



Newsletter 23 2019-20

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community

Thanks to everyone for continuing to support the activities on-line and video link sessions. Please make an effort to get your children to attend these sessions both from an academic and social perspective. As the time moves on we will continue to look into different strategies for motivation and interest. Attendance at Google Meets is quite high now and we have most of the students back in Hong Kong. We hope to keep everyone healthy and safe in the coming weeks ahead.

Mr Walton in 'self isolation' for next 2 weeks.

Due to the return of my youngest son from university in London this week it is the request of the HK Govt authorities that my wife and I 'self-isolate' with him for 2 weeks (14 days). We are all perfectly healthy at the moment but to assist the slowing down of virus transmission we shall stay at home. I will therefore not be at school during this time but of course will be available for communication or support through email, Class Dojo or via Ms Miyajima in the school office.

School closure and EDB deadlines and news updates:

We continue to hope to see the students as soon as possible but there has not been an official announcement as to when this might be. The Hong Kong Government has made some hints but no decisions have been made yet.

School fees for term 3, 2019-20

Next week we shall be sending out school fee invoices for term 3. Many thanks to those families who have already paid. We fully appreciate that these invoices fall at a difficult time for many families in Hong Kong but as a not for profit school business our only source of income is the school fees. We have diligently kept the rhythm and momentum of some learning for all our students in a situation which is beyond the scope of any of our experiences or making. Please support us by settling your school fees for the term ahead.

Any families who would like some support in managing these payments, please get in touch with us. We are very happy to arrange payments spread over several months if this would ease any family situations. Contact Ms Kim Murch – kmurch@es.jis.edu.hk or myself on s-walton@jis.edu.hk . Many thanks for your understanding.

Coronavirus and family health:

Cath Wan has passed on a useful link for those wanting information or support:

Good article for wellbeing: [click here](#)

School closure period update:

Our Google Meets sessions will continue with a Monday – Thursday schedule and a Friday Fun / Creative / Fresh air set of challenges. Our Student Support service staff and Education Assistants are also continuing to meet with smaller groups and individuals, throughout the day to support home learning and to clarify instructions where needed. The languages staff (Mandarin and Japanese) will continue to develop and explore ways to give more opportunities when they can. We will also be looking into opportunities to keep the students engaged and motivated with potential theme days for Meet ups etc.

Please continue to monitor your child in creating a balance of on-screen/off-screen, research / creative activities, indoors and outdoors whenever you can. Please check carefully to make sure they are having an appropriate length of time on devices and at an appropriate time of day. Children need sleep – a lot of it.

The home learning programme afternoon 'clinic' will continue to be hosted by Ms Wan and Mr Walton. Some students have joined in to ask for support for their homework activities so far and everyone is welcome to click the link to join us!

In summary:

- Class teachers will connect on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Mandarin and Japanese P4-6 will run on Tuesday and P1-3 on Thursday with additional options being explored
- St Sppt and E.A.'s will continue to connect daily with small groups or individuals
- Afternoon clinic – 1:30 – 2:30pm access through: **obp-fcpc-ysa** . Open up Google Meets browser and follow 'use a meeting code' to insert the code above. The link will stay the same all week. Students say 'hello' and staff will know they are there to connect with.

Reminder: Ms Yuki the school counselor is available to work with students and their families who may be feeling stressed, anxious or confused by aspects of our extended school closure. Contact Jenny Procter on jprocter@es.jis.edu.hk if you would like to set up any discussions with Ms Yuki.

More top tips on managing school closure with your children from Cath Wan:

Many educational resource companies around the world are kindly realizing the need for some families to have activities to do at home and are now offering their subscriptions or libraries for free. Scholastic Book company who sometimes support our book sales at JIS is just one:

They have just released 20 days of online lessons for kids from pre-K through sixth grade and up. Kids can dive into topics like the future of zoos and life science. It's all divided by age and grade level.

