



Newsletter 24

Friday 21 April 2017

Dear Parents and JIS community

Welcome back to term 3 at JIS and welcome to Lauren (Reception), Riccardo (P1) and Yuta in P3 and their families. We hope everyone had a very enjoyable school break and is looking forward to the new term ahead. There are lots of activities planned; swimming gala, talent show, bingo night, battle of the books and also our end of year P6 exhibition and graduation ceremony.

I.B. Asia Pacific Regional Conference – Yokohama March 2017

At the end of last term Mrs. Wan and I had the opportunity to attend the Asia Pacific region I.B. conference. This is a huge conference covering I.B. schools from all across the Asia Pacific region. There were some excellent presentations and workshops presented, ranging from good, solid classroom practice sharing, to such thoughts as to how the role of artificial intelligence is changing our world beyond our comprehension and how education has to get ready for this! There were some excellent ideas and thoughts for us to follow up on and build into our future planning for the school in 2017 and beyond.

This term we shall review our current school development planning (2015-17) and put together a new plan to take us further into the next few years. We shall be surveying all aspects of our community with this review, so please give us feedback when you receive the information.

ESSPA Update and events coming soon:

Thanks: A quick note of thanks to ESSPA and the JIS community for support for the sound system of the Wonka concert. We hoped everyone enjoyed the much improved sound system used for our production this year, it made a huge difference to fill the gym with the songs and words of the cast.. ESSPA was able to cover the costs of the sound system through their efforts in selling concert tickets and snacks and drinks on the night. We thank them for their support in this new venture.

ESSPA AGM (Annual General Meeting) – Friday 12th May

On the evening of Friday 12th May – just before our family bingo night the ESSPA committee will hold a short A.G.M. to share their work for this year and their accounts with the school community. This is a short meeting but necessary to comply with the rules and regulations ESSPA are bound by. The meeting will start around 6:15p.m. whilst pizza is being served in the gym!

Bingo Night – Friday 12th May – from 6pm

Get ready for some good old fashioned bingo fun as ESSPA prepare for one of the most popular nights of the school social calendar. Bingo night will be held in the school gym and tickets will be going out shortly. There will be bingo fun, pizza and drinks on sale.

Food will be served from 6pm with the main bingo session starting around 6:30pm. Please book early as we usually have a big crowd in for this evening. Ticket application forms will be sent out next week, 24th April.

BINGO NIGHT PRIZES – Prizes donations - can we please ask all JIS families and community members to consider donating prizes for the bingo night. Small toys, puzzles, summer water toys, stationery sets, vouchers, (also items for some of our older winners – wine, vouchers/tickets etc. perhaps!) Any kind offers of support can be sent in to Kim Murch in the school office. Thank you.



ESSPA Board Members – 2017-18 recruitment for committee

In the next few weeks ESSPA will be canvassing for members of the JIS community to come along and join them on the Board of Directors for next school year. The Board members do a great job of supporting the social aspects of the school community but also raise funds for school projects and items for classroom use. The Board has a schedule of events and meetings through the school year but it is not a demanding workload and parents get involved in whatever aspects they can manage. Anyone interested in joining should contact any member of the current board or contact Kim Murch (ESSPA President) in the school office on 2834 3531 or kmurch@es.jis.edu.hk.

Swimming Team success –

Congratulations to members of the JIS swimming team who collected a wide range of gold, silver and bronze medals at a swimming gala last weekend! A really impressive set of results once again for the team. The team will now get ready for the inter-school gala coming up later this term. Ms Stephanie will be starting pre-school training from 7:15 – 8:15 a.m. for team members this term.

Swimming Gala and Bake sale – Friday 28th April 2017

Don't forget the JIS annual swimming gala will be held at school on Friday 28th April from 9a.m. in the school pool. Everyone is very welcome to come along and support the event.



ESSPA will also be arranging a bake sale of donated goodies to all the hungry swimmers after the event and will be serving drinks and selling some snacks to visiting parents and community members. Cookies and cakes will be sold in \$10 bags – using the donated goodies. Please bring along donations to the first floor conference room (student drop off at 8:15a.m., parents dropping off around 8:45a.m. before gala starts)

JIS Active Parenting Course – term 3 – started 20th April

The course started on Thursday this week for a group of JIS parents, with the support of Ms Yuki – our school counsellor. Thanks to Glenda Bailie for arranging this.

