



## Newsletter 30 2020-21

Friday 30th April 2021

Dear Parents and JIS community

### Tai Po Kau Hike Day Reception class

On Wednesday this week the Reception class went off on their first excursion as a class for a very long time.



Many thanks to all the parents and helpers who came along to support the management of the trip, as per current guidelines. The students were asked to do some 'deep looking' at the natural environment to develop questions, observations and ideas. Everything was going really well until a lone rather large monkey decided to join in, so the group had to be careful for a while. But everyone had a great time in the end.



A great morning out, learning in the natural environment. Thanks to Fiona Merrill, Lilian Chen and Janice Tam for their planning for the outdoor education programme.

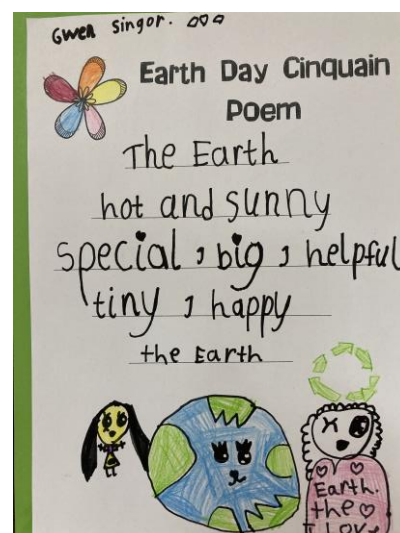
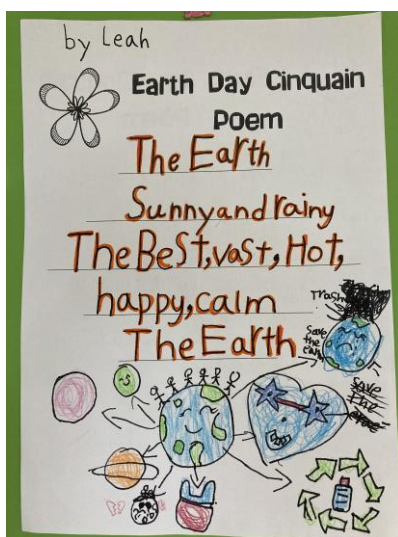
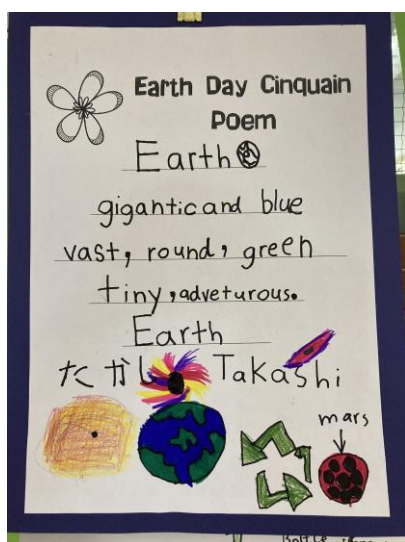


## Earth Day was celebrated last week in many of our classes.

Maintaining the profile of our awareness of the issues related to our planet and also our own responsibilities towards supporting these issues, many of our classes celebrated Earth Day 2021, last week.



Some wrote poetry:



Japanese Class considered things we need for our earth as part of their activities too.

Around school, classrooms had their lights off and Mr. Walton was told off for putting the corridor lights on! All in a good cause as it helps to raise awareness among the students.



## HK Young Readers Festival 2021:

This week Dan Gemeinhart ( <https://dangemeinhart.com/index.html>) worked with P5 and P6 on Monday 26th April. This was a very interactive online workshop as Dan Gemeinhart was in the USA and his audience was in HK. The range of topics discussed and the option to ask some really great in-depth questions made the session very useful. Nathan from Dove Tales worked with P3 and P4 on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April in the MPR in a live workshop. All activities were well planned to keep the students active but safe. These workshops have so far proved to be very worthwhile. The theme was character development and was thoroughly enjoyed by both classes

## Battle of the Books 2021

The JIS Battle of the Books Team have been really keen and busy with the help of Cath Wan to prepare for their first competition next week on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The event will be managed virtually with all teams staying in their respective schools and competing online. We hope this will work and that all the efforts of the team in reading and memorizing so much about 20 different books will be worth it.

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May the teachers will have their annual humiliation as they are challenging the team to a practice event. The teachers will be frantically reading and rereading this weekend in the hope of gaining a few points!!

## Covid update:

Like all aspects of social communities schools also suffer from pandemic or covid fatigue but we need to make sure that we follow all the current HK EDB and HK Gov't guidelines as best as we possibly can.

