SAIGON STAR
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

GIVE YOUR CHILD A SUMMER FULL OF FUN WITH SAIGON STAR’S SUMMER CAMP!

11TH JULY TO 12TH AUGUST 2016

From 9am to 3pm Every Day

$145/week including lunch

GIVE YOUR CHILD A MAGICAL SUMMER EXPERIENCE!

www.saigonstarschool.edu.vn
Dear Parents and Carers,

Another successful year draws to a close. It is amazing how much has been achieved by the children, staff and parents in one year. The achievements extend from the academic, to the sporting and the creative arts and to the numerous fun activities organised by the PTG and staff. We achieve so much because we work together as a team and this is one of the greatest strengths of our school. We were fortunate to have many PTG volunteers for various school activities throughout the year. Thank you very much. However, next year we are going to make a couple of changes. In short, each class from Pre-School to Year 7 will have at least one Parent Representative for a calendar year. The function of the Parent Representative is not formally structured and is not meant to be a huge task! We will be emailing the details in August. If this is something you are interested in please let your child’s class teacher or the office know.

The End of Year Show, ‘Music Through the Decades’, led by our very talented Mr. Matthew, was an outstanding showpiece, as was the family picnic. It was so nice to see everyone and we must congratulate the Parent’s Football team for their outstanding play and becoming the new Saigon Star Champions! The staff look forward to the opportunity to reclaim their crown next year.

End of Year Reports have now gone home and I have been extremely pleased with the efforts that all the children have made in the school this year. We are extremely lucky to have such a gifted teaching team, but unless the children put effort into applying that teaching, the results can be slow to materialise. Fortunately, the excellent attitude that our children demonstrate, ensures that we see great improvement year on year.

Another of our strengths is that we never stand still and we are always looking at how we can improve and 2016-17 will be no different. In fact, it promises to be one of the most exciting years in our history. Over the last few years we have worked to enhance the building and resources available to ensure all children receive full educational opportunities. As the reputation of Saigon Star has grown, so has the number of children on our roll. To meet the demand, we are working to design a new secondary building which reflects our school ethos and provides enough space to ensure that all teaching and learning and additional activities can continue and flourish.

For those families who will be returning in August, school will begin on Monday, August 22nd.

Lastly, can I wish every family a fantastic Summer holiday, wherever that may be. Please encourage your children to do plenty of reading, collect tickets and brochures from places you visit, take photographs, keep a diary of their day and count things. Learn something new and don’t forget to have them discuss it with you at the end of the day. Be sure the children come back refreshed in late August and ready to learn even more. Have a happy and healthy
Ms. Sherley is confident that our ‘Pre-Schoolers’ loved the Olympics theme and that it really made such a difference to them and their learning journeys. The children learned the hugely important value of being resilient in each game and they also began to understand that team work and thoughtfulness are much more important than medals. They learned that we can all become winners as we develop adaptability, build friendships, and when we care and show respect to one another. The class had their pre-school class graduation and celebrated their achievements in Kidzcity, where they played and had lots of fun. They even wore graduation hats, exchanging smiles and lots of laughter too! Congratulations to Yuan, Ray, Mit, Sukem, Phi Lac, Lavie, Jenny, An Nhien, Susie, Sushi, Phong, Robi, who are all moving to Nursery next school year. Congratulations as well to Duy and Yui who will proceed to Pre-School 2. Ms. Sherley is immensely proud (although sad) that another fabulous school year has ended with her little ones. They have had another very busy and successful year in school and parents, as partners in the education of their children, deserve much of the credit for that. Ms. Sherley is confident that all of them will succeed in their next steps in their young educational careers!

