



## Newsletter 24 2017-18

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents and JIS community

A cracker of a day has blossomed through the morning here in Tai Po – seems that it will be a great weekend for a trip to the beach, boat trip or a hike in the hills! Fingers crossed.

### Eggshell science in P1

I've just been walking on eggshells in P1! - I didn't upset anyone or have an argument – but I actually joined P1 for their science experiment and walked on egg shells! All the P1 students had a go – even Bertie on his birthday weekend!



### Around JIS

#### 3 Way conferences – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Thanks to everybody who came in to school to make the home, school, student connection in a 3 Way conference meeting. Much of the feedback from students and staff has been really positive in that there was a more complete perspective on what learning is happening, how and what next for some progress. Parents, we hope you found the experience fulfilling too.

Please remember to make contact with your child's teacher if you have specific questions or queries that may need further clarification. In June we shall complete our cycle of home / school meetings with our student-led conferences which enabled all students to share and showcase their learning for around 1 hour at school. (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June)

#### Student Council Toy swap activity – swap day on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March



The JIS Student Council will be hosting their annual toy swap day on Monday next week at recess and lunchtime.

Many thanks to all the students (and families) who have donated toys in the spirit of recycling or 'up cycling'. I have been asked by several students if they can swap their own toys back – so watch out for what may come home, if you have donated.

More Student Council updates:

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

### School fees: fee adjustment for 2018-19

Today in your child's backpack or home / school folder you will have received notification of our school fees for next school year. We have once again tried to keep our fees fair and moderate, whilst still being able to develop the school and its facilities. There will be a small increase of 3.5% on school fees and the annual school levy will stay the same as in previous years. JIS is a not for profit international school and we invest heavily in the students to bring you what we believe is a top quality and value for money education. We shall be submitting our application to EDB shortly, should any parents wish for further clarification, please get in touch [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk).

### Wendy Shang author visits JIS: Workshops with P4, 5 and 6.

It's always a joy when a visiting author tells you that your students are wonderful, have great imagination and creativity. Thanks to Wendy Shang and author from the USA – that's what we got today. She was superb and ran 3 excellent writing workshops for the students of P4, 5 and 6 but she really enjoyed herself at JIS, before dashing to the airport for a plane back home to the USA. Wendy has been in town to support the HK Literary Festival and we were delighted to be able to book her in to JIS.



### Trips out this week:

**P3 went off to the Science Park** – This week, the P3 class walked from JIS down to Science Park. Along the way, they identified a variety of ways humans respond to the Earth's changes. This included: drainage and sewer systems, slope management and reinforcement, coastal development, construction, land reclamation, etc. The students were surprised to learn that all of the land from behind Deer Hill Bay up to the coast is reclaimed land (within the last 22 years).



**P4 trip to Tuen Mun power station and ElectriCity** – P4 had a great tour of the CLP power station at Tuen Mun, exploring all aspects of how energy is produced, used and some ideas for the future.



### **Class Dojo – app for classes and school life – repeat update**



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 trialed 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.

### **After school playground and parking – a couple of reminders**

Can we ask all parents to remind their children and helpers that they should leave the school playground area by 3:30pm if they are staying for 'playdate' time at JIS. We have had a lot of incidents recently where students have been staying until almost 4:30-5pm and playground equipment has been misused or broken and basketballs left all over the car park and beyond. The system of having time after school works and benefits everyone – if we all respect it and use it within the guidelines.

Car parking – please do not bring your car into the rear car park until all buses have cleared the area either before or after school. Having the spaces for buses only makes it safer and much more efficient. Please use the front car park for drop off and pick as much as possible.

Thank you for your support in both of these.

### ***Dates for the week ahead: week 11, March 2018***

***Toy collection this week by Student Council***

***Monday 12th:*** Student Council Toy Swap day

***Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>:*** JIS Board of Directors meeting – SW attending

***Wednesday 14th:*** P2 trip to Shing Mun valley – Tsang Tai Uk and Heritage Museum

Assembly – Japanese drumming by CNY drum club, 2:15pm

***Thursday 15th:*** P6 Art workshop – Kris Tang

***Friday 16th:*** P2 Special lunch - ESSPA

***Saturday 17th:*** JIS Peter Pan show rehearsal – 9-12pm in school gym

Wishing everyone a great weekend. Please remind students about the Toy Swap day on Monday, to support our Student Council initiatives.

Simon Walton  
Principal