phase of data analysis and evaluation within their ongoing projects. We also celebrated continued progress in building strong academic vocabulary.

Mastering Data: The Heart of Research

The core focus of the work this term was developing data literacy—a vital skill for any successful academic endeavor. Students moved beyond simply finding sources and began learning how to handle the information they gather.

Understanding Data

Students learned that data is not just numbers, but any piece of information, including text, statistics, interviews, and observations, used to support an argument. We focused on three key areas:

- Recognizing Good Data - what makes a source reliable? Students learned to prioritize data that is relevant, recent, and derived from credible, unbiased sources (e.g., academic journals, official reports, primary source documents). We emphasized cross-referencing to confirm findings.
- Identifying Bad Data - students learned to be critical consumers of information. We discussed how to spot bias, outdated statistics, and data from unreliable or questionable sources (like unverified personal blogs or sensationalist news sites). This involved applying critical thinking to every piece of evidence.
- Synthesizing and Explaining Data - the final step was learning to understand what the data means in the context of their research question and how to present it clearly to an audience. Students practiced integrating data seamlessly into their arguments, rather than simply listing facts.

Vocabulary Development: Continuing with Membean

Our commitment to language mastery continued this term with dedicated work on Membean. Consistent daily engagement is helping students move words from temporary knowledge into their permanent, active vocabulary. This robust vocabulary is essential for both analyzing complex research texts and clearly articulating their findings in their written reports.

Term-End Assessment

Congratulations to all students for completing their comprehensive term-end assessment. This evaluation was designed to test the critical skills developed throughout the term, including:

- The ability to critically evaluate and identify bias in sample research texts.
- Understanding and application of the vocabulary learned.
- Effective structuring of arguments and supporting them with relevant evidence.



PE

Students continued with Chairball and Dodgeball activities, building on the teamwork and game awareness developed in previous lessons. Both games provided opportunities for students to practise strategic movement, communication, and cooperation, as they worked together to create scoring opportunities and support their teammates.

The sessions were highly engaging, with students demonstrating improved coordination, spatial awareness, and decision-making during fast-paced play. It was rewarding to see them becoming more confident in their roles and actively contributing to their teams.

Overall, it was another enjoyable and energetic week, with students showing strong participation, positive attitudes, and a growing sense of teamwork throughout the activities.



Mandarin

Y8 Pathway Mandarin — Weekly Highlights

1. Chinese Characters - this week, students explored four key radicals: three-dot water (氵), speech (讠), metal (钅), and mouth (口). Understanding the meanings behind radicals significantly supported their character recognition and writing.

2. Language Points - students learned and practised the modal verb “想 (to want)”. Based on previous vocabulary, students can now ask and answer: What do you want to eat/drink/go/do/buy? They also practised measure words with nouns, such as: 瓶牛奶 / 一杯牛奶 / 一盒牛奶 (a bottle / a cup / a box of milk) and learned the question word “多少钱” (how much).

3. Communicative Skills - Students mastered how to invite a friend in Mandarin - specifying a date, a place, and an activity. They are also now able to communicate how to buy items in Mandarin using appropriate measure words.

4. Character Writing - students began independent reading and writing of characters. To help with this, students created their own character flashcards, which we used for various recognition and matching activities.

Y8 B Pathway

Students spent time playing vocabulary games using student-made HSK 2 word cards. They also used their workbook for listening, speaking, reading, and writing practice. They concluded the week by conducting role-play activities based on real-life scenarios and practicing the Chinese song and dance “Let Me Say Thank You” in preparation for the whole school performance.

Y7 B Pathway

Students worked at different levels according to their ability. Some students spent time mastering target vocabulary and language points from HSK 1 Lesson 8 and practising fluent reading of text. On the other hand, other students were given six key vocabulary words and pictures and students were tasked with creating a context and performing a short scenario using required sentence patterns—all within a set time limit.





Maths

This week in mathematics, Year 7 have completed their 5th assessment on Angles and Constructions and have now begun the final unit for this term on Collecting Data. Students will be learning the process of conducting an investigation, types of data, collecting data and the advantages and disadvantages of different sampling techniques. This will enhance their understanding in readiness for the mini investigation that they will conduct on an aspect of school. If there is time they will also complete the unit assessment before the break.