- Please make sure to complete the temperature record for your child each morning
- Please take time to reinforce and explain to your child why we need to wear a mask to school and how we need to cover both our nose and mouth with the mask. We reinforce this at school but please share a discussion at home
- Stephanie Tsui and all the SIS swimming coaches will continue to reinforce social distancing in the pool when the students are not wearing a mask
- We will continue to eat snack outdoors as much as we can to make eating as safe as possible

## Fidget toys at school – a message from Jenny Procter (Student Support coordinator)

Please do not send your child to school with 'fidget toys' unless requested to do so by your child's class teacher or the Student Support Department. These toys can be useful for some students but they can easily be detrimental for others. Please do not provide fidget toys for your child to give to other children. Thank you.



## JIS Yearbook – cover design competition 2021

As is tradition at this time of year we are planning ahead for our school yearbook. This is perhaps the strangest year at school that any of us have ever had – and hopefully ever will again! The students are invited to design the cover – a 4 size of the year book. The students will vote for their favourite in a few weeks' time. It can be created using any medium and students can do more than one entry if they are inspired. The entry must have 2020-21 and JIS or Japanese International School somewhere on it.

Good luck! Get creative everyone.



### JIS Yearbook Cover 2020 -2021



#### Get creative! – Time for designing!

What has been happening at JIS this year?  
What do you remember of the strangest school year ever? What are the memories of 2020-21?

Entries must include somewhere in the design:

- JIS or Japanese International School
- The year: 2020 – 2021

Remember to write your name on the back of your entry (A4 size)

Entries by Monday 10th May 2021 – hand in your design to Mr. Walton or the school office



## **School fees for 2021 – 22 – advanced notice for August 2021**

The school fees for next year have been discussed and agreed by the JIS School Board to be slightly adjusted but our Annual Capital Levy will remain the same, no increase. The fees will be adjusted by 3.5% which represent a change of HK\$ 390 per month. The monthly fees will be adjusted from \$11, 162 per month, to \$11, 552 per month payable for ten months.

Annual school fees will become \$ 115, 520 with the annual capital levy at \$15, 200 = total \$130, 720

We managed to have a fees freeze last year but need to make an adjustment this year. We hope to keep our students numbers stable for the next academic year but we are aware of some families relocating out of Hong Kong, which may have an effect on our overall numbers. This will mean that in the next few weeks we shall look to doing some interviews of students currently on our waiting lists and also meet some new families contacting the school.

We are currently having to invest heavily in the school building to maintain the positive environment we have always been able to create. Some of you may have noticed various buckets of water and damp circles around the building caused by our a/c system over the last few years, which we have now been advised is in need of replacement not repair. We have patched it up for several years but now we need to act more positively. The system is being replaced with class based individual a/c units in phases at a significant cost of HK \$8 million. In the long run we hope this will be more efficient and certainly more cost effective. We continue to invest in all curriculum areas and will maintain our high levels of resourcing for the students and their learning.

As a not for profit business all financial gains for the school are re-invested in the school and its learning community.

We shall also shortly be sharing with you our updated fee payment structure to allow for a more smooth and transparent collection of fees by direct debit and not constant bank transfers or cheque deposit. Japanese sections of our partner schools have this year transitioned to a direct debit system and it is time that we did the same to support efficiency in the school accounting department. Full details will be shared with you soon.

## **School places for next year:**

Interviews for some other classes will take place in the next few weeks, so we do ask that families interested in joining JIS for next school year, do contact Ms. Miyajima on 2834 3531 for more details as soon as possible in order to be considered.

## **Full time Education Assistant (E.A.) role for August 2021 – last call**

Interviews for this position will be held soon now that applications have closed.

## **ICHK Newsletter**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April – click [here](#) for the latest news bulletin from our partner secondary school.

## **Japanese Section change of timing starting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Car drivers notice!**

Starting next Monday Japanese Section of JIS will finish school at 1:40 p.m. so school buses will enter the car park at 1:20 p.m. All parents driving cars are advised to make sure they leave the main car park area by 1:15 p.m. latest. Thank you.

## **Farewell and thanks to Anna Lamont:**

On Tuesday afternoon the staff of JIS gave a tea party send off to Anna Lamont as she handed over her position as school library assistant and headed off to Australia. We wish all the family the very best of luck in settling in back in Melbourne.



### **Events for the week ahead: 3rd – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

***Monday 3rd:*** P1 to Forest trip – Brides Pool nature reserve

-Teachers vs students at Battle of the Books

***Tuesday 4th:*** JIS / HKJS 3 schools meeting a.m.

***Wednesday 5th:*** - JIS Battle of the Books Team inter school competition

***Thursday 6th:***

***Friday 7th:***

Wishing everyone a really enjoyable week ahead.

Simon Walton  
Principal