



Newsletter 21 2021-22

Friday 11th February 2022

Dear Parents and JIS community

Week 6, term 2 at JIS:

Happy Year of the Tiger, everyone!



School update: Lifting the gloom a bit!

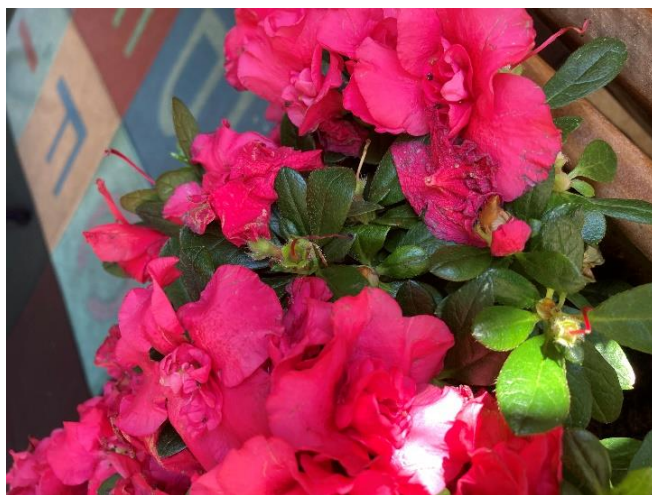
Oh what a difference a bit of sunshine makes – and the warmth! After a week of gloomy news and some cooler, grey weather it was great to take a quick walk around the school grounds today. As we have a few of the students who are my gardening support crew, I enclose a series of sunny and bright photos of what is growing around school to put a few more smiles on faces for a Friday!



The car park blossom tree looks like it wants us all to have a great year and the butterflies have certainly found it! (above). The view from the roof this morning! (below)



A few of the colours on campus!



The carrots and tomatoes are also growing well in the 3rd floor vegetable garden.

With extensions to the HK Govt.'s timelines, online classes will continue for the next few weeks – new schedules and updates will be posted by JIS staff.

The students (and parents) have done a superb job so far in making sure they are on time and present for lessons – thank you so much for the support. We continue to look into ways of engaging the students and also ensuring that learning continues and that we hold the school community together in the best ways possible. In order to plan ahead for different circumstances please find here a link to a quick survey about the JIS online learning programme. We know that planning an online experience to suit all families and students is impossible, so we have always aimed for a positive balance. Feedback helps us move forwards, so if you have time please click the link:

Community survey click here: <https://forms.gle/Zq9kazF28x63usU8A>

We will also be doing a similar survey with all the students next week to gain some feedback from how they are managing at home too.

Updates and planning: Please read the planning documents and schedules that are shared with you by all the JIS staff. Many of the students are now very independent in accessing their different classes, but we appreciate that we need to rely on parental support in the lower years – thank you as always for the support.

JIS resources delivery and collection: items to come home next week.



Next Thursday (17th Feb.) we are aiming to arrange a series of deliveries or collection of resources to further boost our online activities. This helps to keep the students interested and engaged in their online learning and also allows teachers to be able to extend their options for online sessions with the students. We know this is very difficult within the current HK Govt guidelines but we would like to try, whilst paying very close attention to the requirements about gatherings and meetings.

All resources that need to be collected will be planned and all information shared with the school community early next week. Some classes or subjects may not have items to collect and some will – it all depends on the activities that are being planned in the days and weeks ahead. We will make sure all details are clear for everyone as soon as possible next week.

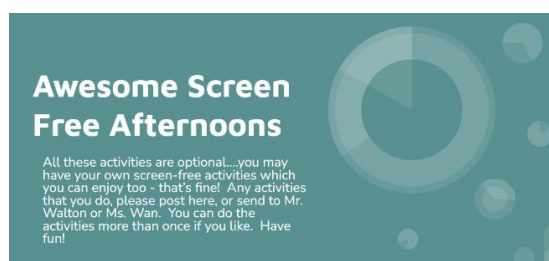
Next Thursday, 17th February:

At school collection: Items to be collected will be left in the school playground on tables clearly marked for class and students. Parents or family members will not need to enter the school building as they can enter the playground area through the back gate. You will be able to collect your own items and will not need to interact with others or JIS staff. You will be able to come along any time during the afternoon of 17th February. Do not come to school if your child has no items to collect.

