



## Message from Secondary Principal



**Gary Crumbie**  
Secondary Principal

**Dear SBS International Bangkok Families,**

As we move further into the term, the pace of school life has certainly quickened. It has been a week of high engagement, technical exploration, and impressive resilience from our student body.

It is no secret that this week presented some challenges with poor air quality. I want to personally commend our students for how they handled the restrictions on outdoor activities. They responded with maturity, leading by example and adapting to indoor break times without complaint.

It was a true relief to see the skies clear today; seeing the students back outside, enjoying themselves in active play, was the perfect way to head into the weekend.

Our Year 8 students stepped into the digital spotlight this week, joining an online conference with their peers from SBS Chiang Mai and SBS Rangsit. This "Introduction to Robotics" workshop was a fantastic way to bridge our campuses and dive into the future of tech.

Following this session, we are eager to see who will take the leap into the one-day workshop next Friday at KMUTT (FIBO). It's a world-class facility, and I highly encourage any aspiring engineers or programmers to sign up!

Last weekend, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting 13 new families during our Scholarship Morning. It was inspiring to hear their stories and share our school's vision with them. We are hopeful that these bright young scholars will be joining our community for the August 2026/27 academic year.

Finally, I want to send a huge "Good Luck" to our Boys and Girls Basketball teams! They will be competing tomorrow at the BISAL Basketball Tournament, hosted by Singapore International School Bangkok (SISB Nonthaburi).

Play hard, play fair, and represent the school with pride. We'll be rooting for you!



## Highlights of the Week

### English

It has been an action-packed week in Year 7 English as we dived deeper into the world of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Here is a look at what we've been up to in the classroom.

In Chapter 3, "The Letters from No One," we focused on descriptive language. We analyzed how J.K. Rowling uses vivid imagery to show Uncle Vernon's descent into frustration (and near madness) as he tries to outrun the Hogwarts letters. Students identified key phrases that signaled his changing mood—from "looking pale and fishy" to his frantic attempts to nail up the mail slot.

Things got a bit noisy (in the best way possible!) as we reached Chapter 4, "The Keeper of the Keys." To explore the power of onomatopoeia, students transformed the classroom into a live soundscape.

**While the chapter was read aloud, students acted as "sound effects machines," recreating:**

- The "BOOM" of Hagrid's arrival.
- The "Squeak" of Dudley before running to his mother.
- The "Sizzling" of sausages over the fire.

We have officially launched our Character Poster Projects. Students are busy developing their characters using evidence from the text to illustrate their traits, appearance, and pivotal moments. It's wonderful to see their artistic interpretations of the characters we've met so far!

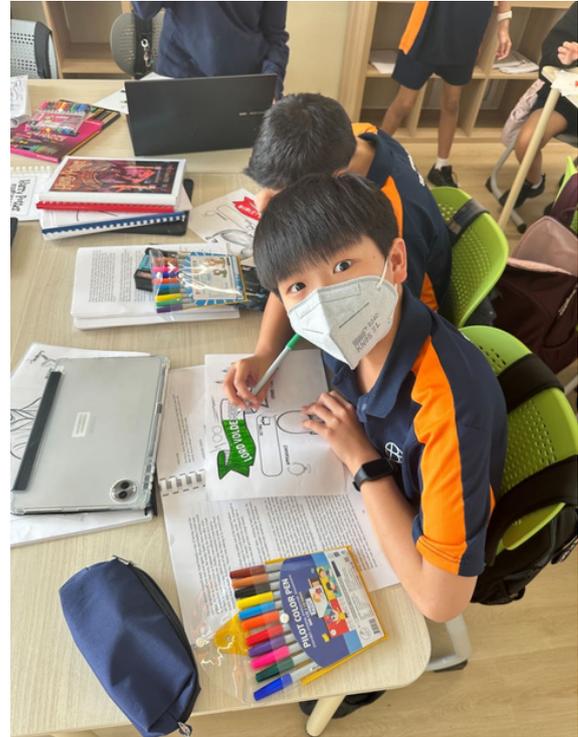
Our vocabulary development continues through Membean. We are seeing great progress in how students are integrating more sophisticated words into their class discussions.

**Important Reminder:** To stay on track, all students are required to complete at least one 15-minute Membean training session at home each week. Consistent practice is the key to long-term memory!

