

Week Without Walls 2016-17

Grade 09 Hoi An, Vietnam

Jan 15 - Jan 20, 2017

August 24, 2016

Dear Grade 9 parents and guardians,

Welcome to Week Without Walls 2016-17. We are excited to announce we are finalising plans for our Week Without Walls 2016-17 school trips. We have an exciting grade-level trip being planned for the week of 15th – 20th January, 2017. During The Week Without Walls (WWW) we *Educate to Make a Difference* by fostering cultural exchange and learning through a range of meaningful, practical and authentic experiences.

Rationale

Taking learning beyond the classroom expands learners' understanding of the curriculum and its possible applications as well as contributing to their individual development. These trips create learning experiences that encourage each student to realise their potential. Week Without Walls is one of the building blocks that assist in creating success in a child's academic life and beyond. It continues to offer the opportunity to develop an individual's physical, social and emotional wellbeing, a healthy and positive disposition, connectedness with others, and self-awareness. Every Week Without Walls trip will provide the opportunity for personal development, to learn and contribute to local and other communities, and for adventure.

Hoi An

Hoi An is a beautifully preserved example of a Southeast Asian trading port from the 15th to 19th centuries. Many of the merchant houses still line the riverside and the small town still retains the old feel and charm that it once had. This coastal town is a great place to base yourself for a week while exploring places like the My Son ruins, a society that dates back to between the 4th and 13th centuries and was the political and religious capital of the Champa Kingdom. In December 1999, UNESCO recognized Hoi An Ancient town as a world cultural heritage.

Our project work here will include fruit tree donations and tree planting activities that will benefit the local communities in years to come. Our students will also see local people preparing and making mats. From simple, raw materials such as sedge cords and jute cords, the masterly hands of Ban Thach's artisans have made all kinds of colourful mats, which are marketed and favoured all over the country. Students will have a chance to practice making them. Throughout the week our students will also be involved in challenging teambuilding activities and a community service house painting project.

Please note the following information:

- **The trips are mandatory for all ISS students and organised for the entire grade level.**
- Your child **must** have a valid passport with an expiry date **no sooner** than **August 1, 2017**.
- A **visa** must be purchased by your child by **5th December 2016** (if required). This cost is not included in trip fees.

Key Dates for your diary:

Monday 19th September - First installment payment due of SGD600 (Invoices will be sent)

Tuesday 18th October – Application forms completed and submitted to school

Thursday 3rd November - Parent information evening at ISS Preston, 7pm in the Hall

Monday 7th November - Final payment due of SGD780

Monday 5th December – Visa applications completed and purchased (if required)

Sunday 15th January - The trip will depart from Changi Airport on Sunday 15th Jan.

Friday 20th January - The trip will return to Changi Airport on Friday 20th Jan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Regards

Rachel McCarthy

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Deputy High School Principal