



# TALKING *Straits*



**WHAT'S  
NEW**

**TIPS**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

# PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDITION



## A NOTE FROM MR. STEPHEN

Dear parents/carers,

As we come to the end of term, we could never have imagined that this year would present us with many uncertainties, changes and challenges. I want to offer our collective thanks for the support you have given to your children, the staff and the school over recent months. At all times, we continue to place the children at the heart of every decision and every action we take, and it has never been more important for home and school to work together. We are particularly grateful for your support during these unparalleled times, and we look forward to continuing working in collaboration with you next term.

We have successfully navigated the many challenges and celebrated the many achievements this term, but we have missed the community feel associated with celebrating the many Festivals that make Straits, Straits. I am looking forward to Term 3 with a renewed sense of hope, determination and positivity.

Thank you for your continuous support, and have a relaxing holiday.



Straits International  
School

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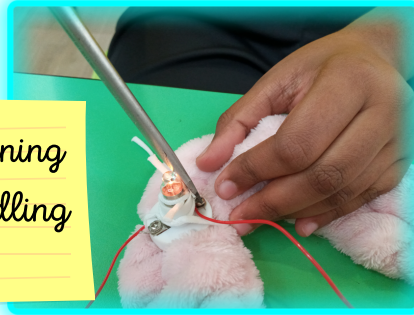
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# BACK TO SCHOOL

We are delighted that the pupils were allowed to return to school in early March. Seeing so many happy, engaged pupils focused on their learning and socializing with friends made the school feel complete again. Here are some photos from the first few weeks back in the school.



Designing  
& building



Measuring  
& cooking



Being  
creative



Counting



Presenting



Paying  
attention



Working  
outside

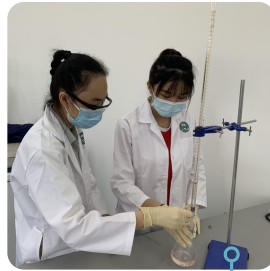
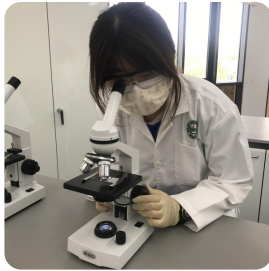


...and  
following  
the SOP's

## BACK TO SCHOOL

I am not sure who was more excited to have the students back in school; the teachers or the students! Although our Year 11s were not as excited to share their space again.

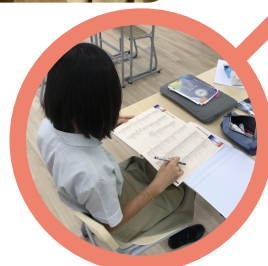
Working together, seeing our friends, getting stuck into our learning...



D  
r  
a  
m  
a



Experiments



Group work



# CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS

## Maths

This term we have introduced a new **Maths intervention** on Friday mornings. This aims at developing the skills of our young mathematicians by supporting them in smaller groups with work that is specifically designed to supplement the main class and develop their knowledge base. During this time, the children who are not involved in the intervention groups have the opportunity to revise and extend their knowledge of the topics covered during the week.

This has got off to a successful start and this is set to continue both during face to face lessons in school and if there is a return to VL in the future.

For those with children partaking in the programme, the addition of individual folders for each child will begin to give you an insight into some of the content the children have covered in their sessions. Furthermore, a new class has been set up on class dojo for each of the Friday Maths intervention groups. This is to keep you updated on some of the work the children will be completing under the tutelage of our teaching assistants leading the sessions.



*Year 3 & 4 maths group*

## Science

The subject of Science is a continuous, incremental process that involves generating hypotheses, collecting evidence, testing hypotheses, and reaching evidence-based conclusions. Rather than involving one particular method, **scientific inquiry** is quite flexible.

The study of Science, especially in a school setting, exposes students to a myriad of topics, offering a balance of Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. With this in mind, having an approach as flexible as the Scientific Inquiry method would not only be beneficial in planning experiments or observations, but also in the way Science is being taught in school. Doing it this way would encourage the students' curiosity by way of allowing them to question what is being taught and running tests and experiments on what they would wonder on.

