



## JIS Newsletter 28

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Students, Parents and JIS community

Week 2 term 3 was a short one but still lots of interesting activities going on and some great commitment from many of our students with their home learning programme!

It was also great to meet many of the students and parents yesterday morning as Mrs Wan's 'Happy Bus' hit the roads of HK to deliver resources, plant growing kits and also act as a mobile library.



### Events around school:

#### JIS Online conferences – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Thank you for signing up for the online conferences to be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Appointments have been sent out to make sure everyone can connect in the best ways possible. Refer to your child's school email address/ calendar to click and connect or use the link for the meeting. Conferences will be filling up both days involving class teachers, specialist staff and Ms Wan or Mr Walton.

These meetings will be an excellent opportunity to share some time with each family and students and to review all aspects of students well-being and aspects of the last few weeks spent on home learning.

#### Marvelous Monday and Terrific Tuesday – activities for everyone!

In order to keep students busy, active and creative we have set up a series of challenges for everyone to choose from whilst teaching staff are busy with conference days. Please encourage your child to get involved as we have made sure there is a large variety of activities to suit all interests and levels. Yearbook cover designs and also Talent Show videos could be prepared on these two days.

Full details with a voice over recording will be shared in Google classrooms and through Class Dojo. Please look out for the information coming.

#### Mr. Walton and Ms. Wan's Marvellous Monday and Terrific Tuesday Challenges!



On the following pages are 11 challenges. You can do as many as you like. Have fun and send us an image of what you get up to. Be as creative as you like - work by yourself, work with your brother or sister, work with your parents or family!

**Assembly:** On **Monday morning 4<sup>th</sup> May** there will be a school assembly at 8:30a.m. and also 10:30a.m. – the content will be the same but we need to make sure all students have an option to join, in case their conferences are taking place, so we will run it twice.

Code: **obpfcpcysa**

Log on to Google Meets and insert the code as normal.

## **Meeting with Education Secretary and EDB staff – info for parents:**

On Tuesday afternoon international school Principals were invited to meet with the HK Education Secretary and his staff to discuss the resumption of classes. Despite what you may have read in the media there is no decision made yet, but there is a strong desire to get children back into school as soon as possible from all sides. Initial ideas were shared as to what may happen in phases with the HK local system and how this may or may not affect the international schools in HK. The main take away points at this time were:

- EDB and all schools are very keen to get students back to school as soon as it is safe to do so
- The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) are currently working on guidelines from a medical perspective that will be shared with schools in the coming week or two
- International schools were requested to not do anything drastically different to the local system but it was accepted that there are differing circumstances and requirements between the two systems. For example (and JIS scores highly here) some international school campuses are large with spacious classrooms and a wider range of outside facilities. Can this be part of a decision to come back to school? – we hope so
- It is likely, but not decided that the initial return to school may be for a morning session as CHP officials are concerned about meal times and students without masks at these times
- It was proposed but also disputed that secondary students should go back first – yet it can be argued that primary students potentially would gain the most from coming back to school first
- Schools will need to create a clear plan or strategy for returning to school and will need to have this approved by EDB / CHP before re-starting. At JIS we have begun this planning already.
- The ideas from the meeting were noted to be followed up soon by guidance from the HK EDB – I will share with the JIS community as soon as anything else is known

We have all staff and the school campus ready for a swift return to school, should we be given the go-ahead to do so. We all sincerely hope this is possible.

## **School fees – recent announcements in the HK media**

We are fully aware that announcements by some of Hong Kong's largest international school systems (for example ESF) will have raised many questions about the fees for JIS. We will continue to monitor our levels of spending and financial planning and be in touch with the school community should any changes be possible.

As mentioned previously JIS has always maintained a clear system of fee charges to allow for transparency and parental clarity. We charge for school fees for tuition and resources and a capital levy to allow us to maintain a high quality level of campus facilities and development. We do not charge large debentures and/or enrolment fees with extra charges for resources, as is common with some of our neighbours – we are an honest not for profit organisation. The fee structure at JIS is aimed at offering the best we can for a fair price. There is no hidden savings

chest and we need to have the school ready to resume as quickly as possible, without making staff redundant and then having to recruit too quickly. Like so many organisations around the world we are not ‘pandemic proof’ but we are adjusting what we can, where we can and whilst we may not be able to offer large scale discounts like other much larger organization we will make sure to manage our requests to parents as reasonably as possible. We will not for example be asking for a deposit fee to secure spaces in the school for August 2020 – we will be asking for a clear response as to whether families will be joining us next school year so we can plan for places accurately, but we appreciate it would be wholly inappropriate to ask a deposit for this at this time.

