



## Newsletter 17 2018-19

Friday 18th January 2019

Dear Parents and JIS community

Units of inquiry are in full swing as we move into the new term at full speed. Lots of really interesting trips out and some great science and arts work going on around the school. Teachers have all been busy compiling half year school reports over the last few weeks which will be sent home with students on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### Around school:

#### Wadaiko Team Perform in Stanley Plaza – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Yoko sensei and Kiyomi sensei have arranged for the JIS – I.S. Wadaiko Team to perform at the RTHK children's carnival in Stanley Plaza this Sunday. They will perform at 2pm and then again at 4pm. Good luck to all the team members and thanks to the parents for bringing the students over to Stanley. Hope to see you all there.



### JIS Annual charity appeal New Year 2019:

Our school appeal is flipping in to top gear for next week to try our best to support other people in Hong Kong. Please help!

**Clothes:** Clear out your wardrobes and drawers and send in your clean, outgrown, not needed clothes for children and we will donate them to the Salvation Army as part of our annual support for the people of Hong Kong, not as fortunate as us. Clothes can be donated before end of January in time for donation for CNY.



**Food:** In previous years we have had an amazing response for our food appeal for 'Food Angel' a superb local charity who help feed the less privileged and elderly in Hong Kong. Donate bags of rice, boxed and tin foods, non-perishable food items and we will arrange to get them to Food Angel in time for them to use for CNY. Hand in food items to the first floor lobby area for collection.

Many thanks in advance for your support. We will work closely with the students to explain the purposes of donation and organization of an appeal like this. Please get them involved at home with this.

Coming soon – the book sale

**Books:** We shall be launching our bi-annual book sale appeal in January and February – with a grand sale on 1<sup>st</sup> March – World Book Day. Donate your good quality books and ESSPA will sort them into groups for other students to buy at a very cheap price (\$2, \$5, \$10) on 1<sup>st</sup> March. That way everyone can get an upgrade of books for a very cheap price. We also share the positive message of re-use and recycle with all the students. Books for donation, please send in to the school office for storage prior to the sale.

### Japanese Section Open Day 2019

The Japanese section of JIS will be celebrating their annual Open Day on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 10 – 3pm. Any interested JIS parents are welcome to join if they would like to. There will no car parking available at school for this event.

## Reception Class interviews – for August 2019 class.

Next week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we have invited some groups of young students into JIS for a 'playdate' at school, as part of our admissions process for August 2019. Ms Merrill, Ms Wan, Ms Bailie and Mr Walton will be involved in the sessions where the children come to school share a story, play with a variety of toys and draw and colour in some pictures. We hope to be able to select some students to come and join us in August 2019.

**Note:** Interviews for potential places in P1 will follow once we know how many spaces we may have for the class.

## School uniform update: repeat message.....

The school uniform can now be bought in 3 ways: Via our own school shop, on-line ordering, visiting the company warehouse shop in Jordan, Kowloon.



The school jogging/track pants are now in stock, in the school shop. They are comfortable and useful for those chilly mornings, on P.E. days. (\$170 per pair). All sizes are now in stock. Ours school shop is open on Fridays from 8:15 -3pm. Order forms are on the school website for processing and collection on Friday.

Uniform can now also be ordered on-line for delivery to your home or to school. Follow the link and order if you cannot get access into the school shop:

<https://www.jis.ufsonline.com.hk/>

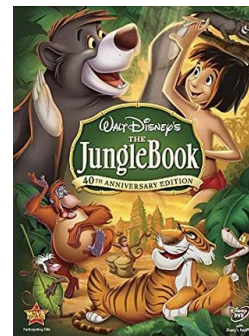


If you prefer to visit the main company shop in Jordan the address is as follows:

- Uniform Station
- Rm 6A, Will Strong Development Building
- 59 Parkes Street,
- Jordan Road,
- Kowloon
- Tel :- 3598-0073

## School annual production 2019 – The Jungle Book

Ms Wan and Ms De Thier have begun some script readings and some group rehearsals as the production starts to get going. Some of the characters can be seen around school hugging their script booklet and busy with their friends memorizing their lines.



## Learning at JIS – from Cath Wan PYP Coordinator

### Reading at JIS

Developing proficient readers is a priority at JIS. We approach this task in a variety of ways:

- Develop a love of reading: the more students practise willingly, the better readers they become!
- Developing the skills to be able to read and understand what has been read (decoding and comprehension)
- Challenging the students to delve deeper with their reading: making connections, understanding inferences, analysing texts.



## Developing a love of reading



### **At school**

Students love listening to stories read aloud and having time to choose books that they enjoy. Our Friday library times are special and students especially love curling up in the tatami room with a chosen book. We encourage students to try a variety of genres, in fact this year, when creating library essential agreements, the students brought up that in order to show commitment to reading, we should try different genres.

We also make a point of inviting authors into our school to inspire the students. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, Sarah Brennan will be in school to conduct

reading sessions and workshops for P1 – P6 students. In March, Kate Beasley will be holding workshops for P4 to P6 and Candy Gourlay will visit us to work with all students.