Click: [Scholastic free resources for families](#)

A big list of authors doing free readaloud books for your children:

Click: https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities/?utm_content=1584565321&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR3n6w4CP4JWcppYLCXeSKQc4oreNnwybRBWj7DF8yAbEVuOjtyZnv0COg0

Tips for parents during online learning sessions:

Click: [tips for parenting during coronavirus pandemic](#)

School bus delivery service: Library books to your bus stop!



The school bus library service ran again week and a new set of books was delivered on Monday. Students can borrow a larger number of books if they wish to keep them entertained and busy. The school buses will deliver library books to student bus stops to those who have ordered.

A JIS staff member will travel with the bus to deliver the books and greet the students. Mine craft headed for Dragons Range last Monday on your right!



Creative /Fun / Fresh air Fridays. (Week 5 is on Dojo and in Google Classrooms)

Our alternative activities for Fridays continue to be popular so a new set of activities has gone out again today – check the class Dojo app or your child's Google classroom. We shall continue to give students the option to get involved in other activities, catch up on class work, have time to be outside and free on a Friday. Class teachers will continue to post daily / weekly activities on Monday – Thursday as well as meeting with students via video call as normal and Ms Wan and Mr Walton will support Fridays.

Around school updates:

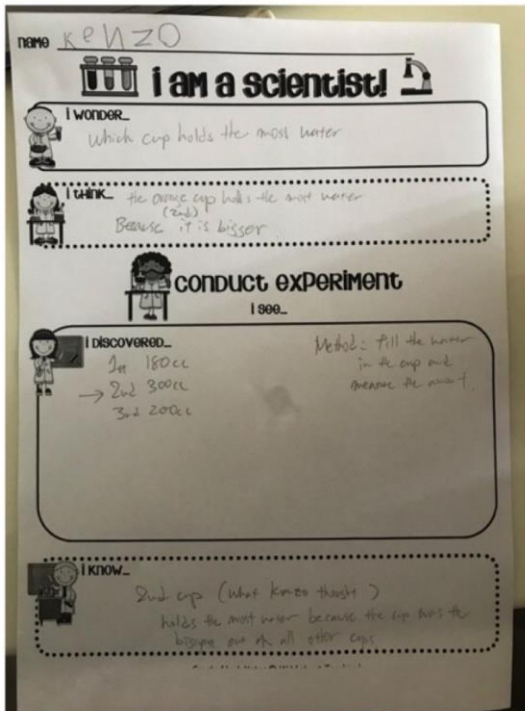


Learning at JIS – from Cath Wan, Deputy Principal/ PYP Coordinator Developing the Learner Profile through online learning: Inquirer

It has been wonderful to see the amount of learning that has been going on in the past few weeks. Today, we will look at a few snapshots of our online learning in the context of one of our IB Learner Profiles: Inquirers. The IB description of an ‘inquirer’ is this:

“They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.”

In Reception class, one of the activities this week was a science/ maths integrated experiment into ‘which cup holds the most water?’ Students started with question to engage their curiosity, were supported in making predictions and then conducting an experiment to figure out an answer. This is an example of students identifying something curious and developing their scientific inquiry skills to conduct an independent inquiry.



In P1, students have been conducting open-ended outdoor maths inquiries that require students to work with natural materials in making and predicting patterns and showing their findings in different ways – key skills for inquiry! They have also been conducting scientific experiments.



P2 have been involved in their own ‘passion projects’, nurturing their curiosity through investigating something of their interest. Tatsumi ended up making his own shelter! They have also been investigating poetry through going on nature walks and word play.

Playing with ideas, according to the IB, is one of the key ways to develop inquiry skills!