First Aid for domestic helpers- training course tomorrow at JIS

Thanks to Cong Contreras from the school library who has kindly liaised with the first aid tutors that worked with all the JIS staff to set up an opportunity for some first aid training for domestic helpers tomorrow at school. An excellent community initiative.



Curriculum in the Classroom – from Cath Wan PYP Coordinator

IB World Conference 2017

Before the Easter holidays, Mr. Walton and I attended the IB World (Asia Pacific) Conference in Yokohama, Japan. This was a meeting of over 1,500 educators - a mixture of keynote speakers and 'break out' workshops where we were involved in discussing key relevant issues in education.

Here are a few snapshots of the conference that I hope you find interesting:

Dr. Alma Harris (Bath Univ, U.K.) (author of many books on institutional leadership) warned against superimposing school systems that work in other contexts upon our own – we shouldn't all be the same. If you subscribe to any educational social media threads at the moment, "Finland" is one of the key words that appears constantly. Schools have even started to label themselves with the country's name. – the "Finland approach." Whilst we do look to examples of best practice around the world, recognising our host culture and the community of our school also remains an important part of our decision process.

The IB in Japan: The IB is growing, with government support, at a huge pace in Japan. This is exciting news for us as we form relationships with schools in Japan. To support this, Japanese Universities will be able to accept the IB diploma – great news for students wishing continue their education there!

Positive Schools Education: There is a lot of research being done on psychological wellbeing and how education can support this. Earlier this year, Mr. Appleton went on a training course related to this and we have already started discussing ways we can encourage this further in our curriculum, here at JIS. This is an interesting article on the PERMA model of psychological well-being and happiness:

<https://positivepsychologyprogram.com/perma-model>

One of the points brought out was the importance of looking after ourselves as adults to actively role model looking after our own wellbeing. It was recommended that a mix of meditative and active recreation feeds into this. As a school which has staff practising yoga, Spartan training and dragon boat racing, we are well on our way with that one!

Dr. Noriko Arai, (National Institute of Informatics) the professor creating the robot that can pass prestigious university exams, eg. University of Tokyo; gave us an inspiring talk on the development of A.I. (Artificial Intelligence), how it works and the things that A.I. will and will not be able to do. This was backed up by the lecture from **Dr. Yong Zhao** (University of Kansas) who recommends that the only way to be above machines is to be more human – more unique. His humorous notion of “side effects of education” has a serious message. For example over 200 studies have shown that direct, ‘traditional teaching’ raises scores slightly on standardised achievement tests. However, the “side effects” show that these students then do worse in tests of abstract thinking, creativity and problem solving. As a school that prides ourselves in developing these wider skills, we take this very seriously.

The above is just a taster of a few of the sessions Mr. Walton and I attended. If you have any interest in any of the above, do feel free to contact me at c-wan@jis.edu.hk

Oh yes... for all you Star Wars fans... do ask Mr. Walton how to say: “May the force be with you” in Japanese - a true example of authentic language learning ?!

Dates for the diary – this week – Week 2- April 24th –28th 2017

SWIMMING GALA and BAKE SALE on Friday 28th April – everyone welcome

Monday 24th –

Tuesday 25th– Library day at JIS – due to swimming gala on Friday

Wednesday 26th – Swimming practices for all classes to prepare for gala on Friday

Thursday 27th – P4 and P5 to Crossroads charity – Tuen Mun – all day trip

-P1 class to Sam Tung Uk – restored village house in Tsuen Wan – a.m.

Friday 28th – International Section Swimming Gala and Bake Sale 9 – 11 a.m.

Please wish the JIS staff ‘Spartan Team’ all the very best for tomorrow as we get wet, muddy and very tired attempting the extreme obstacle race at Yuen Long Country Club. With hopefully not too many injuries and a few sore limbs, we’ll be back on duty on Monday morning!

Wishing everyone a very enjoyable weekend.

Simon Walton

Please find attached the latest bulletin from ICHK – our partner secondary school - [Term 3 week 1](#)