



Newsletter 28 2018-19

Friday 3rd May 2019

Dear Parents and JIS community

JIS Bookathon 2019 – update so far!

Dressing up book character day



Many thanks to everyone who got involved in our book character dressing up day today. Ms Cong and Mrs Wan also hosted some events and special stories in the school library during the day for each class. Our Bookathon has had many children busy over the Easter holidays. We thank them for their efforts and look forward to collecting sponsorship money in over the next few days.

Several children have asked for an extension to their sponsored reading so Ms Wan has extended the deadline. - **Bookathon: Deadline is extended until Friday 10th May 2019**

The money collected from our sponsored event this year will be shared with our school library and the charity 'Room to Read', who work with literacy groups all over the world to create opportunities for everyone to learn to read and have access to books..

If you need a copy - A link to the JIS Bookathon documents and sponsor sheets:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CGjzkW3Dk290IV7z035z7cJXWms5DKyj/view?usp=sharing>

The sheets are also attached to this newsletter for your reference.

Events for the week gone by at JIS – week 1.

Battle of the Book Team – Victorious.....

Huge congratulations to our Battle of the Books team who won their event at Shatin Junior School on Thursday this week. The event is very competitive and very strictly regulated and our team performed magnificently throughout the event to win. The team have really, really worked so hard over the last few months and have bonded so well as a group – they were a real credit to themselves and the school. They move on to the grand finals at CIS on Tuesday 14th May. We wish them all the very best of luck to see how far they can go this year!

Avery big thanks to all the staff who have worked over weekends, lunch breaks and public holidays (!) to support the team – a job very well done! (Chelsea Lau in P5 is also a member of the team and was unfortunately sick for this event)



Forest Adventures – day camp for early years' classes



As discussed before in our newsletters we are trying really hard as a school to connect the students with their environment in as many meaningful ways as possible. Forest Adventures do a great job of exposing young children to different experiences in using our environment in a positive and creative way. Reception class and P2 went along this week and P1 and P3 will get an opportunity in the coming weeks.

Bingo Night - coming soon – Friday 17th May

ESSPA are getting busy preparing for our annual bingo night evening of fun on Friday 17th May at 6pm in our school gym. ‘Come on down’ and get ready for some numbers fun and chance your luck for a prize or two.

There will be food and drinks served from 6pm with bingo games starting around 6:30pm.

ESSPA would really appreciate support from our JIS community for donations of prizes for the event. If you have can donate small toys, beach toys, stationery, games, puzzles etc – please contact your ESSPA committee. A few donations of prizes or vouchers for adults will also be very much appreciated. Thank you for your support.



ESSPA AGM – Friday 17th May at 6:10pm

ESSPA invite all members of the JIS community to their Annual General Meeting on Friday 17th May at 6:10pm. There will be a short presentation of the work of ESSPA during the last school year, a vote of thanks for their work from Mr Walton and also ESSPA accounts will be available for any members of the JIS community to read.

At the end of the AGM we can all finish our pizza and get ready to play bingo!

JIS Talent Show 2019 – Friday 24th May – 1:00pm

Please find attached to this letter and email some information and an application form for our JIS Talent Show for 2019. Individuals, duets, groups – all are welcome. Performances will be in the MPR for the whole school community – mark the date in your diary.

Important dates for this year’s show are:

Application deadline: Thursday 9th May

Audition dates: morning and lunch recess on 14th and 15th May

Run though rehearsal: Thursday 23rd May

Talent show date: MPR 1:00 Friday 24th May



Week 2, Term 3: 6th – 10th May 2019

This week we have some volunteer interns from local universities coming in to JIS to learn more about international school education and I.B. teaching and learning.

Monday 6th – JIS Maths Team (P5) at DBIS for Maths competition with Mr Cheung

-P3 at HK Space Museum a.m.

Tuesday 7th –

Wednesday 8th – Mr Walton not in school – p.m.

Thursday 9th – P1 out at Forest Adventures – a.m.

