



Message from Secondary Principal



Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal

Dear SBS International School Bangkok Families,

A massive congratulations to our U13 Basketball team! As Mr. PJ highlights in his detailed report this week, the team's recent performance marks a historical moment for the players, the PE department, and the school at large. The grit and teamwork on display were second to none. A huge well done to all the players, coaches, and the parents who cheered them on from the sidelines!

It has been wonderful to see our Active8 sessions resume this week. The campus is buzzing again with students participating in a wide variety of activities. Seeing so many different interests being explored and students staying active is the perfect way to kick off the new term.

Science Week has been an absolute blast! The secondary science labs opened their doors to our younger students, who were treated to some cool experiments by our very own "Nutty Professor" the one and only Mr. Simon. Meanwhile, secondary students have been deep in the engineering trenches, tasked with building their own Rube Goldberg Machines. It has been fascinating to watch them:

- Collaborate
- Listen and learn from failed attempts
- Show incredible determination and grit to get those machines working

During our Twilight event this week, I felt a massive sense of pride watching our volunteer ambassadors. They engaged with new families and prospective students with such confidence and genuine love for their school. They truly are a credit to their families and our community.

Last weekend, I travelled to Sam Roi Yot to meet with our partners for our upcoming Expedition Week in June. We have planned a fun-packed itinerary that will be the perfect way to celebrate the end of our first year together! I am looking forward to sharing the details with students and families in the coming weeks.

Finally, next Friday marks our very first House Bake Sale, and we need your help to make it a success!

- **Get Involved:** We encourage students to get busy in the kitchen this weekend / week ahead. Whether it's a family cake recipe or a batch of cookies, every contribution helps.
- **Coupons:** Please remember to purchase coupons from the Main Reception before next Friday. No coupon = no cake!
- **The Cause:** All proceeds will go to the Wat Mai Si Muen Orphanage, the same wonderful beneficiaries of our Christmas Shoebox and Cereal Box appeals.



Congratulations - U13 MIXED BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

A historic moment for SBS as our U13 Mixed Basketball Team wins our first-ever sports championship at last weekend's BASIS International Basketball Festival.

From a new school in August 2025 to champions in April 2026 - this is truly special.

Our players showed great resilience, pride, and heart throughout the tournament, competing with excellent sportsmanship in every game. Facing bigger and more established schools, the team stayed composed, played together, and our defense made the difference.

Tournament Results:

- SBS def. BASIS International School — 29–9
- SBS def. RIS Ratchapruek — 9–8
- SBS def. RIS Minburi — 14–0
- SBS def. Anglo Singapore International School — 14–9

We are incredibly proud of our SBS Tigers, a moment that will always be part of our school's history.

Thank you to all our coaches, parents, and staff for your continued support and belief in the journey.





Highlights of the Week

Year 7 students explored a literature-based lesson from Phasa Phatee, focusing on the story “อย่าชิงสุกก่อนห่ามไม่งามด้.” Students learned about traditional moral teachings and discussed how these ideas can be applied to everyday life for people of all ages.

They practised reading comprehension, sharing their opinions, and working in pairs to prepare short presentations.

As part of Science Week, students also answered simple science questions in Thai, helping them develop their reading and thinking skills across subjects.



Year 8 students continued their learning on Thai folktales from last week. They worked in groups to explore folktales from different regions of Thailand and are currently preparing their presentations to share next week. This activity supports their research, collaboration, and communication skills.

As part of Science Week, students also answered science-related questions in Thai and created posters about Thai scientists. This helped them develop their ability to read, think critically, and present information in Thai in a fun and engaging way.





ICT



This week, Year 7 and 8 students have continued building on their previous topic of managing data, developing their understanding of how to organise and handle information effectively using spreadsheet tools. A key focus has been identifying and using cell addresses accurately, which is essential for navigating and referencing data within a worksheet.

In addition, students explored formatting techniques to improve the clarity and presentation of their data, such as adjusting fonts, cells, and alignment. They were also introduced to basic formulas, learning how to perform simple calculations and automate tasks within their spreadsheets.

DT



This week, Year 7 and 8 students have been working collaboratively in small teams, refining their initial ideas, creating detailed design plans, and carefully considering the needs of birds when planning their structures. They have explored factors such as size, shape, entrance holes, and ventilation, ensuring their designs are both functional and suitable for real-world use. As part of the planning phase, students have discussed and agreed upon the roles and responsibilities within their groups to ensure an organised and efficient workflow.