How the World Works

Unit Reflection

★ I like flooring and sinking experiment

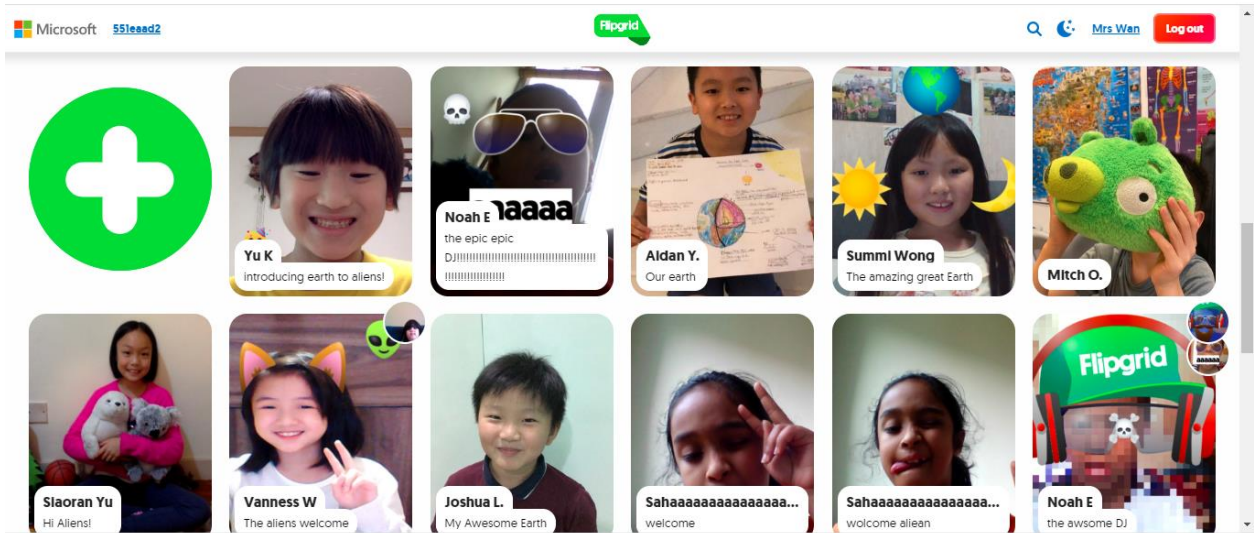
★ I like making pin boat

Wish... I could do again rain cloud in a jar experiment

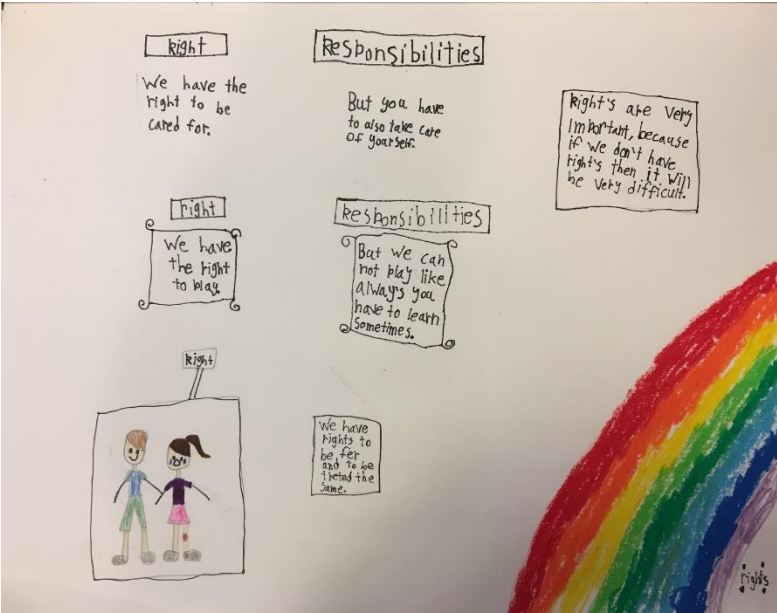
Draw a picture here, or stick a photo of your favourite thing that you did.