As such, this will not only give students autonomy over their learning but also allow them to have ownership of their learning through their own discoveries. Not only will they apply the theories and concepts learned in their lessons, but they will also be able to acknowledge and test their curiosities and questions that would arise from having learned these concepts and theories.

In Term 3, Primary Science will be focusing on implementing this in all Science lessons. This will start with Key Stage 2 in the first half of Term 3 2020/21, and in the latter half with Key Stage 1.

The chart showcases the Scientific Inquiry Method stages. Years 3 and 4 will be focusing on the 4 areas of Question, Research, Experiment and Analyse. This is done so that they would familiarise themselves with the method first before properly engaging with all six steps in Year 5 and 6. Our current Year 5 and 6 cohort will be working through all 6 stages of the Scientific Inquiry Method in Term 3.



## English

In English this term, we have had a focus on reading. For students who had graduated from the Phonics Programme, this has meant an introduction to the VIPERS Reading Comprehension Programme. VIPERS is an acronym to aid the recall of the 6 reading domains as part of the UK's reading curriculum. They are the key areas which children need to know and understand in order to improve their comprehension of texts.

**VIPERS** stands for:



**V**ocabulary  
**I**nfer  
**P**redict  
**E**xplain  
**R**etrieve  
**S**ummarise

This half term, the focus has been on the Vocabulary domain. These question types include:

- Can you read around this word to work out what it means?
- How/where can we find out the meaning of this word?
- Can you give me another sentence with the word ... in it?
- Find and copy one word that means...
- Find and copy one word/group of words that tells you...
- What does the word... mean in this sentence?
- Find and copy a word/group of words that suggest that...
- What does this word/sentence tell you about ...?
- Choose the best words to match the description above. Circle your choice.
- Find and copy a group of words that means the same as..... This means that...
- What do phrases such as ... tell you about ...?
- Look at the paragraph... what does the word...suggest about...
- What does this word tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?



To celebrate this Programme, we even have a new **display** on the first floor!





## MEET OUR STUDENT COUNCIL!

I am delighted to introduce to you our very first Student Council in Secondary!

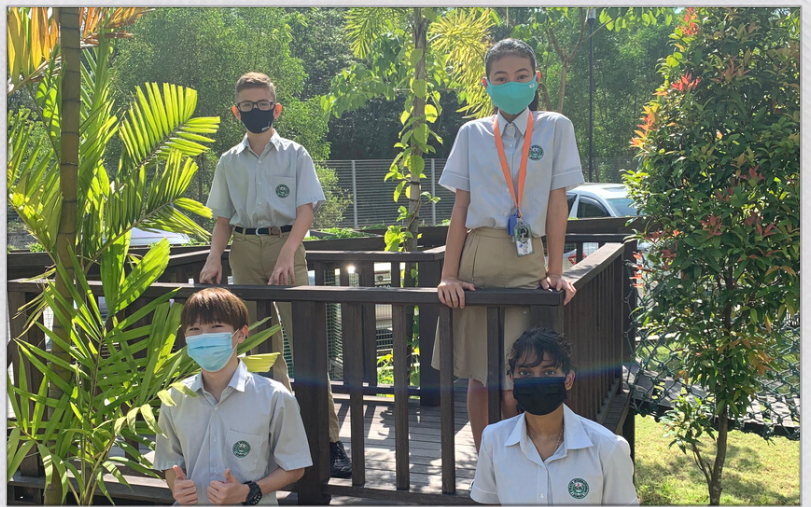
The student council was elected by their peers to represent the Secondary student body. The Student Council provides not only leadership opportunities, but the chance to be the voice of the students, to work together with staff and influence school life. We look forward to working with them and seeing what change they will bring!

