

# THE BANYAN



Issue 123

November 26, 2021



Zhu Hai International School weekly newsletter



## From the First Floor

Dear ZIS Community,

Thank you to the many parents of Friends of ZIS who transformed our first floor this week. The decorations have brought a wonderful festive spirit to campus as we prepare for Santa's visit to our Winter Carnival on Saturday, December 4.

With our Winter Break is quickly approaching, please bear in mind that we will be asked to report on the travel plans of our students and staff. Thank you for your continued support of the work being done by our Office Team to ensure our compliance with the local and provincial measures to control and prevent the COVID-19 virus. I encourage you to monitor the health situation wherever your vacation plans take you.

As November concludes and December arrives I want to share my congratulations to every one of the new members to our community. Our new students have risen to the challenge of making a successful transition. New teachers have adeptly faced the trials and tribulations of learning new procedures and, for some, new programmes. The months of October and November can be the most trying for all members of a school community, and it takes considerable patience, dedication, and resilience to persist through the tough stretches. For many of us the arrival of the holiday season means another reminder that we are separated from loved ones abroad. There's no substitute for that family time, but make sure to join us at Santa's Winter Carnival to build your connections here in the ZIS community and help each other to enjoy the festive season together.

Don't forget, you are invited to a special Saturday Sports event on December 11. Registration has already started online (see the QR code on the poster below) - we hope you will join us for the annual Family Fun Run and BBQ.

Warm Regards,

**Andrew VanderMeulen**

**Head of School**

A horizontal banner with a teal background featuring a repeating pattern of stylized leaves. The text "Upcoming Events" is written in a white, sans-serif font, centered within the banner.

Upcoming Events

ZIS WINTER CARNIVAL

# SANTA COMES TO QI'AO



**4  
DEC**

**HO,  
HO,HO**

**ZHUHAI  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH: 10AM - 4PM**



**GAMES, FUN, & FESTIVE CHEER!  
A SPECIAL EVENT FOR ZIS FAMILIES  
FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE**







Thank you to Friends of ZIS for their wonderful decoration of the foyer and entrances!

**December 4:** Winter Carnival

**December 9:** Parent Workshop "Approaches to Learning and Personal Project" 2pm Parent Lounge

**December 10:** Winter Carnival (alternate date)

**December 10:** Early Dismissal 12:45pm

**December 11:** Family Fun Run

## Perfectly Primary

### UOI (What is a Unit Of Inquiry)

The term UOI (Unit Of inquiry) appears regularly in a PYP school. In the report cards, parent-teacher conferences, and you even receive a UOI newsletter when we start a new unit. But what is a UOI?

In PYP, the learning is categorised into six distinct themes, each with its own specific description:

**Who we are:** is an inquiry into the nature of self and what it means to be human.

**Where we are in place and time:** An inquiry into place and time (looking into things such as local and global perspectives, personal histories, discoveries)

**How we express ourselves:** an inquiry into how we express and discover ideas, feelings, and creativity.

**How the world works:** an inquiry into the natural world and its laws.

**How we organise ourselves:** An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities.

**Sharing the planet:** an inquiry into sharing the planet with other people and living things while sharing finite resources.

Every year group has a unit for each of those six themes. These units are called units of inquiry. These units are *transdisciplinary* units, which means that multiple subject disciplines work together to help the students understand the unit's central idea. The central idea is a one-sentence generalisation. This generalisation is universal in all contexts regardless of time, place, or culture. By all the subjects working together, it allows for greater understanding and deeper learning which is one of the great features of PYP. In a future article, we will share how lines of inquiry help frame an inquiry unit.

Kind Regards,

**Michael Lattimore**

**Head of EY and Primary**

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## Secondary Segment

### Individuals & Societies: Year 10-11 Empires unit

This year, as part of their journey towards their E-Assessments, the Year 10s & 11s have been exploring such empires as Alexander the Great's Macedonian conquests, the Roman Empire, Mongol Empire, Ottomans and several Chinese dynasties (Tang, Song!). We have looked at the different locations in the world, climate, military and inventions that led to the empires success and then fall. Part of this was a well-deserved break from study with a crafts session where Year 11 made Roman shields and Year 10 made Greek shields. The students will be taught how to march in formation to help them understand the military innovations that each of their empires had in terms of fighting styles. This was in conjunction with the acquiring of bamboo lengths cut to the size of ancient weapons – including the 6 meter long Macedonian sarissa spear!

Military history is part of my passion for history from my Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies from University of Auckland, New Zealand. The study of tactics, military styles and weaponry is always fascinating and led to my involvement in several re-enactment societies in the UK.

Warm Regards,

**Chris Butcher**

**MYP Individuals & Societies Teacher**











**Join us for the Family  
Fun Run 2021.**



ZHUHAI  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# FAMILY - FUN RUN -

ZIS Families & Friends  
BBQ & FUN!



SAT DEC 11 @ ZIS  
9:00 Register/Warm Up  
10:00 START  
BBQ LUNCH & GAMES to 2pm



Scan to Register >



Scan the QR Code to  
pre-register.

## 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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