



Newsletter 8 2020-21

Friday 9th October 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community

JIS Evaluation Week!

An end to an interesting week as we tried to showcase the wonders of a JIS education to the I.B. – (International Baccalaureate) evaluation staff as part of our ‘inspection’. Not easy when the lead evaluator is in Sydney, Australia and her assistant is in Guangzhou, China. We visited lots of classrooms and events with video cameras and also hosted lots and lots of online meetings with students, staff, parents and school board members. The great thing was that the JIS community pulled together and gave it their best. The team will collate all their findings and send the school a report in around 6-8 weeks. Cath Wan has kindly prepared some information below:



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

Today was the final day of our Virtual IB evaluation visit. In this article, we will examine what the visit means for JIS.

JIS may be a small school, but we are part of a worldwide organisation, the International Baccalaureate (IB). This organisation provides guidance and standards to which we must be accountable in order to maintain our IB affiliation. The IB evaluation cycle is designed to ensure that schools critically reflect on their practice on an ongoing basis.

We actually started this cycle 18 months ago, with a self-study. This rigorous process involved groups of teachers investigating our school and finding evidence in examples of teaching and learning, documentation, and dialogue with our community using the IB standards as a guide. This process leads into our action plan, which ensures continual development of our school. The final study report and supporting evidence which we submitted ranged from areas such as our budgeting and resources; school policy; teacher qualifications; our curriculum; assessment and most importantly, teaching and learning.

The next part of the process involves a school visit from 2 experienced IB leaders, overseen by the IB World Schools Manager. In the current situation, this visit has happened virtually, but thanks to technology (and our recent learning curve in using it!), our visitors have ‘visited’ every classroom, toured the school, met with all staff and talked to students.



The discussions with the team are wonderfully challenging and energising at the same time. Just like our teachers make a point of using questioning to push students' thinking deeper and to encourage them to analyse aspects of their inquiry from multiple perspectives, so too, these professional discussions help us to dig deeper into our practice and keep it fresh, informed and energised.

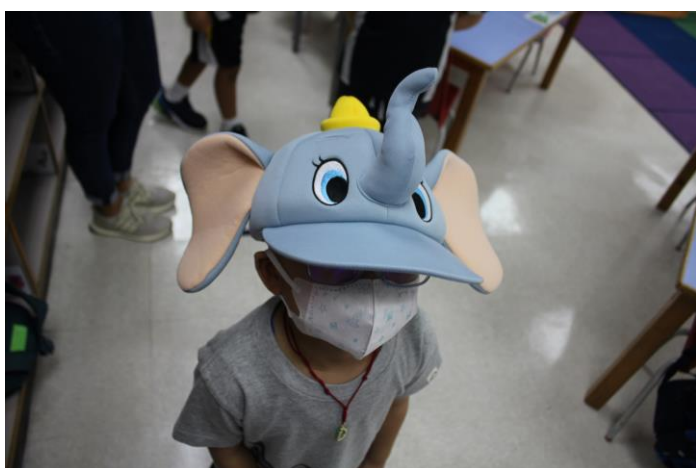


Part of the IB Mission statement talks about encouraging students to be lifelong learners. An effective school is a learning community where everyone, adults and children alike, are lifelong learners. In a few months' time, we will receive an official report from the IB, highlighting areas of strength that they found (commendations) and recommendations for further development. Once we have received the report, I will share the findings with you.

On a final note, in addition to lots of thought provoking meetings and mountains of documentation, it has been a pleasure over the last few days to take the camera into all classes and look through a visitor's eyes at what and how the children are learning. The IB team, Mr. Walton and I have witnessed students being true inquirers - engaged in their learning, asking questions and showing that enthusiasm and eagerness to learn that is contagious in a learning community. I have to end with a quote from a P4 student, who was asked "what do you like about JIS". Her reply was: "At JIS, they teach you to think and you get to ask lots of questions." I couldn't agree more!

As always, if you have any questions about learning at JIS, feel free to contact me at cwan@es.jis.edu.hk

Monday 5th October: 'World Animal Day – support for Animals Asia'



Thanks to everyone for their amazing support – we raised over \$5000, for Animals Asia



‘JIS Office’ updates:

School photos: Monday 12th October will be our school photos day. All students in both a.m, and p.m, will be having their photo taken.

PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD IN THEIR SCHOOL POLO SHIRT ON MONDAY 12th– even if they have PE they can wear their school uniform polo shirt for one day. Head shot photos will look much better in school polo shirt, not PE t-shirt. Thank you. I can try to remind everyone on Monday a.m.!

Car park permit. If you have more than one car or need an updated car permit please email to Ms. Miyajima in the school office on s-miyajima@jis.edu.hk . She will need your registration number, the owner’s name and an up to date contact number

School uniform shop: Opening hours for next week and beyond.

In order to get ready for the cooler autumn weather the shop will continue to be open on Wednesdays

- Wednesday – 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

Plastic free snacks at school – eco warriors – well done so far and thanks!

Thank you for supporting our plastic free snacks for school initiative. It is great to see so many families getting involved and thinking about this important initiative. Long may it last

Extra Curricular information

- Glee Club started this week at JIS, Ms. Emma would be interested in others joining at JIS on a Wednesday afternoon – see the PDF from last week's newsletter for details.
- Music lessons for this term are also attached to this newsletter, information comes from Ms Jill in the Music department –please read and contact her if you are interested. All classes are small groups.
- Extra curricular activities are proving to be complicated with the ever changing COVID 19 landscape in Hong Kong and HK EDB becoming anxious about all but general class activities. We shall do all we can to push forward with appropriate guidelines but also trying to offer the students the best we can.

JIS – COVID 19 updates and JIS

I have been asked by some parents to clarify why some schools are on full day schooling and at JIS we continue to offer a half day in school and half day at home model. Please let me assure all of the JIS community that we would love to have the children in school for a full day or at least a full class at a time but we have to follow the required guidelines given to us after the EDB 'check up' visit to our school campus in May 2020. The main stumbling block remains no lunch for students unless the school has a designated and sanitized lunch facility – canteen or otherwise. We do not have a canteen and when we asked if we could convert a space within the school – we were told this was not appropriate.

Our use of the half class model was to keep the students as safe as possible and to comply with the EDB guidelines of students being 1-1.5m apart in their desks / workspace. Our furniture is not individual desks that can be set apart – they are rectangles (designed for collaboration) so we took the opinion that one student only at one time can sit there. As the pandemic is not showing signs of easing we are considering the purchase of perspex screening to allow more students to sit at a desk. Horrible from an environmental perspective but it may be our only option.

We shall continue to explore ideas and do our best, as we too would like the whole class to be in school together, even if it was for an extended morning, if this can be at all possible. If staff discussions come up with workable solutions I shall share this with all the school community.

ICHK Newsletter

Each week we share the newsletter from ICHK to keep our community informed of the news from our partner secondary school.

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

Wishing everyone a very pleasant weekend – the weather is looking good and the cooler temperatures are something to relish!

Simon Walton
Principal

