



Newsletter 23 2017-18

Friday 2nd March 2018

Dear Parents and JIS community

Great to back at school after the disruption of the CNY extended holiday. It is always a pleasure to be in the playground early in the morning to be met with smiles and happy faces declaring their excitement and passion for JIS! I never remember my own school life being this happy – it's inspiring to know we have students who love school. Many thanks to all staff and families for carrying on with some learning activities throughout the school closure and into the holiday period. Of course it was disappointing to have to cancel and postpone things at such short notice but we hopefully engaged with those who wanted to and created some meaningful activities for a week or so. School has really started with a rush this week with some fabulous things going on – read on.....

Around JIS

P5 Mandarin class CNY assembly

Congratulations and thanks to P5 Mandarin students and the Mandarin staff for putting on their assembly on Wednesday afternoon. Not easy with lost preparation time and some delay in having to remember lines and scripts, but they did a fabulous job and gave us all the spirit of CNY to reflect on.



Many thanks to the parents and friends who came along to enjoy the presentation with us. Happy Year of the Dog to everyone!

Chinese New Year celebration – dress up day

A quick thanks to parents who helped students get dressed up for our delayed CNY activities – it is always a pleasure to see the delight the students have in wearing their 'new year' clothes.



Mandarin Tea Party to celebrate the end of CNY festival – today in class

The Mandarin Department also arranged for each class to have a tea party to celebrate the end of CNY festivities and offer some more interesting insights into Chinese culture.



The pictures show some interesting choices of tea and snacks to match! P4 Mandarin group certainly seemed to enjoy themselves

3 Way conferences – Tuesday 6th March and Thursday 8th March

A reminder to all JIS families to make sure they have connected with class teachers to book an appointment with school. These conferences are very empowering for students as they have the focus and attention of everyone involved in their learning. Please make sure to be on time – if you are traffic delayed or suddenly unable to make your appointment please call the school office 2834 3531, so that a message can be given to your child's class teacher. Sign up google doc for appointments for Japanese or Mandarin has been sent out

It is a normal school day on both days - including buses for those that need them at 2:45pm. Students with later appointments should go home and come back with parents for their conference appointment.

Japanese 'Way of Tea' (Chado) Demonstration – Monday 26th

On Monday, students from P5 and P6 were privileged to have a traditional Japanese Tea ceremony presented by the Chado Urasenke Tankokai, Hong Kong Association. A group of members of the association came traditionally dressed in Japanese kimono and shared a tea ceremony with the students. They explained each aspect of the ceremony and allowed the students to try and then create their own tea.



P1 and P2 100 days of school celebration

This week the P1 and P2 classes joined together to celebrate '100 days of school' – be exploring the number 100 and the many patterns, learning and conceptual understandings that can be linked to it. There was a big band of community helpers on the day that enabled all the students to explore a range of activities in the classrooms, art room and along the corridors.



Well done to everyone who got involved and brought in 100 items to share, dressed up and decorated a 100 t-shirt. Thanks also to the staff and volunteers for their efforts during the day who made it all so smooth and well organized.

Art literacy project - around school this week

The JIS community Art literacy group have been busy in school this week, following up on activities from last term. The theme for the new workshops has been Chinese painting – traditional styles of art in painting bamboo, using calligraphy brushes and traditional Chinese black inks.



Some interesting masterpieces in the making! A big thank you to the volunteers who have developed the workshops and then come in to school to share them with the different JIS classes.

Student Council Toy swap activity – launched today



The JIS Student Council latest bulletin from Ms Merrill and the team:

Dear Parents,

As you know here at JIS we run a Student Council which serves to give students a voice in school wide projects and initiatives. Every year two students from P3, P4, P5 and P6 are elected by their classmates. With support these children are responsible for listening to the ideas of their peers about ways to make our school better. They are then supported by teachers to put these ideas into action.