### Looking Ahead

Next week, we head to Diagon Alley! We will be looking at how "world-building" works in fantasy novels and how authors introduce us to new cultures and systems.

Ask your student this weekend: What was the most surprising thing Hagrid kept in his pockets?





This week, Year 8 moved into the heart of Tulsa's social conflict as we explored Chapter 2 of S.E. Hinton's classic, *The Outsiders*. The students have shown impressive maturity while tackling the complex social dynamics presented in the novel.

The rivalry between the Greasers and the Socs is about much more than just "neighborhoods." This week, we looked deeper into why this animosity is so intense.

**Students participated in a seminar-style discussion focusing on:**

- The Power Dynamic: Why the Socs feel the need to "jump" the Greasers.
- Territory and Identity: How hair, cars, and clothes serve as uniforms in this social war.
- The Cycle of Violence: How one attack leads to another, creating a never-ending loop of retaliation.

One of the most profound discussions this week centered on Affluent Neglect. While the Socs have money and "all the breaks," students discovered that many of these characters suffer from a lack of parental guidance or emotional support. We compared this to the Greasers' situation, where physical poverty is high, but the "brotherhood" provides a unique kind of emotional wealth.

We analyzed the bridge between the two worlds—the conversation at the drive-in between Cherry Valance and Ponyboy Curtis. Students explored Cherry's famous line, "Things are tough all over," and discussed whether the two groups have more in common than they realize.

Our work on Membean continues to be a cornerstone of our literacy program. Students are effectively expanding their "vocabulary power" by learning words in context rather than just memorizing definitions.

Weekly Goal: Please ensure your student is hitting their target minutes on Membean. These short, daily bursts of training are much more effective than "cramming" all at once!

**Looking Ahead**

Next week, we will analyze the pivotal turning point in Chapter 4. We will be looking at foreshadowing and how the author prepares us for the dramatic events at the park.

Ask your student this weekend: What does Cherry Valance mean when she says "the sunset is the same" on both sides of town?



## PE

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This week in our Volleyball unit, students deepened their understanding of the game through a review of official rules and gameplay structure to support better performance on the court. Emphasis was placed on positioning, communication, and applying skills effectively during match play.

Students were organised into three groups and participated in 6v6 full-game situations, allowing them to experience authentic volleyball gameplay. To conclude the lesson, students enjoyed a friendly boys vs girls match, which added excitement and healthy competition to the final part of the class.

It has been very encouraging to see how much the students enjoy volleyball, with strong participation, enthusiasm, and teamwork throughout the sessions. Many students are already looking forward to continuing the unit in the coming weeks.





## Thai

**Year 8** students studied reading comprehension through the text “เที่ยวท่าเรือ.” They answered comprehension questions, shared their opinions, worked in pairs, and presented their work using Canva. The activities helped develop their language skills and confidence in expressing themselves.

**Year 7** Students learned about parts of speech, including **pronouns, adverbs, and prepositions**, through fun games and interactive activities. They practiced reading, using words appropriately in different contexts, and analyzing sentences.

## Mandarin

This week, students took part in a situational Mandarin communication project – ordering food in Chinese. Students worked in pairs or groups, taking on the roles of waiters /waitresses and customers, and designed their own menus including food and drinks.

The activity covered five key stages: welcoming guests, ordering food, serving dishes, payment, and saying goodbye. After the activity, students completed a detailed reflection form and set personal learning goals for the next stage of their Mandarin learning.

This project was strongly supported by many SBS staff members who speak Chinese, as well as Mandarin teachers including Becky and Pure, and our security staff. We were also delighted to have our Secondary Principal Gary, who joined us to distribute snacks, and Bob, Head of English, who helped capture photos of the event.

Through this immersive, real-life scenario, students practiced authentic Mandarin communication, increased their interest, and strengthened their motivation to learn Chinese. We are also planning a future visit to a real Chinese restaurant for students to practice ordering food in an authentic setting — stay tuned!





## Science

**Year 7** students have been diving into some of the building blocks of chemistry. Their journey began with metals and non-metals, learning how to distinguish between the two by their properties—such as conductivity, malleability, and reactivity. From shiny copper wires to brittle sulfur crystals, students explored how these differences shape the materials we use every day.