During the month of June, Ms. Adrienne created an abundance of great materials and introduced them to the children, some of which, of course, were related to the school-wide IPC topic - the Olympics. For example, Ms. Adrienne designed a ‘Positive Describing Word Award’, where children would choose a positive describing word from a cue card, write it down on the award and then stick double-side tape as sticker. Of course, there were a good number of phonics and numeracy extension activities available for the children to deepen their understanding. Like any practitioner, Ms. Adrienne was in reflective mood as we head towards the Summer break and believes that each of the children have had a fruitful year in the Montessori classroom. As for our Year 1 children, this summer will make the 3-year mark for their Montessori journey and the culmination of their period with Ms. Adrienne. In acknowledgement of this landmark, Year 1, with the help of Ms. Adrienne, created a billboard to display the work that they were incredibly proud of.
Throughout June, Mr. Warren and Nursery class have continued to investigate their Olympics IPC topic. Exploring the variety of events that take place at the games, the children have become familiar with the process of competition and have also spent a number of sessions focusing upon the winter Olympics and identifying differences between the two games. In class, the children have shown a super sense of enquiry by creating ski slopes, miniature ice rinks and measuring the distance that they were able to jump and throw bean bags. This provided the children with a chance to compete and then acknowledge who came first, second and third as they took their places on the class podium. Alongside their Olympics work, the children have been following an ICT plan which has enabled them to interact with the class laptop, computers and iPads. The purpose of the project was to build confidence and familiarity with manipulating and interacting with technology. Titled ‘We are DJ’s’, the children have browsed playlists, watched and reviewed music videos and used an app named ‘Baby DJ’ to play a variety of sounds together in order to create a song. Mr. Warren was extremely proud of Nursery’s summer show performance and wished to thank parents for all of their help and cooperation in preparing costumes and providing props in advance, so that the children were able to rehearse and practice successfully leading up to the performance. Nursery completed their Olympics theme by attending the Saigon Polar Expo in District 7, before participating in a whole school house day and topic exit point. During their class trip Mr. Warren commented that the children behaved wonderfully and were a credit to the school. They had a lot of fun exploring the area and had the chance to experience extremely cold conditions, similar to some of the venues at the Winter Olympics. Mr. Warren is very proud of all of Nursery’s achievements and progress this year and wishes them the best of luck for the next academic year.
June has been another great month for Reception. The children showed a lot of curiosity and enquiry towards our learning about the Winter Olympics. The students made wonderful 'Ski Athlete' puppets and learned the names of many new sports! The most memorable event of this month was certainly the trip to Saigon Polar Expo. Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Grace commented that the children's faces looked 'magical' when they first saw the ice sculptures and snow! Ice slides, observing ice sculptures, gazing at the stars in the 'Northern Lights' movie theatre area and shooting 'ice' basketballs, were all part of the fun on the trip. The children and the teachers were very pleased that large, warm coats were provided as it was very chilly inside! If you would like to visit the Saigon Polar Expo again, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Rebecca or Ms. Grace for more details. It provided a wonderful place for the children to practise new vocabulary and discuss many Science based ideas such as, 'Where does snow come from?', and 'Why does it melt?' As the year draws to an end, Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Grace would like to say a huge thank you to all their parents for being so supportive and to the children for working so hard this year! Our end of year assessments show a great deal of progress has been made and we are feeling very confident that all the children have an excellent foundation to begin their next learning in Year One! Go Reception Sun Bears!
For their teachers, it is hard to believe that Year 1 has come to an end! The children have enjoyed lots of fun learning activities and exciting special events in their last month at school. Indeed, they have certainly been busy! The children have spent a lot of time learning about Brazil as part of their Olympic topic with Mr. Brendan. The children have learnt about the animals that live in the rainforest in Brazil, and enjoyed making masks of their favourite animals. They also learnt about map reading, interpreting maps from all over the world, and to create maps of their own school locality. They made physical maps using a variety of classroom objects (Can you spot all of the school features?) Then, our IPC learning was rounded off by an Olympics-style House Day, followed by an Olympic Closing ceremony. The children also shared their Home Learning Projects with the parents who joined us to celebrate. Well done to all of the children who put extra effort into creating these pieces of work at home. There have also been lots of school events taking place in this last month! First the class enjoyed Children’s Day on the 1st of June. The children enjoyed a day of fun games and sports organised by the PTG. They also got to make special crafts, including Japanese dolls and Samurai swords and helmets. It really was a very special day! The Summer Show was certainly a pivotal event of the month. The children all put on an amazing performance in the Summer Show, singing and dancing to Footloose and Walking on Sunshine. The singing was wonderful, especially those children who were brave enough to complete a solo! Mr Brendan and Ms Natasha look forward to seeing everyone back in August, and wish the children the best of luck in Year 2!

