



Newsletter 28 2020-21

Friday 16th April 2021

Dear Parents and JIS community

Great to have everyone back at school

Never really sure just how fast a week at school can go - but this one flew! It is great to have everyone back on campus to hear the noise, see the joy and feel the energy. Long may it last! Some excellent things going on during this first week with P6 getting busy with their exhibition, P4 getting ready for camp, P2 in the forest and everyone else being busy.

HK Young Readers Festival 2021:

We have scheduled some author visits and workshops as part of the Hong Kong International Young Readers Festival. Cath Wan has been liaising with the organizing committee to get some opportunities for our JIS students to engage with some more 'real life' authors.

Rachel Ip (<https://www.rachelip.com/>) will be working with P5 and P6 on Tuesday with a workshop of Conflict and Migration, and Reception, P1, P2 on Thursday with her book The Forgettery. Dan Gemeinhart (<https://dangemeinhart.com/index.html>) will work with P5 and P6 on Monday 26th April and Dove Tales will be working with P3 and P4 on Wednesday 28th April.

These workshops will be online and students will be able to watch a presentation and then have some time for questions and answers with the authors / presenters.

Outdoor learning- P2 heading off into the forest:

On Thursday morning the P2 class headed off to Tai Po Kau Country Park, supported by a band of loyal P2 parents for a day of exploration, plant identification and inquiry. The rainy weather held off for most of the morning and everyone had a great learning experience and some excellent time out in the country park.



Thanks to all the parents who came along to support. In the coming weeks we shall make sure all classes have an activity morning in the forest pursuing our own outdoor education ideas as well as using their class based curriculum outdoors in nature.



P4 Day camp days and Hike in Tai Po Kau forest.

Due to the current restrictions about no camping over night for schools we have been keen to make sure that the P4 class will still have a camp experience this year. Having the opportunity to challenge yourself and have new motivational experiences is a big part of our planning for the camps in P4, 5 and 6 so we have negotiated with our camp providers (Dragonfly Ltd) to operate two day camps instead with a school run hike on another day. The P4 students will be on day camp next Wednesday and Friday with a forest experience day on the Thursday.

The day camps will be able to include the kayaking, mangrove exploration, raft building and shelter construction that would have happened on camp – but the students will not stay overnight.

We have also planned two day camp activity days for the P5 in May (17th, 18th) – with a forest experience day as well. They too will have kayaking, canyoning and other experiences, similar to a usual camp.

P4 connecting with a Hong Kong recycling activist online:

On Thursday, P4s interviewed a 'virtual visitor', Kenny the founder of "Love Recycling". Kenny inspired the students with the story of how he identified a problem in Hong Kong and took action by starting his own organisation. This was part of the P4 UOI exploring how "people create organizations to solve problems and support human endeavour and enterprise".

Here is the link to Kenny's organisation: <https://www.loverecyclingplus.com/>

There is also a Facebook page which gives much more detail on what happens to the recycling that he collects.



Update from Student Support Department

Next week we are finally able to welcome back Emily Nguyen, our Occupational Therapist from SPOT clinic. We also hope to have Abi Chan, our Speech and Language Therapist, back in school in the very near future. If you have any questions or concerns about your child(ren) that you feel may be addressed by either of these professionals or by our school counsellor please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Procter (jprocter@es.jis.edu.hk).

Covid procedures – please stay vigilant on temp checking in mornings, we are still required to keep these records – thanks for the support

Please check your child's temperature before they leave the house each morning and record the result on the sheet. If you need further sheets – your child can collect from the school office

Employment Opportunities at JIS:

School Library Assistant – Interviews completed.

We are delighted to share with you that following several very interesting interviews we have been able to appoint Mr. Floyd Samarakkody as our new library assistant. Floyd has until recently been working for the library services in Melbourne, Australia and has lots of experience and ideas to share with us all in the library in the coming weeks. Floyd will be able to have a handover period with our current library assistant to ensure a smooth transition into the new role.