Once designs were finalised, students moved on to selecting appropriate materials and tools for construction. Guided by their teacher, students have continued building their birdhouses, applying practical construction techniques such as measuring, cutting, assembling, and securing components. Emphasis was placed on safe tool usage and maintaining a clean, organised workspace throughout the process.

Throughout this project, students have developed essential skills beyond construction. Teamwork has been a key focus, as students have communicated clearly, shared ideas, listened to one another, and resolved any challenges that arose within their groups.

Problem-solving skills have been strengthened as they encountered and overcame design or construction obstacles, encouraging resilience and adaptability. In addition, students applied core design and technology concepts, including planning, prototyping, testing, and refining their work.



Mandarin

This week focused on student presentations and interactive communication in Mandarin. Students delivered two main types of presentations:

- **Interview summaries**, where they organised and presented key information gathered from peers
- **Holiday presentations**, shared through slides and other formats.

To maximise engagement, each presentation followed a structured learning cycle:

- While presenting, other students actively took notes, developing their ability to quickly identify and capture key information in real time
- After each presentation, the class participated in quick-response Q&A, follow-up questions, and quiz-style challenges led by the teacher
- Students who responded correctly in Mandarin were rewarded through a points system



This approach created a highly engaging and energetic classroom environment. Students showed strong focus while listening and note-taking, and demonstrated enthusiasm and confidence during discussions. Through peer learning and interactive questioning, students further developed their listening precision, speaking fluency, and spontaneous communication skills.

Progress Across Pathways:

- **Year 8 Pathway A** students successfully completed HSK1 Unit 13, continuing to build a solid foundation in structured language learning
- **Year 8 Pathway B** students worked on setting personalised Mandarin learning goals, with differentiated topics, projects, and expectations tailored to their individual levels. The focus has been on developing skills in communication, presentations, debates, and writing
- **Year 7 Pathway B** lessons continued with a differentiated teaching approach, combining teacher guidance with strong peer support, allowing students at different levels to progress together effectively

Overall, it was encouraging to see students highly engaged, actively participating, and learning from one another. The integration of presentation, real-time note-taking, and interactive response has created a dynamic environment where students are not only learning Mandarin, but also building essential academic skills.





English

It has been a high-stakes week in Year 8 English as we reached one of the most emotional milestones in S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*. From poignant literary discussions to creative hands-on projects, our students have been fully immersed in the world of the Greasers and the Socs.



Tragedy in Tulsa: Saying Goodbye to Johnny

The classroom was notably quiet this week as we finished the pivotal Chapter 9. Students witnessed the aftermath of the rumble and the heartbreaking passing of Johnny Cade. It was moving to see our students engage so deeply with the themes of friendship and sacrifice; there were certainly a few misty eyes as we closed our books.

Creativity in Action: Group Projects & Profiles

Beyond the reading, the "English Lab" has been a hive of activity. Students are currently balancing several key assessments:

- **Collage Group Projects:** Teams are collaborating to visually represent the themes of the novel. It's been fantastic to see them translate abstract concepts like "identity" and "class warfare" into vibrant, physical art.
- **Character Profiles:** To sharpen their analytical skills, students are building comprehensive dossiers on their chosen characters, digging into motivations, internal conflicts, and pivotal quotes.
- **Unit Workbooks:** Students continue to track their comprehension and literary device identification through their structured workbooks.

Sharpening the Sword: Vocabulary & Membean

Amidst the drama of the novel, we haven't lost sight of technical growth. Students have been diligently working on their Membean sessions, expanding their vocabulary and strengthening their word-retention skills. These "brain workouts" are essential as we transition into the final analytical essays of the term.

It was a high-flying week for our Year 7 English classes as we dived into the adrenaline-pumping world of *Wizards of Waverly Place*. From the roar of the crowd to the quiet strength of friendship, our students have been busy exploring what truly makes a hero.



The Golden Snitch: Quidditch Comes to Life

This week, we read the iconic Quidditch chapter in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. While the high-speed action of Harry's first match kept everyone on the edge of their seats, the real highlight was the deepening bond between our trio of protagonists.

We held some fantastic classroom discussions centered on Hermione's pivotal choice. By breaking school rules to protect Harry from Snape's (perceived) jinx, Hermione proved that loyalty often outweighs the rulebook. Students debated the "importance of friendship" and how shared danger can turn even the unlikely classmates into a team.



