Message from Secondary Principal



Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal

Dear SBS International School Bangkok Families,

Welcome back to the second half of Term 1! Following the disrupted end to our first half-term due to the flooding and home learning, it has been wonderful to return to school and see our vibrant community together again. I hope you all had a restful and relaxing break.

It was fantastic seeing so many of you at our scheduled PTCs this week. I hope you found these conversations to be positive and informative. Most importantly, I hope your sons and daughters have come away with a clear understanding of their progress and key targets to focus on across the curriculum in the coming weeks. Please remember to keep these conversations going with subject staff, do not leave things until the next PTC, drop us an email as and when the need arises.

On Tuesday morning, we officially launched our Service Learning program! Students met with their assigned groups for the first time, taking the opportunity to get to know one another and start exploring their initial project ideas. We are excited to see these community initiatives take shape over the term.

A special highlight of my week was spending time in the Mandarin classroom on Thursday afternoon. Our Year 8 students took on the role of teachers for our Year 1 children. They did themselves immensely proud displaying fantastic energy, enthusiasm, and a much-needed level of patience! It was a brilliant demonstration of cross-year collaboration and leadership.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend ahead!

Service Learning

Students started their Service Learning projects this week:





Areas of Focus

- Animals
- People and Community
- Environment
- Health



Within each of these areas of focus the students are subdivided into smaller specialist groups investigating and researching particular issues that are linked to personal interest or experience. The tutor team is spread across the groups in a supervisory role.

The projects that evolve will be 100% student led and as a team we are excited to see the work that will materialise.






Mandarin

Sharing Holiday Stories and Building Connections
Welcome back to school and to the Mandarin classroom for Term 1B! This week, our theme was holidays. Students worked together to build a resource bank of places and activities, which they then used to share and present their holiday experiences in Mandarin. They practised talking about when they travelled, where they went, who they went with, what they did, and how they felt. It was a great opportunity to revisit familiar language, learn from one another, and tell their own stories.

Y8 Students Teach Mandarin to Y1
This week also saw the highlight of our Y8-to-Y1 Mandarin teaching project, and it was a great success! After weeks of preparation, rehearsals, and practice teaching sessions, our Y8 students led their lessons with confidence and enthusiasm.

They introduced Y1 students to Chinese words for colours, fruits, and parts of the body, bringing each lesson to life with engaging games and interactive activities. The Y1 students joined in eagerly and thoroughly enjoyed learning Mandarin from their older peers.

Our Y8 students did an outstanding job. Beyond developing their language and teaching skills, they created one of the most heartwarming moments of the week: at the end of the session, group members hugged one another to celebrate what they had achieved together. It was a lovely reminder that this project was about much more than teaching vocabulary. Through planning, collaboration, and shared success, students strengthened their teamwork and built a stronger sense of belonging.

Most importantly, the project built a bridge between our Secondary and Primary Mandarin communities, bringing students together through a shared love of language and learning.

A huge well done to our Y8 teachers and Y1 learners! We look forward to bringing them together again for another round of student-led Mandarin teaching in Term 2.












English

Year 7

Welcome back! We have had a fantastic start to the second half of Term 1, and our Year 7 students have jumped straight into our exciting new unit.

This week, we kicked off our reading of the award-winning novel Holes by Louis Sachar. Before diving into the story, students completed pre-reading activities designed to build anticipation and context. They are actively practicing key reading comprehension techniques, learning to formulate and ask thoughtful questions as they navigate the text.

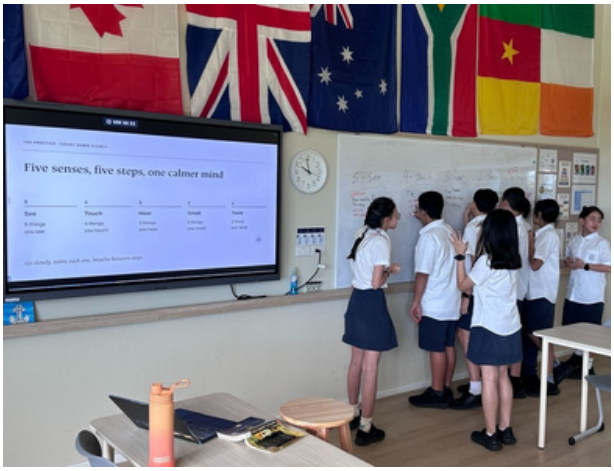


We have already completed the first two chapters, and the central mystery has everyone hooked: What did Stanley Yelnats do to get sent to Camp Green Lake? Alongside our narrative discussion, students were introduced to the literary concept of irony and examined how authors use it to add depth to a story.

