



Newsletter 4 2020-21

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community

Week 3 dawned and we welcomed some new students in to a range of our classes. We hope all our new students settle in well and beginning to feel at home with some of their peers through their online meetings and activities. We look forward to welcoming the parents and families of our new students and some yet to be confirmed social functions in the coming months. Please contact the school at any time if you need more information or advice.



Around school this week!

Meet the Teacher night – Thursday 3rd September – 6pm via link

Thank you to all those who were able to connect with class teachers last night to get an overview of the year ahead and current planning for your child's class. Anyone needing a copy of the information slides can ask their child's class teacher, although I am aware some have been sent out already. Of course this was a rather false way of getting to know the teacher and also offered no visit to a classroom, it was however important to engage with the school community to replicate as near normal a meeting as possible.

Meet the Teacher – part 2 – Thursday 10th September – 6pm and 6:45pm – via link

As a follow up to the original classroom based meeting, Mr Walton and Ms Wan will be hosting another presentation for the school community to cover issues and questions related to the whole school, its curriculum and community.

Session 1: at 6pm – Reception, P1, 2, 3 – (code: meet.google.com/xem-kzgn-ggc)

Session 2: at 6:45pm – P4, 5, 6 – (code: meet.google.com/hwd-qrvv-fpy)

Parents with students in both sections of the school need only attend one of these – it will be a repeated session. We will send reminders of Google Meet codes nearer the time.

In order to share useful information parents will be invited to submit questions for these presentations which either Mr Walton or Ms Wan will address. Consider whole school issues or curriculum based items for example. Please click the Google form link below to submit questions, so that we can cover as much as is needed in the presentation.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RVyy1ghsLhDoWz51cXUK9SG02vi1NWo1qqN3IIwJNWY/edit?ts=5f446274>

Please send in questions by Tuesday 5pm, thank you.

School uniform shop: Opening hours

In order to get ready for school the school uniform shop will open at school on the following days:

- Mon 21st and Tues 22nd September 10a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Wednesday 23rd September – 8:30 – 3:30pm

- You can visit the company shop in Jordan at any time and arrange orders through online shopping and home delivery - <https://www.jis.ufsonline.com.hk/> to contact the uniform supplier

Hong Kong EDB – starting schools again in Hong Kong, September 2020 - update

I hope all parents have seen the message sent out this week (email and Dojo) regarding the start of school. Our school plan is ready and will be submitted to North District HK EDB office with our Japanese Section planning on Monday. As soon as dates and arrangements are confirmed we will share all details with everyone.

A few notes to help everyone prepare for school resumption:

- Prior to the return of school we will have to send all students a health declaration form and a temperature check sheet to be completed daily before entering school. Students must not have been in contact with a confirmed COVID 19 case and should have been in Hong Kong for at least 14 days to complete HK Gov't regulation quarantine, before they can return to school.
- Parents are advised to make sure they have a reliable thermometer at home for daily checking and to remember to sign the sheet before your child sets off for school.
- As before, face masks will have to worn at all times during the school day – except for vigorous exercise.
- We will utilize our safe distancing policies and routines and all cleaning routines are clearly established. We have employed extra cleaning staff to support the school environment from now on.
- We need students to have their own stationery set/pencil case and a spare mask or two in a clearly labelled bag. (We do have some stock in school to ensure all children can be safe).
- Bins for the safe disposal of masks are available in all areas in school.
- Classroom layout will be fully utilising our large classrooms to enable safe practices and movement. All students will be reminded of these routines in the first days of school resumption

Curriculum news:

Library update from Ms Wan and Ms Anna:

We hope your children are enjoying their library books this week. As a school, we are passionate about nurturing children's love of reading and we have been investigating ways of continuing to distribute books during home learning. Our school driver, Mr Yu has many responsibilities, but we have managed to book his services on a weekly basis on **Thursdays**. We have adapted our schedule accordingly.