Classroom Focus: Character & Craft

To wrap up the week, students were given the autonomy to manage their own progress. The classroom transformed into a focused study hall where students chose between two paths:

- **Character Profiles:** Deep-diving into the traits, motivations, and growth of characters like Neville Longbottom or Ron Weasley.
- **Unit Workbooks:** Consolidating their knowledge of the plot and practicing their reading comprehension skills.

Seeing the students take ownership of their learning and choose the task that best suited their current progress was a highlight for the teaching team!

Expanding the Lexicon: Membean Progress

Our "word wizards" have also been hard at work on Membean. By consistently engaging with their personalised vocabulary schedules, students are building a sophisticated word bank that will serve them well as we move toward our next creative writing assessment.

PE

Students have continued developing their skills in Handball. Lessons this week have focused on improving passing, catching, and movement without the ball, helping students understand how to create space and support their teammates during gameplay. Students participated in structured drills and small-sided activities designed to build coordination, control, and decision-making. Emphasis was also placed on teamwork, communication, and positioning, allowing students to apply their skills more effectively in game situations.

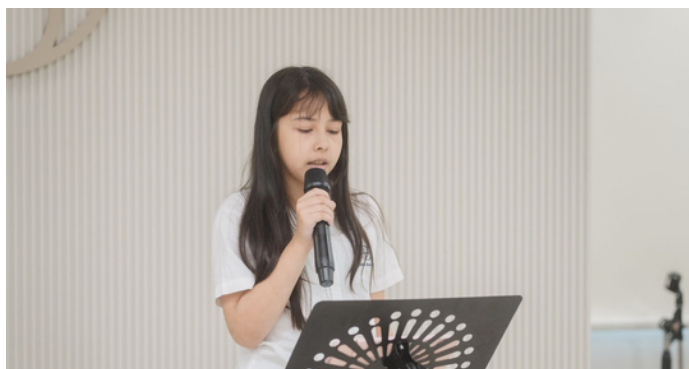
It was an engaging and productive week, with students showing growing confidence and a better understanding of the game as they continue to develop their handball skills.



Science TEDTalk

In amongst the busy week that was Science week, Y7 & 8 scientists still came together at break time on Thursday for their weekly Science TEDTalk.

Serena - Y7 and Howie - Y8 gave a detailed and thought provoking talk on **'Sleep and the Teenage Brain'**. Some very powerful messages came through from the negative impacts of mobile phones and gaming before bedtime to sharing that the recommended sleep for teenagers lies somewhere between 8 and 10 hours a night!

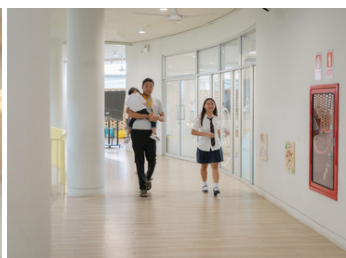


A huge thank you - Twilight Open House - ambassadors



A huge thank you to all of the student ambassadors for their hard work on Wednesday evening at our Open House event. Their engagement with the young students who were coming to our school for the very first time was commendable!

Here are a few photos of the students in action!





Science Week 2026: The Power of Invention and Innovation

Science Week at SBS International School Bangkok was an electrifying celebration of engineering and creative problem-solving. This year, our Lower Secondary students proved that innovation is all about looking at everyday challenges through a scientific lens.

The Great Debate: Wheel vs. Language

Before the machines were set in motion, the atmosphere was charged with intellectual rivalry during our "Greatest Invention of All Time" debate.

- **The Case for The Wheel:** One side argued that the wheel revolutionised transport and mechanical engineering, serving as the literal foundation for modern civilisation.
- **The Case for Language:** The opposing side contended that language is the ultimate invention, as it is the very tool that allows humans to share ideas, collaborate, and record the history of all other inventions. It was a masterclass in critical thinking and persuasive rhetoric that perfectly set the stage for the technical displays to follow.





Lower Secondary Engineering Challenges

Our **Year 7 and 8 students** took the Rube Goldberg concept to the next level, focusing on automating daily routines through complex chain reactions:

- **Year 7: The Breakfast Bot** – Students engineered machines designed to pour cereal from a box into a bowl. This required precise calculations of force and trajectory to ensure a mess-free result!
- **Year 8: The Automatic Organiser** – The challenge was to create a system that could transport a pencil case into a backpack, involving intricate triggers and a deep understanding of potential and kinetic energy.

Daily Inspiration & Research

Between 12:50 PM and 1:20 PM each day, students attended curated screenings of groundbreaking science experiments. These sessions served as a "think tank," allowing our young innovators to examine creative blueprints and gather advanced ideas to integrate into their designs.

