



Newsletter 37 2020-21

Friday 18th June 2021

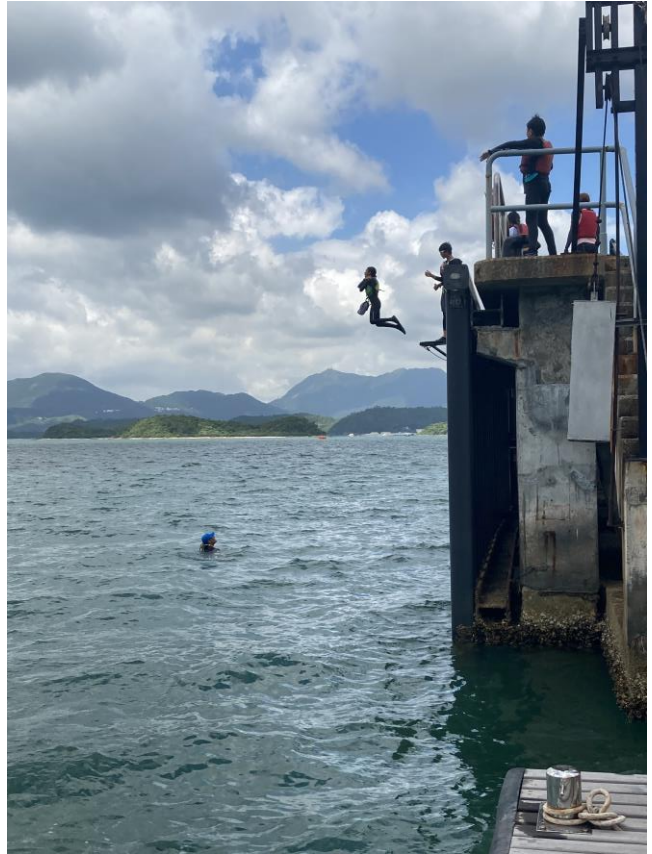
Dear Parents and JIS community

Out and about around school this week:

P6 Camp at Outward Bound Hong Kong – Sai Kung



P6 returned this afternoon from a 4 day Outward Bound experience in Sai Kung. They had a great time and faced some real challenges as teams, individuals and as a class group. There were many personal ‘firsts’ for some of the group as they went through each day. The group really bonded as they enjoyed an end of year time together. Many, many thanks to Mr Rixon and Ms Wan who supported and managed the group and to all the Outward Bound instructors and staff. The students had a great time!



The jetty jump and the high ropes challenges were today for some of the groups but the students had been walking up a stream gorge, kayaking, coasteering, done a hike, camped in tents and much more in 4 days of fun and activity.

P2 and P3 – Forest Adventures: Out in the environment, having fun and learning!

We managed to get both the P2 and the P3 classes off to Forest Adventures this week. The weather was hot and wet but it did not really spoil the action. The students had a great time and got busy with a variety of tasks and experiences.



One of the P3 boys commented ‘This is the first time I have climbed a tree’ Ms. Fisher commented – ‘This is why days like these days are so important!’ – I think we all agree ... Thanks to everyone who came along to support and make the days happen.



Curriculum update and end of year review:

As we come towards the end of a very unusual school year we have been doing some reflections and assessments of where the students are at and how they have coped with the difficulties of online and in school learning.

Since coming back to whole days we have engaged in a full review of student attainment levels to build on immediately and for the work that has happened in the last few weeks, as well as targeting certain areas and groups for next school year. The student support staff (Jenny Procter and Vikki Rixon) have done one to one Benchmark reading assessments with all of the students in the school. This was done to be objective throughout the school with the results and also to allow our student support services staff to look into children that may need extension work and also those that may need booster support in the future. We have also done the MAP standardized international Mathematics tests (USA) for P3 to P6, and all teachers have updated their class based assessment data in time for school half year reports coming out next week.

The data we have is very encouraging as many of our students are still performing very well. In reading levels we have seen a real 'home-school' boost as many students have really excelled and averages across classes have generally gone up. Students that we knew needed support have been clearly targeted and have also made gains. In maths, levels have remained steady overall and we have seen growth and improvement in some students. Alongside all of this our units of inquiry have still been completed, perhaps differently than we would have initially planned but we have been able to fulfill our curriculum responsibilities.

