



March 18, 2022

Issue 135





From the First Floor

Dear ZIS Community,

We had to quickly shift gears Wednesday afternoon, deciding to end the school day early, organize and communicate with families, and then make plans for online learning the next day. I'm trying to imagine a world where all of this would have been accomplished so efficiently without mobile technology! We expect to be returning to campus on Monday again. The requirement will be that students and staff will need to have been tested successfully after March 15 in order to return to campus. If there are any changes, we will share updated information by NewsFlash/SchoolPal or through our WeChat groups.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you to the **Conferences** on Tuesday. Student Led Conferences in the Early Years and Primary classrooms allowed our younger students to lead in the sharing of their learning. A sense of accomplishment was on display in every class, and rightly so! The MYP and DP conferences allowed for constructive conversations around goal setting for the second semester and strengthened that important link between home and school. If you did not have the opportunity to book an appointment this week, you are always welcome to arrange a time to meet with teachers or school leadership. Please send us an email and we will help to make the arrangements.

With the arrival of the beautiful weather comes the time for the famous **ZIS Sports Days**. We will reschedule the Early Years and Primary date, originally planned for today, so that they can take to the fields, track, and courts to test their speed, strength, and agility. We have our coaching and cheerleading hats ready! Next Friday ZIS hosts the Secondary Sports Day - we look forward to the great athletic action under the blue skies.

As mentioned last week, I hope you will join us for a **Parent Workshop** on Tuesday, March 22 at Gusto Italian Restaurant in the Huafa Mall at 1:45pm. The topic is Multiliteracy - a vital part of literacy practices for today and tomorrow's students. Not sure what Multiliteracy is? Don't worry - we will explain everything. Scan the QR code on the poster below to RSVP. We look forward to seeing you there! Gusto is open for lunch if you wish to dine before joining the session. Please note that you will need to show your green code and recent test results upon entry.

Topic: 21st Century Literacy: Multiliteracy Presenters: Ms. Mirjam Berghuis & Ms. Vivian Deng When: Tuesday, March 22 @ 1:45pm Where: 珠海大道8号华发商都B馆B1018 Gusto意大利餐厅 / Gusto Italian restaurant, Huafa mall NO.1018,B zone 1F Xiangzhou

Looking further ahead on the calendar you will see that 2022 is a monumental year for our ZIS, and I believe a signal of our intentions to offer our students the

very best here on our island home. Offering an IB education for students ages 3-18 that is accredited by the Council of International Schools has been our vision for our Qi'ao school. Two major events that we have been working towards are near on the horizon:

May 16-20: IB Evaluation Visit

This virtual visit checks on our programme development since the last visit in 2017. Six IB evaluators will meet with members of the pedagogical leadership team, with IB coordinators, with students, and and with parents. We are very excited to share everything we've been developing over these past five years!

October 15-21: CIS Accreditation Visit

Ever since our initial CIS Membership in 2018, we have been working within the framework of the Council of International Schools to grow our programming and to refine our school policies and practices. Where the IB places a significant focus on teaching and learning and educational philosophy, the CIS requires schools to be their very best in all dimensions: health and safety, governance, well-being, staffing, and safeguarding - in addition to their emphasis on curriculum, teaching, and learning.

Whether it be the IB, CIS, or any other element of our school development, parent involvement is such an important part of these efforts. You may be contacted to join a committee or to represent the school during one of these sessions - the more we can get our wonderful parents involved, the more impact and lasting this work will be. Thank you as always for your support.

Warm Regards, Andrew VanderMeulen Head of School

Upcoming Events

March 22: Parent Workshop: 21st Century Literacy 1:45pm @ GUSTO March 25: Secondary Sports Day TBC: Primary Sports DayApril 4-8: Qing Ming & Spring BreakApril 18-22: MAP Growth TestingApril 23: International Day

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



21St GENTURY LITERAGY Why Multiliteracy Matters

Tuesday, March 22, 1:45 pm @ Gusto Italian Restaurant







Student-Led Conferences & Battle of the Books

Perfectly Primary

Even though we were only on campus for three days this week, we could still do some amazing things in the ZIS Primary School.

On Tuesday, we had our student-led conferences. A student-led conference is where the students show their learning and reflect on their progress through the year. It was amazing to see the students so confident in presenting their learning journey and teaching their parents the many things they had learned. Another aspect that made the day so great was the students had agency. Students chose and designed how the conference would go; students selected their favourite pieces of work and had ownership of the entire event. Well done!

On Wednesday, we had the *Battle of the Books*. Our students did well in the contest! Well done to the students who participated! Our Upper Primary students worked hard on learning and reading books for this contest, and Wednesday was the big day, and they showed what they could do. Thank you to the teachers who helped the students with this contest!

Kind Regards, Michael Lattimore Head of EY and Primary









Secondary Segment

Dear secondary parents,

One area of growth for nearly all adolescents is confidence and self-esteem. The ZIS Wellbeing Committee is currently working to complete the third video in our wellness series, and this time it will focus on your child and confidence. We chose this topic because as educators we hear about confidence in the halls, in the class, and on the athletic fields. As parents of adolescents, you are likely to hear the same conversations in your household. Whether students are discussing a social event or pumping themselves up for a classroom presentation, confidence is at the center of many of their thoughts at this age.

To fully research multiple sources for our next video, we gathered a small focus group of MYP students to discuss this topic. We can't wait to share with you some of the insightful conversations that were had, as I'm sure it reflects some of the conversations you've had with your child at the dinner table. Talking with your child about their confidence is actually one excellent way to continue building this skill. Talk about the difficulties they may be facing and ask questions to help them solve problems independently. The more chances they get to experience resilience and success, the more confident they will become.



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

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