The excitement continued as they investigated acids and alkalis, discovering how everyday substances like vinegar, lemon juice, and baking soda fit into the pH scale. Using indicators such as litmus and universal indicators, students tested solutions to see whether they were acidic, neutral, or alkaline, and learned how scientists use these tools to measure chemical strength.

To consolidate their learning, Year 7 prepared presentations showcasing their experiments, findings, and creative explanations of these concepts. This not only strengthened their scientific understanding but also built confidence in public speaking and teamwork.



### Year 8 Science Spotlight: Climate and Weather

**Year 8** students have been exploring the fascinating world of climate and weather. They began by learning the difference between short-term weather patterns—like daily temperature, rainfall, and wind—and long-term climate trends that shape regions across the globe.

Students investigated how factors such as latitude, altitude, and proximity to oceans influence the climate of different places. They also discussed the importance of understanding climate in today’s world, from predicting storms to addressing global challenges like climate change.

To showcase their learning, Year 8 created poster presentations on the weather and climate of a place of their choice. From tropical rainforests to polar regions, each poster highlighted unique features, data, and visuals that brought the science to life. The presentations were not only informative but also creative, demonstrating students’ ability to research, synthesize information, and communicate their findings clearly.

The activity encouraged collaboration, critical thinking, and pride in their work. It was inspiring to see students connect scientific concepts to real-world locations, making the study of climate and weather both meaningful and memorable.





## Humanities

Our humanities students are reaching the "eye of the storm" as they conclude their unit on natural hazards. This week, we focused on the power and patterns of tornadoes. Students stepped into the role of data analysts, creating their own Choropleth maps to visualize where these storms strike most frequently across the USA. By mapping the data themselves, they were able to clearly identify "Tornado Alley" and discuss why certain regions are more vulnerable than others. We wrapped up the week by deconstructing the science of how these swirling giants form, setting the stage for next week's investigation into their impact on communities and the environment.



## Applied English

This week in Applied English, our Year 8 students continued their deep dive into the global health crisis by exploring the hard-hitting documentary Fed Up. The film has served as a powerful catalyst for our investigation into the sugar industry and the hidden forces shaping our dietary choices.

The highlight of the week was a robust classroom discussion regarding the government's role in food regulation. We focused specifically on marketing aimed at children—from colorful cereal mascots to targeted social media ads.

**Students grappled with a difficult question:** Is it the government's job to protect citizens from unhealthy choices, or is that the sole responsibility of the individual?

To deepen our analysis, we introduced the political concept of the "Nanny State." This term is often used to criticize government policies that are perceived as being overprotective or interfering with personal choice—such as "soda taxes" or bans on junk food in schools.

### The class was split on the issue:

- The Pro-Regulation Side: Argued that when the food industry spends billions on predatory marketing toward children, the government must step in to "level the playing field" and protect public health.
- The Personal Responsibility Side: Argued that government overreach can infringe on freedom of choice and that education, rather than regulation, is the better path forward.

This unit isn't just about food; it's about perspective. Students are learning to identify the different stakeholders involved in a global issue:

- Corporations (seeking profit)
- Governments (balancing budgets and public health)
- Families (navigating cost and convenience)
- Health Professionals (managing a rise in chronic diseases)

By viewing the "sugar epidemic" through these various lenses, students are developing the critical thinking skills necessary to understand complex international challenges.