To support their ongoing language development, students also continue to build and refine their vocabulary skills weekly using Membean.

Year 8

It has been a wonderful start to the second half of Term 1 in Year 8 English, as we continue our deep dive into Madeleine L'Engle's classic novel, A Wrinkle in Time.





This week's discussion centered on emotional literacy and character analysis. Students were introduced to the 5-4-3-2-1 coping strategy, a sensory grounding technique that the main character, Meg, could have used to calm her anxiety near the beginning of the book. Beyond analysing the text, students discussed how this practical mindfulness tool can be applied in their own daily lives whenever they feel overwhelmed or stressed.

Students also continue to strengthen their spelling and word mastery each week through Membean.

Year 9

Following our recent weather disruptions and flooding, we carried over our Ideal Society Presentations into this week.



Our Year 9 scholars did an outstanding job presenting their original visions of a utopian society. A key highlight of the exercise was the Q&A session: students had to defend their societal models as their peers constructively pointed out potential flaws or logistical challenges in their plans. This lively debate provided excellent preparation for our next major literary study, George Orwell's Animal Farm, which begins next week.

Students also continue to advance their higher-level vocabulary practice each week using Membean.

Thai Language

Year 7

This week, students learned about “words borrowed from foreign languages in Thai.” They explored how many words we use in everyday life do not originally come from Thai. Through trade, the spread of religion, and migration, Thai has been influenced by other languages, enriching our vocabulary and making our language more diverse.



Year 8

Year 8 students learned about the differences between spoken and written Thai through group and pair activities. They also enjoyed playing quiz games and practised choosing appropriate words for different contexts.



Year 9

Year 9 students presented their writing about the current flooding situation to the class. They also practised reading comprehension through the story เมื่อวันที่ผมตื่นสาย and enjoyed answering questions in a quiz game. They did quite well this time. Well done, everyone!



Design Innovation



Over the past few weeks, students in Y7 & Y8 have investigated problems they have observed in their homes and around the school. They have asked questions, identified challenges, and explored possible solutions to real-world problems. Back in the classroom, students have worked collaboratively in groups to share their findings, discuss ideas, and develop practical solutions to the problems they have identified.



Through hands-on activities, students are exploring material properties, joining methods, shaping techniques, and finishing processes. They are also learning the importance of following workshop safety procedures and using tools and equipment responsibly.

Sustainability is an important part of this term's unit. Students are being encouraged to make responsible choices when selecting materials, taking accurate measurements, and planning their projects to minimise material waste and use resources efficiently.



Students have begun preparing the materials required for their projects and carefully checking measurements before construction. This planning process helps them understand the importance of accuracy, organisation, and efficient resource management.

During group projects, students take on specific roles, such as Chief Engineer, Design Engineer, and Architectural Engineer. These roles help students share responsibilities, strengthen teamwork, develop leadership skills, and contribute to the successful completion of their projects.



By the end of the unit, students are expected to demonstrate improved workshop safety, practical manufacturing skills, problem-solving abilities, and collaborative working skills. They will also develop a stronger understanding of how to select and

use materials responsibly while applying design and manufacturing principles to create practical solutions to real-world problems.

Year 9

Year 9 students have been developing their practical workshop skills and understanding of materials, tools, and manufacturing processes. The main focus has been on planning, designing, and preparing for individual and group projects. Students have explored material properties, joining methods, shaping techniques, and finishing processes. They have also learned the importance of following workshop safety procedures and using tools and equipment responsibly.

Through the planning and manufacturing process, students develop an understanding of accuracy, organisation, and efficient resource management. Students have already begun cutting materials and constructing their group projects, applying their design ideas and practical skills to bring their plans to life.

During group projects, students take on specific roles, such as Chief Engineer, Design Engineer, and Architectural Engineer. These roles encourage students to share responsibilities, strengthen teamwork, develop leadership skills, and contribute to the successful completion of their projects.

