

Parent Forum - Air Quality Key Point Summary

4th February 2019

8:00am-9:30 am., Conference Hall

This morning's meeting was held as due to the cancelled parent forum which was scheduled for last Friday 1st February. We believe it is beneficial for all parents in our community to acknowledge what we have shared and discussed and to know your child's well being is always our utmost priority. Persons available for the discussion included Ms. Sally (Head of School), Ms. June (Primary Principal), Mr. Mike (Secondary Principal), Ms. Ja (SEA Director) and Mr. Prawit (Facilities Director).

Below are the key points discussed at the meeting:

Current implementation:

- Parents can view the KIS campus AQI and PM 2.5 readings on the KIS Web Portal. Parents may also view the school's Air Quality policy on the portal to understand the school's procedure.
- Relevant SLT staff members discuss every morning at 6:30 a.m. the campus air quality and decide the adjustment to the programme on the day if needs be.
- Primary School have implemented an indoor recess and an indoor time procedures. Homeroom teachers have a list of sensitive students. Staff who are on playground duty will read the air monitor and communicate with the rest of the team. This procedure has already been in place since we were last affected by the pollution level last year.
- Students who are on the sensitive list in the Upper Grade School will be supervised in the Audibox.
- Students who are on sensitive list in the Lower Grade School will go to the library.
- Sensitive students have been informed where they should go. Attendance is done once they arrive at their allocated room.
- EY students are either all inside or all outside.
- Secondary School Sensitive Students are responsible for checking the reading and following the policy. If the reading is high for everyone all students are required to come inside.

Modifying our programmes:

As part of our current procedure, when the AQI level reaches an unhealthy level as written in the KIS policy, our outdoor lessons are modified. For a modified programme, we look at alternative ways of either making changes to the activities requiring less exertion, shortening the outdoor time or if we cannot accommodate changes to our lesson then outdoor lesson will be cancelled or moved indoors. Our outdoor activities cover PE lessons, EY outdoor play, Sports Coaching and After School Programme.

Air purifiers:

Air purifiers have now been added to the classrooms in the PS. This sits in the shared space. The school ordered these air purifiers last academic year, the shipment arrived a few weeks ago and were immediately put into service.

KIS Air Monitor:

KIS currently has 4 air monitors. After placing air monitors around the school, we realized the monitors were giving out different readings across the campus and as a result this created

some confusion. There are various factors involved that cause these differences; location, air flow, wind etc. thus the air quality level fluctuates regularly. Several tests have been conducted by placing all 4 air monitors together in the same location to collect data and analyze their effectiveness. As of today, there is one KIS campus air monitor being used to share information, located by the primary school entrance. Additional monitors are in use across the campus and two more hand held monitors will be purchased to cross check our data indoors and outdoors. We also plan to place other air monitors by our swimming pools and also place indoors to get the difference between inside and outside air readings. We hope to collect this indoor data to further improve our indoor air quality. In addition, we will have our air monitors calibrated by professionals at the Air Visual company.

We're also in a process of sending data to the Air Visual Company in order to become one of their certified measuring stations. In order to be certified, we are required to submit photographs of our node and follow the guideline explained for an Air Visual approved station. This approval process will take roughly 20 days. When they are ready to add us to their list we will notify parents so you can find "KIS Campus" on the AirVisual App.

Future Plans:

KIS is following the international standard for appropriate AQI index for outdoor activities. We are also in consultation with other International Schools regarding protocol and procedures. Our next step is to work with an external consultant to audit the campus and make sure we are following the correct measures and to reassure our buildings and ground so that our campus can be as safe as possible with a safe level of air pollutants. We may need to adjust our policy and procedures if needed in the long term depending on the feedback received. We hope to be able to share this outcome with the rest of the community in the future.

Masks:

With regards to the recent rise in the level of air pollution, we observed that many families have been sending their child to school with a face mask. We have seen a wide range of masks being worn, it is important that we communicate our expectation to the parents and students regarding mask wearing etiquette.

Some issues we see are:

- Ineffective masks that will not help with air pollution being worn
- Students losing their masks,
- Sharing of masks
- Wearing masks indoors when not necessary
- Using mask to blow one's nose
- Discarding of masks inappropriately
- Communication Issues when speaking with a mask during indoor class.

We will discuss the wearing of masks further and get back to you with guidelines for use at KIS. KIS will not be providing masks, however, parents may purchase masks for use at school but should research their effectiveness prior to purchasing.

Sensitive Students

There were some concerns that sensitive students have not been kept inside when the levels are high and the policy would require sensitive students to be indoors. Parents suggest school

be more vigilant. Suggested idea for those sensitive be wearing some visible wristband for easier identification. The School said that there is a process in place and this should not happen but they would be extra vigilant.

Parents were also informed:

- by the time students have had snack, there is usually only 10 more mins of outside play time.
- the school provides simple board and card games which students can enjoy playing quietly on the table outside the playground as opposed to running around should they feel uncomfortable.
- Primary school yard duty begins from 7:30 (we do have some basic coverage from 7:10) however, if you are concerned for your child being exposed to the air pollution, please try to bring your child after 7:30 when there will be enough staff to help keep the students indoor if the AQI is high.
- Parents should get a doctor's note to determine your child is sensitive to the pollution level. It is important that we make sure we have the right diagnosis for your child and we can ensure that they will be brought inside on poor air quality break times. Please forward this information to SEA who will add your child to the "Sensitive List"

Other items

Parents asked that drivers be more vigilant about parking vehicles and not turning off their engine. This adds to an already difficult situation and one we can work as a community to control.