



## Newsletter 13 2018-19

Friday 30th November 2018

Dear Parents and JIS community

### Great news for JIS – nominated: One of Ten Best International Schools in Hong Kong

We have been nominated by an international educational publication (The Knowledge Review Dec 2018) to join their publication of the 'Ten Best International Schools in Hong Kong'. Obviously we are delighted to have been nominated and be included in such a publication. A copy of the article is attached to this newsletter email. We have no idea who else is with us as the other nine – but it is a really positive boost to have the school recognised in this way.

We are also advertising a little to make sure the Hong Kong community is still aware of the school and the fabulous work that we do. In the December issue of Expat Living we are a feature article under the title – 'Small School BIG IMPACT' – another great way to appreciate the school and its community, through the eyes of a local journalist.

### Sports Day- 30<sup>th</sup> November – this afternoon – 1:15pm – 3:30pm

At the time of writing we were getting everything ready for our annual sports day afternoon at HKEDU stadium. The students were busy training all week and pre-school this morning the running track was fever pitch busy!



In advance I would like to thank all of the members of the SIS Ltd Team who do a fabulous job of preparing the sports day and all the equipment down at the stadium. Mr Jason has been busy teaching the warm up dance and also lots of the different activities during P.E.

The JIS sports afternoon has been blessed with some excellent weather for everyone! We can share some more photos with you all next week.

\*\* Just back from a great afternoon of sport and outdoor activity. Many, many thanks to everyone who came along and supported the students and staff today. A big well done to **Red team** on managing to hold on to their sports day trophy for another year. Hard luck to Blue and Yellow team – some great efforts to try hard and get points for your team.

### Around school:

**P5 and Reception class** – On Monday in some rather damp and wet weather the P5 and Reception class buddies went off to the Tai Po Kau forest for a really excellent morning. There were some excellent social skills learning experiences for the P5 students but also some fabulous science and inquiry activities for everyone to enjoy. It is great to be able to have the forest so close to the school and to be able to use it for such a variety of positive learning experiences. As mentioned before, this an aspect of the school curriculum we shall continue to develop and explore.

Read on for an article from Fiona Merrill, who has recently taken on a position of curriculum responsibility for Outdoor Education and Forest School.

## ***Environmental awareness and action at JIS- From Fiona Merrill Environmental Coordinator***

Here at JIS, we value and are committed to supporting the environment both locally and globally. Each of us has an individual responsibility within the school community to use resources wisely and take action where needed. This year at JIS, we are taking steps to further raise awareness towards using resources in a sustainable manner.

### **Sustainable use of resources**

Last year we took part in a campaign to use less single use plastic packaging in our snacks and lunches. As a school over a five-week period we collected the plastic that was used and created a fishing net installation in the corridor. This had a big visual impact on the children's understanding of how much plastic there is in our oceans and on our planet. As a result, classes are now using less single use plastic at snack and lunch and ESSPA are helping to review our use of single use plastic at school events and special lunches. Hopefully, we can continue to give students opportunities to use less single use resources, developing good habits for years to come. I'm particularly proud and happy to see that many JIS students have purchased metal straws and are taking their own cutlery and water bottles out and about in an effort to reduce unnecessary use of resources, particularly plastic.

The last few years has seen the successful 'toy swap' event run by the JIS Student Council. A great opportunity for students to exchange their toys and books for different ones. Taking care of their toys and swapping toys rather than always buying new ones is one meaningful action children can take to lessen the plastic waste dilemma.

We are currently conducting a waste audit here at school and reflecting on the ways we use paper, energy, plastic and other important resources. Student Council will work with JIS students closely this year to elicit children's ideas as to ways of reducing our carbon footprint.

### **Electrical Equipment Recycling at JIS**

I am happy to inform you that we have found a local recycler here in Tai Po. Should you bring any electrical equipment you want to dispose of (laptops, tablets, chargers, keyboards, mouse, camera's, phones etc.) we will pass them on for recycling. Please drop at the office with Ms Miyajima.

### **V cycle**

We will be working with the social enterprise V cycle until April recycling 'PET' plastic bottles.