By the end of the unit, students are expected to demonstrate improved workshop safety, practical manufacturing skills, problem-solving abilities, and collaborative working skills. They will also develop a stronger understanding of how to select and use materials responsibly while applying design and manufacturing principles to create practical solutions to real-world problems.









Mathematics

We hope you are having a wonderful week! We are excited to share an update on your child's progress in Year 7, 8 & 9 Mathematics, highlight what we have recently accomplished, recent assessment updates, and provide practice questions for working with your child at home and preview the key concepts we are exploring in class this week.

Year 7 Maths - What We Are Learning This Week: Unit 4 – Decimals

This week, students have officially launched into **Unit 4: Decimals.** Decimals are a fundamental mathematical topic with real-world applications in finance, measurement, science, and everyday problem-solving. Over the coming lessons, our learning will focus on three main areas:

1. **Ordering Decimals:** Building confidence in comparing decimal values by understanding place value columns (tenths, hundredths, thousandths) and aligning digits correctly.
2. **Adding and Subtracting Decimals:** Mastering vertical alignment of decimal points, carrying over, and borrowing when performing calculations with varying numbers of decimal places.
3. **Multiplying and Dividing Decimals:** Understanding place value shifts, multiplying decimals using written methods, and dividing decimals by both whole numbers and other decimals.

How you can support at home: Ask your child to help calculate total prices at the supermarket, compare times in sports results, or work out measurements in cooking recipes!

Assessment Update & Parent Consultation Evening
We are pleased to share that students recently completed and had recorded their **Unit Assessment for Unit 3: Place Value and Rounding.** We look forward to discussing your child's achievement on this assessment during **this week's Parent Consultation Evening.** During our meeting, we will review their performance across all three initial units:

- **Unit 1:** Integers (positive/negative numbers, order of operations)
- **Unit 2:** Expressions, Equations, and Formulae (algebraic notation, simplification, solving equations)
- **Unit 3:** Place Value and Rounding

This will be a great opportunity to celebrate your child's successes, identify areas for growth, and set target goals for the term ahead.

Quote of the Week
"Beauty is the first test: there is no permanent place in the world for ugly mathematics. You have to spend some energy and effort to see the beauty of math, but it is deeply rewarding when you do." — **Maryam Mirzakhani** (First female Fields Medalist)

Parent & Student corner - here →

Year 8 Maths - What We Are Learning This Week: Unit 4 – Decimals

This week, Year 8 students have officially started **Unit 4: Decimals.** Building on their foundation from Year 7, this unit focuses on deepening conceptual understanding and efficiency when calculating with decimal numbers. Our key focus areas include:

1. **Ordering Decimals:** Comparing and ordering positive and negative decimals using place value columns, number lines, and inequality symbols (<, >, ≤, ≥).
2. **Multiplying and Dividing Decimals:** Performing written and mental calculations involving decimal multipliers and divisors, including understanding place value shifts.
3. **Making Decimal Calculations Easier:** Applying mental strategies and number properties—such as converting decimal calculations into equivalent integer operations or splitting numbers into factors—to simplify complex problems.

How you can support at home: Challenge your child to use mental strategies when comparing prices per unit at the grocery store or estimating trip times and speeds!

Assessment Update & Parent Consultation Evening
Students recently completed and had recorded their **Unit Assessment for Unit 3: Place Value and Rounding.**

We look forward to discussing your child's performance on this assessment during **this week's Parent Consultation Evening.** During our discussion, we will review progress across all three completed units:

- **Unit 1:** Integers (directed numbers, powers, roots, and order of operations)
- **Unit 2:** Expressions, Equations, and Formulae (algebraic manipulation, expanding brackets, and solving linear equations)
- **Unit 3:** Place Value and Rounding (powers of 10, decimal places, and significant figures)

This will be a great opportunity to celebrate achievements, review assessment feedback, and set target goals for the upcoming term.

