



Newsletter 23 2021-22

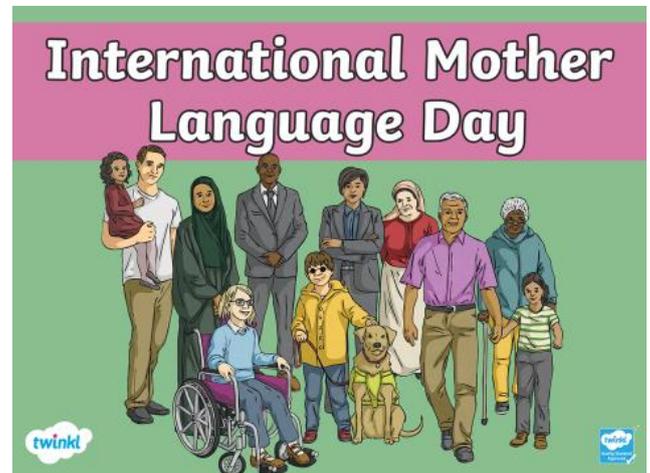
Friday 25th February 2022

Dear Parents and JIS community –

Week 8, term 2 at JIS: Mother Tongue languages week

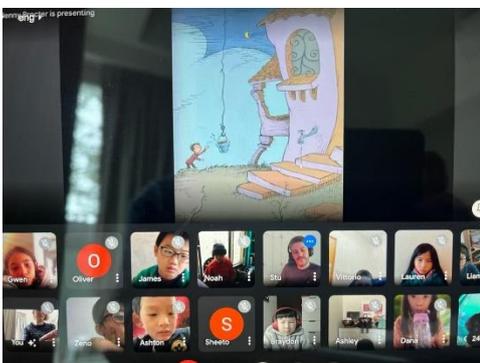
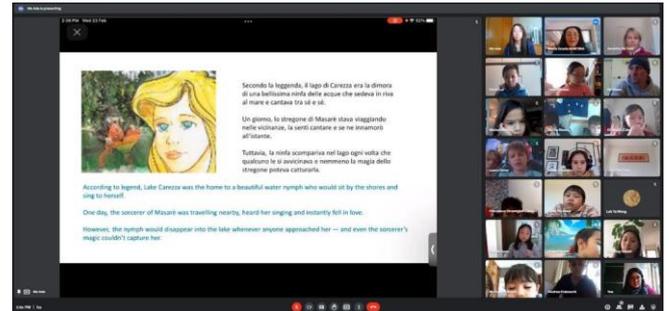
We were delighted to be able to celebrate the diversity of culture and language during this week's Mother Tongue Language week. There were many different ways of celebrating this and we were very pleased to welcome some guest story tellers from our school community (see below). There are currently around 20 different languages used within our school community and it was a great way to lift spirits and share in our community's uniqueness in such a positive way during the week.

It was great to see curiosity, so many students listened to stories in unfamiliar languages and the parents did a fabulous job of making their stories accessible to everyone. Mr Rixon was teaching P6 the Geordie language (dialect), some classes were wowed by a Korean singer able to sing Disney songs in multiple languages among the many experiences.



Parents to thank for their input during assembly:

- Romanian: Ovidu Olea (P1 Traian's Dad)
- Korean: Minhee Yeo (P4 Heesu and P2 Dayun's Mum)
- Italian: Maria Grazia Martina (P6 Ambra's Mum)
- Japanese: Kanako Minami (P4 Lizzie's Mum)
- Mandarin: Anita Liu (P2 Micha's Mum)
- English: Stuart Cresp (P5 Lia's Dad)



The children have asking already when we are doing it again and why there was no Cantonese, French or Arabic (and more)! So if you have a language that we can celebrate with another story teller assembly – please let Jenny Procter know on jprcoter@es.jis.edu.hk

School update: Recent meeting with EDB about school calendar – Mr. Walton update

I hope all of you were able to read my message to the school community regarding the sudden announcement of the change of the school year.

The main reasons for this change were quickly supported by all the schools present in the meeting.

- 1) Keep the students off the streets during the city wide closure for testing and
- 2) Use of school premises by the government as facilities for pandemic relief.

All of this we can do with our current online learning programme and we can strongly support the HK Govt in their efforts with the pandemic, so I strongly advocate that we should not change our school holidays and in effect leave students at home in March / April for 5-6 weeks with no school and nothing to do. In the

current times, school provides stability for students, engages young children for several hours a day to relieve the burden on childcare for families and generally offers a creative, social, happy outlet during potential stress and anxiety. School needs to continue.