*V Cycle is a social enterprise that is committed to attaining an effective circular economy that will benefit Hong Kong socially and environmentally. We are organising this activity in the hope of collecting over 10 tonnes of PET (polyethene terephthalate) plastic bottles, which are categorised as type 1 plastics and usually take the form of beverage bottles.*

*We aim to recycle the collected bottles and remake them into creative, multi-purpose tote bags. Part of the recycling process will involve waste pickers, enabling them to earn extra income, while the sewing and stitching process will create job opportunities for rehabilitation participants. Proceeds from the sales of the bags will be used towards improving the lives of waste pickers.*

*The Ten Tonne Challenge will include environmental education and visits to assist waste pickers. Our aim is to promote ecological conservation and help some of Hong Kong's least fortunate citizens.*  
<https://www.vcycle.com.hk/>

Please send in any clean PET bottles to the foyer area to support this social enterprise. This is a great cause that supports waste pickers and facilitates recycling.

### Forest School and the JIS curriculum

Here at JIS, we pride ourselves on fostering resilience and a love of nature. Forest School learning is a logical direction for us. Reception class has been engaging in Forest School learning for the last few years. The benefits are tremendous and we are now able to extend Forest Learning to all other year groups. Forest School is student led, builds confidence and independence, develops teamwork and cultivates empathy and connection with the natural world. It also encourages children to work with manageable risks. Each class will take a Forest School trip at least once a term, building up to more sessions in the near future.

### Global Goals

Classes throughout the school have been introducing the United Nations 'Global Goals.'

*In 2015, world leaders agreed to 17 goals for a better world by 2030. These goals have the power to end poverty, fight inequality and stop climate change. Guided by the goals, it is now up to all of us, governments, businesses, civil society and the general public to work together to build a better future for everyone.* <https://www.globalgoals.org/>



P4 class has been finding ways in class and individually to be more sustainable. Other classes will work with the goals next year as well. It is well worth researching them for yourself.

Attached to this email is a very relevant article which the JIS staff have used as a motivational and planning document in our recent professional development days. Please read it if you have time.



### [Learning at JIS – from Cath Wan PYP Coordinator](#)

Last week, Ms Wan addressed the third most popular request on our survey:

## *Mathematics*

Here are some follow on contacts and further reading linked to Mrs Wan's article last week that was not pasted in to her text:

### **How can we support the development of number sense?**

Students still need to practice mathematics regularly. How we practice can result in 'happy learning brain' or 'scared/ bored switched off brain'. Last year, as a staff we compiled a list of fun games which develop number sense that can be played at home with little or no preparation. You should have received this as a hand out during Meet the Teacher Night. If you did not, please let me know and I'll send you a copy. Learning and teaching of mathematics is a huge subject and it is hard to summarize it in a short newsletter. If you have any specific questions, please do email me [cwan@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:cwan@es.jis.edu.hk) and I'll do my best to answer. Or you may want to have a look at some of the links below for further reading:  
Research led by Dr. Jo Boaler, Professor of Mathematics, Stanford University (there is a great paper called "Fluency without Fear" on this site): <https://www.youcubed.org/evidence/>  
Research from Dr. Constance Kami, professor of Early Childhood Education:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/constancekamii/articles-available-for-printing>  
Dr, Raj Shah. A free guide for parents on how to help children with their mathematics:  
<https://medium.com/inspired-ideas-prek-12/math-growth-at-home-helping-parents-to-support-students-8bca8ecf7ab1>

### **Diary updates:**

#### **Events for the week ahead at JIS –**

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm we have the Japanese Class assembly in the school gym. A cultural tale and some drumming and dancing awaits us all!

#### **Week 16– 3rd – 7th December 2018**

**Monday 3rd** – Hearing tests all day – pre-booked by JIS community

David Rixon not in school – Ms Wan with P4

**Tuesday 4th** – P1 and P6 vaccinations

P2 class at HK Science Museum

Japanese Emperors birthday celebrations – Mr Walton to represent JIS

**Wednesday 5th** – Japanese Class assembly in gym at 2pm

**Thursday 6th** –

**Friday 7th** – Christmas lunch in classes today! Each class will sort their own shared lunch but everyone can celebrate the end of term and the upcoming holiday season at the same time!

Wishing everyone a very enjoyable weekend and looking forward to a sunny few days!

Simon Walton  
Principal