This year the Student Council will run a few events:

Reading and construction club- every Wednesday lunchtime for P1/P2 until Easter

Toy Swap - Monday 12th March - Children can bring in toys, games and books to swap

Pet Day - Wednesday 28th March - We will invite parents to bring in pets to visit (more on this later this month, if you feel you have a suitable pet and would like to participate please let your class teacher know.)

International Week - Monday 28th May-Friday 1 June - An opportunity to share our diverse cultures with each other

Toy Swap - Monday 12th March

As part of our school wide initiative to reduce use of single use plastic the Student Council have planned to organise a toy swap to promote and encourage reusing toys, games and books. From **Friday 2nd February to Friday 9th March** please send in good condition games, toys and books to exchange. Your child will receive tokens and they will be able to exchange these tokens for new toys, game and books on the toy swap day. Please also send in a cloth bag on the toy swap day so your child can easily carry everything home.

Please make sure the toys, books and games are in good condition. Please no clothes, guns or electronics.

Warm regards

Fiona Merrill

Trips out this week:

P3 went off to the Zero Carbon building – Mr Appleton said it was a great trip – really interesting

P4 trip to Nissin noodles factory in Tai Po – P4 class were amazed by how many packets of noodles get made per day, hour, minute and were able to get see the whole production process in a busy factory

Class Dojo – app for classes and school life



In a world of immediate, shared communication we have been exploring ways of communicating school life within school and with our school community. Dojo is an app that has now been trialled successfully in P4 with Mr Rixon for some time. We have made the commitment that by August 2018 all classes will operate using the same system (class Dojo) to communicate with parents and students. Several more classes are beginning to use the app, so you may receive an invite to join. It is easy to use and may allow us to share more of what we do with the school community. There is a

whole school function as well, which admin and staff can use to share with the whole school.

There will still be a school website and also emails sent from school admin and staff BUT the ease of knowing a smartphone/ipad app is where to go to get updates as to what has been happening in your child's classroom, we hope you will find more accessible and consistent.

Sarah Brennan – orders for new Desmond the Dog book

Just before the extended break Sarah Brennan – author of the Chinese Tales for zodiac animals was in in school to launch her new text – The Tale of Desmond Dog. Any family wishing to order a signed copy of the book please complete the forms sent out and return to JIS office by **MONDAY 5th March**. Any questions please contact Cath Wan on c-wan@jis.edu.hk

Mr Jason – P.E. teacher – rope skipping success in USA for Hong Kong

This week in P.E. Mr Jason has not been in school as he has been in the USA on a Chinese New Year promotion tour for the HK Tourist Board / Trade and Business offices. Some of you may remember Jason is the coach and chief choreographer for the World Champion HK Rope Skipping team. There are some clips on Youtube and on the 'Hong Kong Meets America' Facebook page – if parents would like to share with their children. We must arrange for a JIS based demonstration one day soon – it's been a while since we saw Mr Jason and the full team in action!

Congratulations to Jason and all the team. Thanks to Stephanie Tsui for going back to her PE teacher roots for the week!

Dates for the week ahead: week 11, March 2018

Toy collection this week by Student Council

Monday 5th:

Tuesday 6th: 3 way conferences all afternoon and evening – day 1

Wednesday 7th: P4 at Tuen Mun Power Station – Electric city

P3 at Science Park

P6 workshop with Faust literacy group – followed by whole school assembly presentation

Thursday 8th: 3 way conference – day 2

-P3 trip to Science Park a.m.

Friday 9th: Japanese Section P6 Graduation ceremony – a.m.

-Author Wendy Shang – workshops with P4, P5, P6 classes

-Student Council toy swap – final donation day

Saturday 10th: JIS Peter Pan show rehearsal – 9-12pm in school gym

ICHK – newsletter from this week:

If you have got this far well done! It really is incredible just how much our students, staff and school community manage to pack in to one week of school. Long may it last – fantastic!

I look forward to seeing everyone around school next week for 3 Way Conference sessions.

Simon Walton
Principal