As a school we will advocate in the strongest possible terms to our local EDB office and the HK Govt for our students to continue with online learning and not have an extended holiday in March and April. We aim to support the existing school calendar as much as we possibly can. Many families and staff have made plans for the summer (we adapted our calendar to support this) which cannot be changed due to lack of quarantine rooms and few flights available. Please support me and the school in this if you have any chance to do so.

We await further news from EDB ‘early next week’ and of course I will share full details with all of the JIS school community as soon as we have some clarity to the situation. EDB have reiterated their desire to resume face to face teaching and learning from April 18th, after the Easter holidays.

Thank you

Library Books – collection and delivery from JIS – 4 books each fortnight

Many thanks for all the orders for library books – they are being processed now for delivery next Thursday 3rd March. We will continue to offer this service as long as we are allowed to do so.



Dates for library books to be aware of: Forms completed by Monday 21st February for week 1.

Order form out:	Request form needs to be filled in by	Books will be available for collection/ school bus drop off
Friday 18th February	Monday 21st February	Thursday 3rd March

If you have any questions, please contact our librarian Floyd Samarakkody on: fsamarakkody@es.jis.edu.hk

Resources for delivery: next Thursday (3rd March)

In previous newsletters we have mentioned that we are planning for some form of delivery or resources and materials, to suit classes on a two week basis. We shall carry on with this planning as long as we are able to do so. This will mean that for Thursday 3rd March we may be contacting families about collection. We shall send out all information as early as possible next week, so that families can plan for collection or delivery.

Reception class 2022 – interviews next week - online

Due to the ongoing lack of opportunity for face to face interviews we shall next week be doing some online meetings with families and prospective new students. We appreciate that families need to feel secure in gaining a school place and the school needs to plan ahead for its new group of students. The aim of the meeting with Mr. Walton is to engage in some activities, get to know the students and also support parents in any questions that they might have. The meetings will be for around 15 minutes with individual families. Invitations with full information and a meeting link are being sent out today.

Parents of current JIS siblings wishing to enter for Reception will also receive an offer of a school place from the school. This will allow them to make plans for August 2022 also.

3 Way conference meetings – 8th and 10th March 2022 – sign up

The school has sent out to all families some information regarding the annual 3 Way conference set for 8th and 10th March, on Toddle. These meetings will be particularly important at this time as a check in on learning but also for JIS staff to hear of social and emotional needs during the school absence. We did have a long series of in person classes, earlier in the year to reflect upon as well as the recent weeks of online classes. A lot of learning has taken place and we shall be encouraging the students to share their progress, and celebrate their successes. Obviously all JIS staff will be online in meetings during these days, so we shall arrange for some activities for those children who would like to engage in something creative or open ended on these dates. Families who wish to go for a hike or a walk on a beach for some outdoor sanity – please feel free to do so when you do not have an appointment! Please do make an appointment by completing the form.

Online learning and screen backgrounds:

Can we please ask that students do not use background filters during their online learning as they obstruct the sharing of work, resources or specific items. When teachers are asking students to show or demonstrate things they are obscured or not visible at all when they are behind or in and out of the background filter. It may seem like a small thing but it is causing difficulties in some groups and delays the pace of sessions or excludes some students from succeeding. We know that many of the students like to have fun setting them up – but they will need to switch them off when asked to do so for the benefit of the lessons they are in. Thanks for your support.

Voices for the Planet 2022 – competition to get involved in if you would like:



In assembly over the last few weeks Mr, Walton introduced a new competition for any student to get involved with – especially our HK wildlife fans.

There are several ways to get involved with the competition: wildlife art poster, wildlife story, music video, photography and singing a song.

Here is a link to the competition website:

<https://www.lumivoce.org/voices-for-the-planet-2022>

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) and let your kids get inspired. This week involved a lot of Lego building and designing special eco spaces – have a look and get involved if you want to.



Young Readers Festival 2022 – coming soon in March



Hong Kong International
Young Readers Festival
香港國際青少年讀者節

7-25
March

Go to Schools Pack
前往校園資料包

This year the HK Young Readers Festival continues with some presentations and workshops with famous children's authors from around the world. Cath Wan has been busy arranging and booking some fabulous sessions for our students. They will get to listen to and meet some of their favourite authors including Michael Mopurgo and Elena Favolli. Full details later but we hope to inspire and entertain the JIS students with a diversity of input and voices.

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 at 2:30 pm on a Friday 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>

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 any support. Joseph our I.T manager will be glad to help:

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



Wishing everyone a very safe and healthy weekend – the weather looks like it should be good. If you can get out and about without a crowd – enjoy it!

Simon Walton
Principal

