



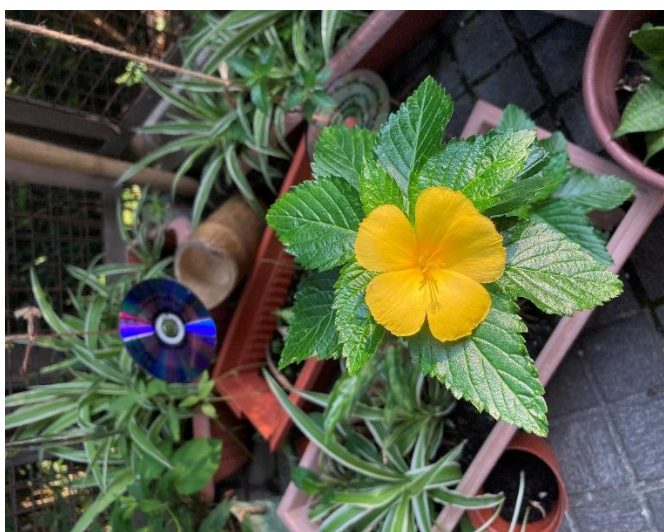
Newsletter 31 2021-22

Friday 29th April 2022

Dear Parents and JIS community

Back to school: full days – all students at school

It has been great to have the students back full time at school this week. Some of them are tired in the afternoons but we hope their stamina will improve. It is great to see the interest and fascination with bugs and the outdoors has not faded during the online period. I am constantly brought to see something new in the playground, a real pleasure!



The ‘cheetah like’ spotted butterfly/moth had a lot of interest this morning as we had “never seen one like this before at JIS!”

Using our JIS key values of **Respect** and **Kindness**, we are working hard on looking and enjoying – not harming the bugs we meet! It seems to be working bit by bit.

Earth Day with P2

Celebrating Earth Day with some special messages attached to some recycled CD's the P2 class have made a new set of decorations for our garden area. Ms. Merrill and Ms. Jo built some structures using the bamboo and then hung the special wishes written by P2 students on their CD's. As they rotate in the sunshine, they create a rainbow of colours – great job, P2.



School fees for 2022-23 – Application to EDB for fee adjustment

Further to a budget review and meeting of the JIS/HKJS Board of Directors we have been asked to request a fee adjustment for next school year of 5% with EDB. This means that the school fees would be adjusted by \$578 per month, from \$11, 552 to \$12,130.

At times of major school financial insecurity regarding numbers of students remaining in Hong Kong and also our need to continue to redevelop and maintain the standard of our building and facilities the Board feel it is necessary for all 3 of our schools to have a consistent fee increase. We are committed in the next school year to spending over \$2 million on updating the JIS aircon system, to include the school gym and other general areas of the school. All student classrooms have been equipped with a new system in the last two years (around \$8 million). We are also very conscious of the increase in our huge energy bills in managing our large building and swimming pool. We are keen to allow the students to swim regularly all year, and not to have to close the pool for several months per year. Our school Annual Capital Levy has been left at the same rate for another year.

We do appreciate the increase of school fees is never easy and we have tried to agree on a fee structure that will allow the school to remain competitive and also offer an excellent deal for students and their families.

JIS School places for 2022-23 – click the link

We do understand that for a variety of reasons some of our JIS families will be relocating out of Hong Kong in the coming months. We have been contacted already by some families and have been lucky enough to try to arrange some interviews for potential new students.

Can we please ask that everyone please clicks the link below to update us. As Hong Kong is experiencing considerable change within its student base it is important for us to be up to date with our planning for August 2022. Thank you.

School places link, click here: <https://forms.gle/imYpxucWUugEdGQC9>

The JIS Capital Levy of \$15, 200 for 2022-23 will be collected by Direct Debit in August 2022, with term 1 fees payable in September 2022.

JIS Lunchtimes - volunteers

Thanks to the parent volunteers who are supporting our current lunchtime arrangements, it is proving to be really useful. With having to use 4 different venues / times for eating and recess, the volunteers allow us to share out the duties and ensure some time for staff to have a lunchbreak. A JIS staff member is on duty with volunteers at all times.

EDB updates – testing and school logistics, thanks and keep going please.

Thank you so much for the support in following the EDB guidelines regarding the daily RAT testing and temperature checks. We do understand the inconvenience (all staff have to do it too!) but it is designed to keep the school a safe and virus free environment, so that the students can come to school every day. If you forget, we will have to contact you before your child is allowed into school. Obviously if your child is feeling unwell, please keep them at home and if they test positive for Covid, please inform the school as soon as possible and also report your case to the relevant authorities. (the Department of Health within 24 hours via the [‘Declaration system for individuals tested positive for Covid-19 using rapid antigen test’ website](#)).

So far there are no changes to any of the current guidelines from EDB or the HK Govt, regarding international schools. We will maintain the current plan for the time being. This means that we are still not allowed to host large scale events, but with some venues opening up there is a chance to arrange some school outings, to support the students learning and interests. If there is any news on provision of RAT tests to students, we will let you know as soon as we get the information. In the meantime we are asked by the HK authorities to remind all parents to get their children vaccinated to support the pandemic efforts of Hong Kong.

We are required to report to the HK authorities each day by 10 a.m. This continues to be easy for us so far, thanks to the efficiency of the school community in completing the daily forms.

All visitors to the school building are required to comply with the ‘VaccinePass – LeaveHomeSafe’ requirements of the HK Govt. Please scan the QR code and have your temperature taken at the main entrance to the school, before entering.