The Grand Finale: Live Demonstrations

The week culminated in a high-energy showcase. Each class presented their finished machines, delivering formal explanations of the scientific principles, from gravity and friction to simple machines that powered their inventions.

The event successfully transformed the campus into a laboratory of high-level inquiry, proving that our Lower Secondary students have the grit and creativity to engineer the future!





Time to Reflect - A Collective Creative Awakening



Breaking through the "I can't draw" wall in the upper grades is often a challenge, so I spent a lot of time in the quiet work, the Elements of Art. Understanding that my job isn't to make them "good" at drawing, it's to give them a vocabulary so they aren't afraid of the paper. We got lost in texture and the science of colour. I learned that when I call it "training wheels," they give themselves permission to wobble. Watching them embrace bold colour and large gestures was my first win

Bold choices and colour always make me happy. Our unit on Pop Art taught me the power of meeting students where they are. By elevating the everyday and the commercial, we didn't just make art; we analysed culture. I was able to intertwine my studies in Cultural Arts, and I learned that when you bridge the gap between a student's external world and the studio, the energy in the room shifts. They aren't just "colouring"; they are debating what makes something "Art" in the 21st century.

One of my highlights of the year was our English-Theater-Art collaboration, which was a reminder that art shouldn't exist in a vacuum. I enjoy it when we break down the walls between subjects, when students stop seeing "assignments" and start seeing "stories," and when we embrace the intersectionality of subjects and practices.

Watching them translate a metaphor from a page into a storyboard, and then into a physical performance, was a profound learning experience in translation. It wasn't just about drawing or acting; it was about the "breath" between the two, the moment an idea becomes a reality.

The Fauvism unit was a personal lesson in letting go. As the studio transformed into a sea of green faces and violet trees, I realised that my most successful moments as a teacher weren't when the work was "accurate," but when it was liberating. I learned that watching students embrace the "incorrect" colour is a masterclass in creative bravery, prioritising their intent over their precision.

We stopped "Painting" and started "colouring." I watched them play with balance and emphasis, finding that a single word placed just right on a page could say more than a whole paragraph. This was the turning point where the art got personal. We moved into Art and Activism, looking at how Barbara Kruger uses the architecture of a word to stop people in their tracks. I watched the students realise that art doesn't always have to be "pretty", sometimes it has to be felt.

We took on the 6-word story challenge, and I learned that if you give a student the right font and a splash of bold red, they will tell you exactly what they think about the world they're inheriting. I saw them discovering that a letter isn't just a shape; it's a tool for power.

We're ending with the Photography and Podcast Mashup, and my hope for the final lesson this year is to focus on the lens. We've spent months building images from nothing; now I'm learning how to help them capture what's already there.

Looking around the room today, the 7th graders are more confident, and the 8th graders look like the artists they were always meant to be. I've learned that I'm not just teaching them how to use a brush or a camera, I'm giving them a new way to see the world. And honestly? They've given me a new way to see it, too.

I've realised that my role was never just to deliver a series of lesson plans. Instead, this year taught me that the most vital thing an arts educator can do is hold the space for a collective awakening.



Upcoming Events



Make sure you buy your CAKE COUPONS all next week
(No coupon = No Cake)

Get Baking!!! Bring your cakes and cookies into school
next Friday!!

Next Week

- Fri 8 May - The GREAT House BAKE Sale

Looking Ahead

- Mon 11 May - Fri 15 May - 'Heart and Sole' Week - A week of enrichment movement activities during the school day to highlight the positive effects of exercise and movement on the body and mind. (More information to follow).
- Tuesday 12th May - Grade 6-8 Expedition Week Parent Info Meeting - 08:30-09:30
- Fri 15 May - S.T.R.I.D.E House event to close Heart & Sole week. (More information to follow)
- Mon 18 May - Assessment Week begins (Y3-8)
- Mon 8 June - Friday 12 June - Y6-8 Expedition to Sam Roi Yot
- Mon 15 June - Winning House Surprise Reward Day
- Fri 19 June - Final day of Term - 12.00pm finish

Service Reminders



Closing Note

What a fantastic way to kick off the new term! Seeing the 'grit and teamwork' of our U13 Tigers and the innovative spirit of our young engineers has been a highlight for us all. Whether it was debating the world's greatest inventions or exploring the themes of friendship in English, our students continue to prove they are a credit to this school. Let's carry this energy into next Friday's bake sale. Go Tigers!"

Warm regards,
Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal





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Admissions

Monday - Friday
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