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Article - Maths in the Real World: The Enigma of π (Pi)! By Mr Richard Phillips

This week in mathematics, we're taking a historical journey to explore one of mathematics' most famous numbers: Pi (π). Your children will encounter π when they study circles, but its story stretches back thousands of years and touches every corner of science and engineering.

What Exactly Is π ?

In simple terms, π is the constant ratio of a circle's circumference (the distance around the edge) to its diameter (the distance straight across, passing through the centre).

$$\pi = \text{Circumference} \div \text{Diameter}$$

No matter the size of the circle - a tiny coin or the Earth itself - this ratio is always the same: approximately 3.14159...,

A History of Calculation

Humans have been fascinated by π for millennia:

- Ancient Civilisations: Both the Babylonians and Egyptians had approximations for π . Around 1650 BC, the Rhind Papyrus suggests the Egyptians used a value of about 3.16.
- Archimedes (c. 287–212 BC): The Greek mathematician Archimedes was the first to rigorously calculate a range for π . He didn't measure a circle directly; instead, he used a method of 'exhaustion,' inscribing and circumscribing polygons (shapes with many sides) inside and outside the circle. By using a 96-sided polygon, he proved that π lay between $3 \frac{10}{71}$ and $3 \frac{1}{7}$. This was a huge step forward!
- The Modern Era: The symbol π was first popularised by the Welsh mathematician William Jones in 1706 and later adopted by the famous Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler.

A Never-Ending Story

Pi is an irrational number, which means it cannot be expressed exactly as a simple fraction, and its decimal representation goes on forever without repeating. This makes it a profound enigma!

$$\pi \text{ approx } 3.1415926535\dots,$$

While your child will usually use 3.14 or $\frac{22}{7}$ in school, the pursuit of more digits continues. The number of known digits for π is now in the trillions, often calculated by supercomputers to test their limits. Knowing π is essential for everything from building accurate clocks and satellite navigation systems to calculating the orbits of planets. It's a true cornerstone of modern science!



U13 Mixed Basketball – Competitive Match vs SISB

Our U13 SBS Tigers Mixed Team played yesterday against SISB (Singapore International School of Bangkok) squad - an experienced team with height, skill, and excellent game understanding. This was one of our toughest tests of the term, and our players rose to the challenge.

The Tigers opened the game with great energy and discipline, taking a 17-10 lead into halftime. SISB responded strongly in the second half, and despite our best efforts, we narrowly fell short with a final score of 35-29.

Although the result did not go our way, this match provided valuable experience for our players and highlighted key areas we need to continue developing both individually and as a team. Our coaching staff remains confident in the potential of this group, and games like this are essential stepping stones in their growth.

Our U13 Mixed Team now holds 3 wins and 1 loss in our friendly fixtures this term. These four games have served as excellent preparation for the upcoming Bangkok International School Athletics League (BISAL) tournaments beginning in January.

One of the most encouraging signs from yesterday's game was the team's resilience. In the final minutes, our players continued to compete hard, showing determination and the desire to get back into the game - qualities that will serve them well as the season progresses.

We are very pleased with the development of our team throughout Term 1. The players have improved significantly, both individually and collectively, and we look forward to building on this strong foundation.

Well done, Tigers! Let's keep getting better.





CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS & OPEN HOUSE IN PHOTOS





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Congratulations

Huge congratulations to Mascot in Year 8 who has not only been busy on court for the school's under 13 team. Over the last couple of months he has had some amazing accomplishments outside of school - well done Masot

- Second Runner Up Placing 3x3 Graffiti Hoop Jam Streetball Showdown U12 Tournament on Saturday 15th November 2025 - playing with the Hoop4Life Team.
- Second Runner Up The Legend 3x3 U12 Tournament on Sunday 9th November 2025 - playing with the Hoop4Life Team. THAILAND SLAM WARZ 5x5
- First Runner Up in the U12Boys playing with PYROFOX Team on Sunday 21st September 2025



Here is your chance to be Santa Claus.

Please take one of the red tags from the Christmas tree on which teachers have written their short wish list of things they need for their classrooms. Please buy the things on the list, wrap them, and tape the tag to the wrapped package. The tag you get will have a number and not a name of a teacher--that is OK. You can write your name on the package, but we want all parents to celebrate all teachers.