Vaccination survey: Thank you for the updates with the second dose.

Thank you very much everyone for completing the JIS vaccination survey. Please update the link at any time if your child’s vaccination status changes.

The link for the survey is here if you need to update it:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jRXb_0Zg4Tn90FTFuJ-5EMw0QcCfNLX10pBVZ2r3tIg/edit

This information is used for us to plan our access to activities and school only. No names are shared, just totals or numbers of each category. As a reminder, students can attend school regardless of their vaccination status due to our prior agreement with EDB representatives.

Battle of the Books Team – training hard

The highly enthusiastic JIS Battle of the Books Team from P5 and P6 are training super hard with Cath Wan every lunchtime to get ready for their competition in a few weeks' time. The competition has been very disrupted this year but the team were keen to have a go, despite the short notice and the change of format for this year. The team have had to read around 20 books and memorized them in great detail.

We have arranged a match against the JIS staff next Wednesday afternoon (during school assembly time) – the annual thrashing by the students is inevitable.



Lunchtime training session this week for BoB Team

JIS Year book 2021-22 – 25 year celebration:

Students have been invited to get involved in our annual Yearbook cover design competition 2021-22. The competition is open to all students in JIS and they can create as many designs as they would like.



JIS Yearbook Cover 2021 -2022



Get creative! – Time for designing!

JIS is 25 this year! Celebration time.

What do you remember of this school year?

What are the best memories of 2021-22 to include?

Entries must include somewhere in the design:

- JIS or Japanese International School
- The year: 2021 – 2022

Remember to write your name on the back of your entry (A4 size)

Entries by Tuesday 10th May 2022 – hand in your design to
Mr. Walton or the school office

The details of what is required is shown here on the left, from the posters around school.

Deadline is Tuesday 10th May. The students all get to vote on their favourite design before printing.

All classes will have pages in the yearbook and we hope to include some features related to our 25th celebration year.

O.T. and Speech and Language Therapy at JIS

Starting on Monday 25th April our therapist staff returned to support the JIS students. We have had Occupational Therapy (O.T.) and Speech and Language Therapy provided for us on campus by SPOT clinic for the last few years. The SPOT staff – Abi Chan (SLT) and OT Crystal Fong (new to JIS) will be arranging support and consultations through Vikki Rixon. If you would like to have some support for your child please get in touch with Vikki – vrixon@es.jis.edu.hk

Blog post by JIS school counsellor – Ashima Sharma

Rebuilding the school stamina!



From traditional classroom learning to home based virtual lessons, and now back again to the classroom, we all had to adjust to a new normal in the past two years. After nearly a whole term of virtual learning, we all have been feeling the withdrawals from some in-person interactions with others - our family members, friends, class-mates, teachers and more.

This week as we are transitioning to normal school days we will look at some tips to help families make it as smooth as possible.

1. Get back into a routine.

Routines give us structure and certainty in unusual times. Develop clear routines and involve your children in coming up with them. Practice and repeat them several times to your child and make them graphic and fun. This could include a morning routine, at school routine, back from school routine and a bedtime routine. Do not worry if your kids don't immediately get into it. Practice and rehearse with them, mentally and verbally to begin with. This way they will know what to expect. Allow them plenty of opportunity to play and give them choices to decide for themselves. Going through the routine in a collaborative and fun way actually help children 'get back in swing'. You can slowly transit to structured routines once your child settles in better. Try to follow a good sleep routine and avoid electronics in the bedroom. Healthy sleep patterns will aid school engagement and emotional balance.

2. Be present for your child .

Children may react to changes in their routines in various ways. Be prepared for some varied reactions and allow them the time and space needed to adjust. Behavioural changes -such as acting out, quietness, feeling

tired, lack of motivation, tantrums are expected. However, these should subside in a few days and helping your children process what they are feeling will go a long way. Before bed is a good time to listen to them recount events and feelings from the day. Spend one on one time with your child (10-15 minutes). This extra time provides a safe environment to express emotions and you may be surprised how much you reach out to them.

3. Watch out for the Red Flags.

Stay tuned to the warning signs, not just for your child but yourself as well. Parental burn out has increased rapidly during the pandemic. It is essential to take care of yourself and engage in healthy self-care practices yourself, as well as for your family.

Reach out for help if you notice some of the following signs:

- Sudden changes in activities and behaviours which last more than 2 weeks
- Sudden weight loss or weight gain
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Talking or writing about self-harm
- Destructive behaviour such as harming self or others
- Acting rebellious, aggressive or impulsive on more occasions than none
- Feeling lonely and sad

4. Communicate with the school.

Stay in touch with your child's school teachers or counsellor and let them know if something is going on that might affect the children. Teachers can help if they know what's going on in their students' lives and could impact their ability to focus, socialise and be ready to learn well at school.

Let's be kind to ourselves and our children as we navigate the new normal again. This isn't easy. But you're not alone, we are all in this together.

Ashima Sharma

Farewell to Mr. Lun – JIS campus security guard for over 10 years!

Today (Friday 29th) is the last day of work for Mr. Lun one of the JIS security staff after a long and trusted 10 years. We thank him for his patient management of our carpark at bus time, on concert or bingo nights, the garden areas and much, much, more.

We wish him and his family well in their new life in the U.K. and a very happy and enjoyable retirement. Take care, Mr. Lun.

ICHK – Weekly Bulletin:

Please click here for the ICHK newsletter for this week: [here](#)



Enjoy your long weekend everyone.

*Simon Walton
Principal*

Repeat notice:

JIS Uniform shop is open on a Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every week. It is located on the ground floor of the building.