I would like to publically thank Anna Lamont for the superb job she has done in the JIS library and wish her and the family all the best of luck when they return to Australia in May 2021. Anna has led some great innovations in our library and helped enormously as we tried to maintain a library borrowing service during the times of school lockdown and much, much more. Well done and thanks from us all, Anna.

Full time Education Assistant (E.A.) role for August 2021 – now recruiting

We are now recruiting for a full time Education Assistant to support the students learning alongside a class teacher and students. This role will be full time starting in August 2021 and would suit someone interested in making a commitment to working in a school environment to support a range of student learning activities alongside a class teacher.

The E.A. in a JIS classroom is an integral part of the life and curriculum of the room. They support the learning of the students through working in groups or with individuals to broaden the options available to the teacher in implementing their curriculum. There are also organizational and admin duties that are needed to support the smooth running of the class community.

The position available will be full time, with hours from 8 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. each school day. There is a commitment to support aspects of the school through meetings and workshops. Applicants would ideally have experience of working with young children in a school based setting, but this is not essential. Salary for this position is on a scale linked to qualifications and experience from \$19K – 23.5K.

Persons interested in this position should contact Simon Walton – Principal with a full CV and letter of application, including contactable references. Interviews will be held in the week of May 3rd 2021 and applications will close on 28th April.

Thank you to those applicants who have expressed interest in this position already – there is no need to contact the school again, information has been kept on file.



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

Connecting ATLS (Approaches to Learning) to Agency

I admit that this title is rather overflowing with ‘PYP jargon’, so we’ll start with a few definitions, give some examples of how it happens in class and discuss why these concepts are so important.

Definitions of Agency

- “Agency is a philosophical, sociological and psychological idea that acknowledges humans as active participants in their own lives with the capacity to initiate intentional action”. (IBO, 2020).
- “Students with agency use their own initiative and will, and take responsibility and ownership of their learning” (IBO, 2020)
- “Student agency is defined as the capacity to set a goal, reflect and act responsibly to effect change.” (OECD Learning Compass 2030)

Approaches to Learning (ATLS)

These are sets of skills that are part of the IB Curriculum, right through to diploma level. They are organised under 5 headings, with corresponding sub-skills. The five headings are:

- Thinking Skills
- Social Skills,
- Communication Skills,
- Self - Management Skills
- Research Skills.


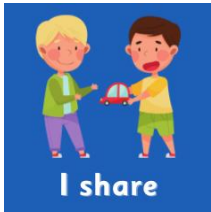
You will have seen these headings on your child’s unit of inquiry report.

How are agency and ATLS connected?

In order for students to take responsibility and ownership of their learning, students need to have the “capacity to plan, reflect and assess, in order to self - regulate and self - adjust” (IBO, 2018. PYP planner). In short, students need to have the skills to underpin learning and to empower their independence.

What might this look like in the classroom?

Students can ‘learn how to learn’ from a very young age. One technique we use, even as young as in Reception is ‘split screen teaching’. This means that students are aware of **how** they are learning in parallel with **what** they are learning. Ms. Chen does this in a very age-appropriate way, using picture prompts.

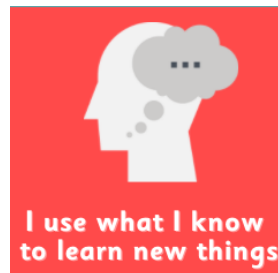
What we’re learning	How we’re learning
<p>Role playing transport scenarios</p> 	<div>   </div> <p>(Social Skills)</p>

