



## Newsletter 31 2020-21

Friday 7th May 2021

Dear Parents and JIS community

### P1 at Brides Pool Nature reserve – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

A bit of cloud and rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the P1 class as they headed off to Brides Pool last Monday. They had a great time exploring around the area and creating some 'stickmen' using resources and materials from Ms. Merrill and some natural materials found on site.



Thanks to all the parents and staff who went along on the trip to make sure the students had a great time.

## Battle of the Books 2021

The JIS Battle of the Books Team did a great job this week. On Monday they thrashed the teachers by a large point margin and then on Wednesday they joined in with a competition against a group of other international primary schools – online. The scores were very close and our team did really well to come 3<sup>rd</sup> (not far off 2<sup>nd</sup> place too). On some of the rounds they achieved full marks and in a battle they beat the team that came overall 2<sup>nd</sup> very easily!



Big thanks and congratulations to all the team members who have given up their recess times and hours of time at home to read the books and fully remember them in incredible detail. There are 20 books in the competition so to read and remember them is a shared responsibility – but some team members did read them all! Thanks also to Cath Wan who has supported and coached the team over the last few months, and the teachers who read some of the books to try to supply practice questions and compete against the student team.

## 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. **CLOSING date is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May.**

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 202 – 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.

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. Fees will be deducted on a monthly basis from September to June (10 instalments) and the annual capital levy will be deducted in August each year. Direct debit forms will be sent to all families next week to complete and send in to their bank for processing. Acknowledgement of the processed direct debit form will be taken as a reservation of a place at JIS for 2021 – 2022. Families wishing to pay termly or in one annual payment may contact the school to make special arrangements.

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

Families who are moving away from Hong Kong or relocating to a new school for August 2021 are asked to contact Sachiyo Miyajima in the school office on 2834 3531 or by email at [s-miyajima@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-miyajima@jis.edu.hk) as soon as possible. Interviews for some student places 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.

## **SIS – after school activities information: update from Stephanie Tsui**

SIS Ltd have sent out their information for late May and the month of June today. Please refer to the information and enroll your children if they wish to get involved.

## **Covid update: on going 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 – photos were sent out on Class Dojo this week
- We will continue to eat snack outdoors as much as we can to make eating routines as safe as possible

## **Japanese Section change of timing: Use of car park reminder, 1p.m. -1:40 p.m. JS departure.**

Thanks to the car drivers who have vacated the car park in time to allow Japanese Section buses to come in to school. When collecting your child from school you will need to leave the car park by 1:20 p.m. latest. Thank you.

## **Meeting with JIS staff:**

As we are still required to keep interaction with the community at a safe distance and limited in numbers can we please ask that parents who need to discuss or meet up with JIS staff, please make an appointment by calling the office or send an email to arrange a time. Thank you for your understanding.

## **ICHK Weekly Newsletter update:**

Please click [here](#) for this week's news from the staff at ICHK

## **Standardised testing next week 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May – Maths only**

Every year our students do some international standardised testing – so next week the students in P3 – P6 will be doing some maths activities using the MAPS (USA) testing arrangements. These tests work alongside the assessments we do in school to provide a very broad and comprehensive understanding of student achievement levels. They are not prioritized in any way as we use them to compare with our own data collected during the school year. Before the end of term we shall continue to review all the students reading levels and aspects of their language development as well. This information will feed in to their end of year school report and also to the work of the teachers working with the students next year.

## **Events for the week ahead: 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

MAPS Maths tests Monday – Thursday a.m.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup>:** PE badminton workshop for P5 and P6 a.m.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>:**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>:** - P5 at Brides Pool Nature reserve for outdoor education experience morning

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>:**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>:**

## **ICHK Newsletter**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May – [here](#) is the link to this week's newsletter from the staff of ICHK – our secondary partner school.

Wishing everyone a really enjoyable weekend and week ahead.

Simon Walton  
Principal