Friday 10th – P4 and P5 class visit Crossroads charity HQ in Tuen Mun to take part in a Global X-perience simulation activity

Saturday 11th –

Read on.....



Learning at JIS – from Cath Wan PYP Coordinator Encouraging Creativity

In September's parent survey, 50% of responses asked for more information on how we can encourage creativity. Here goes!

Defining creativity

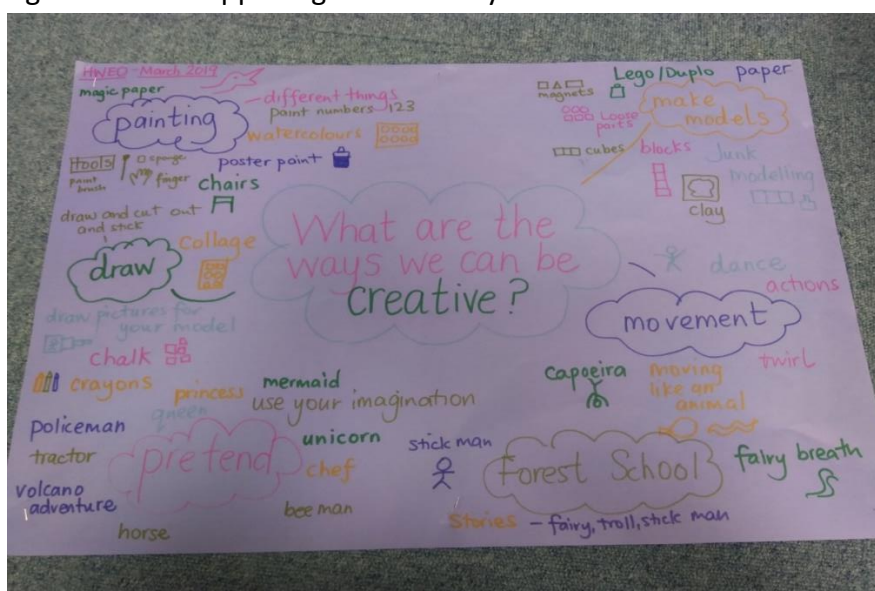
Ken Robinson (2015) defines creativity as “*the process of having original ideas that have value.*” He goes further to explain the crucial role of imagination in this: “*imagination is the root of creativity.*”

Here are a few ways we develop creativity at JIS:

1) Explicit opportunities in our Programme of Inquiry

Each year group studies the transdisciplinary theme “How We Express Ourselves.” This theme's descriptor is as follows: “An inquiry into ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.”

Creativity is at the heart of all our How We Express Ourselves units: students are encouraged to compose art, poetry, music, dance sequences and much more. However, we also ensure that other units of inquiry have opportunities for creativity. For example, in P4, students get the opportunity to imagine solutions to school needs and create their own organisations to support these. Multiple year groups also create their own scientific experiments. Our language Scope and Sequence document is integrated into our programme. This ensures that quality reading experiences to stimulate the imagination are happening continuously.