Quote of the Week
"Without mathematics, there's nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers."
— **Shakuntala Devi** (Mathematician and Mental Calculator)

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Year 9 Mathematics - What We Are Learning This Week: Unit 4 – Equations and Inequalities

This week, Year 9 students have moved into **Unit 4: Equations and Inequalities.** As algebraic problem-solving becomes more sophisticated at this key stage, our focus is on building robust methods to solve complex mathematical problems. Key topics include:

1. **Constructing and Solving Equations:** Translating word problems, real-world scenarios, and geometric properties into algebraic equations, then solving multi-step equations involving brackets, fractions, and variables on both sides.
2. **Simultaneous Equations (Elimination Method):** Learning to solve two linear equations with two unknowns simultaneously by adding or subtracting equations to eliminate one variable, substituting to find the remaining variable, and checking solutions.
3. **Solving Linear Inequalities:** Working with inequality symbols (<, >, ≤, ≥), solving linear inequalities algebraically, and representing solution sets on number lines.

How you can support at home: Ask your child to explain the "balancing method" when solving equations or walk you through how eliminating a variable simplifies a simultaneous equation problem!

Assessment Update & Parent Consultation Evening
Students recently completed and had recorded their **Unit Assessment for Unit 3: Decimals, Percentages, and Rounding.**

We look forward to discussing your child's results on this assessment during **this week's Parent Consultation Evening.** During our meeting, we will take a comprehensive look at their progress across all three completed units:

- **Unit 1:** Number and Calculations (index laws, standard form, prime factor decomposition, surds)
- **Unit 2:** Expressions and Formulae (expanding double brackets, factorising quadratics, rearranging formulae)
- **Unit 3:** Decimals, Percentages, and Rounding (powers of 10, decimal operations, compound percentages, upper/lower bounds)

This consultation evening is a valuable opportunity to review your child's strengths, discuss target areas for growth, and ensure they are well-supported for the remainder of the academic year.

Quote of the Week
"Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about understanding."
— **William Paul Thurston** (Fields Medalist)

Parent & Student corner - here →

PTC in photos













Congratulations

Welcome & Nammon (Y7) - participated in the dance competition at the Asia Student Arts Festival as a duo.



We prepared by practicing our dance together and working hard to improve our performance. We enjoyed performing on stage together and sharing our passion for dancing.

We felt very happy and proud when we received the 1st Runner-up award because our hard work had paid off.

This experience encouraged us to keep improving our dance skills and participate in more competitions in the future.

Written by: Welcome & Nammon
Well done to Welcome & Nammon we are very proud of you!







Pichcha (Y8) has been back on the international stage representing both her talent and Thailand in two major competitions:

1. Korea International Contemporary Dance Competition 2026 (KICDC 2026)
Which took place from 28th–30th September in South Korea where she achieved **GOLD PRIZE – 1st Place Champion** (Pre-Junior Division).

2. 2026 ICU Asian Cheerleading Championships & Asia Pacific Cheerleading Cup
Pichcha represented Thailand National Team between 15-18th October in Malaysia where she achieved a Gold Medal in the Asia Pacific Cheerleading Cup (APCC) – Teen Jazz Doubles and a Silver Medal in the 2026 ICU Asian Cheerleading Championships – Youth Pom Doubles.

Well done Pichcha we are so proud of you!

Halloween is approaching!



We cannot wait to see your spooky Halloween dress-up on Friday! Please remember that if you choose not to dress-up with a Halloween theme you will be required to wear normal school uniform to school. Please see below for details on the days spooktacular events.



Next Week

- **Wednesday 28th October** - House Cereal Box Challenge
- **Friday 30th October** - Halloween
- **Saturday 31st October** - BASIS International Swim Meet

Can you help?



We are looking for your help and support in sharing your professional experience with our students across the school.

Please could we ask for a couple of minutes of your time to complete the following survey found

Click here to complete the survey

The survey will close on **Monday 26th October at 4pm.**

Reminders



We have postponed this year's Cereal Box House Challenge until next Wednesday (28th October) therefore you still have this weekend to get your hands on a cereal box and add to your house collection at the start of next week.

All donated cereal boxes can be left in your designated house area close to the EY Playground.

Closing Note

What a brilliant and busy start to the second half of Term 1! Between the launch of student-led Service Learning projects, Y8 mentoring Y1 in Mandarin, and the incredible achievements of our young dancers, this week has highlighted the very best of our SBS community.

Thank you to all parents who connected with us during PTCs, we look forward to continuing these valuable conversations throughout the term. Don't forget to drop off your donations for the Cereal Box House Challenge on Wednesday, and have a fantastic weekend ahead.

Warm regards,
Gary Crumbie
Secondary Principal


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