



Newsletter 17 2017-18

Friday 12th January 2018

Dear Parents and JIS community

Around JIS: week 2

Term 2 is up and busy – despite the chill this week! Our shaded playground once again proved its ability to be the coldest wind tunnel in HK for a few days each year at morning line-up this week! Still, the sunshine on Thursday and Friday soon warmed us all up a bit and the blue of the sky is a complete delight.

P2 visit to the Nissin ‘My cup noodles’ experience at HK airport

The P2 class had a great time on Tuesday on their visit to the airport to the Nissin noodles factory experience.

Asking the P2’s about their trip this week was easy: “It was really fun”, “I enjoyed making the noodles”, “Our hands got all dirty when we made the dough!”, “When we got to make cup noodles we chose what to put in it and we could decorate the cups”, “I really like it when we go to make the noodles”.

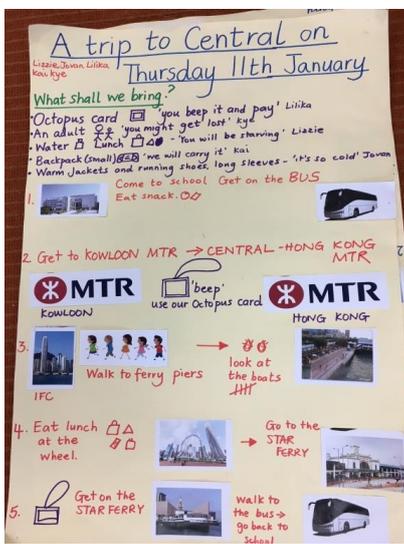


Many thanks to Nissin noodles staff and Mrs. Appleton/Mrs. Ando for arranging the visit for the P2 students to enjoy as part of their ‘How we organize ourselves’ unit of inquiry. This unit focuses on the systems we need in our world to make it all connect and work smoothly.

Next week the P2’s explore our transport system by trying to ride as many different modes of transport between JIS and the Peak! This visit builds nicely on the the experience the students have had in Reception class where they plan a journey into the city from school.

Reception class journeys around Hong Kong – Thursday 11th January

The Reception class went on an exploration ‘journey’ this week on Thursday as they explored how people move around a place like Hong Kong and how they plan journeys to work, school, shopping and many more! They planned their journey together in the classroom, looking at where to go and what types of transport to use and they were off!



Many thanks to all the parents and friends of the school who came along to be with the students to make sure it was a safe but also meaningful trip for the students. Well done Ms Merrill and Ms Janice for planning and arranging the excursion.



HK Chinese orchestra visit:

We took the whole school to hear the Hong Kong Chinese orchestra on Wednesday morning for a few hours. The audience was small but the show was big and was clearly enjoyed by the students. It was an excellent presentation of music and humour and for those speaking Cantonese it was clearly very, very funny – but the others all got the visual messages too. An excellent cultural experience – thanks to Ms Jill for arranging the concert tickets for everyone.



JIS _showtime! - The JIS stage production team has already advertised auditions for this year's show – Peter Pan – which will be performed on Friday 23rd March. All of the students will be involved in the show, as main characters or as members of their class performance. There have been some excellent auditions this week, Ms Wan, Mrs Appleton and Mr Appleton have been very impressed with the preparation and talents of the students so far.



JIS student standardized testing activities - MAPS, 8th – 12th January

–This week all students in P3 – P6 undertook some standardized testing as part of our on-going assessment of their progress and development. The tests were challenging and pushed many of the students to high levels. We shall be able to receive some feedback related not only to their levels of achievement but some diagnostic information related to the areas of learning in which the students excel and need some support. This trial is allowing us to look at possible alternatives to our INCAS programme which we have used for many years, which gives us useful scores but is not as diagnostic as the MAPS testing.



Italian lessons at JIS – January 2018 – ready to start, more welcome!

Italian lessons will be starting at JIS on Tuesday 16th January. We have managed to get a small group large enough for the lessons to begin. There is still time for others to join the group if there are students that would like to. Please complete the application form sent out last week. The lessons will be from 3-4pm, initially in the counselling room, next to the school office.