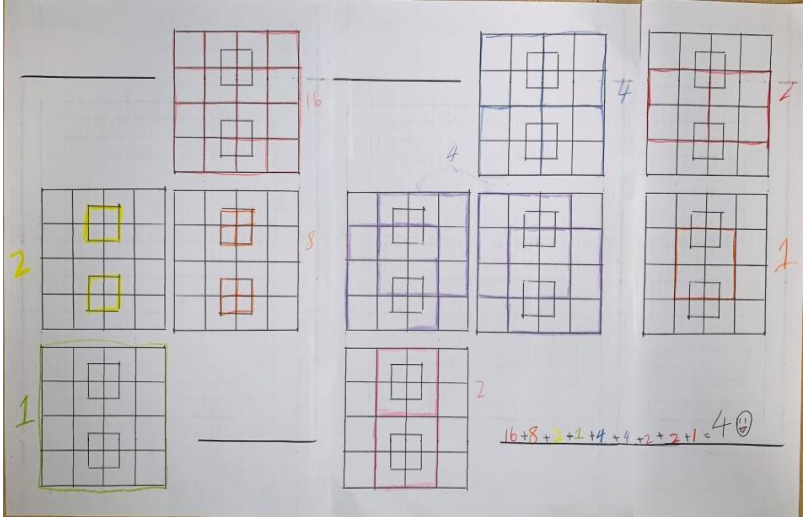
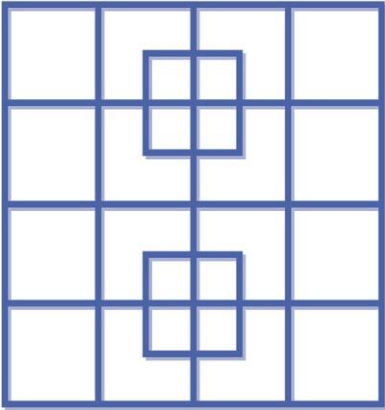
P3 have been investigating our Solar system, focusing this week, on the Earth. In doing this, they have been developing their independent research skills – particularly, using different sources to find information, note-taking and presenting their findings in different formats.



P4 have also been developing their research skills, but in a different context – that of children’s rights. In their mathematics inquiries, children have been using their understanding of perimeter and area to engage in open-ended investigations such as finding all the possible squares and rectangles that have a certain set area. This is a great opportunity for students to develop of mathematical process for playing with different possibilities.



P5 have also been involved in open-ended mathematical inquiry: How many squares in the picture?



Students had to explain their reasoning. This colour-coded, systematic approach is a great example of in ‘inquiring brain’ at work!

P6 have been using their inquiry skills to investigate and develop their own personal coping skills. They have been observing the effects on their body of different emotions and investigating and documenting their coping strategies. Being an inquirer is not just about academic work is also an important habit of mind for our emotional well-being – having the skills to investigate ourselves and create our own helpful strategies! Of course, being an inquirer is also still important in our specialist classes. In music, students have been applying their musical understandings to create their own compositions. Word and sentence play is a technique used in our Mandarin and Japanese classes, and at the moment the use of everyday household items for our homework routines is definitely encouraging independence and creativity in how we keep fit!

We have also seen many examples of students demonstrating their inquirer habits during our Friday Challenges – playing with different ways to be active, experimenting in the kitchen and much much more. This was just a snapshot into recent learning at JIS, through the lens of being an inquirer, one of the ten learner profiles. The school building may be closed, but our learner profile is still very much active!

We'd love to hear more examples of how your child is being an inquirer at home during online learning. If you have any particular examples, you'd like to share, please do so by emailing me at: cwan@es.jis.edu.hk

Class Dojo – seems OK for now

Apologies for the lost messages and uploads during the middle of this week. Due to school closures all around the world Class Dojo was at full stretch and experienced some short term difficulties during the middle of this week. It seems to be working fine again now, so please continue to check for updates and use it to upload work for portfolios etc.

Change of dates:

- JIS Swimming gala scheduled for 27th March will now be in June, provisionally on the 4th June 8:30 – 12 in the morning.

We all appreciate the struggles of the current school closure – we will continue to develop and refine our programme for all the students. Thank you very much for the positive messages of support and praise for the school staff, received this week. It is much appreciated. As mentioned last week, please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing!

Wish me luck in staying in my apartment for 2 weeks!

Simon Walton

Principal

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