



Newsletter 15 2019-20

Friday 10th January 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community

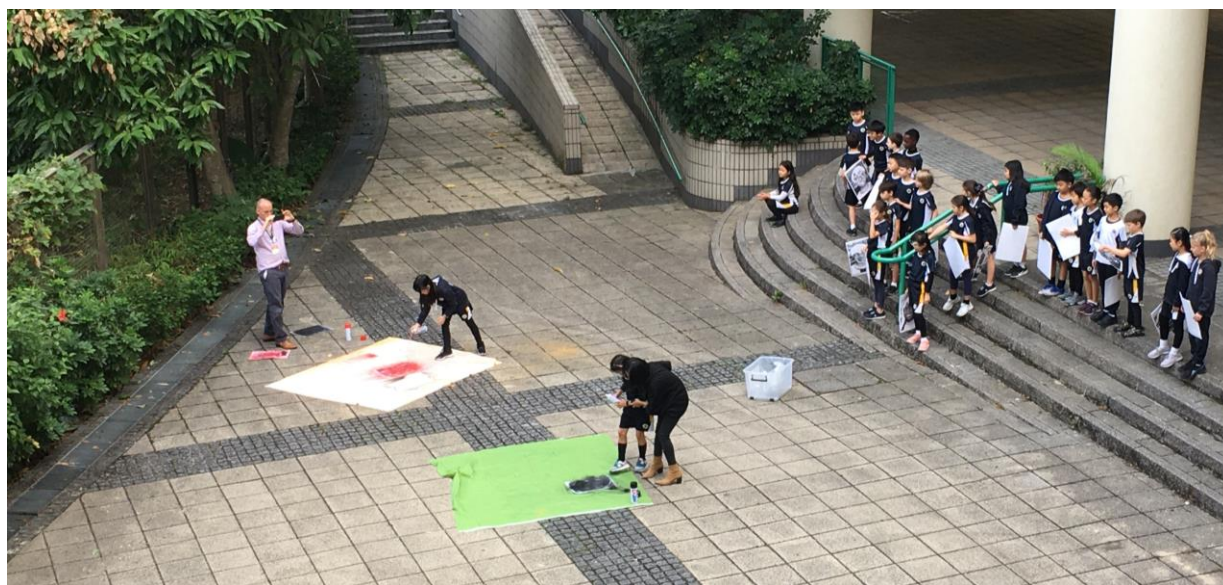
Happy New Year and Best wishes to everyone for 2020.

Around school:

We are off to a great start for term 2 with everyone settling in very quickly to the routines and workloads of being back at school.

New units of inquiry have got classes buzzing and some of us have been inspired to get involved in more activities out of school and through homework grids already.

Students in P4 (below) are exploring a 'How we express ourselves' unit of inquiry with their P3 colleagues and some of them are getting creative already!



P4 spray paint stenciling in the playground this morning!

Reception Class August 2020 – Interviews – 13th – 17th January 2020

We shall be hosting our annual 'playdate' interviews at JIS next week. The playdates involve a team of 4 JIS staff (Mr Walton, Ms Wan, Ms Procter, Ms Le Scelle) who spend around 1 hour with groups of 6 or 7 young students. We aim to find out who is ready for school and who would be comfortable learning in English, using the PYP curriculum framework.

Important note: If you have not applied or know of friends who wanted to apply, please make sure they do so as soon as possible, so as to be included in the interviews.

Chinese New Year events and preparations.

Mr Lun our security guard has done his usual artwork for our Chinese New Year window on the first floor lobby. Many of you have seen his talents on Class Dojo and it has made him so proud to have had 188 views as of today!



Looking ahead we shall be celebrating CNY – Beginning of the Year of the Rat on Friday 24th January. Laoshi (Judith Tseng) and He laoshi have been busy organizing and preparing a programme of our traditional events on this day:

- Dress Chinese (red / gold) for the day – to celebrate our Chinese cultural roots in Hong Kong and beyond
- 9:30 a.m. Lion Dance on the school pitch – performed by our local Tai Po youth group
- 10:30a.m. – P5 Mandarin Class present their CNY assembly for 2020, in the MPR
- 11:15a.m. – 12pm – **JIS Chinese New Year Community lunch** – everyone is welcome to come along and prepare for the new year ahead. Classes will be organising their own lunch through the work of the class parent and teachers.

On the Friday morning 24th January our JIS Capoeira group will also perform at 9:15 a.m. – as a warm up practice for their concert performance at the AIA Carnival in Central.

Mandarin Class request – Do you have any out of date or no longer needed **lai see packets** – ones that you will not use this year, perhaps. If you have – please send them in to Mandarin class as they have some interesting art and craft ideas that need as many lai see packets as they can get? Thank you.

Roz Keep – local artist visited JIS this week.

Roz Keep a locally based environmental artist came to JIS this week to work with P3 class and Reception class. She will also work with P4 next week and present some school assemblies for all the students. She is inspired to re-use and create using such materials as Styrofoam that she finds on the beaches near her home on Lamma Island.



The students in Reception and P3 created fish using the collected Styrofoam – we will use them for an environmental display in the school, someday soon to continue to raise awareness with the students of important issues.

P5 and P6 workshops and presentations for their buildings and structures unit of inquiry.

A big 'thank you' to Susana Munoz – (P6 parent) who came in to present to the P6 class about archaeology and how we discover more about buildings and structures from the past.

The classes also had a visit from a civil engineer (Andrew Beattie) who shared his knowledge and understanding of building construction and design and then allowed the students to make models demonstrating some of the principles he had explained. Although some of the concepts involved seemed quite complex, the students tried really hard to create something that reflected what they had learned.



