



Message from Secondary Principal



Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal

Dear SBS International School Bangkok Families,

It has been another high-energy week here in the Secondary School. As we approach the final stretch of the academic year, the atmosphere in our corridors is one of focused determination.

Inside the classroom, our students have been incredibly busy. Preparations for the upcoming English, Maths, and Science assessments are in full swing. It is impressive to see the level of dedication our students are showing as they review key concepts and refine their skills.

As we make our way through the term, we continue to look back on our collective journey. This week's "Reflection of the Year" comes from Ms. Bingxin Xiao, who shares her unique perspective on the growth and milestones our students have achieved. It is a wonderful reminder of how far we have come since August.

On Wednesday, we took our learning outside the classroom and into the heat! All secondary students were involved in supporting the Year 1 & 2 Sports Day. Whether they were running activity sessions, mentoring the younger children, or acting as runners for the scoring sheets, their contribution was invaluable. Despite the extremely hot morning, our students worked with positivity and grit. Seeing the older students encourage their younger peers was a true testament to our school spirit.

The energy continued into today as our House Captains assisted the PTA with the House Cake Sale. It was a fantastic display of leadership and organisation. We are currently tallying the proceeds, and the total funds raised for each House will be shared in next week's newsletter.

This morning, I had the pleasure of sharing an overview of the forthcoming Expedition to Sam Roi Yot with the students. The room was buzzing with questions, and I was delighted to see them leave feeling enthused and excited for the journey ahead.

- **Parent Information Session:** Tuesday Morning 08:30 start
- **Location:** Theatre - Secondary Building

Finally, looking toward next week, we conclude with the PTA Coffee Morning. I would like to offer my advance apologies as I will be unable to attend. I will be out of school next Thursday and Friday attending an educational conference in the city. I know our PTA representatives will take wonderful care of you.



Thai

Year 7 students presented their work based on the story “สุภาพบุรุษคนหญิง”. They demonstrated a clear understanding of the story by explaining its main ideas, moral lessons, and how it can be applied to real-life situations. Students showed confidence in presenting and worked well collaboratively within their groups.

Following this, students learned about Thai proverbs and idioms. They explored the meanings of various expressions and discussed how these can be used appropriately in everyday communication. Through activities such as matching, discussion, and creating their own examples, students developed both their language skills and critical thinking.

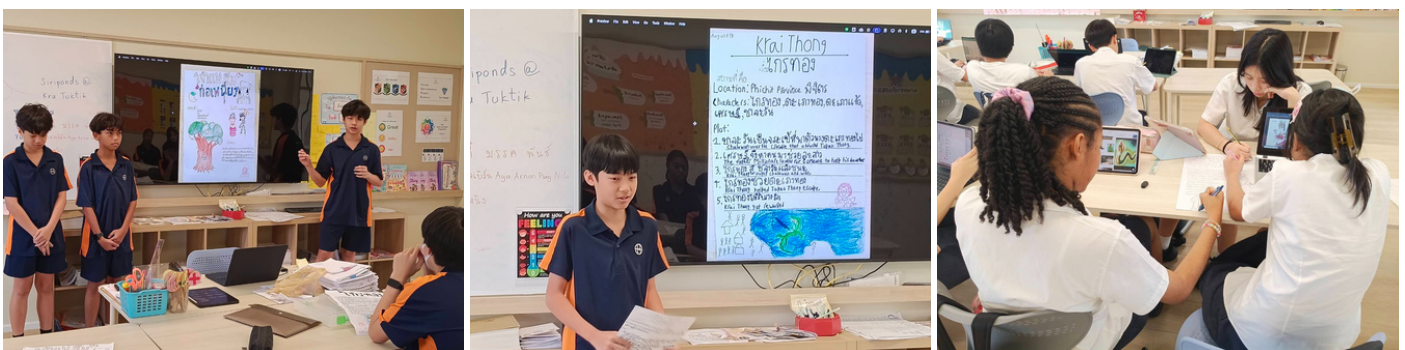
Overall, they showed good engagement and effort, and were able to connect traditional wisdom with modern contexts effectively.