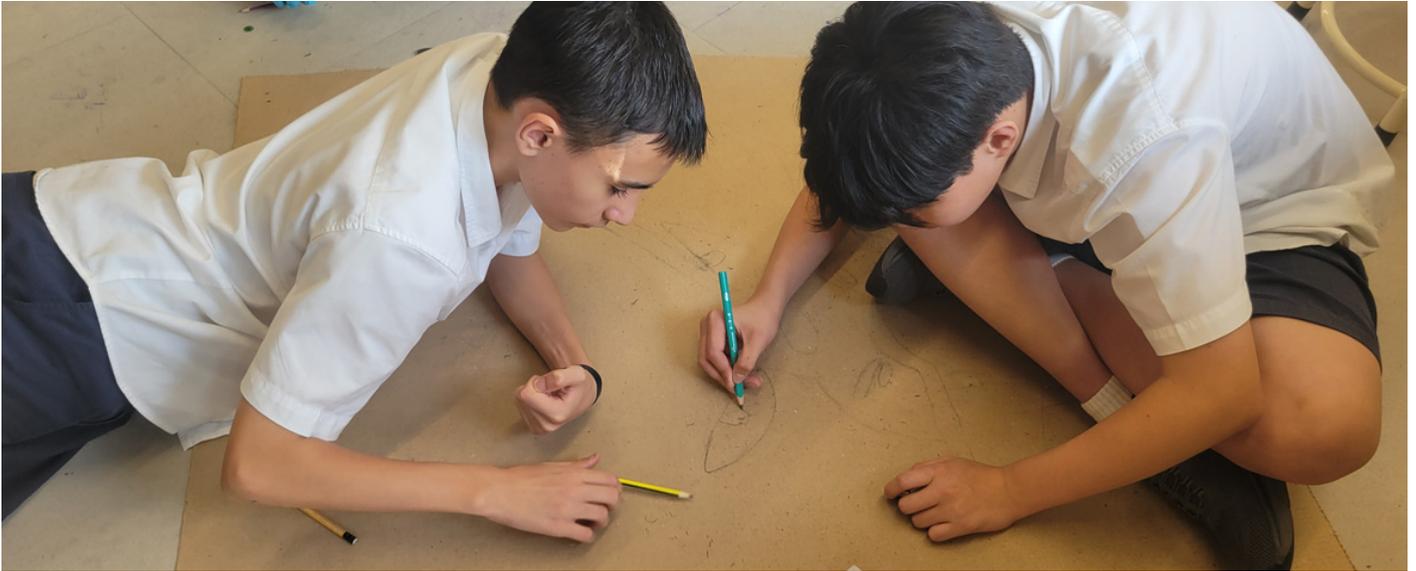
To help your student reflect on this week's lessons, you might ask them:

- "Do you think characters on cereal boxes should be banned if the cereal has too much sugar?"
- "Is a sugar tax a fair way to fund healthcare, or does it unfairly punish the consumer?"



## Art in Pictures

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## Robotics workshop

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Year 8 students were invited to attend a lunchtime conference call with peers from SBS Chiang Mai and SBS Rangsit. The conference was an introduction to Robotics which took place at SBS Rangsit on Thursday lunchtime.

The 30 minute session was run by staff from KMUT Institute of Field Robotics (FIBO) ahead of a Robotics Day being held at KMUT (FIBO) on Friday 30th January.

We hope some of our students from Year 8 will attend this amazing opportunity to work alongside their peers from SBS Rangsit.





## Congratulations

### Congratulations

We are proud to celebrate the achievement of five SBS Bangkok students who represented the U13 Ballers Team and finished 1st Place at the St. Andrews International School Invitational Basketball Tournament over the weekend.

#### SBS Bangkok Players:

- Mascot - Year 8
- Otto - Year 8
- Porsche - Year 8
- Noyan - Year 7
- Otin - Year 6

The team was coached by our PE Teacher, Coach PJ, whose leadership, commitment, and passion for player development helped guide the team to victory.

Congratulations to our students for demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship.

A proud moment for the SBS Bangkok community!





## Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, 24th January 2026 - U13 Boys and Girls Basketball teams will be in action at the BISAL Tournament, taking place at SISB Nonthaburi.**

Boys will be playing between 8AM-12PM and the Girls between 12:15-2:45PM. We look forward to seeing you there to support our players.

## Looking Ahead

- Friday 30th January - Yellow Leopards Birthday
- Saturday 7th February - BISAL Swim Meet
- Friday 16th February - Teachers Day Celebration
- Friday 13th February - Valentines Day
- Friday 13th February - Chinese New Year Celebration
- Friday 13th February - Report 2 Published and End of Half Term
- Monday 23rd February - Start of second half of Term 2

## Closing Note

As we wrap up another action-packed week of learning and resilience at SBS Bangkok, I want to thank our students for their maturity in handling the recent air quality challenges and for their high engagement across all subjects. It has been a pleasure to see our Year 8s explore the future of tech in our robotics workshop and our younger students dive so enthusiastically into their literary and scientific projects.

Finally, I want to wish our student-athletes the very best of luck tomorrow at the BISAL Basketball Tournament at SISB Nonthaburi. The U13 Boys will be competing from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, followed by the Girls from 12:15 PM to 2:45 PM.

I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible tomorrow, cheering on our basketball teams as they represent our school with pride. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

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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