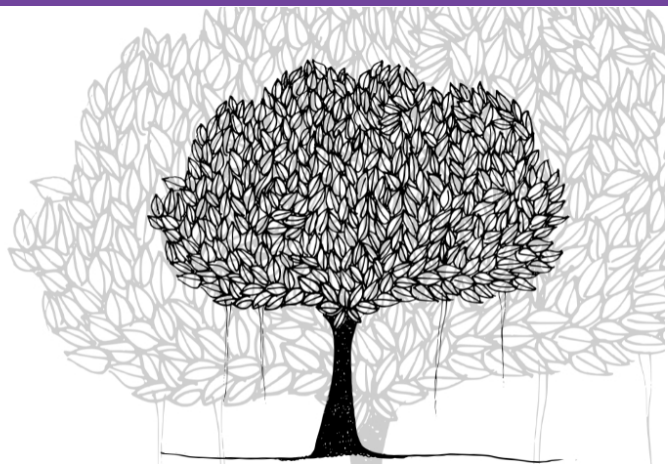


THE BANYAN



Issue 153

September 23, 2022



Zhuhai International School weekly newsletter



From the First Floor

Dear ZIS Community,

The **Terry Fox Run** was a great success! Thank you for your support and encouragement - it was lovely to welcome so many parents to join this special event. Providing the students with this experience has meant addressing the important topics of disease and cancer, the survivors, remembering those who have lost their lives, and those who continue to battle. It's also triggered wonderful discussion on who our modern-day heroes are, and the character traits modeled for us by Terry. Thank you to the event organizers for leading the initiative and to all who took part in the planning and preparation. Hundreds of schools across the globe ran with us today, inspired by Terry's wonderful example set over 40 years ago. We challenged ZIS to run 1000km together - today we ran well over 1,500km! Stay tuned next week to hear if we met our donation goal!

Our first **Friends of ZIS Meeting** of the year is scheduled for 10am on Wednesday, September 28 in the Parent Lounge. If you are new to our school, this group is like what other schools might call a Parent-Teacher Association. Much of our time is dedicated to organizing events and supporting school

programming, and we always reserve time for discussion, questions, and enjoying a cup of coffee together.

In the week following the National Holiday break, we have our first round of **MAP Growth** testing for our students in Years 3-10. For families new to MAP testing (and to remind everyone else!) more information will be shared on this helpful diagnostic assessment series. If you would like a sneak peek, view these documents in [English](#) and [Chinese](#).

On October 13-14 welcome the **photographers** from Pret-a-Portrait who will capture our portraits and our class photos for your orders and for our yearbook. A photo schedule will be shared before their arrival.

The **ZIS Jaguars Team Sports** squads are traveling to their second tournament of the month. After an excellent performance on the volleyball courts last weekend they head off to the football fields for a Pearl River Conference Middle School tournament. GO JAGUARS!

Warm Regards,

Andrew VanderMeulen

Head of School











Upcoming Events

September 24: Saturday Sports begin

October 10-14: MAP Growth Testing

October 13-14: School Photo Days

October 17-21: CIS Accreditation Virtual Visit

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

Perfectly Primary

INTRODUCING ROBERT SUTHERLAND

I am Robert Sutherland, and I am very excited to be part of the ZIS team, teaching Year 6! I have 12 years PYP (IB) experience as a teacher and administrator. I have been teaching the PYP in Sweden, Norway, Germany, Malaysia, and China. I am a Canadian and British citizen and I have an M.A Education (Child Studies), B.A. Leisure/Recreation, and B.A. English. I have an additional 7 years teaching experience in Montreal, St. Lucia West Indies, and in Abidjan West Africa.

There are many reasons why I have chosen to be an International Educator using the PYP. The main reason is the international nature of the programme, the focus on the needs of the students, and the emphasis on academic learning through different contexts.

I enjoy all outdoor activities, sports, travel, and learning about different cultures. Recently, I have been exploring different parts of the China, learning about the culture, enjoying different types of food, and trying to learn how to speak Mandarin!

Kind Regards,

Robert Sutherland

Year 6B

Secondary Segment

VOLUNTEERING IN HAINAN

If the beauty of spring is in its thriving nature, then the beauty of summer must be in its wondrous weather. As the last month of school finished up, I happily welcomed the start of my summer holidays.

On one of the hot summer days, a couple of schoolmates and I started a journey towards Qionghai in Hainan to participate in an education support program for one of the villages over there. In the beginning, none of us knew what “education support program” would entail, and we greatly underestimated the amount of work we needed to do and how busy the trip would be.

Before the trip, I researched all the relevant information I could find about the program, and I also participated in the pre-program instruction courses run by the organizers so as to better grasp what I would be doing on the trip. The 5-day program was to happen during the days of boiling mid-July, and soon enough me and my fellow volunteer teachers started our journey for Hainan.

My past impressions of the beautiful Hainan Islands revolved primarily around beaches, the sea, and coconuts. However, upon arriving at Qionghai, I realized that this time I would be facing the other half of Hainan – poorly developed economies, shortages in educational infrastructure, low civilian living standards, and more. As I stepped onto my destination, I realized that this “education support program” would not be as simple as teaching children the ABC’s.

Yellowing paper, rusting tables, a damaged blackboard, and Chinese riddled with the accent of Hainan. The children’s clear eyes obviously didn’t fit into this mess, with them energetically running under the sun towards the buzzing cicadas, arms spread and feet bare as they frolicked on the red track. Dandelions next to the track drifted to and from in the light wind, and countless other flowers joined this breathless dance of life. Even now, this vivid scene is engraved in my mind, as if the carefree laughter of the children were still next to my ear. Such laughter was what kept me going during the trip, despite my cramped fingers from typing, the endless cycle of revision when prepping class materials, my dry tongue and sore throat after every class I gave, and the uncomfortable sweat constantly running down my back. To say the five days of the trip were difficult would be an understatement. Yet, despite the hardships I still felt great joy when teaching the children, ever since the first class when they were shy, to when they confidently raised their hands to answer questions, to the time when we had to say farewell. The common saying is “the children of the poor are the most well-behaved,” and I witnessed this firsthand this summer just how well-behaved the good children of my Year 3 class were. They never messed around in class, cooperated well with the teachers, brought cakes baked by their parents from home to share with the teachers, and carefully selected what they thought was the best parting gift for each teacher when it was time to say farewell. They were well-behaved, generous, and wouldn’t even accept our simple parting gift of rulers.

The five days quickly flew by, and in this time, as a volunteer teacher I honed my skills in self-studying, team cooperation, problem-solving, and information technology usage. Something else worth mentioning is that in another task of the program called “village investigation,” I constantly investigated, interviewed, quantitatively analyzed, and summarized to create a report regarding my investigation about how and what the local community thought about our education support program. Despite the workload compressing sleep time to only about 5-6 hours a day, the final results were worth it. Out of all the volunteer teachers that went, I achieved first place in the task, and my investigative learning skills have reached another level altogether. Something that makes me even prouder is that while sharpening my own skills, I was able to bring a lot of foreign knowledge and information to the children, for I tried to not only teach them knowledge standard to schools, but also, I tried to open their eyes to the vast world before them, allowing them to set their own dreams

and goals that would push them and motivate them to become better every day. I believe this is the point of the entire education support program.

Jada

Year 10

WHAT'S COOKING?



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

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