Year 8 students presented their poster projects based on Thai folktales from different regions that each group was interested in. They demonstrated confidence in presenting their ideas and were able to clearly explain the key themes, characters, and cultural values reflected in each story.

In addition, students developed their analytical and critical thinking skills through essay writing, where they explored deeper meanings of the folktales and expressed their opinions with supporting reasons. They showed good effort in organising their ideas, using appropriate vocabulary, and communicating their thoughts effectively.

Overall, they did a great job, showing creativity, teamwork, and strong engagement throughout the learning process.





Mandarin

This week's Mandarin lessons focused on an immersive Chinese Mahjong experience. Students explored not only language learning, but also Chinese culture, logic, strategy, observation skills, emotional control, and decision-making through gameplay. The activity was highly engaging, and students demonstrated fast learning, strong memory retention, and enthusiasm to continue playing with friends after class.

Students learned to recognise and read key Mahjong vocabulary and symbols, including:

- “条 (tiáo)” — bamboo suit
- “饼 (bǐng)” — circle suit
- “万 (wàn)” — character suit

Students also learned the seven honour tiles:

- “东 (dōng)”
- “南 (nán)”
- “西 (xī)”
- “北 (běi)”
- “中 (zhōng)”
- “发 (fā)”
- “白 (bái)”

Students practised important gameplay expressions:

- “碰 (pèng)” — claiming a matching set when another player discards the needed tile
- “吃 (chī)” — forming a sequence with connected numbers in the same suit
- “听牌 (tīng pái)” — being one tile away from winning
- “我和了 (wǒ hú le)” — “I won!” by claiming another player's discarded tile
- “自摸 (zì mō)” — winning by drawing the final tile independently

Students remained highly focused throughout the lessons. As the games progressed, they began applying logical thinking, observation, memory, and strategic decision-making. They carefully considered when to “碰 (pèng)” or “吃 (chī),” which tiles to keep or discard, and how to adjust their strategies based on other players' actions. The lessons also encouraged patience, flexibility, emotional control, and awareness of both winning and losing psychology in a social environment.

Mahjong is one of the most famous traditional games in Chinese culture and has been enjoyed by generations of families and friends for hundreds of years. It became especially popular during the late Ming Dynasty and developed from everyday street and community life in China. Traditionally, Mahjong is played by four people, which is why Chinese people often jokingly say “三缺一 (sān quē yī)” — meaning “three players waiting for one more person.”

However, Mahjong is much more than simply a game. Around a Mahjong table, players practise observation, prediction, strategy, communication, and emotional control. Chinese people sometimes describe Mahjong as a reflection of “做人 (zuò rén)” — the art of dealing with people and situations wisely. Players must carefully observe others, protect themselves, create opportunities, and adapt quickly when situations change. The game combines logic, psychology, patience, and social interaction all at once.



Students were also fascinated to learn that Mahjong tiles contain symbolic meanings connected to traditional Chinese views of the universe and daily life. The wind tiles — “东 (dōng)、南 (nán)、西 (xī)、北 (běi)” — represent the four directions of the world, while “中 (zhōng)、发 (fā)、白 (bái)” carry ideas related to balance, prosperity, and transformation. Even the structure of the tiles reflects ancient Chinese understandings of order, harmony, and human relationships.

Through this immersive experience, students discovered that Mahjong is not only a traditional Chinese game, but also a unique combination of language, culture, philosophy, social interaction, and strategic thinking.





English - Yr 7

After the adrenaline of the Quidditch pitch, Year 7 students took a more introspective turn as we explored Chapter 12: The Mirror of Erised. This chapter provided a beautiful shift in tone, allowing us to move from the action-packed heights of the stadium to the quiet, dusty corridors of Hogwarts at Christmas.