มาร่วมเป็นซานตาคลอสในเทศกาลแห่งความสุขและการแบ่งปัน โอกาสที่เราจะได้ส่งต่อความสุขและความอบอุ่นให้กับครูผู้ทุ่มเทเพื่อบุตรหลานของเรา เพียงหยิบ ป้ายสีแดง จากต้นคริสต์มาส ซึ่งครูได้เขียนรายการสิ่งของเล็กๆ น้อยๆ ที่ต้องการใช้ในห้องเรียนกับเด็กเด็กไว้ จากนั้น ซื้อสิ่งของตามรายการ ห่อของขวัญให้สวยงาม และติดป้ายที่คุณหยิบมา กับของขวัญนั้น ป้ายจะมีหมายเลขแทนชื่อครู เพราะนี่คือการร่วมแรงร่วมใจของผู้ปกครองทุกคนเพื่อครูทุกคน

คุณสามารถเขียนชื่อของคุณบนห่อของขวัญ เพื่อให้ครูรู้ว่าใครคือซานตาผู้ใจดี แต่สิ่งสำคัญที่สุดคือ เราทุกคนจะได้ร่วมสร้างรอยยิ้มและความสุขในโรงเรียนของเรา

มาร่วมกันทำให้เทศกาลนี้เต็มไปด้วยความรักและความหมายค่ะ!
Thank you on behalf of the teachers and Merry Christmas!





Service Learning

We have been so happy by the generosity of the whole school community - thank you so much. Please come and see our amazing contribution under the Christmas tree at the Primary School entrance.

Some families have asked for one more weekend therefore we are extending the deadline to Monday. On Tuesday we welcome representatives from Gift of Happiness back into school to collect our community's contribution.



Welcome back to Service Learning at SBS International School Bangkok - last week we asked you:

How can you get involved?

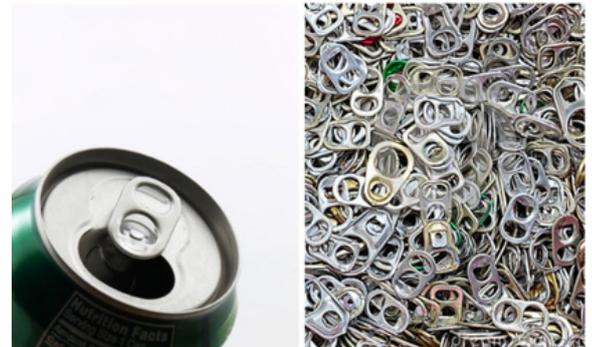
We will be launching the SBS International Bangkok new HOUSE competition for 2026 next week. However, to get a head start - we are asking all families to start collecting ring pulls from the top of drink cans. Have a little pot by the kitchen sink to add your ring pulls to before placing your drinks can into the recycling bin.

Why?

As we have shared in previous weeks, the ring pulls are used by community members living on the Tondo dumpsite. One of, if not the poorest community living in Manila, Philippines.

Women from the community are employed to make amazing products from the ring pulls. These are then sold around the world and the profits are invested back into the community - funding education, healthcare and other livelihood programmes.

For more information please check out the amazing organisation who we are partnering with www.p-c-f.org





Next Week

- Tuesday 16th December - Water Test for those students who have signed up for Scuba Diving Club - 3:30PM start
- Friday 19th December - Last day of Term 1 - please take note of the early finishing times below:
- Toddlers at 11.30am; Early Years 12.30; and Years 1-8 at 1.15pm

Looking Ahead

- Monday 5th January - Term 2 Starts
- Monday 12th January - Term 2 Active8 Sessions start
- Saturday 24th January - U13 Boys and Girls Basketball BISAL Tournament, taking place at SISB Nonthaburi

Closing Note

As we head into the final weekend before the holidays, I want to thank the entire community — students, staff, and parents— for the enthusiasm and energy shown this term. It has been a pleasure to witness so much learning, growth, and community spirit. I wish you all a lovely and restful weekend and look forward to a fantastic final week of Term 1 next week, before we all enjoy the well-deserved Christmas break.

Warm regards,
Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal





SBS International School Bangkok

AN ARTHIT OURAIRAT INSTITUTION

**Inspire Academic Success,
Nurture Holistic Wellbeing,
Cultivation Curiosity & Passion**



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Admissions

Monday - Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm

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