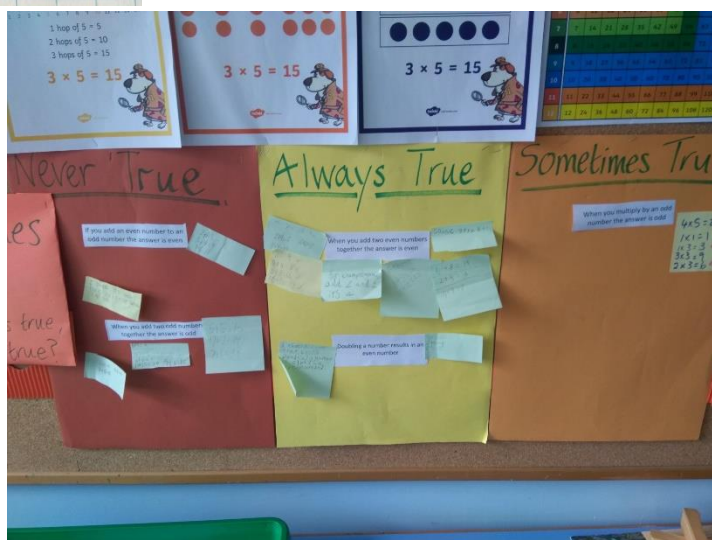
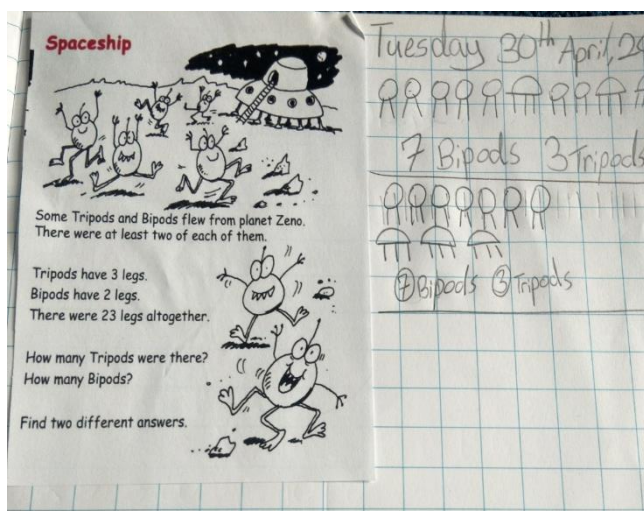
2) The environment and choice of resources

Over the last few years, we have increased time taken to take students into the forest environment. This environment and the accompanying sense of wonder they experience in the outdoors stimulates student's imagination. For example, the younger students connect fairy stories to the forest environment; older children create structures with fallen twigs, leaves and stones. You will notice a lot of imagination- based play resources in our corridors and classrooms. If you ever stop and listen to the children when they are creating with blocks, stones, shells, their imaginative chatter and their creativity with what they build is quite delightful to observe.



3) How we teach

Open-ended investigations and tasks which require students to justify their response in multiple ways demand creative thinking. Students are imagining different possibilities and extending beyond “right or wrong”. The use of provocations, such as thought provoking pictures is another common strategy to encourage students to look at ideas through different perspectives. You may notice a very strong link here between creativity and critical thinking – they are very connected!



Ideas to support your child's creativity at home

1) Read to them

Children love having stories read to them aloud. It is the perfect stimulus for the imagination. The sounds you are making as you read aloud are forming pictures, sounds and emotions in your child's head – unique to them. Compare this with screen time where the pictures and sounds are already provided - it just doesn't compare!

2) Let them play with nature and 'non-toys' such as cardboard boxes

Many of us have heard the scenario where someone has bought an expensive toy for a child and they have been more interested in the box it came in! This is completely natural. Children naturally have wonderful imaginations and those cardboard boxes, sticks and stones take on a new life in their imagination. In Ken Robinson's talk, "Do schools kill creativity," he discusses research on how children often lose creativity as they get older. Our task is to encourage and support children's natural creativity, not smother it with our adult version of what play should be like.

3) Let them be bored

It is all so easy when our children are whining that they are bored to put them in front of a screen, or to feel that being a good parent means organising a multitude of after school activities to keep them active and occupied. However, that state of boredom sets our minds wondering and wandering, the perfect state for creativity to grow in! It is challenging to overcome the "I'm bored" grumbles but from personal experience, replying with a "You're bored? Fantastic! Now your brain has the chance to come up with something" and then pretending to not hear the following ten minutes of grumbling, can have surprisingly positive outcomes!

Further resources on creativity

https://www.ted.com/talks/manoush_zomorodi_how_boredom_can_lead_to_your_most_brilliant_ideas?referrer=playlist-why_it_sometimes_good_to_be_bored

<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/40217/sir-ken-robinson-creativity-is-in-everything-especially-teaching>

https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity

ICHK Newsletter

This week's news letter from ICHK – click [here](#) for up to date news of ICHK

Simon Walton
Principal

Attached to this email is a copy of the JIS Talent Show information and application form.