Chinese New Year Appeal 2020: Clothing and toys

Our appeal for good quality clothing and toys has started with the delivery of some Salvation Army collection bins – I have a sneaking suspicion they will easily be filled, judging by our previous years' efforts.

Please make sure all items are clean and in good condition, so that we can donate them and give the recipients a pleasurable experience.

The bins will be in school for around 1 month this year. So plenty of time for your sort out at home!



Learning at JIS – from Cath Wan, Deputy Principal/ PYP Coordinator

Question from parents:

Happy New Year! In this article, I will address a parent question from our survey.

Question: “I’d like to know how children are supported in school when they have friendship issues (i.e. difficulty in their group dynamics, feeling being left out, ‘best friend’ breaking up and bullying etc.) Is there any support system in place to address this common issue so that children can learn from their experience? (i.e. regular circle time to openly talk about friendship issues and their feelings or allocated time to explore these themes together as a class).”

Answer:

In short, yes. Our approach to these issues is pre-emptive. We teach the skills necessary to address these challenges at an age appropriate level and of course, adapt our teaching as necessary should challenging

situations occur. Friendship issues are a natural part of growing up and it is important we empower our students with healthy habits in dealing with them. Here are a few of the things we do at JIS:

1) **Second Step Programme.**

Time is set aside every week in every class to teach skills from a published programme, “Second Step”. All parents should have received an introductory letter to this programme in August. If you did not, please let me know and we’ll make sure you get one. Second Step is a social emotional learning programme which systematically teaches skills and habits such as listening, empathy, respect, resolving friendship issues. As a school, we have found that the programme provides a common language across the school. For example:

Steps to calm down: Stop, Name your Feeling, Calm Down

Problem solving: STEPS

Say the problem, without blame

Think of solutions

Explore consequences (what would happen if...)

Pick the best solution (make your plan)

You may even see teachers wearing lanyards with these directions. We have found that if students are pre-taught these strategies, when problems occur, they have a practiced protocol to use which everyone is familiar with.

2) **Our core values: commitment, respect, kindness.**

Since deciding as a community on these values, we have found them to be very helpful in giving students a simple structure to prepare and reflect on their actions. Often on the playground a friendship issue is resolved quickly once a student reflects: “Was that kind? “Was that respectful?” We encourage you to use these words at home also.

It is interesting to note that our core values encompass the IB learner profile. As part of our IB self-study process, we have actually been examining how our core values and the IB learner profile connect. If you would like to have a look yourself, I would welcome your opinion!



3) **Our curriculum**

As an IB school, we follow the IB PSPE (Personal, Social and Physical Education) scope and sequence, which gives clear, conceptual understandings and learning objectives in 3 areas: Identity, Interactions and Active Living. Every teacher at JIS is responsible for incorporating this scope and sequence into their teaching and planning accordingly.

For example, Reception’s current unit of inquiry is ‘How We Express Ourselves’. Within the unit, PSPE conceptual understandings and learning objectives are (copied directly from the planning document):

Identity: Talk about similarities and differences. Identify feelings and emotions and explain causes. Recognise others have perspectives and feelings that may be different. Identify and explore strategies that help cope with change and conflict. Identify positive thoughts and attitudes. Develop willingness to approach new situations. A sense of competence with daily tasks.

Interactions: Listen respectfully to others. Share relevant ideas and feelings in an appropriate manner. Identifying when actions have impacted others. Reach out for help when it is needed for self or others. Take turns.

This is an excerpt from the P6 planner from the unit, 'Where We Are in Place and Time':

Interactions:

Conceptual understandings: A plan of action is a necessary strategy for a group to achieve its goal

Healthy relationships are supported by the development and demonstration of constructive attitudes such as respect, empathy and compassion

Behaviour can be modified by applying deliberate strategies

Learning objectives: Recognise that committing to shared goals in group situations improves individual and shared experiences and outcomes

Develop a shared plan of action for group work that incorporates each individual's experiences and strengths

Reflect on perspectives and ideas of others

Apply different strategies when attempting to resolve conflict

Reflect on shared and collaborative experience.

At JIS, our vision is *"to create educated, compassionate, creative, active and empowered citizens of the world."* For this vision to be achieved, a child's social-emotional well-being is just as important as their academic performance. In fact, social-emotional well-being and academic performance go hand in hand. Happy children learn best and teaching students strategies to take charge of their own well-being and respect that of others is an intrinsic part of their education at JIS!

Events for term 2 at JIS – Week 2, January 13th - 17th

Monday 13th – Reception Class playdate interviews this week on Monday - Wednesday

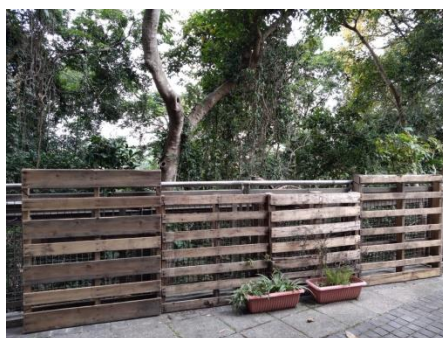
Tuesday 14th –

Wednesday 15th – Roz Keep – local artist, visits JIS to do P4 workshop – 'using recycled materials for artworks'. Roz will also present a school assembly / story telling session for all students in the afternoon.

Thursday 16th –

Friday 17th–

Green wall initiative: We aim to start our 'green wall' / gardening club initiative in the next few weeks. If you have any large size plastic bottles – please save them and send them in to Christine Lau in the Resources room and we can use them as plant pots, ready to hang on the fence. (Apologies to our recycling bins for a few weeks)



Thanks to Christine Lau for her support and ideas for this initiative.

We look forward to seeing everyone around school as we get ready for Chinese New Year and such events as the P3 and P4 art exhibition coming soon.

Simon Walton

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