This is our revised schedule, which we hope to maintain until children can visit us in person:

1. Every Friday, you will receive the book order form. Please submit your requests by 8am the following **Tuesday**.
2. On the order form, you can choose whether to:
 - Collect your books from JIS anytime from the following Thursday, midday onwards
 - Collect from Sai Kung Golf Course Car Park on the following Thursday 12:30 - 12:50pm
 - Collect from Hung Hom: Kowloon Ferry Pier on the following Thursday 1:40pm - 2:00pm
 - Collect from Gold Coast: Immigration car park on the following 2:45pm - 3:00pm
 - Arrange delivery yourself through school bus services. This is for families who have paid for school bus services only. If you would like to use this service, please contact the bus service yourself to arrange. The books will be available for the bus driver to collect from JIS any time from the Thursday midday onwards.

Here is the link for next week's distribution: <https://forms.gle/iPQG7R9gi99Zfxgo8>

Thank you for support

P6 - Yr 7 Secondary School applications – for August 2021

As some senior schools have opened up their applications for year 7, I know some families are already making plans and may need some information for the transition to secondary school. Please get in touch - s-walton@jis.edu.hk if you need any support or ideas on this process.

All students at JIS get an automatic place at ICHK (our partner secondary school) if they wish to use it, but we appreciate some families may also consider other schools due to their location or siblings.

Families may need a student reference as part of an

application form and these will be created through the office for all applications. References have been prepared and sent out to those P6 students who have sent information, P6 parents please check with your child if you have not received a reference



International College Hong Kong



Learning at JIS – from Cath Wan, Deputy Principal/ PYP Coordinator

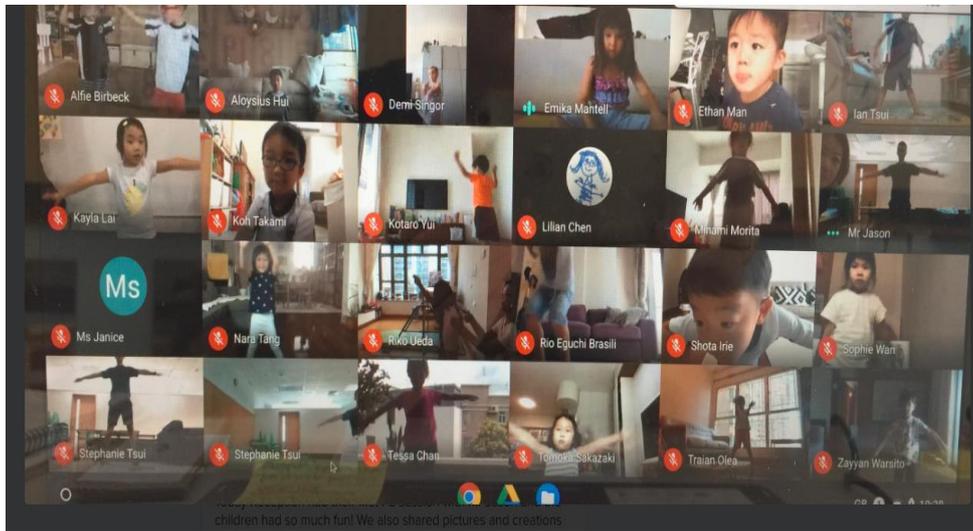
This article is a continuation from the article of August 21st, following up on “what matters most”. A huge thank you to all the parents who shared their thoughts on this. Thoughts on the organisation of online learning will be added to our school discussions on the subject. This article will focus on the comments that we received about student learning. Here are some of your responses:

What we value most, now, educationally, for our children

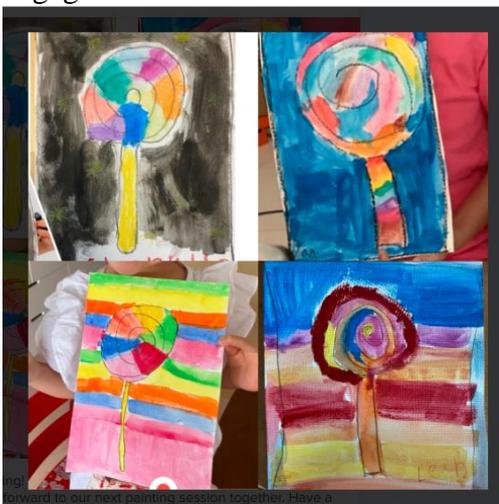
- Overall wellbeing and being active
- Mental and physical health
- Resilience to facing obstacles in life
- Happiness
- Social interaction
- Self-regulation, emotional-regulation , self-learning skills
- Understanding the world and establishing meaningful connections with peers and the environment
- Remembering that school is fun and enjoyable.
- Keeping them engaged and motivated
- Hope
- Thinking for themselves

So, how do we teach these skills and mindsets - especially online? Let's take look at some examples from around the school this week

Reception had their first online PE class this week. Our PE department is an integral part of JIS and one of our objectives is that children leave JIS with the mindset and skills to look after their own physical well-being. Our PE department is currently integrating with four of our seven year groups in their units of inquiry, collaborating with class teachers to investigate healthy living. Our PE teachers will continue to collaborate with multiple groups across the year. The role of exercise in feelings of happiness and mental agility is now well documented. This week I sat down to join in 2 class meetings and promptly had to stand up and join in class meeting exercise routines and dancing - what a great way to start the day!



P1 and P5 have been engaging in some wonderful artwork. To describe all the benefits of engaging in art would take a whole book. Needless to say, art has been known to contribute to feelings of wellbeing. Problem solving and resilience are developed, due to the open ended ‘try,try again’ nature of art engagement.



Many classes are encouraging choice in their assignments, which develops self-regulation and self-learning skills as well as intrinsic motivation (which is, in turn, linked to resilience). The choice boards from P2 and P4 and P6 this week were a plethora of activities designed to develop these habits of mind: imaginative play; obstacle courses; science experiments; time capsules; art work; problem solving scenarios and imaginative writing.

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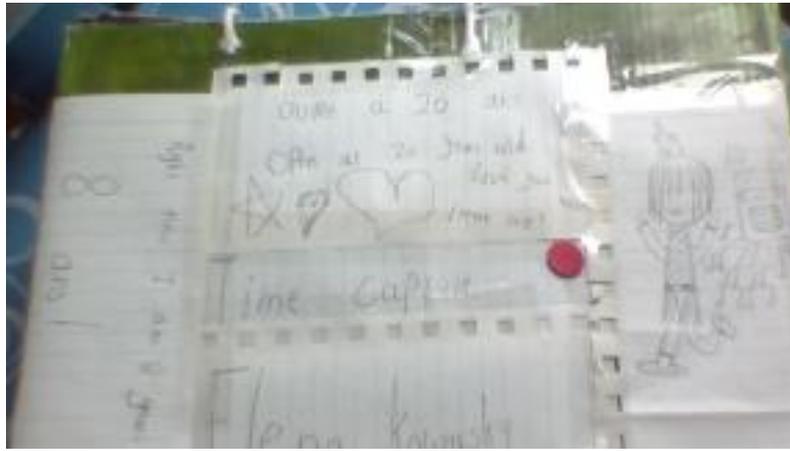
Loose Parts Obstacle Course 🏠

Use loose parts in your home to create an obstacle course. Pretend the floor is lava when you try it.

Examples of loose parts: pillows, cushions, soft toys, blankets, hula hoops, skipping rope, ...