Top left - William - Year 7

Top right - Zara - Year 8

Bottom left - Ervin - Year 9

Bottom right - Dhuveena - Year 10



*Class Representatives*



Top left - Candy - CCA representative

Top right - Tannusha - Secretary

Bottom left - Cecilia - Treasurer

Bottom right - Ain - Vice President

Stairs right - Gladys - President

Missing from picture - Divyasri - Events representative

*Missing from photo: Divyasri*

## Year 7

My name is William and I am from Nottingham, England. I like to play sports, but particularly football. I also like to play games and talk with my fellow classmates. I am representing year 7; I wanted to join the student council so that everyone could have their voices heard through me. I hope that together we will make a difference in this school and make it a better place for everyone in it and around it.



## Year 8

Hi, my name is Zara, I am the Year 8 Representative and my hobbies are dancing and acting. My favourite subject is Science, to be specific chemistry. I wanted to be on the student council because I want to be there to help people and listen to everyone's ideas. My plans for the council is to make the school a place that you feel comfortable and bring back activities that you can have fun and enjoy being in school.



*Raise your words, not your voice.*

*It is rain that grows flower, not thunder.*

*Rumi*

## Year 9

Hi my name is Ervin from Year 9D. I'm from Malaysia and I love photography, gaming and sports. I am currently representing

Year 9 as a year representative. I wanted to join the Student Council because since I am a very sporty and talkative person, I want to take advice and suggestions from the students and make the overall school experience better. I would also like to communicate better with the students.



## Year 10

Hello Comrades! I am Dhurveena Ganeson, the Student Council Representative for Year 10! This is my third year in SIS and my experience here has been the greatest. I am originally a Penangite before moving to Rawang.

My hobbies include reading fantasy books, listening to music, writing old-fashioned letters and addressing it to myself because who reads letters nowadays. Anyways, I have also been a part of the Community Service Club mostly helping teachers during my free time. I feel very proud and excited to be involved in the Student Council community and making SIS be the best learning environment anyone could ask for!



## President



My name is Gladys and I am a Malaysian. I joined the Student Council because I want to learn practical skills in addition to the knowledge from books. These skills include interpersonal and communications techniques in helping my friends, interacting with others while developing my leadership skills to the next level. I will ensure that all students are encouraged and supported to express their concerns, needs, wishes and feelings to the Student Council.

## VP

Hello, everyone! My name is Ain, from year 9. I'm from Korea. My hobby is reading



Fiction novels and my favourite subjects are Maths and Science. I'm representing the whole school as Vice President. The reason that I joined the student council is that

I wanted everybody to make memories that are remembered and cherished forever. To add to that, I also want to be affable to all the students, listen to their concerns. Since i'm now in the student council, I would plan with everyone else to have more wonderful events. To add colours to our school and make our school perfect.

## Secretary

Greetings to the principal, staff, teachers and my lovely friends, my name is TANUSHA REDDY. I am 12 years old and I am in Yr 7. My favourite subjects are History, Science and English.



My hobby is to read and play badminton. I am the Secretary of the Student council. I wanted to join the Student Council so I can make a difference in the school. My plan is to make every student enjoy their school life and be always HAPPY, Service with PRIDE, Lead with CONFIDENCE, Inspire to IMPACT LIVES

## Treasurer

Hello, my name is Cecilia in year 8 and I am the treasurer of SIS. As everyone recognises me, I am from Korea and I love to watch movies in my free times. Honestly, this is my first time signing up for the student council. Thus, I do not have many experiences with the student council as this is my first time being a treasurer. This time, I wanted to



challenge myself and push myself hard to make our school a better environment to study. I also want to make the 'treasurer' position to be well-known in school so that everyone will know how awesome a change that the treasurer can make in school. The goal that I want to achieve during I am the treasurer, I want to be as responsible as I can for taking care of money in SIS.

## Events

Hi, my name is Divyasri a/p V. Rajendran and I am the Events Rep. My hobbies are playing with my Pomeranians, Playing Badminton, Swimming, Dancing, Singing and Drawing. I have a lot of hobbies but I enjoy doing each and every one of them.