Our programme of inquiry for next year has been discussed and prepared. This has involved a full review of the current units of inquiry with some changes or adaptations to make them better for next year. Some of our units of inquiry are really effective and some needed changing, so the staff have met together to share ideas on how best to update and improve.

School places for next year: a few vacancies that we would like to fill

Families who are moving away from Hong Kong or relocating to a new school for August 2021 are asked to contact Sachiyo Miyajima in the school office on 2834 3531 or by email at s-miyajima@jis.edu.hk as soon as possible. Student withdrawal forms have been sent out to those who have informed us so far that they will not be returning to JIS and interviews have been arranged for spaces that have become available. This helps us plan for the new academic year ahead as accurately as possible.



Due to some family relocations we do have spaces in our P3, P4 and P6 classes for August 2021 – please let friends know if they are interested in joining JIS to contact us for a potential interview as soon as possible.

Car Park speeds!!

Can we please ask any parents who are coming in to school to collect children to be careful with their speed in and around the school carpark. This applies at any time during the day but especially around pick up or drop off time when the area is very busy. Thank you.



Summer School events at JIS: July 2021

Stephanie Tsui (SIS Ltd) has sent out information to the school community regarding sports and arts opportunities for summer camps at JIS. If you need any further information, please contact SIS Ltd on 2652 1128.



Summer Camp Ballet: There is an attached information sheet to this newsletter for those families who may be interested in some summer camp ballet lessons.

NEW - Employment opportunity at JIS – please ask around our community.

First Aid Coordinator / Resources manager – needed for August 2021. There is an option to apply for only one part of this role.

We are interested to hear from any members of our school community or their contacts who may be interested in a term-time only position to support the school's first aid and also resources management and purchasing. This is an ideal part time position or full time position to allow someone to enjoy a new role but not have to worry about holiday child care.

Christine Lau who has been with us at JIS for 10 years is moving to the U.K., so we have a new opportunity to fill. Christine has combined her knowledge in nursing and organisational abilities to create a perfect solution for the school – we may not be able to completely replicate this role but we would be keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in either aspects or a combined position. The position would be school hours and term time only – so would suit a parent or person needing flexibility in school schedules. If you are interested in either aspect of this role, please get in touch with us.

We will try to advertise more widely later but are asking within the school community and via our own website first. Anyone interested please contact Mr. Walton at JIS on s-walton@jis.edu.hk any time in the next week or so.

ESSPA – English Section Staff and Parents Association – get involved!

As we have had a very strange and disrupted year at school it has been impossible for us to have any social events or fundraising events for the school due to the COVID 19 pandemic restrictions. This has meant that ESSPA – our parents and community association has had a very quiet year. The ESSPA committee in previous years has helped the school a great deal by arranging social events for the school community and also arranging some fun events, family BBQ, monthly pizza / Japanese lunches and occasional treats for the students (Halloween, crazy hair days, dress up days). It would be really great to get some interested people who could start a new committee and plan some ideas for next year – in case we are able to open up the school in a more normal way.



If you would be interested in getting involved in supporting the school and also meeting other parents in a fun, purposeful way – please get in touch with us. Simon Walton on s-walton@jis.edu.hk or Kim Murch kmurch@es.jis.edu.hk (Kim in the school office is an ex ESSPA president from when her children were in the school so can share ideas and experiences with you).

Events for the week ahead: 21st June – 25th June 2021

Sadly our student induction day and student led conference day originally scheduled for this week will not be allowed to take place again this year, due to school based restrictions laid down by HK EDB and CHP.

Monday 21st: P1 at Forest Adventures – weather permitting

-Amber Le Scelle in school to work with P4 and P5 classes

Tuesday 22nd: *There is NO student led conference day this term – our focus remains on teaching and learning days*

-Mr Walton, Ms Miyajima attend a pre board meeting for HKJS/JIS a.m.

Wednesday 23rd: *New student's induction has to be cancelled due to EDB / CHP restrictions on entry to school. All families will be receiving an information pack and access to videos*

Thursday 24th:

Friday 25th: JIS student half year school reports sent home today (Jan – June reports)

Photo of the week! – P5 architects, proudly show off their work today!



Wishing everyone a really enjoyable weekend!

See you all next week.

Simon Walton
Principal