



## Newsletter 31

Friday 9th June 2017

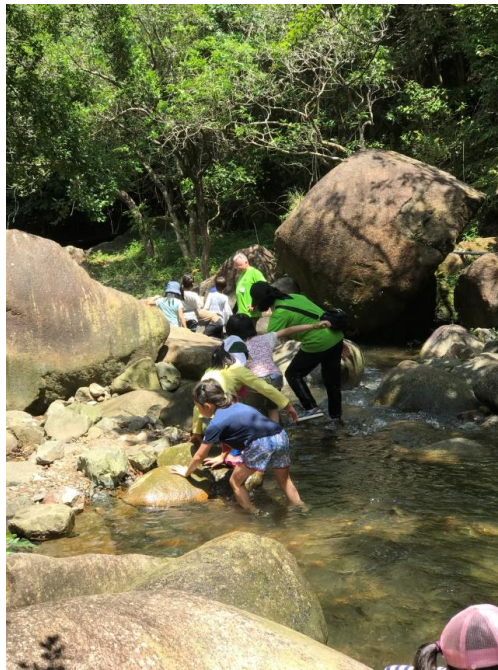
Dear Parents and JIS community

### P2 Forest School trip:

P2 went on the 'best school trip ever' this week to the Forest School in Tai Shui Hang! This was the verdict of the students and the staff who went! The Forest School is an activity based environment to develop interest and empathy with the environment and also allow young students to explore themselves by challenging themselves physically to try new things and learn about the environment as well.







### **Plastics initiative – ‘Pack a snack and bring it back’ – next week.**

The issue of plastics in the ocean and environment has really captured the attention of the students in the last month or so. The pictures and statistics are scary and it is obviously time we all did something about it. So much so that the Student Council and Ms Merrill have organized an important competition for next week: ‘Pack a snack and bring it back’ week is a whole school initiative aimed at reducing the use of single or one time plastics at school. In assembly on Wednesday the students presented some information about the widespread pollution and over use of single use plastic. Ways we can all help suggested were:

- Use reusable containers for our food
- When we are shopping choose foods that have less packaging
- Bring your own shopping bags
- Say no to the straw!!
- Bring your own water bottle wherever you go.

At school:

- Bring reusable containers for snack and lunch
- Bring food from home with less or no packaging



### **Next week:**

Each class will have a competition to see who can bring the least plastic for snack and lunch. The students are quite inspired, so hopefully they can help and support the planning and preparation of food! Although this is a week kick starter competition we hope to sustain this attitude to plastics as an ongoing thought for the students and JIS community.



*Also this week*, Hinano in P4 arranged a bake sale as part of her UOI to raise some funds for the WWF – Plastic Free Seas appeal. She raised a staggering \$3, 330 dollars on Thursday! Well done to Hinano and her family for arranging this, with a fabulous donation to such a good cause.

### **Mandarin class and curriculum review**

This week we invited the Head of Mandarin in ESF – Mr Wang Xiaoping to visit our Mandarin classes for the day to review the curriculum, resources and levels of expectations we have for the students. Mr Wang has done extensive research on learning Mandarin in an international school context and has been working in a variety of roles in international schools and recently as head of Mandarin teaching and learning in ESF. He complimented Judith Tseng and Karen He on their ability to have a variety of levels in the same room – showing real regard for the importance of differentiation, to match ability levels to activities. Their creative activities and ability to work together and share roles within the class was also praised. He was clear that the standards expected and achieved were very much in line with other international schools in Hong Kong. He will send us a report of his findings which we will use to further develop our Mandarin programme. We shall be doing a review of the Japanese programme next week.

### **P6 Exhibition – 2017**

The P6 class is at full speed as they prepare for their Exhibition which will open next week. There will be an opening ceremony and private viewing for the P6 families on Thursday evening (15<sup>th</sup>) and then the exhibition will be open for the school community to come and enjoy, from Friday morning.



### **JIS Community survey 2017 – thank you**

Many thanks to those families who have completed our survey during the last two weeks. The data is really useful for us as a school as we plan ahead for development in the next few years. The results are very positive in general and we can continue to build on this. In most categories we have approval and agreement of about 95% with some categories higher than this. There are some excellent improvement suggestions

made in the comments sections for us to review and plan ahead with; some new ones and some good reminders of what the school community would like. Some of the issues are being worked on already but some new ones will be good to share with the community in the new school year. The survey link is inactive now.

## Student Led Conference Day – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017

As we approach the end of a busy year we shall be arranging our student-led conference day on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June. The aim of this day is that students and their parents book an appointment during the day for around 1 hour, during which the students share their learning. The students can show all classroom-based learning but can also visit the Language classes, P.E. dept and the Music Room to give a full picture of what they have been doing during the year. We are sending out a booking form today so that staff can arrange to balance out the day. We usually arrange around 4 conferences during each hour. Please make an effort to come along with your child(ren) as this is an important time for them to show you what they have been doing during the school year.