Year 2 - Ms. Joanne

This academic year has seen both Year 2 and Ms. Joanne cover a variety of Non-Fiction writing styles and they finished the year with the instructions text type. The first week was spent seeing how the children could follow first verbal, then written instructions, to make objects (Pinwheels) and then food (Fruit Kebabs and Bagel pizzas). After learning about the features of this type of text, the children became confident enough to write their own set of instructions entitled – ‘How to Cook a Rainbow!’ They had lots of fun deciding how to make the variety of colours, then used the correct features, such as imperative verbs to start the sentences, numbered steps and present tense verbs.In Maths, Year 2 revisited the aspect of Fractions to check that they had retained the learning completed earlier in the year. The children have worked hard to learn their times tables this year and they applied this knowledge to help them. They completed a variety of challenges finding fractions of numbers and shapes, and are now much more confident when finding halves, quarters, fifths and even three-quarters of numbers and objects. Finally, they finished their Olympic topic looking at the Rio Carnival and they spent an afternoon listening to Samba music and making Carnival masks. It has been a truly wonderful topic to celebrate with the children, both during class and whole school activities, and Ms. Joanne hopes that they remember it for years to come.
Although Miss Stacey’s Year 3 class is sad to be saying goodbye, they have had a wonderful time consolidating all they have learned this last year. From Chocolate to Dinosaurs, to Global Health to the Olympics, they have truly explored ‘international mindedness’ during their IPC topics. These last few weeks have been filled with so many exciting activities, and the learning that has taken place this year has been extraordinary. On the list of Miss Stacey’s highlights include the students designing and building their Tippy Taps (an engineering feat!) and most recently their insightful designs for an Olympic Flag for the first-ever refugee team. She is truly inspired by their level of thoughtfulness, understanding, and compassion. The class ended the school year on a high note by rock climbing with Mr. Mike, as well as with the Year 3 sleepover at school. The class was joined by Mr. Brendan at the sleepover for swimming and various team-building activities. The class celebrated their accomplishments during the year with a pizza party and screening of Big Hero 6. It truly was a celebration of all that Year 3 has accomplished together, and Miss Stacey wishes them all the best on their next great adventure together: Year 4!
Year 4/5/6 - Ta Lai Longhouse Special!

It has been an incredibly exciting last month of school for Years 4, 5 and 6, as the children in these classes went on Saigon Star’s first Residential Trip, to the Ta Lai Longhouse in Cat Tien National Park. What an exciting adventure this was for the children, and, Ms Natasha and Mr James. Here is an overview of our experience:

Day One

On day one, the children arrived at school packed and ready for the bus journey to the longhouse. It was a fun coach journey, with only minimal singing from Mr. James! Then, we had a 1km walk through the local village in the National Park to reach the Ta Lai Longhouse. After a warm welcome from all of the activity leaders, and a delicious lunch, it was time for the children to go mountain biking. This was a great adventure, with lots of rain and mud! The children showed lots of resilience and determination as they mountain biked through the jungle, led by Mr James, and everyone had lots of fun! In the afternoon, we enjoyed lots of team-building games and a special movie night in the longhouse. Mr James chose a favourite movie from his childhood, ‘Back to the Future’, which was a fantastic hit with the kids! After Ms Natasha checked everyone’s bed for bugs, it was time for lights out. Surprisingly, the children fell asleep straight away, exhausted from the day’s adventures!