The heart of our discussion this week centered on the Mirror of Erised. We analysed the Latin-esque wordplay (reading "Erised" backward) and what the mirror represents. We debated the wisdom of Albus Dumbledore's warning:

"It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live."



Students explored whether the mirror is a gift or a curse, discussing how it reveals a character's deepest, most desperate desires, from Ron's wish for individual glory to Harry's heartbreaking longing for his family.

We looked at how J.K. Rowling uses imagery to contrast the warmth of the Great Hall's Christmas feast with the cold, lonely "Invisibility Cloak" excursions Harry takes. By analysing sensory details, students identified how the author creates a sense of melancholy and mystery during Harry's midnight wanders.

We introduced the concept of symbolism, discussing what the cloak represents for Harry. Is it just a tool for breaking rules, or does it symbolise his isolation and his need for protection? This sparked a fantastic classroom debate on the ethics of being "unseen."

Beyond the pages of Harry Potter, our students have been working diligently on their vocabulary power via Membean.

We believe that a "magical" command of language requires consistent practice. By using Membean's multisensory tools, including videos, root word trees, and example sentences. Year 7 is moving beyond simple memorisation toward true lexical mastery.





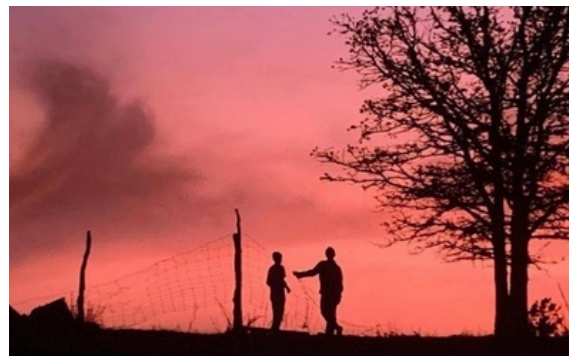
English - Yr 8

This has been an intense and momentous week for Year 8 students. As we near the conclusion of S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*, the stakes have never been higher, both in the world of the novel and in our classroom achievements.

Following the climax of the "rumble," Chapter 10 took us on an emotional journey through the stages of grief. We explored the tragic downward spiral of Dally Winston and debated a difficult question: Was Dally's end a choice or a consequence of his environment?

Students analysed the theme of breaking point, discussing how the loss of Johnny, the only person Dally truly loved, shattered his tough exterior. We also looked at Ponyboy's state of denial, examining how the mind tries to protect itself from trauma by rewriting reality.

In Chapter 11, the focus shifted to the legal and social consequences facing the Curtis brothers. We discussed the symbolism of the sunset and the shared humanity between the Greasers and Socs, specifically through Randy's visit to Ponyboy.



Key Discussion Points:

- **The Power of Perspective:** How Ponyboy's perception of "the enemy" changes when he sees Randy as a person, not just a Soc.
- **Social Class and Justice:** We debated whether the "system" treats Ponyboy and Randy differently based on their zip codes and hair oil.

Global Superstars: A Membean Milestone!

Year 7 & 8 classes are absolutely thriving. We are thrilled to announce a major achievement in our vocabulary development program:

Year 7 & 8 have been recognised as being in the top 10% of all classes using Membean worldwide!

This is an incredible testament to their consistency, focus, and "Word Wisdom." Outperforming thousands of classrooms across the globe shows that our students aren't just "doing" their homework, they are mastering the building blocks of sophisticated communication.

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PE



This week, students took part in Kickball as part of our Invasion Games activities. The lessons focused on developing teamwork, coordination, movement, and game awareness through a fun and active team environment.

Students worked on key skills such as kicking, catching, throwing, and strategic movement, while learning the importance of communication and cooperation during gameplay. The matches encouraged students to stay actively involved, support their teammates, and apply positive sportsmanship throughout the activities.

It was an energetic and enjoyable week, with students showing excellent participation and enthusiasm while building both their physical skills and teamwork abilities.

