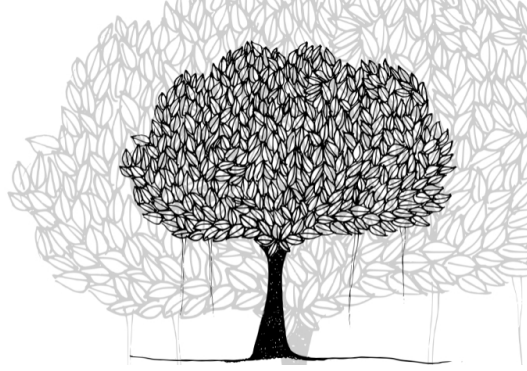


# THE BANYAN



Issue 117

October 15, 2021



Zhu Hai International School weekly newsletter



## From the First Floor

Dear ZIS Community,

Thank you for your ready support this week while the city was under the yellow typhoon alert. It is rare that campus needs to close during the school day itself, and your response was much appreciated throughout the process of organizing safe bus transport and student collection. Thank you to our amazing ZIS Office Team who managed the communication and organization of the response with such professionalism.

### More on Our Amazing Office Team

On the note of the work done by our Office Team, I want to take a moment to commend their efforts in handling the demands that COVID-19 have placed on their shoulders. Lilian Zhang and Gina Li lead the team through the significant additional burden of responding to the expectations of the local and regional authorities, often with very short notice. All of the data and document collection together with the monitoring and communication required has been very time consuming, adding to their key roles in the daily operations and health of the school. Thank you to all of you for your continued support of their efforts.

### School Policy

The health and safety of our students is always our top priority. School policies must reflect this and these policies are routinely reviewed to ensure their relevance and to keep them at the forefront of practice and training. This week we completed the annual review of the Child Protection Policy, the latest version is now available online for your consideration.

<http://zischina.com/zis-policies-procedures/>

We are currently reviewing our Safeguarding Policy, the Academic Integrity Policy (formerly known as Academic Honesty Policy), the Data Protection Policy, as well as our Inclusion Policy (formerly known as Special Educational Needs Policy).

Please be reminded, should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Dr. Lana (alannas@zischina.com) or any member of the Senior Leadership Team.

### Community Surveys

Thank you to the many families who participated in the CIS Community Survey. With over 50 parent respondents, the survey gives a strong sampling of our community and your individual and collective feedback are much appreciated. The senior leadership team has reviewed your responses along with the surveys completed by the students, the teaching team, and the non-teaching team. Altogether over 230 responses communicate the pulse of the school and give purpose and direction to school improvement efforts. We will conduct this survey annually to build a meaningful measure of our progress and stakeholder perspectives.

A survey is not the only way to connect with campus. If the survey stimulated some ideas or concerns, or if you have any questions about our programmes and operations, please feel welcome to contact us to begin the communication or to arrange an appointment.

### Week Without Walls: Keystone Adventures

Week Without Walls is just around the corner (November 22-25)! Week Without Walls (WWW) offers our classes the opportunity to learn through adventure. This year we renew our partnership with Keystone Adventures to deliver top-notch experiential education in the great outdoors. We are finalizing the details of 3 trips, keeping all within Guangdong, for three groupings of classes: Trip 1 = Years 5 & 6; Trip 2 = Years 7 & 8; Trip 3 = Years 9 & 10.

Full details will be shared with students and families soon, including: destination, transport, accommodations, itinerary, etc.

Learn more about Keystone Adventures:

Keystone Introduction - <https://program.keystone-adventures.com/home>

COVID 19 Safety Policy - <https://program.keystone-adventures.com/covid-policy>

Safeguarding Policy - <https://program.keystone-adventures.com/child-protection>

FAQ (tech on trips, insurance, etc.) - <https://program.keystone-adventures.com/faq>

Finally, good luck to our Year 3-10 students who begin their MAP Growth testing next week!