Creating pictographs



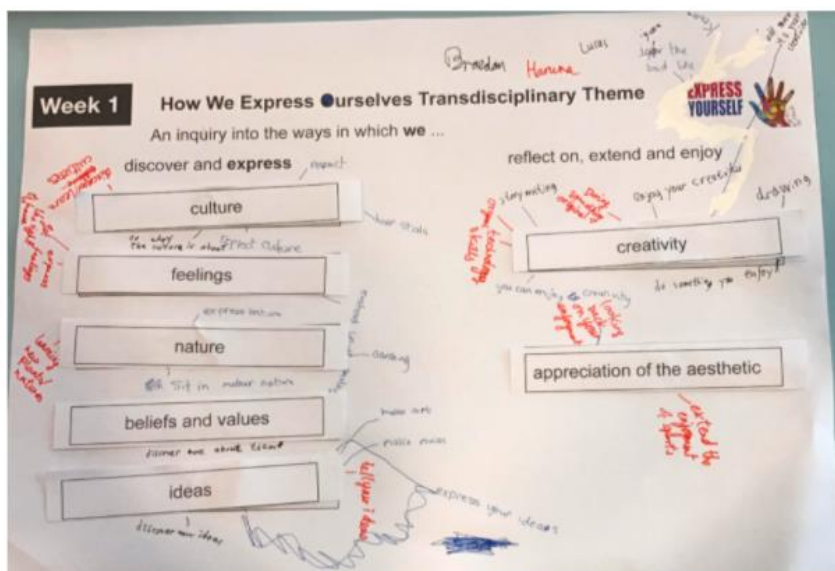
(Research skills)

Sorting transport into air, sea and land



(Thinking skills)

P6 are currently starting their exhibition process. They reflect on all their work and use a 'tagging' system to explicitly identify skills and learner profile attributes that they are using in the process.



At the start, I was a bit worried that I was using too much 'PYP jargon' for a community article. Yes, the PYP curriculum is very wordy with lists of skills and attributes. However when these are used thoughtfully, ensuring that the meaning is understood at an age appropriate level; ensuring that students are constantly practising them and making explicit connections to learning, they become powerful vehicles for scaffolding students in becoming independent learners. Learners who have 'learned how to learn', who take ownership of their learning and acquire agency.

Agency is one of the topics that will be discussed in next week's IB Asia Pacific Conference. At our last evaluation JIS was identified as an exemplary IB school and we will be sharing some of our practices with schools all across Asia. We may be a small school, but our big reputation of having agentic learners is something that we are very proud of.

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

References

IBO (2020): *Principles into Practice*

OECD (2018). *Student Agency for 2030*: <https://www.oecd.org/education/2030-project/teaching-and-learning/learning/student-agency/>



International College Hong Kong

ICHK senior staff will be presenting on Monday morning via Zoom on the subject of the I.B. Diploma:

On Monday (April 19), IB Coordinator Flora Lai, and Higher Education Advisor Martin Clarke will speak about the IB, university requirements and the skills needed for higher education success. They will explain the structure of the IB programme at our secondary school, the benefits it offers as a high school diploma and highlight the university destinations of ICHK students.

They will also talk about the Mastery Transcript, a new, innovative curriculum strand at ICHK, which promotes a wider view of learning, recognising all attributes, capabilities, passions, achievements and interests, not just academic attainment.

In 2020 ICHK became the first school in Hong Kong, and one of only five worldwide to graduate students with a Mastery Transcript.

The talk will begin at 9am, and is open to all parents. It will be especially valuable to those looking ahead to secondary school.

It will be held via **Zoom** at 428-117-1161

Please be advised to log on to Zoom a couple of minutes early, as it is difficult to admit people after the presentation has started.

Claire Griffiths
ICHK Communications Advisor

Friday 16th April - click [here](#) for the latest news bulletin from our partner secondary school.

Extra curricular activities – attached to the email for this newsletter is some information regarding Music and Ballet lessons for this term. Please read and respond if you are interested.

Calendar for 2021 – 2022 – PDF attached

Attached is also a provisional calendar for next year. It has been adjusted to reflect the need for families to potentially travel for a longer period in December. This may be for many of us the first time we shall be able to visit family overseas, in line with hoped for quarantine changes so in-line with other schools in HK we have adapted the holidays to support this. The first day of school for next academic year will be

Wishing everyone a really enjoyable weekend.

Simon Walton
Principal