SBS International School
Bangkok
AN ARTHIT OURAIRAT INSTITUTION



MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 2026



Dear Parents/Guardians,

November is perhaps the busiest month in any school's 'international' calendar. A month where students are exposed to cultural celebration, the poignancy of the past, and the hope and excitement of what lies ahead as the calendar year begins to come to a close. This week we celebrate Diwali - the festival of light; next week we honour Armistice Day in remembrance; and the week after we celebrate Loy Krathong, honoring Phra Mae Khongkha (the Thai Goddess of Water). Naturally, the term concludes with the joyous countdown to Christmas and all the warmth that this period brings!

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Cultural celebrations in schools serve as a bridge between diverse communities, moving beyond superficial displays of traditional foods, clothing, or music to foster deep, authentic intercultural understanding. You may be familiar with Edward T. Hall who in 1976 created a framework to understand the 'depth of culture' using an iceberg analogy - only a small fraction of culture is visible, while the vast majority of cultural understanding lies hidden beneath the surface. Above the waterline school events provide an opportunity to wave a flag, eat some (spicy) food, or dance like no one is watching. But inside our classrooms, we take a deep dive to explore core values, worldviews, spiritual concepts, attitudes toward authority, and the unconscious assumptions that shape human behaviour.

Intercultural understanding cannot be passively received, abstract, or purely restricted to dates on a calendar; it must be experiential, immersive, and continuous. Perhaps the most powerful vehicle for this depth of connection is simple storytelling - enter Mr. Richard.

Mr. Richard is our Lead Maths Teacher and a seasoned practitioner. Having started his career in the Royal Navy, he is naturally accustomed to a seafaring yarn or a classic tall tale (especially when explaining his golf handicap!). Last year, Mr. Richard led our Remembrance Assembly by sharing his personal story. Our students left the theater not only enthralled by his adventures on the high seas, but deeply touched by his emotion, his empathy, and his enduring hope for a future defined by peace and mutual respect.

Mr Richard touched the heart and mind, and this is how genuine intercultural understanding takes root. When a student feels the weight of a teacher or parent's lived experience, then 'cultural significance' moves from a date in the diary to a living lesson in empathy. By inviting one another to share our authentic stories, we ensure that being an international school is not just about where our students come from, but how deeply they learn to connect with the world around them.

I would like to thank the members of the SBS International School Bangkok community, especially our teachers and students, for understanding the true meaning of the word International in our school title.

Happy Diwali!

With kind regards,
Neil

SBS International School Bangkok

AN ARTHIT OURAIRAT INSTITUTION

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



Admissions

Monday - Friday
8.30am - 4.30pm

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