Warm Regards,

**Andrew VanderMeulen**

**Head of School**

## Upcoming Events

**October 16:** Weekend Warrior Songwriter Camp begins!

**October 18-22:** MAP Growth Testing

**October 29:** Hallowe'en at ZIS

**November 4:** Parent Teacher Conferences (no classes)

**November 12:** Teacher Professional Development Day (no classes)

**November 22-26:** Week Without Walls

## Perfectly Primary

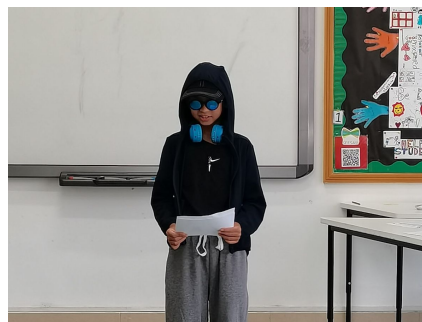
## SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS: More than Exams

When people hear the word "Assessment", the first image that comes to mind is a large hall with stressed students working quietly on an exam. While exams do serve a purpose (occasionally), there are many other ways to assess students' understanding while making connections to real life.

This week brings the end of the first Unit of Inquiry. This week is an opportunity for students to show their understanding of their unit's Central Ideas. However, instead of doing an exam, students will show their learning in authentic situations. For example, our Year 3 students were learning about well-being. Our Year 3s will plan activities related to the different well-being areas they have studied. The teacher can assess the student's understanding by assessing the quality and effectiveness of their activity and how it relates to the well-being area. Our Year 6's unit was about how our appearance and behaviour reflects our personality, and people will have interpretations of this. For their assessment, they will perform a fashion show where they will show their personalities through their clothes and speak about the behaviours and associations that come from the outfit.

As you can see from these two examples, these assessments allow students to show their understanding in a way that has real-life connections, which further motivates the students and gives them more opportunities to explain their thoughts. And, most important, it is fun! (More fun than an exam anyways).

Kind Regards,  
**Michael Lattimore**  
Head of Primary



## Secondary Segment

Dear parents and students,

My name is Mike Piotrowski and I am proud to assist students and teachers in the role of Middle Years Program Coordinator. I hope that my vast experience at ZIS as well as other IB schools will help our community to keep flourishing.

When I first came to ZIS in 2014 I saw not only the beauty of our campus but a great potential to build a community of life-long learners. As MYP and DP English Language and Literature teacher, I always wanted to maximize our students' capabilities and allow them a smooth transition into the adult life.

I wish to extend that mission to my activities as MYP Coordinator. My first projects revolve around strengthening our students' leadership skills by having our students engaged in organizing events. With the help of our dedicated staff, I believe we can see our students grow not only academically but also as active members of our learning community.

Best Regards,

**Mike Piotrowski**

**Middle Years Programme Coordinator**

A large graphic for a track and field event. The background is a photograph of a red running track with white lane markings, surrounded by green grass and trees. Overlaid on the image are several elements: a white icon of two people sitting on a bench on the left; a white curved arrow pointing from the icon towards the center; the text 'from COUCH to 2k' in a mix of white cursive and bold yellow sans-serif fonts; a QR code in the bottom right corner; and the text 'MONDAYS after school. See you on the track!' in white sans-serif font at the bottom left.

from  
**COUCH**  
to  
**2k**

MONDAYS after school.  
See you on the track!

# WEEKEND WARRIOR

Facilitated by Mr. John Emery Miller



## Songwriter Camp

6 Saturdays  
October 16 -  
November 20  
from 10:00-11:20  
ZIS Music Room

**Reserve now**  
Limited spaces  
available!

All MYP  
students  
welcome!



## 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)

Friend on Facebook

Follow on Instagram



Scan the first QR code to join our Saturday Sports WeChat group.

Scan the second QR code to join our Parent/Teacher group, FRIENDS Of ZIS.

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