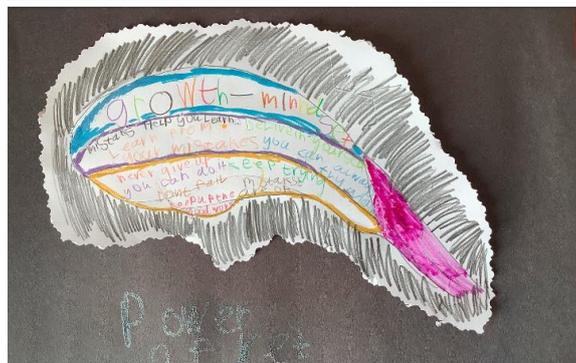
Don't forget to tidy up after!



Explicit inquiries into techniques to improve our happiness, well-being and motivation happen across the school. Stories are a powerful tool for this. Books chosen for our library lessons are often focused on well-being. This week, P1's explored the book 'A Little Spot of Happiness' - a wonderful book that explores specific strategies for taking ownership of our own well-being.

P3 have started their unit of Inquiry, Who We Are. In their investigations of beliefs and values, they have been inquiring into Growth Mindset. Again, we could write a book on how growth mindset supports resilience and self-learning skills, but many have already been written. P6 have seen setting themselves thoughtful learning targets - encouraging them to take responsibility for their learning and developing their intrinsic motivation.



Looking forward ... being balanced

How will you stay balanced during online learning?

I will stay healthy by ...
Making sure I don't eat lots of sweets and exercise a bit everyday
I will keep myself organised by ...
Making a timetable for myself in order to keep me organized
I will relax by ..
Reading books and writing stories.

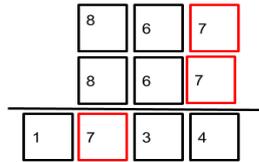


And finally, when it comes to resilience and thinking skills, the mental energy was in full force in P6 when I visited their maths lesson on Thursday.

Feel free to give your mind a work out with the problems that P6 were (successfully) working on!

Let's try together

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{TWO} \\ +\text{TWO} \\ \hline \text{FOUR} \end{array}$$



T = 8
W = 6
O = 7

F = 1
O = 7
U = 3
R = 4

Which numbers could we swap the letters for?

Apparently, there are seven possible solutions. Some children in P6 have worked them all out.

If you get them all, there are more to try: ONE + ONE = TWO; ONE + TWO = THREE; ONE + THREE = FOUR; FOUR + FIVE = NINE. Some are possible and some are not. Mr. Rixon encouraged his students to create strategies and connect to their understanding of number rather than random trial and error. The wonderful thing about problems like this is that the children are still practicing addition, but an additional layer of critical thinking and problem solving has been added. This exercises the students' resilience and gives their brain that energizing work-out which, then feeds into their motivation.

This was just a snapshot of JIS learning this week. As always, if you have any questions about learning at JIS, feel free to contact me at cwan@es.jis.edu.hk

References and resources you may find interesting:

- If you'd like to share A Little Spot of Happiness, there is a read-aloud version here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhQTfwzI3WQ>
- Interesting TED talk on the benefits of exercise on the brain. https://www.ted.com/talks/wendy_suzuki_the_brain_changing_benefits_of_exercise?language=en
- Another interesting TED talk on the connection between growth mindset and resilience. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H14bBuluwB8>
- An article showing the effects of gratitude on the brain <https://positivepsychology.com/neuroscience-of-gratitude/#:~:text=When%20we%20express%20gratitude%20and,feel%20happy%20from%20the%200inside.>
- An article showing the effects of kindness on the brain: <https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/the-art-of-kindness#:~:text=Being%20kind%20boosts%20serotonin%20and,ways%20you%20can%20create%20happiness.>

ICHK Newsletter

Each week we share the newsletter from ICHK to keep our community informed of the news from our partner secondary school. All students at JIS have the option for an automatic place at ICHK for secondary schooling.

To access this week's newsletter click: [here](#)

In the meantime, should you need any support I can be reached on: s-walton@jis.edu.hk or by phone JIS office: 2834 3531.

Wishing everyone a very pleasant weekend.

Simon Walton
Principal