School bus delivery: For students having a school bus at JIS the resources will be delivered on Thursday afternoon to your home bus stop, at the time students would normally return from school. There will only be a bus driver and bus escort on the bus and they will have items to give to the students - (Labelled and sorted by JIS staff). We will ask that you wait at the bus stop at your usual afternoon collection time, in isolated, separate groups to avoid any issues. Do not go to the bus stop unless you have items to collect.

Awesome Afternoons: activities available to all

Many students have chosen to take part in the optional screen free afternoons. Ms. Wan has been delighted to see how creative all the students are! These activities are often open ended and can be used at any time. If you need some ideas for the afternoons or weekends, look back on Toddle (Rec / P1) or in Google classroom (P2 – P6)



Student Support services – emotional support and strategies for students

As we shall now be online for an extended time, our Student Support department strongly encourages families of students who were receiving support from Abi Chan, Speech and Language Therapist or Cheryl Liu, Occupational Therapist to get in touch with SPOT Therapy Centre and try to arrange for students to continue their support. School is happy to accommodate students missing classes in order that they can attend visits to these vital specialists.

cheryl.liu@spot.com.hk

abi.chan@spot.com.hk

Ms. Ashima Sharma continues to be available to support any student or family who feel this would benefit them. asharma@es.jis.edu.hk Ms. Ashima will be available to meet P5 and P6 students on a weekly basis and others as and when appropriate.

Slideshow link:

Attached below is a link to some useful slides to support wellbeing for our younger students. They have some useful ideas on ways to support a range of emotional challenges:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uxhmkv7pRybWi1iE-nzSFxxtREPH7ZxG/edit#slide=id.p1>

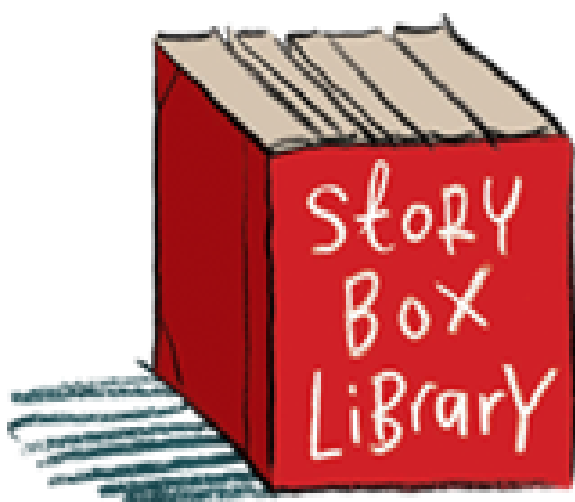
Random Acts of Kindness week – next week at JIS

Next week Mrs. Rixon is coordinating a ‘random acts of kindness’ week with the students at school. Linked to our PSPE (Personal, Social, Physical, Education) programme. Students will be involved in a range of discussions and activities – which hopefully should have some interesting benefits at home!

JIS Library: Online Listening and Reading – update to include HK Public Library link

We at JIS Library want to encourage good reading habits and make it easy for students to read for entertainment, relaxation and learning. Even while the libraries are closed, students can borrow books at any time.

JIS Library is subscribed to two online digital libraries, Story Box and Sora. Please see read on for more information:



What is Story Box Library?

We'd like you to think of Story Box Library as an online “reading room”. It's a place where the wonderful world of Children's Literature is on permanent exhibit and children can connect, engage and be inspired when they watch a range of celebrated stories read aloud by wonderfully engaging storytellers.

Story Box Library provides a vibrant, interactive experience via a diverse range of everyday storytellers, actors, comedians, sports people, musicians, artists, authors and children with varying accents and from different cultures, each sharing past and present book titles. The result is meaningful, entertaining readings that focus on both teller and tale.

Is Story Box Library suitable for children of all ages?

Story Box stories have been selected with children of primary school age. Stories are categorised by age categories. Perfect for Reception up to P3, though there are books available here right up to P6 age. Please use the filters available to curate a suitable collection.

How to log in?

Go to: <https://storyboxlibrary.com.au/login>

Email/Username: JISLibrary

Password: JISLibrary

Should you have any issues with logging on, please send me an email at fsamarakkody@es.jis.edu.hk



What is Sora?

