



**Brendan Hearne,**  
**Deputy Headteacher**

Dear Parents,

As we enter the second half of the school year, I am very excited to announce two new and improved events to the Saigon Star calendar.

The first is our 2nd Annual Camping Extravaganza which will take place on Saturday 25th February. We have improved the event this year by incorporating a learning element for parents. From 2 o'clock onwards, there will be a series of workshops for parents to choose from, in order to learn about parts of Saigon Star's curriculum that interest you most.

Instead of holding one-off workshops as in previous years, we hope by offering nine workshops on the same afternoon, we can make this event a huge success and achieve our goals of empowering parents as educators, as well as fostering good relationships between home and school.

Attending this event is not only a fantastic way to demonstrate to your child that you value education, but also that, even as adults, we enjoy learning and never stop learning - a very important lesson for children, if they are to become the life-long learners that we strive for.

And whilst you are in the classroom, we will keep your children entertained with lots of fun indoor and outdoor activities such as sports, swimming and arts & crafts. Perfect!



In the evening, we hope families and friends will stay and camp at school to enjoy lots of other activities such as live music, barbecue, campfire and an outdoor movie.



Please note that this event is open to all, so do forward the invitation to your friends and family and help to share our school's community spirit. A full schedule of workshops can be found on below. Please also find a poster for the event on the next page.

Our second major announcement is that we have elected to replace our highly successful Family Fun Day with a brand new event: The Saigon Star Roller Dash. This will take place from 4pm-8pm on Saturday 1st April so you

can expect further details to be announced in the coming weeks.

Please also note that we will be celebrating World Book Day once again on 2nd March. Similarly to previous years, we are asking pupils to come to school dressed as a character from one of their favourite stories.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Friday 20th January - Last day before Tet
- Monday 6th February - Classes Resume
- Tuesday 7th February - Safer Internet Day
- Tuesday 21st February - Mother Tongue Day
- Saturday 25th February - Camping Extravaganza & Festival of Learning
- Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day
- Saturday 11th March - Agnes Cafe Concert
- Saturday 1st April - "Roller Dash"



**Like us on Facebook!**

[www.facebook.com/saigonstarschool](http://www.facebook.com/saigonstarschool)

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you a very enjoyable Tet holiday and look forward to seeing you on February 25th.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
2.00-2.45 pm	An Introduction to the IEYC with Rebecca Lambton	An Introduction to the IMYC with Daniel Raffo	Maths: Written Calculation Strategies with Karl Perkins
3.00-3.45 pm	Phonics: Helping pupils learn to Read and Spell with Brendan Hearne	An Introduction to Coding on the iPads with Warren Humphreys	Learning English as an Additional Language with Natasha Fletcher
4.00-4.45 pm	DIY Montessori Materials at Home with Adrienne Chen	Our Journey to IPC Accreditation with Brendan Hearne	Social & Emotional Learning? with Stacey Conner

# SAIGON STAR FESTIVAL OF LEARNING

A CAMPING EXTRAVAGANZA  
EMPOWERING PARENTS AS EDUCATORS

JOIN US ON A 'GLAMPING' EVENT TO LEARN ABOUT  
AND EXPERIENCE OUR INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM!  
FEATURING PARENT WORKSHOPS AND OUTDOOR  
ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

- PARENT WORKSHOPS • Outdoor Games and Crafts
- Overnight Stay • Tents • Bonfire • Swimming
- BBQ Dinner and Breakfast Included • Outdoor Cinema

**Saturday, 25th February 2017**

School grounds open 11:00 AM

Parent Workshops from 2:00 PM

450,000 VND per family

Open to all families and friends!

Bookings taken in advance.

Contact Ms. Thanh 08 3742 7827

[thuthanh@saigonstarschool.edu.vn](mailto:thuthanh@saigonstarschool.edu.vn)



SAIGON STAR  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL





## Improving Learning (IPC Criterion I)

For us, one of the absolute best things about the International Primary Curriculum is its very clear focus on learning. It unashamedly states that 'learning is the star of the show' and it helps schools to become focussed on all of the right things, that is, how to improve learning in every possible way!

They say, 'the most successful schools – the schools in which children learn best academically, personally and internationally – are those that are able to embed the idea of learning deep into everything they do.'

Moreover, they say, 'Every school has structures and systems; assemblies, parent evenings, reports, staff meetings, displays and so on. Every school has policies that define how these things are done. But some schools – the more successful learning-focused schools – look ruthlessly at each of these structures or systems and evaluate how learning-focused they are.'

The message is very clear, then. Every single decision we make as a school and everything single thing we do should be done with learning in mind, not tradition, convenience or any other reason. As such, that leads us to reflect very hard on the things we already do well and the things we could do even better.

### IPC Self-Review

1. Improving Learning (Jan/ Feb 2017)
2. Shared Vision (Oct. 2016)
3. Classroom Practises
4. International-Mindedness (Nov. 2016)
5. Significance and importance of Knowledge, Skills and Understanding
6. Rigorous Learning
7. Learning Process of the IPC
8. Independent yet Interdependent Subjects
9. Assessment (Dec. 2016)

## Current topics:

**EY**

**DINOSAUR  
DETECTIVES**

Early February to  
Mid-March

**MP1**

**SUPER HUMANS**

Mid-January to  
Mid-February

**MP2**

**HOW HUMANS WORK**

Early January to  
Late February

**MP3**

**HERE & THERE,  
NOW & THEN**

Early February to  
Late-March



The changes we have made to our Camping Extravaganza is just one example of how we strive to 'squeeze out' as much learning from every opportunity as possible.

Parents also have a vital contribution to make when it comes to helping us achieve accreditation. For you, the key expectations and questions to ask are:

1. Do I know what my child is learning?
2. Do I support my child with their learning?



It is important to note, however, that supporting your child with their learning does not simply mean helping them with their home learning, although this may be the first thing that springs to mind. Supporting your child with their learning means far more than that. It means showing an interest in your child's day by asking questions about the learning you see taking place on Class Dojo; it means reading the weekly letters your child's teacher sends home each week and the IPC topic overviews that they send home at the beginning of each unit; it means helping your child to master their assertive mentoring targets, praising your child's efforts in their IPC home-learning projects and accepting invitations from the school to attend parent-teacher meetings, open days, IPC exit points and parent workshops.

If you already do some or all of these things, that is a clear sign that you support and care about your child's learning. The fact you are reading this is evidence in itself! As we work towards achieving accreditation at the end of next academic year, parents can expect many more positive changes to come.

CELEBRATING

**10**

YEARS OF  
EDUCATION

PARENTS VALUE  
**RESILIENCE**  
WE DO, TOO

10 -16 students per class  
Small school community  
English National Curriculum & IPC  
Experienced, UK qualified teachers  
Green, District 2 location