Day Two

Everyone was up bright and early for our full day of action packed fun! We woke up to a delicious breakfast of toast, noodles, fruit, pancakes and eggs. Yum! This would give everyone the energy needed for a 10km hike through the jungle. The children and Ms Natasha and Mr James trekked through the jungle, stopping to observe and learn about all of the special plants that live there. We even had to climb over bridges made by trees over the river! The children all managed this, although Mr James and Ms Natasha got wet! On our return it was time for another delicious lunch, before Team Building Games in the afternoon. The children got to experience Archery, Collective Ski, Spider Web and Angry Birds. This was a competition with prizes at the end of the trip! The overall winning team was Team Mozzy, who buzzed their way to victory, led by Mr James. Our next exciting activity was a visit from the Local Minority Ma villagers, who came to teach the children how to weave. Some of the girls learnt how to weave on a traditional loom, while everyone enjoyed making special friendship bracelets. The children will get to keep these bracelets as a special memory of the trip. Next, was a cooking class. The children worked in teams using lots of cooperation to make delicious pancakes! Unbelievably, there was still more fun to be had on Day 2! After another delicious meal, the children were very lucky to enjoy a Traditional Gong Performance and a Bamboo Dance from the Ma villagers. Then the children and Ms Natasha had a go at the bamboo dance too…it was far more difficult than it looked!

Day Three

We rounded off the trip with a morning of Kayaking! The children and Ms. Natasha took part in a round of fun kayaking games. First, was a game of Capture the Flag. The two teams, blue and red, raced to catch the flags which hidden around the beautiful lake. The blue team were victorious! Then we played Shark, where the children had to race to catch each other and turn everyone into a shark. Finally, the children enjoyed a dip in the lake, having lots of fun jumping off their kayaks into the water! Sadly, then it was time to leave! Everyone had a wonderful time on the trip. The children showed great cooperation and resilience throughout the outdoor adventurous activities and were very brave about staying away from home. In fact, not one child ever said ‘I miss home.’ This was clearly a reflection on all the fun that everyone had!
Year 4/5/6 - Ta Lai Longhouse Special!

Relief at finishing our trek!
Dancing with the local villagers!
Trekking with our guides.

Selena enjoying the fun and games!
Ema and Pauline producing some pancakes!
One group playing Angry Birds!

Teamwork makes the dream work! Yum!
The children trying their hand at the instruments!

About to begin the kayaking!
At our fabulous final meal!
Thinh and Angus taking a break from the kayaking!
End of Year Sports Review - Mr. Michael

WOW…What an exciting year of Physical Education! Mr. Michael and our students explored a wide variety of sports while improving their health, endurance, flexibility, strength, coordination, dexterity, critical thinking, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Students had the opportunity to learn by participating in both land-based and water-based sports while having a ton of fun in the process. During the course of the year, our Sun Bears participated in Basketball, Kickball, Dodgeball, Volleyball, Football, Flickerball, Ultimate Frisbee, Teeball, Cross-Country, Track and Field, Swimming, Dance, Relay Races, and Strategy/Challenge Games. Our sports teams also had a very successful year with impressive results against teams from much larger international schools. Our Basketball Team finished with a record of 4 wins and 1 loss, our boys’ Cross-Country Team placed 5th out of 18, our girls’ Cross-Country Team placed 8th out of 18, and our Football Team finished with a record of 3 wins, 3 losses, and 1 draw. All-in-all, it was an excellent year for Sun Bear Sports! Although Mr. Michael will be moving to Shanghai, China for the coming school year, he says will always hold a special place in his heart for Saigon Star International School. Once a Sun Bear ALWAYS a Sun Bear! “Keep your eyes on the ball!” and “Go Sun Bears!”