

THE BANYAN



Issue 131

February 18, 2022



Zhu Hai International School weekly newsletter



From the First Floor

Dear ZIS Community,

I want to thank you again for your flexibility and understanding with the abrupt campus closure yesterday. The unexpected COVID case in the High-Tech zone that was reported sent us swiftly into distance learning mode. We don't have definitive guidance from the Education Bureau at this time, but if the weekend is quiet we anticipate being able to resume our on-campus studies on Monday. We will notify families as early as possible on the the plan for the new week.

These types of last-minute situations demand a lot from our school office who coordinate attendance, bus routes, and the dozens of other things that allow teachers to focus on their students and lessons. We are so fortunate to have a

highly capable team who act as caretakers of school operations and lead in these areas as true IB practitioners: thinking critically, communicating clearly, and acting decisively and always as principled members of our community with the students best interests at heart. COVID has brought immense pressures to their day and extended the demands on their time, and still they find ways to solve problems, answer questions, and have the spirit to be innovative from one day to the next.

It is time again for the annual **Banyan Award** competition. The arrival of the Year of the Tiger brings anticipation for the new year, and hope for the future. ZIS students are a part of envisioning and building that future, and the goal of this competition is to hear their voice and ideas, to be inspired by their creative and critical thinking, and to challenge each other to face the challenges of the year ahead.

Students are invited to prepare a response to the theme "**Strength in the Year of the Tiger**" using a medium of their choice: poetry, prose, audio, video, or visual art. Full details on the Banyan Award competition will be shared with students in their classes and online for all families [here](#).

Please read on to find out about some of the fantastic things happening in our Primary and Secondary classrooms. Book Month has ignited the Primary students and the House Competition is heating up as students read their way to house points and the chance to win wonderful prizes. Secondary teachers continue to forge ahead in their classes with examinations coming in May for our MYP and DP students while remaining on the leading edge of professional development.

Warm Regards,

Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School

- The Banyan Award 2022 -
*Inviting student submissions
of poetry, prose, audio,*



THE
BANYAN
AWARD

2022



video, or visual art

Theme:

**"Strength in the Year of the
Tiger"**

For more details visit:

<http://zischina.com>

Upcoming Events

February 14: Book Month begins

March 7-11: Book Week

March 15: Parent Teacher Conferences

...view the school calendar online at <http://zischina.com/calendars/>

BOOK WEEK: 2022

ZIS



DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

LIBRARY
TREASURE
HUNT



BOOK
TASTING



BOOK
BATTLE
ROYALE



CHARACTER
FASHION
SHOW



JUST READ JUST READ



MARCH 7-11



Perfectly Primary

Book Month has Begun!

This week is the first week of Book Month! The next three weeks is a house competition with the houses competing to read more books. The winning house will win the first ever Book Month Trophy, with each house member receiving a medal. There is an additional award for the student who reads the most books!

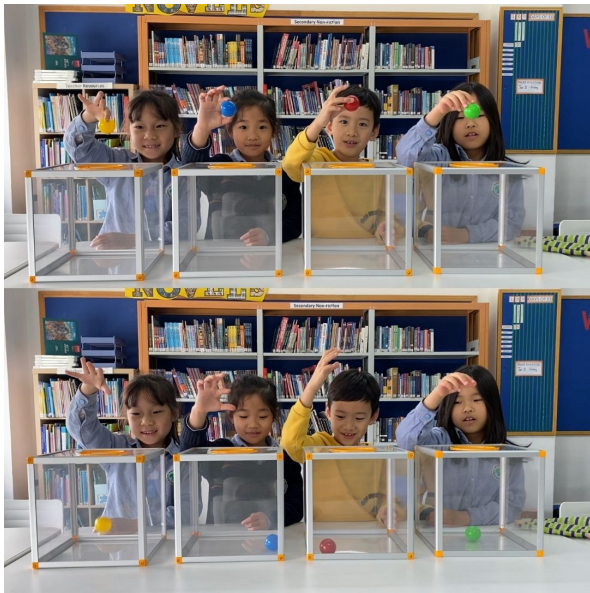
Book Week will start on March 7th, and this week will have a plethora of events dedicated to reading. The purpose of this month is to celebrate reading. We hope that this month will develop students' love of reading or start the process of learning to love to read. As our ZIS mission is to develop lifelong learners, being a reader is a great way to achieve this! Just Read! Book Month!

Kind Regards,

Michael Lattimore

Head of EY and Primary





Secondary Segment

Dear parents and students,

Secondary teachers were recently trained in Trauma-Informed Care, as it is an important way to frame how we communicate and interact with students.

Trauma-Informed Care is a philosophy which seeks to understand others by acknowledging the impact of one's life experiences to help guide our interactions to promote a stronger connection with one another. As educator

Alex Shirven explains, “trauma-informed education isn’t a set of strategies. It is ultimately an exercise in empathy, patience, and flexibility.” When we intentionally try to understand the reason behind behaviors, we are better prepared to support the student.

One way in which parents and teachers can support children and each other is with a validation of feelings. It is natural to want to stay positive when trying to help someone facing a difficult time. However, psychologists have found there are times when positivity without validation can become toxic. We can re-frame our reaction when our children are going through something that is emotionally challenging in order to better support them. In the image below, you will find some examples of how you can re-frame your words to hold space for the difficult emotions your child may bring to you.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Lana Staton
School Counselor



INSTEAD OF SAYING...

You'll get over it.

Don't be so negative

It could be worse

*Always look at the
bright side!*

TRY...

It's hard, but I believe in you.

It's okay to feel bad sometimes.

Sometimes we experience difficult things. How can I support you?

It can be difficult to see the good in this situation, but we will make sense of it when we can.

Source: Tanglew Mental Health

Lunch Menus,
our food safety guidelines,
and past editions of
"The Banyan" Newsletter
are available
at zischina.com

WHAT'S COOKING?

SCHOOL
LUNCH



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