I wanted to join the Student Council because I think I can make a difference and help all the Students at SIS. Another reason why I wanted to join the SC is for the experience of working with such amazing people and their amazing leadership skills.

Now that I am on the Student Council I would like to propose changes to the way events are celebrated. I want to celebrate it through what the students are learning, making it fun but educational.



## CCA

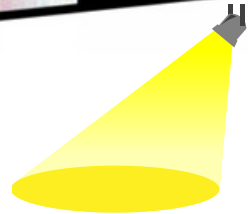
Hi everyone! I am Candy and I am the Student Council's CCA Representative I am from Malaysia, my hobbies are singing, playing ukulele, dancing,

organizing events, writing creative journal and I love baking too. My favourite subjects are : English, Mandarin, Geography and Science. I joined the Student Council is because it can provide me an opportunity to work together with other key stage students and teachers. Working as a

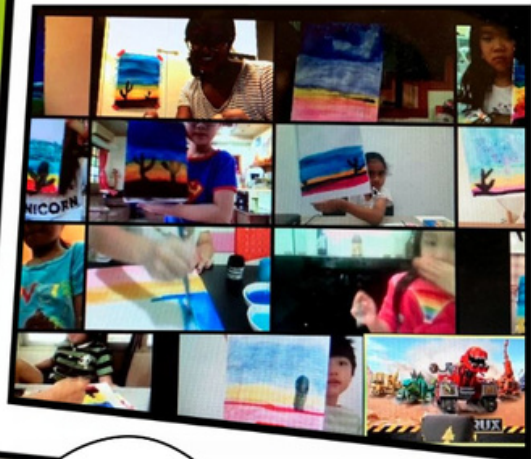
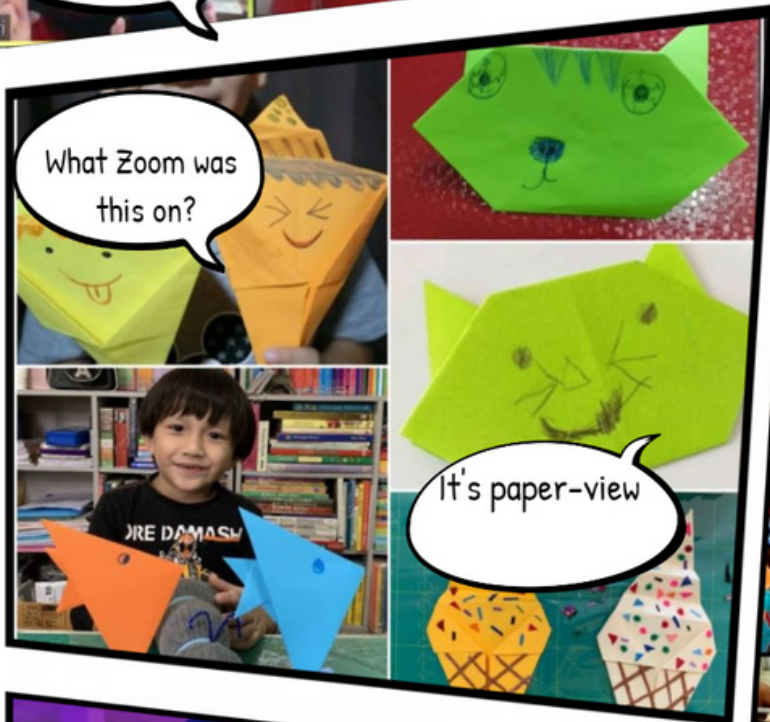
team will grow my knowledge and strengthen our skills towards success. This will be an opportunity for me to be a good listener and respect each other in this multicultural environment. My objective is work together with CCA teachers to plan out different activities to carried out systematically throughout the year. Create a positive culture and environment to encourage student to join CCA and build trust between students and teachers.