Japanese Saturday classes – term 2 start tomorrow, 13th January

Yoko sensei is running her Saturday classes as normal for this term. She is starting tomorrow and has space for other students who may be interested to get involved in either improving their Japanese or making a start in learning the language. Contact Yoko sensei for more details. y-yoneya@jis.edu.hk

Active Parenting course – to potentially run this term – repeat message

Ms. Yuki and Ms. Bailie plan to run the "Active Parenting" class once again in the new term. Depending on the group's preference, they can hold it in the evening rather than during school hours. If you are interested, please email me at kmurch@es.jis.edu.hk Here are some quotes from parents who have already taken the course.

"Active Parenting provided me with the skill to use effective discipline and taught me especially how to communicate with me 'almost teen' daughters." -- P6 Parent

"The Active Parenting course is one of the best things you can do when raising a child. It gave me new understanding of how a child's mind works and practical help to use on a daily basis. Having trouble with kids listening? Or feel like you are going to explode when your child is having a terrible meltdown? You can find invaluable advice and answers to many questions." P1 Parent

"I wanted to learn some parenting techniques that would enable me to deal with conflict or, in my case, anger, in such a way that the results could be managed positively for us all. The course was useful and it was great to learn that you are not alone with any issues that may burden you as a parent." P3 Parent

The course is always very well received by those who take part. All children are different, all families are different – there is no manual on parenthood! But there is lots of great research which can tell us all the useful strategies to use with our families. Come along and learn more, enroll yourself and maybe a friend to make it a social event!

Art lessons: January 2018 – after school – Mondays and/or Fridays

Art lessons have started on a Friday after school in the Art Room. Anyone interested in joining or interested in a Monday session, please contact Natalia Gillot! Read her attached information sent out last week, and then contact her on natalia.gillott@gmail.com to enroll your child(ren).



Community involvement projects for 2018: any takers? Calling any frustrated gardeners.....

Are you a frustrated gardener – trapped in a flat with a small balcony only where you struggle to utilize your green fingered talents and floral dreams? We now have a couple of parents who are interested in getting this project started. Once the weather is a bit warmer we shall meet on a Saturday morning to plan a few ideas and then set something up that parents and students can manage together.



School is very happy to fund the purchase of flowers, seed, soil etc. We have tools to allow some parents and students to work together. This could be a really excellent community project – similar to the art initiative that has recently got started, to rave reviews.

JIS Parent strategic planning discussion group – new ideas, new voices

We now have a group of 8 parents who are joining the group for this school year. Our meetings are usually from 7pm for around 2 hours in the school staffroom. Next meeting planned is on Wednesday 17th January. Please contact Mr Walton if you would be interested to join the group; s-walton@jis.edu.hk

Vaccinations for P1 and P6 – Monday 22nd January

Deadline for all vaccination forms has to be Thursday 18th so that staff from HK Govt School's Medical service (Dept of Health) can check the forms on that day. Applications forms have been sent out from JIS – please send in your reply to the school office if you are interested in your child joining.

O.T. (Occupational Therapist) assessments at JIS

We had our first visit by the O.T. today from 'Rehabilitation Consultants' as part of their offer of assessments for JIS students. A group of students were assessed today and others will be in the coming weeks on a Friday. Each visit is around 30 minutes offering a perfect opportunity for the therapist to undertake a wide variety of activities to complete their student profile assessments.

Dates for the week ahead: January 2018

Monday 15th: Reception Class interviews all week at JIS – Day 1

-MAPS testing catch up sessions (absent students or incomplete tests)

Tuesday 16th: Visitors from Tokyo University – students and staff a.m.

-P2 trip to the Peak, transport systems, all day

Wednesday 17th: JIS Strategic Planning Discussion Group mtg – 7pm

Thursday 18th: ICHK BoD meeting 6:30pm

Friday 19th: O.T. screening at JIS – opt in, send form to school office if you would like to take part

-Visitors to JIS music class – 15x KG teachers to observe and learn

ICHK newsletter link:

This week's newsletter from ICHK: was not available at time of printing – visit www.ichk.edu.hk for the bulletin when available.

Looking forward to a busy but interesting week meeting some new students and families for our Reception class in August 2018.

Simon Walton
Principal