Design Innovation



Year 7 and Year 8 students finalised their group projects by completing the construction and finishing stages of their designs. Students practised important practical skills such as cutting and shaping materials using tools like saws and cutting machines, and joining pieces securely using waterproof wood glue, screws, or nails. They also applied the finishing touches such as paint, linseed oil, or beeswax to provide weather protection instead of chemical paints.

Science TedTalk

Jay Jay - Y8 and Proud - Y7 took on the TedTalk audience this week in a different venue presenting on **Are we failing nature? Or is nature failing us?** Both students put forward compelling arguments, supporting their ideas with referenced research!



A fantastic job Jay Jay & Proud! Well done!



GREAT BAKE SALE - Friday 8th May 2026





THANK YOU - Y1&2 SPORTS DAY HELPERS

The campus was radiating GREEN, YELLOW, BLUE & RED on Wednesday as Year 1 and 2 students went head to head in their inaugural sports day event. It was a pleasure to see all students across the Secondary school enjoy their roles at the event, whether that be supporting the younger students, helping manage the different stations or helping with logistics and being runners to the scoring table. It was a very hot day and I am extremely grateful for their work and energy.





REFLECTION TIME

As we come to the end of this academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the journey our Secondary Mandarin students have taken, a journey marked not only by progress in language, but by meaningful growth in confidence, independence, and leadership.

From the beginning of the year, our focus has been clear: not simply learning Mandarin, but using it with purpose. Students have engaged in a wide range of structured, task-based experiences designed to make language learning active and meaningful. Through differentiated challenge tasks, students select levels appropriate to their ability while being encouraged to extend themselves further. Interactive approaches such as wall-based learning and layered “main task + challenge task” activities have helped students develop independence, problem-solving skills, and sustained engagement.

As a result, students have shown clear progress in:

- Using Mandarin to communicate ideas with increasing confidence
- Applying vocabulary and sentence patterns in real contexts
- Responding more naturally in unscripted situations



To keep classroom learning engaging and varied, lessons regularly incorporate activity-based practice: role-play, acting and guessing games, “Who is the Spy” played entirely in Mandarin, and Kahoot quizzes tied to each topic. These approaches ensure that practice feels purposeful and enjoyable, not repetitive.

One of the most significant developments this year has been students' growing sense of ownership over their learning. Assessment has been designed to offer genuine choice not only in the level of challenge, but also in how students demonstrate their understanding. Students have submitted work in a range of formats, including videos, vlogs, podcasts, and written pieces. This flexibility has allowed students to work to their strengths while maintaining high expectations.

When students feel that their voice matters and their choices are valued, we see a clear shift — from completing tasks to actively shaping their own learning journey.

A particularly proud highlight of the year has been the way students have stepped into leadership and support roles within the school community.

Students volunteered to support Primary students during the Mandarin Coffee Shop project, using Mandarin in real-life snack purchasing scenarios. In doing so, they not only applied language skills, but also demonstrated patience, encouragement, and responsibility.

Year 8 students extended this further by initiating, designing, and beginning to lead a new Mandarin Coffee Shop experience. This transition from participants to organisers reflects a growing sense of initiative, ownership, and leadership. Another standout moment was when Secondary students led a Mandarin School Tour for Chinese-speaking families. They communicated confidently in Mandarin while also showing genuine care for younger children in the group — supporting them attentively and naturally. This level of awareness and responsibility was not instructed; it was demonstrated. It reflects not only language development, but strong character and empathy.



Our students are increasingly not just learners of Mandarin, but confident users, leaders, and ambassadors within the school community.

Language learning has been closely connected with cultural understanding throughout the year.

During Chinese New Year, students explored traditions, stories, and cultural values through both learning and experience. Activities such as calligraphy (毛笔书法), paper-cutting (剪纸), Chinese rubbing art (拓印), and the traditional game Tóuhú (投壶) allowed students to engage with culture in a hands-on and meaningful way.