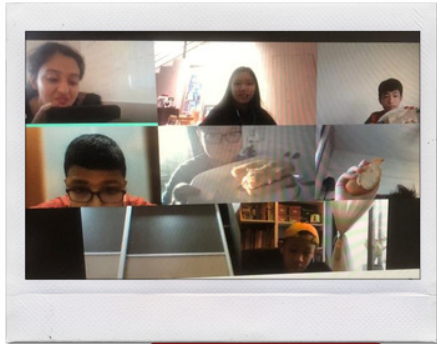
# Spirit Week



## Highlights



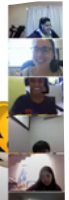
In Secondary we had one day full of SPIRIT to celebrate the last day of VL! Each period, the students were given 5 activities to choose from across Years 7 - 10. We had quizzes, dancing, karaoke, cooking, crafting and we even escaped zombies! We had a lot of fun, here is just a little of what we we got up to...



# VIRTUAL SECONDARY Spirit DAY



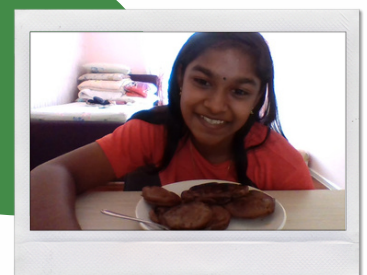
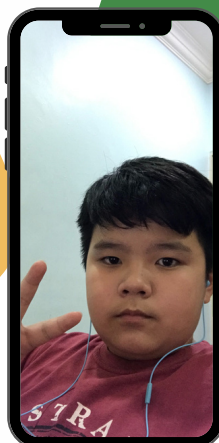
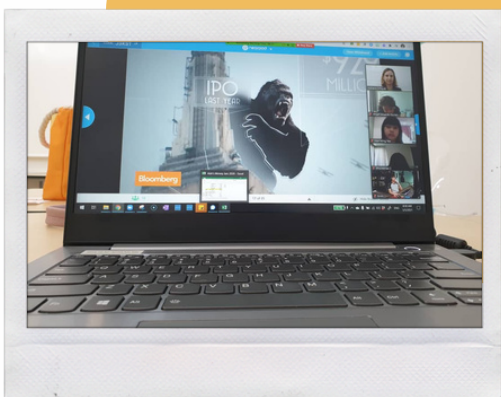
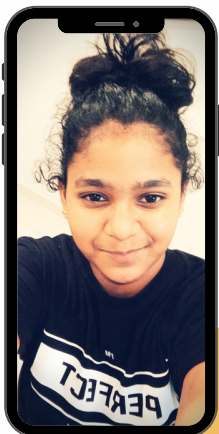
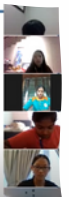
## 7. Kung Fu Panda



## 10.



1. What does the NBA stand for?
2. How many regulation strokes are there in swimming?
- Bonus point:** What are they? (the strokes)
3. What five colours make up the Olympic rings?
4. In which sport was Muhammad Ali popular?
5. In what sport is "love" a score?
- Bonus point:** How much is it worth?



# Chinese New Year



Year 4 dragon masters



Nursery give everything a glow!



Drum roll please!



**Highlights**



# MEET THE teachers



Our young journalists in **Year 4** have interviewed their teacher, and one of Straits' new arrivals, **Mr. Laurence**. This is what Ara, Michael, Jia Xin and Gemma found out when they asked Mr. Laurence their questions...



## Jia Xin's Questions:

### 1.How old are you?

*I'm 34 years old, I'll be 35 this year.*

### 2.If you could eat one thing everyday what would it be?

*Bananas!! I already eat them everyday and don't want to stop.*

### 3.What 3 items would you grab if your house was on fire?

*Oh, good question! Besides my family, probably my wallet, my car keys and my passport.*



## Ara's Questions:

### 1. What is your favourite color?

*Hmmm, I'm probably a little bit strange because my favourite colour changes with my mood. Today it's yellow.*

### 2.Do you want to be famous?

*No! I really like peace and quiet and wouldn't want the attention that celebrities get.*