In December 2019 and January 2020 we have already undertaken staff recruitment for the next school year, much of which is aimed at improving the options and quality of learning we are able to offer the students. This was obviously done pre-pandemic but we hope to be able to manage funds for 2020-21.

### **Activities to join in with, entries due in the coming weeks:**

**JIS Talent Show** – by video this year. Get planning or recording a piece for us all to enjoy. Send in by May 15<sup>th</sup> to [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk)

**School Yearbook cover**– design competition for the front and back cover in the next few weeks. Cover design competition due in by Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>. We only have a few so far, so it would be great if everyone can get creative over the next week or so. Please keep the original – but send in a photo for sharing initially. The original will be needed by the publisher later. Send in to [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk)

### **Mrs Wan’s ‘Happy Bus’ – out and about on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

Yesterday was a really pleasant opportunity for the school staff to connect with the students and also some of the parents. Thank you for all those people who signed up and came to meet us.

Also as big thanks to all the staff who prepared resource packs for Reception and P1 class students to be delivered as well as loading up the van with hundreds of reading books to borrow. Mr Lun (gate security guard) also helped us create around 50 sunflower seed growing kits for the students – he really misses the children, so he asked to help!

Whilst out and about we also received some cookies and a great poster to wish us well on our journey – thank you!

Many students and their parents who are close to the school building also came in to school to collect their things – we still have some more that will need to be collected soon from the school, especially Reception and P1 class.

If you have any questions, please call the school office on 2834 3531.





## Sunflower competition / growing fun / kit delivery

As part of the Happy Bus event we were able to deliver a little project that everyone could be involved in. Each pot has 3 seeds and some compost to give everyone the chance to grow their own sunflower to hopefully bring some sunshine and a happy smile for all of us.

The seeds will need to be kept moist but not too wet. Keep the pots in the sun but dot let them get



too dry. Sunflowers usually begin to sprout within 3-4 days. Once the sunflower gets big you may need to put it/them in a larger pot – or send it to school for planting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor garden

### **School library books and resources delivery. (Mondays)**

We will continue to use our school bus services for the collection and delivery of library books for students on Mondays. Buses will leave school at 12pm and be with community members at their usual times. A range of staff will be on bus duty this week.



### **Google Meets: top tips for students, a quick reminder!**

We have significantly expanded our Google Meets schedules and this week attendance has been very high – but not quite yet 100%. Please make use of these sessions with your child to help them keep learning and also to involve them in the school community.

We ask your child to please follow these simple guidelines to help the smooth running of the sessions:

- Make sure you are up dressed appropriately and ready for your meeting
- Do not eat during the meeting – it is a school based learning time
- Concentrate well and make sure you are at a table or desk – sofas or beds are not a good place to sit
- Make sure your computer or laptop is in a quiet place where you can listen well
- Ask your younger brothers or sisters not to interrupt your meeting
- Please submit your work on time for your teacher to comment on it – 4pm latest, please, so that it can be looked at ready for the next day

### **Access to the school building during the school closure:**



We continue to maintain some staff in the school during the closure period. Telephone class and emails will be answered as normal. If you need to visit the building, please wear a mask, use only the main school entrance, where temperatures will be recorded and you will be asked to sign in and out.

### **Parent corner – Parents helping parents!**

We have shared lots of reading resources over the last few weeks – a few parents are using the on-line libraries. Lots of books were also borrowed from the 'Happy Bus' yesterday.

Several parents have mentioned the joys of a good jigsaw puzzle –







to calm the mind and really encourage some positive family time and spirit. If space allows, a puzzle left out that may take several days and gets family involved at different times, is a great idea. Ms Kim in the school office has spent 10 days doing the hardest puzzle I've ever seen!

The Hong Kong night skyline proved a challenge in the Walton home a couple of weeks ago!

Board games get a good mention as well as a way to be together with all the family, having fun but also learning some great skills of taking turns, waiting and planning a possible strategy etc.

If your family has some useful resources to share – please do!

### **Schedule changes due to on-line conferences on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May:**

**Capoeira class** with Ms Merrill will be at 12- 12:30pm this week. Students involved have been informed.

Have a great weekend everybody – let's really hope that the CHP and EDB can put together an achievable package of requirements so that we can get back to school as soon as possible.

Take care and stay healthy, enjoy your long weekend.

Simon Walton and all the JIS staff.