Sora is an app that provides access to digital library resources by Overdrive via your laptop, phone or tablet. JIS Library belongs to the Hong Kong Schools Consortium that shares a great collection of e-books and audio books.

Students can borrow three books at a time and put another three books on hold. You can also use Sora to connect to any other digital library that is run by Overdrive and that you are a member of e.g. Hong Kong Public Library.

If you are not a member of Hong Kong Public Library yet, is now possible to create an E-Account with Hong Kong Public Library online. The E-Account does not require users to go to any library for completion of application, and allows E-Reading only.

See links below:

<https://www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/about-us/services/borrower-reg/notes.html>

<https://www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/opr/disclaimer.php> (Please scroll down to begin application)

Once the E- Account has been created. Adding the Hong Kong Public Library to Sora increases the choices of books by the thousands.

Sora is suitable for students from P3 to P6, although there are books within the collection which may be suitable for younger ages too.

How to log into Sora?

Go to <https://soraapp.com/welcome> or download Sora from the App Store.

Click on “My School is a Hong Kong Schools”

Select Japanese International School (English Section)

Sign in with school email.

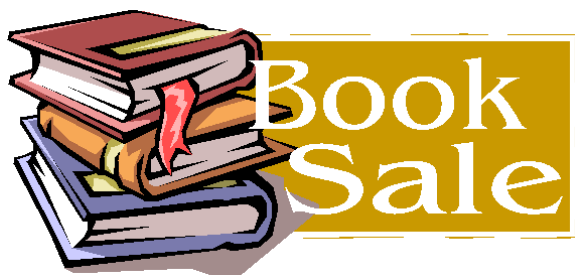
Students should be familiar with Sora. Should you have any issues with logging on, please send me an email at fsamarakkody@es.jis.edu.hk

Mother Tongue Week Monday 21st February – story tellers still needed

As part of our celebrations of our many languages at JIS we are seeking parent volunteers to read aloud to students on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 in their mother tongue. Whether we are back in face to face school or still online this will be an online arrangement. Thanks to the parents who have contacted us so far – we would love to hear from some more people. Please contact Jenny Procter to find out more or volunteer. It would be wonderful to have a range of languages.

jprocter@es.jis.edu.hk

ESSPA Book Sale now postponed– sort and recycle your books for other JIS students



Obviously the ESSPA book sale has been postponed for a few weeks.

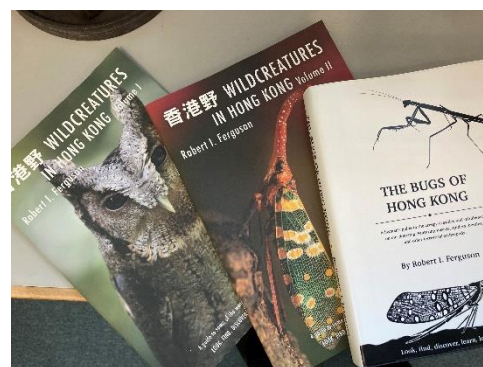
Thank you to everyone who has dropped off some books at the main school entrance. We can store them safely for a few weeks. If you have done a holiday sort-out by all means drop off books but if you get a wet, boring afternoon in the next few weeks maybe do some sorting!

Tech support for parents– if you are experiencing difficulties with access or computers borrowed from school – please contact our newly set up email. We can exchange a machine or advise on support. Joseph our I.T manager will be glad to help:

ithelpdesk@es.jis.edu.hk (I.T. Help Desk for JIS community)

Assembly thanks to Robert Ferguson, this week.

It was great to have Robert Ferguson – him of the wildlife books in HK – in our assembly this week. Not only does he have amazing photos taken by himself but he also brought along a pet snake, which seemed to grab 165 students’ attention pretty quick. He did a great job of further inspiring our wildlife enthusiasts and eco-warriors at JIS. Fiona Merrill arranged it, so big thanks to her.



I wish everyone a very healthy and safe weekend. The week so far has been rather depressing with news and concerns regarding the pandemic. I hope you all get to enjoy a bit of sunshine and time to enjoy the positives in life too..... There are many!

Simon Walton
Principal