### 3.Would you rather read a book or watch a movie?

*Can I choose both?*



## Michael's Questions

### 1.If you could change one thing about the world what would it be?

*I'd like for the pandemic to end, and everything to go back to normal.*

### 2.What is the one thing you couldn't live without?

*The internet - especially for staying in contact with people around the world.*

### 3.Would you rather stay up late or get up early?

*Since having a son I'm definitely a fan of going to bed early since I'll be up early anyway.*



## Gemma's Questions

### What is something you want to learn how to do?

*I'd love to learn how to draw and paint, especially in water colour.*

### Would you rather play inside or outside?

*Definitely inside, it's too hot outside!*

### If you could be any age, what age would you be?

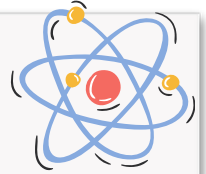
*I'd be 8 or 9 so I could be in school again - it looks much more fun now.*



# MEET THE teachers



Our young journalists in **Year 9** have interviewed their teacher, and one of Straits' new arrivals, **Mr. Dave**. This is what students found out when they asked Mr. Dave their questions...



(Ervin): **What made you want to become a teacher?**

A: "I was in an engineering university and I got a placement in a school. I worked in the school and loved it. So I decided to be a Teacher."

(Justin): **Why did you decide to come to Malaysia to teach?**

A: "Because I wanted to come to South East Asia to have a new experience and experience the culture here."

(Angel): **How come you chose science and not other subjects?**

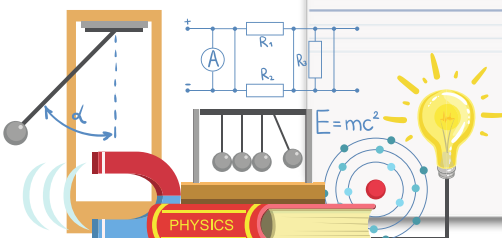
A: "Because I love Science, especially physics. Its the best subject in the world! I also like doing experiments."

(Helen): **Are you thinking to teach in Japan or Korea? Why?**

A: No, I'm not interested in teaching in Japan or Korea. Because I'm loving it in Malaysia!

(Gladys): **Why do you like Malaysia?**

A: "The people here are so friendly. They talk to me all the time. I like that. Very friendly people and the food is fantastic, I love the food here. Its not as good as English food, but its different. And also the hot weather here. I like the fact that Malaysia is multicultural and there are different varieties."



## TIPS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

We have been delighted to run a series of new **TIPS** workshops for parents over the past several months. These workshops are led by teachers throughout the school designed to communicate key aspects of learning and teaching with parents.

We are really looking forward to many new workshops next term, and please reach out to us if you have any ideas or suggestions. These are the topics that we have recently covered in our TIPS sessions.

**Modern Foreign Languages Workshops: - Mandarin and Bahasa.** Detailing key aspects of curriculum structure and approaches to streaming etc.

**Curiosity in Science** - Exploring the importance of asking questions



**Phonics** support for parents - explaining the phonics programme and how it supports our pupils to read and spell accurately.

**Primary Maths at home** - tips and insights on how the maths curriculum can be supported at home in practical ways.



**Approaches to English Language and EAL in Secondary**

**IGCSE Options** and **support**

**Academic Mentoring**

**Staying Active and Healthy with PE**



We will be running another series of TIPS in Term 3. Please look out on the school Dojo for the topics being covered and the dates of the events.

Thank you for supporting this initiative. We firmly believe by working together we can provide the best education for all our pupils.



A simple line drawing of a megaphone, pointing towards the right.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ENGLISH

What has been going on in the Secondary English & Humanities Department this term? Plenty to highlight here, read on for a taste of this term's **featured department!**

A simple line drawing of a speech bubble with three dots inside, indicating text.