School will be closed on this day, as appointments will happen from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Students and families come to school for their appointment only.

## Staffing for 2017- 18

We are delighted to have retained so many of our staff for next year and also pleased to have been able to recruit some excellent new members of staff to join the JIS team:

Classroom	Class teacher	Education Assistant	
Reception	Fiona Merrill	Janice Tam	
Primary 1	Annette De Thier	Ruth Beauchamp	
Primary 2	Nadine Appleton	Jessie Choi	
Primary 3	James Appleton	Gina Samarasekera	
Primary 4	David Rixon	Adele Hughes	
Primary 5	Nick Cheung	Ada Cheung	
Primary 6	Resham Premchand	Shabnam Tapia	
Student Support	Glenda Bailie		
	Angie Bilbow (60%)		
	Christine Lau (2 days)	Also resources (1 day) and first aid support when at school	
Music	Jill Tse		
P.E.	Jason Chan Stephanie Tsui	SIS swimming team staff	
ICT support	Wa Man Lee		
Japanese	Yoko Yoneya	Kiyomi Ichinose	
Mandarin	Judith Tseng	Karen He	
Library		Cong Contreras	
PYP Coordinator	Cath Wan		
Office staff	Sachiyo Miyajima		
		Kim Murch – part time	

### ICHK update:

This week's ICHK newsletter is here for your interest [ICHK this week](#)



## Curriculum in the Classroom – from Cath Wan PYP Coordinator

### Action in the exhibition – the power of children!

Last Friday, Ms. Cong and myself were discussing library resources, when I decided to bring something up that had been bothering me for a few weeks. It was one of those magic moments when you realise that someone else has been thinking about the exact same issue and we simultaneously blurted out, “it’s our

princess book section!” For as far back as I can remember, we have had a “princess book section” and a “dinosaurs section” in our library. It has proven to be convenient as younger girls often ask for a “princess book” and boys a “dinosaur book.” However, over the last few weeks, one of our P6 students, Mayumi has been studying gender bias for her exhibition. She picked up on the issue of gender bias in story books and emailed me a list of books which she thought would be good additions to our library, which we have purchased; including “Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls” a book full of powerful female role models. Mayumi also came and read some picture books to our younger students that give alternatives to the traditional fairytale princess stories and she led some powerful discussions on whether girls should have to wear pink or whether being pretty on the outside should matter. It’s funny how the passion of children can be contagious and start us, as adults, thinking. Mayumi’s passion for changing gender bias started us wondering whether the convenience of the ‘princess box’ was actually hindering some students from exploring other valuable literature. We won’t be burning the princess books (!), but now they will have to be found amongst the other books and in exploring the shelves and displays, we hope students will have more opportunity to come across a wider range of literature – Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls will definitely be amongst the books displayed!



Over the next few days, in the playground, you may notice a group of P6 boys wearing green armbands. These boys have decided to take action by helping students solve conflict – they are the ‘Playground Peacekeepers’. They are armed with 5 different conflict solving strategies - some from teachers and one particular one that they invented – ‘the happy dance strategy’. Over the course of their peacekeeping, they will record which strategies worked well for children to use as tools for solving conflict and feedback to teachers so that we can use them too. Judging from the response to their presentation in assembly this Wednesday, I have a sneaky feeling that the ‘happy dance’ strategy might be added to our peacekeeping repertoire!



At school, we often hear stories of how children influence their parents. As a parent of present and past JIS students myself, I have been nagged by my children throughout the years into giving up my beloved tacos and a whole section of cereals because of the palm oil issue; if I forget to turn the tap off when cleaning my teeth or accidentally end up with a straw in my drink, I’m in big trouble. Children, when encouraged to take action, can be extremely powerful. Empowering students to take action is an essential element of our curriculum, and we do record it on our reflections at the end of every unit of inquiry. We love to hear stories about what actions students take at home - however small. It shows that they have taken their learning to a deep level and are making choices based on their understandings. Please do share any stories you have with us!

***Dates for the diary – next week – Week 9 – June 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> 2017***

**Note:** Good luck to our P5 and P6 football players at their friendly tournament at JIS tomorrow morning – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> –**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> –**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> –** ICHK Awards evening at our partner secondary school

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> –** P6 Exhibition Open Evening for P6 families

-ICHK Japanese class students working at JIS

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> –** P6 Exhibition open for all the school to visit

-Japanese Class exchange with PLK Camoes Tan Siu Lin primary school - Japanese culture and language activities exchange

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> –**

***Important dates in the next few weeks:***

***Student Led Conference Day*** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June – school closed for the day. Appointments for conferences only during the school day

***Reception Class and P1 Induction morning*** – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June

***End of year school lunch*** (class based) – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

***School reports sent home for all students*** – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

***P6 Graduation Day*** – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 8:30 a.m. in the school gym

***End of school year*** – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 12pm, midday

Wishing everyone a very enjoyable weekend, and hopefully some slightly cooler weather!

Simon Walton