

# THE BANYAN



Issue 132

February 25, 2022



Zhu Hai International School weekly newsletter



## From the First Floor

Dear ZIS Community,

This week we shared an updated report with the Council of International Schools (CIS) as we continue our collaboration with them. Part of this report included our analysis and subsequent actions in response to the Community Surveys completed by parents, students, teachers, and other ZIS stakeholders. Your input through such surveys informs decision making, goal setting, and action in the day to day operations of the school. Please let me expand more on some of these areas.

One trend noted from the surveys was the wish for the school to continue its efforts in providing for the well-being of students. These past couple of years

have brought this topic to the front of everyone's thinking and this has informed the work of Dr. Lana and Ms. Vivian who are expanding their reach as school counselors by getting into classrooms, sharing their knowledge, and spreading ways of thinking and strategies to keep us all equipped on healthy pathways.

Health and Safety and the topic of Safeguarding on campus are extensions of our care for well-being matters, raising our school's focus on managing risk effectively, advancing discussions on important topics such as respectful relationships and positive discipline, and prioritizing school culture alongside happiness and learning. Maslow's theory on the hierarchy of needs places physiological and safety needs as the necessary foundation which allows for a sense of belonging and the development of esteem in a child. When we feel secure in our learning environments and are nourished and rested, it is only then that a young learner's mind is ready to engage in creative and critical thinking. This is true for us adults as well. We will schedule a future workshop on these topics to continue to support ZIS students and families as we grow together.

Another topic that was raised in the Community Survey feedback was After School Activities. If you have yet to sign up for this semester, you are still able to join a club or team. Contact Ms. Gina Li at [ginal@zischina.com](mailto:ginal@zischina.com) for more details or visit <http://zischina.com/after-school-activities-2022/> We want to grow in this area as well and welcome parent suggestions and recommendations. Perhaps there are a few parents who wish to lead an activity - please do reach out if you have some ideas.

Finally, I want to encourage all students to consider entering the competition for the 2022 Banyan Award. There is still one full week to prepare your submission and the theme is inspirational, allowing for creative minds to give it a full exploration. Visit <http://zischina.com/the-banyan-award-2022/> for all of the details.

Warm Regards,

**Andrew VanderMeulen**

**Head of School**



THE  
BANYAN  
AWARD

2022



- The Banyan Award 2022 -  
*Inviting student submissions  
of poetry, prose, audio,  
video, or visual art*

Theme:  
"Strength in the Year of the  
Tiger"

For more details visit:  
<http://zischina.com>

## Upcoming Events

**March 3:** Bus Evacuation Drill  
**March 7-11:** Book Week  
**March 15:** Parent Teacher Conferences  
**March 18:** Primary Sports Day  
**March 22:** Parent Workshop: Multiliteracy  
**March 25:** Secondary Sports Day  
**April 4-8:** Qing Ming & Spring Break  
**April 18-22:** MAP Growth Testing  
**April 23:** International Day

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

## 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**





ZHUHAI  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



BOOK

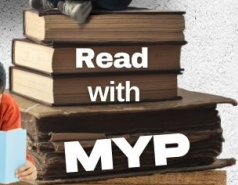


MONDAY

Book  
Show & Tell



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



Come chat with  
us in the library!

THURSDAY



FRIDAY



Awards  
Assembly  
Friday Afternoon

JUST READ  
JUST READ  
MARCH 7-11

Secondary Segment

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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,

**Danielle Tucker**

**Head of Secondary**

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## WHAT'S COOKING?

SCHOOL LUNCH



Lunch Menus,  
our food safety guidelines,  
and past editions of  
"The Banyan" Newsletter  
are available  
at [zischina.com](http://zischina.com)

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