### Introducing EEP (Ms. Adri)

The English Enrichment Programme is a bespoke course for students who need intensive intervention in English. The course aims to take students from beginner and elementary level to pre-intermediate level at which point they will reenter the mainstream school. The students have 25 periods of English per week on top of Music, P.E., Science, Maths and Art lessons. This term they have done a lot of work on the four skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking in their EAL lessons, while in Academic English they have focused on academic writing.

A simple line drawing of a clipboard with a checklist and a pencil resting on it.

### Round up of English [ESL] department activities (Ms. Evelyn)

In Term 1, we took part in Sunway National Poetry Slam 2020, organised by Sunway Education, where our students created their wonderful poems and recorded their performance for YouTube votes. Well done, all of you!

In Term 2, we have participated in an English Writing Competition, presented by Marshall Cavendish Education (MCE), with the first-time use of Artificial Intelligence, which is a writing assisting programme called SCRIBO. All the best to our students!

### English Language and Literature (Mr. Thomas)

Poetry study for KS3 this term has produced some fantastic work from students, which is highlighted here. Poetry collections from Conflict Poetry, Nature Poetry and Modern Poetry were read and enjoyed by students across the classes and in a range of essays, artwork and creative poetry writing. Here we showcase some of the students' writing and celebrate their creations, in a selection of poems and Haikus based on the theme of Nature, as spring time (or 'dry season') arrives in many climes. Enjoy reading Year 7's evocative poems.





### Summer's Day

On a normal summers day  
Kids splish splash in the water,  
Ducks go swimming in the pond  
Ants come round to take more food

-David Xu Zhu He-

Family's set up picnics  
Animals chase each other,  
Cats and dogs play around  
Fun and games all around

Birds flying  
Bee's buzzing  
Phone's ringing  
Nature's calling

- Elizabeth Chan-



### Spring's Blossom

As the colourful flowers bloom,  
During Springs midnight moon,  
And the rushing sound of the water,  
Calming the sublime blossom of Spring.

The Snow that once covered the green meadows,  
All washed away with the grace of the sun,  
Nevertheless all the flowers are maturing,  
And will soon be in full bloom.

The sweet smell of roses,  
Rushing through your nose like a wave rushing on to the shore,  
As the birds chirp like a beautiful melody (chirp, chirp, chirp)  
For the entire Spring has Blossomed.

- Divyasri a/p V.Rajendran -



### Tree Frog

They live in tall tress,  
such cool luminous colours,  
sticky pads on feet

-David Xu Zhu He-

### The Fall

Gentle breezes blow,  
Blood-red-in the snow-white sky.  
On morning dog walks.

- Jun Kai -



### I Am What is Life

Snowy mountains tops  
Crystal blue waters surround  
Peaceful life abounds

- Keerthi Sivanayagam-

Flowers bloom in spring,  
The sea has high and low tides,  
Sprinkles of water

- Tannusha Reddy -



### The Valley of Plants

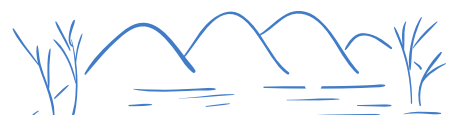
The valley of plants  
everyday turning brighter,  
waiting for sunlight

- Daniel -

### River

River flowing through,  
Trash is floating in river  
Let's be kind to it

- Jake Lee -



# HUMANITIES FEATURE

## Global Perspectives - Student Voices: Healthcare Awareness

As part of our course, we Year 11 Global Perspectives students produced an informative video based on our research on the 'lack of access to healthcare'. The video addresses the issues surrounding healthcare such as: affordability, accessibility and its quality and it discusses the possible solutions to improve the problems regarding the issue.

We have chosen to make the 'lack of access to healthcare' our main focus in our video in order to raise awareness about the matter as it is the fundamental aim for our team project.

As well as that, we collectively decided that making a video on this topic would enable others to understand the importance of it. We made sure to highlight the consequences of the lack of access to healthcare to bring significance to the issue and those suffering from it.