### **Support at home**

Read, read and read! Cuddling up with your child and reading to them is one of the best things you can do. Your child will associate reading with warmth and affection and thus the seeds for reading are sown. Modelling being a reader yourself is also a great way for reading to become a natural family pastime.

### **Developing skills**

In Reception and P1 class at the moment, all students are regularly practising phonological awareness. Phonological awareness is the auditory pre-reading skill that needs to be developed in order to master efficient decoding skills.

It is the skill to be able to break words apart into their separate sounds and then to put them together again. These skills then lead naturally into decoding print. All throughout the school, students work in small guided groups according to their reading readiness. The teacher uses assessment data to choose texts which are just the right level of challenge. Decoding skills are taught in conjunction with comprehension skills; there is no point being able to decode the letters if no connection to meaning is made. Diagnostic individual assessments are made to identify what strategies our student readers use and to identify what strategies (both decoding and comprehension) need to be developed.



### **Support at home**

Do you remember all those nursery rhymes, clapping games and bouncing your child on your knee with a silly rhyme? These have a purpose: they are helping children develop a feel for the rhythm and rhyme inherent in our language. Playing around with words and rhythm includes breaking words apart, putting them together again, identifying rhyme – all essential components of learning to read.

Listen to your child read at home. If they become stuck on a word, encourage them to use strategies such as breaking the word apart (sounding it out) and using the context to check that the word makes sense.

Encourage your child to talk about what they read. You don't have to give a comprehension test after every book, but showing an interest in their reading will help: 'What was your book about? What part was your favourite and why? What was the main character like? What was the problem in the story? Can you tell me 3 things you learned from the text you read?'

### **Challenging students**

As students progress in their reading, teachers support them in more advanced comprehension skills such as identifying inferences in the text, justifying their answers with references to it; recognising the difference between fact and opinion and using their reading skills to research effectively.

### **Support at home**

Simple things such as technology free mealtimes where the family engages in discussion really helps to develop deeper comprehension skills. Discussing opinions and giving reasons for them; listening to others while they do the same is creating the linguistic fluency and critical thinking that good readers need.

### **Further opportunities**

We are considering inviting author Sarah Brennan (Chinese New Year Tales) to school one evening to run a parent workshop. Below are the descriptions of the workshops. If you are interested in attending, could you

please use the form below to express interest. If we have enough interest, we will arrange an evening for her to visit us at JIS:

<https://goo.gl/forms/NStKsc5m6B8Diuqu1>

#### ***Workshop option 1: Creating Bookworms in the Digital Age***

Turn your little techno-junkies into avid readers! In this digital age, where the overuse of digital devices is leading not just to childhood obesity but also the loss of social skills, language, creativity and even empathy in our future adults, reading books has never been more important. Yet children, especially boys, are deserting books in droves for the addictive delights of techno-toys and other devices. In this session we explore:

- The history of reading and its beneficial effect on the human brain throughout the ages
- The threat now posed by the dramatic decline in reading by people of all ages
- The growing body of science-based evidence for the use of printed books and against the overuse of digital devices in children's development and education
- 12 Top Tips to turn reluctant readers into little bookworms...for life!
- The session ends with a brain-storming session where further ideas can be explored.
- Participants will leave the workshop with a summary and a list of recommended reading.

#### ***Workshop option 2: Creating Literate, Literary Writers in the Digital Age***

Do you remember and age when kids wrote stories for fun? When they kept diaries, wrote poems and invented imaginary worlds? That age is fast disappearing with the advent of digital technology, which is increasingly dominating the lives of our young people, not just during school hours but also to a very substantial extent at home. As a result, we are seeing epidemic rates of childhood obesity, loss of social skills, language skills, imagination, creativity and even empathy in our future adults. Small wonder then that we are seeing a rapid decline in children's creative writing skills. But all is not lost! We can address this urgent problem right away! In this session we explore:

- The core ingredients in the creation of great writers
- The essential links between plentiful book reading and creative writing skills
- The threat currently posed by digital technology to the development of creative writing skills
- The growing body of science-based evidence for the use of printed books and against the use of digital devices in children's education and play
- 14 Top Tips to encourage creative writing in the classroom and at home
- Participants leave the workshop with a summary and a list of recommended reading.

If you have any further questions on reading or any other parts of the curriculum, feel free to contact me on [cwan@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:cwan@es.jis.edu.hk)

### **JIS Diary updates:**

**Chinese New Year celebration day – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February.** (Lion dance, student presentation and shared community lunch)

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

#### **Week 4– 21st – 25th January 2019**

**Monday 21st** – Mrs. Ashton in Reception class again this week – to support Reception class interviews

**Tuesday 22nd** – Reception class interviews – Aug 2019

**Wednesday 23rd** – Reception class interviews – Aug 2019

-P5 and P6 theatre trip – Private Peaceful show – HK Academy of Performing Arts – a.m.

**Thursday 24th**

**Friday 25th** – School reports for half year sent home to all JIS families

**Saturday 26th** – **Japanese Section at Tai Po have their annual Open Day – 10 – 3pm**

### **ICHK Newsletter**

This week's news letter from ICHK – can be read by clicking [here](#).

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend. Keep healthy everyone and keep your children at home if they are unwell.

Simon Walton  
Principal