Students also contributed actively to school-wide celebrations — supporting decoration, hosting, and organisation — further strengthening their connection to the language and its cultural context.

It has been a genuine privilege to teach this group of students. Over the year, they have grown not only in what they can do in Mandarin, but in how they approach learning, how they support others, and how they take initiative.

Moving forward, we will continue to:

- Provide meaningful opportunities for real-life communication
- Strengthen student independence and leadership
- Support each learner through appropriately challenging pathways

Our aim is to continue building a Mandarin programme that students feel confident in, engaged with, and proud to be part of.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. It is a pleasure to work with your children and to witness their growth throughout the year.



Congratulations



Pichcha - Y7 has been extremely busy in recent weeks achieving outstanding success in both international examinations and prestigious performing arts competitions.

Pichcha was awarded the **"Top of Thailand 2025"** for achieving the highest examination scores in the country under the international curriculum of the Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing (CSTD), Australia, for Jazz Grade 5 & 6.

The award ceremony was held on April 29, 2026, during the opening day of the Thailand Dance Grand Prix (TDGP) 2026 at Aksara Theatre King Power. The certificate was honorably presented by Ms. Ketsorn Kamnerdphet, Director of the Office of Contemporary Art and Culture (OCAC), Ministry of Culture. Earlier in the month Pichcha competed in the AEDC & IEF 2026 International Competitions delivering a stellar performance across multiple international categories, resulting in several prestigious awards:

- Gold Trophy (Winner): Contemporary Duo (Teenage Category, ages 12-14) at the International Elite Arts Festival (IEAF) 2026.
- 1st Runner-up (2nd Place): Contemporary Solo (Teenage Category, ages 11-15) at the Asian Elite Dance Competition (AEDC) 2026.
- **Grand Finalist:** Classical Ballet Solo at AEDC 2026 (Successfully advanced from the Semi-final round to the Grand Final to be held in Shanghai, China).

Well done Pichcha and good luck in the Grand final!





Upcoming Events

- Next Week

SBS Bangkok 'Heart and Sole' 2026

A week all about well being with a discrete focus on the link between 'movement and mood'

Optional well being activities for all year-groups during school day 'downtime'

House points linked to participation & House movement challenges

House Challenges within existing lessons

Toddlers & EY bespoke activities option



The week will culminate in the **SBS S.T.R.I.D.E.** event on Friday 15 May.

Whole-school House competition to complete the most House steps between 7.30am and 3.30pm.

Curriculum continues but classrooms can be 'flipped' and active learning encouraged!

'When you move your feet, you soothe your sole'

- Next Friday 15th May



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Join us for a relaxed morning coffee with the PTA as we celebrate the importance of family and community at SBS Bangkok.

Celebrate the International Day of Families with the PTA

Friday 15 May 2026
Time 8.30–9.30 am
📍 SBS Bangkok Coffee Shop



Scan to RSVP



Also Next Week

- Fri 8 May - The GREAT House BAKE Sale

Looking Ahead

- Monday 18th May - Assessment Week begins (Y3-8)
- Monday 8th June - Friday 12th June - Y6-8 Expedition to Sam Roi Yot
- Wednesday 17th June - Winning House Surprise Reward Day
- Friday 19th June - Final day of Term - 12.00pm finish

Service Reminders



Closing Note

It has been a high-energy week, and I am incredibly grateful for the positivity and grit our students have displayed across all school activities. With the Sam Roi Yot expedition on the horizon and assessment week approaching, there is much to be excited about in the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued support of our school community. Have a wonderful weekend

Warm regards,
Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal





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**Inspire Academic Success,
Nurture Holistic Wellbeing,
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Contacts

-  Info@sbsbangkok.ac.th
-  www.sbsbangkok.ac.th
-  +66 (0) 81 577 8222
-  @sbsbangkok

Admissions

Monday - Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm

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