Here you can find a link to our video to learn more about those who are affected by healthcare issues and how you can help to make a difference in the world and after watching the video, please ensure that you fill out the survey we have linked below to help us in our project. Your response is highly appreciated.



Watch the video through the link below, or scan the QR code  
<https://youtu.be/u2nb7qyn1Rs>

Link to survey:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UXWrXhB8efizVx8fIXtPDNDdDCaIycKTmOdKQEMEN8c/edit>

## HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

# WORLD ECONOMICS CUP



## "The Great Reset - the Changed World Economy" Theme of WEC 2020

BY MS. RESHMA

It is an absolute honor to be given the privilege to pen down a few words in this edition of our SIS Newsletter.

Students at Straits International school participated in the World Economics Cup in December 2020.

The annual economics competition for global, talented students, the World Economics Cup (WEC) is an international education initiative and platform for high school students who are interested in economics.

The WEC aims to identify, inspire, empower and support the next generation of leaders in the economics field and to develop their international network.

The World Economics Cup provides a very unique learning and competing experience with its own unique philosophies of economics education. It tests students' learning abilities in Economics

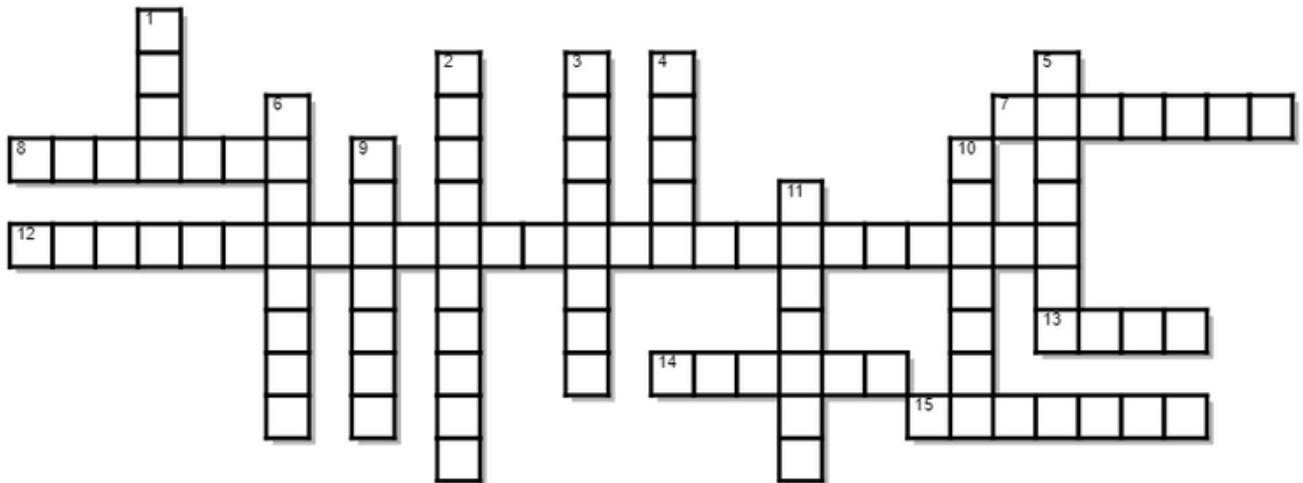


Congratulations to Amber, Darshini, Jia Khang, Qaisy and Vincent for being our first students to participate in the WEC.





# How well do you know SIS?



## ACROSS

7. Mr. Dave's favourite science
8. Subject Ms. Shareen teaches
12. Our School's motto (In English)
13. Ms. Harriet's middle name
14. Where our sister school is located
15. City in Ireland Mr. Stephen is from

## DOWN

1. The year group Ms. Zati teaches
2. One of our Reception teachers
3. Mr. Kam's favourite superhero
4. An instrument Ms. Kimberly plays
5. Mr. Rin's favourite football team
6. What the letter 't' stands for in STEPS
9. Mr. Laurence's favourite food
10. Ms. Nicola's favourite animal
11. Country Ms. Adri was born in

enjoy!