



Newsletter 20 2017-18

Friday 2nd February 2018

Dear Parents and JIS community

A chilly week in Tai Po – we're trying to keep the students warm in class, heaters are on and playtimes are very active!!

Around JIS: week 4

Setsubun celebrations in Japanese Class and around the school!



Japanese class had a celebration morning on Wednesday with some cooking in the Home Ec. room, followed by the traditional bean throwing and chaotic fun in the corridors and classroom.

Beans are thrown to scare away or get rid of the bad luck at the end

of the season and the demon masks are worn as the children parade around the school. Thanks to the parents who volunteered to help with the cooking session.



Football tournament – Wednesday, vs American School Tai Po

On Wednesday after school Mr Jason and the P.E. staff from our neighbouring American School, in Tai Po arranged a series of friendly matches to give some valuable match practice for our squads.

Both U8 team (G.2 to G3) and U10 team (G4 to G5) played 2 sessions of 15 minutes. Mr Jason said the purpose of the afternoon was 'to build up skills

through the games'. Both JIS teams won their friendly matches and scored a lot of goals. However, there is still room to improve even in big victory games! Well done to everyone involved.

U8 team members:

KK, Oscar, Sean, Ryunosuke, Matthew, Luca

U10 team members:

Zach, Denys, Kensei, Stas, Lucas, Bernard, Max, George

School report questionnaire – please complete if you have a moment:

School report questionnaire link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/eeJTLj379mR8ils22>

Draft calendar for August 2018

Attached to this newsletter is a PDF draft 1 of next year's JIS school calendar. The calendar take into consideration the needs of our students and also an awareness of secondary school dates for the school year as well.

Getting ready for Chinese New Year: celebrations on 14th February

Time flies and the seasons change and here we are at Chinese New Year already!

This year the Mandarin department and the school have planned their CNY festivities for Wednesday 14th February. We shall have a lion dance and a class assembly performance by the P5 Mandarin group, followed by our traditional JIS CNY Community lunch.

For the lunch classes are asked to prepare foods as follows:

P5 and P6 families – appetisers

Reception, P1 and P2 families- mains

P3 and P4 families – deserts

The lunch is shared along the main corridor of the school and the whole school community is very welcome to come and join us.



Chinese New Year closing – As Thursday 15th February is New Year's eve the school will close at 12 pm lunchtime on this day for the holidays. We shall re-open on Monday 26th February.

A few of you have started this new option, repeat information for others:

Catering for JIS students: - log on to www.thenewluncher.hk for details

ESSPA and the school have been approached by a new start-up company in HK to explore the possibility of providing catering at lunchtime for JIS students. The company is offering to create lunches and deliver to school when it has been pre-ordered via their website. 'The new Luncher' is viewable at www.thenewluncher.hk if parents are interested. There is a promise of 'healthy' food and an efficient delivery service to school. All payments and orders are managed through the website, not through the school office. The school has no commercial interest in this arrangement but we feel it may appeal to some of our families, whilst others will be happy with their current arrangement of creating their own lunches.

Active Parenting Course: get in touch

We have mentioned our intention to run the Active Parenting course again for the school community in a few previous newsletters. The course is really proactive and useful and will hopefully be running in April and May as an evening event 7-9pm so as to allow as many families as possible to access it. We need around 10-12 parents to get involved, currently we have 7. Please get in touch with Kim Murch in the school office or Glenda Bailie in Student Support for more details or reviews from previous course members.

April – 19, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31.

Art Literacy Project – part 2 – Ancient Chinese painting – meeting 6th February 6pm

Many thanks to Ms. De Thier and her group of JIS parental volunteers who are now ready to launch their next series of workshops and information sessions.

A message from Annette De Thier:

'Our next session to be held early February will be Ancient Chinese Painting, just in time for Chinese New Year! If you are interested in joining us to learn these techniques and helping to impart them to the students, come and join us on Tuesday, 6th February at 6pm in the JIS Art Room. There we will learn about this art form and have a go! No experience needed!'

If you would like more information before hand please contact Annette De Thier, P1 Teacher on [a-dethier@jis.edu.hk](mailto:adethier@jis.edu.hk).



Curriculum in the Classroom – from Cath Wan PYP Coordinator

Science in our curriculum

We have had quite a bit of science happening over the past few weeks at JIS. Science is embedded into our Programme of Inquiry and we follow the IB PYP understandings and skills to ensure that students have a secure foundation in this area.

There are 4 science strands to our curriculum which the students will revisit throughout their primary years: living things; Earth and space; materials and matter; forces and energy.

The IB also stipulates a set of science skills which support students in thinking and acting scientifically:

- observe carefully in order to gather data
- use a variety of instruments and tools to measure data accurately
- use scientific vocabulary to explain their observations and experiences
- identify or generate a question or problem to be explored
- plan and carry out systematic investigations, manipulating variables as necessary
- make and test predictions
- interpret and evaluate data gathered in order to draw conclusions
- consider scientific models and applications of these models (including their limitations).

P5 and P6 are just completing their joined unit of inquiry with the central idea: The design of buildings and structures is dependent upon environmental factors, human ingenuity and available materials. For this unit, students had to develop understanding in three of the strands: living things (the effect of structures on the environment); materials and matter (how we can use the properties of materials); forces and energy (the scientific principles of architecture such as tension and compression).

P4 have just started a new unit of inquiry with the central idea: Natural materials can undergo changes that may provide challenges and benefits for society and the environment. This week, P4 have been heavily immersed in the materials and matter strand as they are involved in hands on experiences to help them discover states of matter and reversible and non-reversible changes.

Throughout both of these units, the science skills play a major role. Rather than learning scientific content purely by 'being told', students are involved in hands on investigations which encourage them to question, observe, explain, gather data, draw conclusions. These skills also connect to the essential habits that students need to be inquirer throughout their school life.



As always, if you have any questions or comments about teaching at JIS, feel free to contact me at cwan@jis.edu.hk

Dates for the week ahead: February 2018

On **Monday 5th February**, author Sarah Brennan will visit P2 to P6 classes to share her latest book based on the Chinese zodiac: *The Tale of Desmond Dog*. Order forms for Sarah Brennan's books have been sent out last week with students. Any students wishing to order signed copies of Sarah Brennan's books should return the order forms and payment to their class teacher before Friday, 2nd February.

On **Wednesday 7th February**, P3 - P6 students will get to visit the Discovery Dome, a mobile planetarium which will be set up on our gymnasium for the day. P3s and P4s will learn about the changing nature of our Earth and P5s and P6s will become experts on climate change.



On **Wednesday 7th February**, we shall also be hosting the hearing screening tests through AlphaHearing Healthcare Ltd. Any families interested need to complete the form sent out previously or available in the school office from Kim Murch.

Monday 5th: Sarah Brennan (author) in JIS – Desmond the Dog CNY tale!

Tuesday 6th: Parent workshop planned for 6th Feb postponed until term 3

-Art Literacy group meeting at 6pm

Wednesday 7th: Hearing screening tests at JIS

-Discovery Dome set up in gym for students to visit

-P5 class uoi presentation to parents and P6 – 2pm

-Art literacy programme Wed – Friday this week

Thursday 8th: P1 trip to History Museum – a.m.

-P3 trip to Science Park a.m.

Friday 9th:

Saturday 10th:

ICHK – important news for future development of the school!

The Lung Shan Tunnel – Tai Po north to Sha Tau Kok Rd is on schedule and will hope to open in November 2018. Many of us who travel north from Tai Po will have been witnessing the tunnel and associated roads being built just north of Hong Lok Yuen. The new tunnel will allow all traffic to Sha Tau Kok area to completely bypass Fanling and the industrial estate area and will cut times from Tai Po to ICHK by around 15 minutes or more. Access to ICHK for many of our students will therefore be much more direct and much faster. Great news for the school and excellent to hear work is on schedule.

ICHK – newsletter from last week: [ICHK bulletin](#)

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend and some warmer weather or sunshine.

Simon Walton
Principal