

# THE BANYAN



Issue 58

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Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

## FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

I continue to be so impressed by our students as they pursue their studies from home. In these challenging weeks, participation levels are excellent, the quality of work produced remains high, and their attitudes stay positive. This all takes incredible creativity and mental fortitude!

Earlier this week the President of our Student Government in Secondary, Elena of Year 12, shared her advice with all of us studying at home during the coronavirus outbreak. She suggests:

*Keep focused! I know it isn't an ideal situation, but be aware that your teachers are there to help you, and they won't be annoyed if you ask them a ton of questions.*

Good advice Elena - do continue to communicate with teachers and please feel welcome to use our online learning survey to keep the link between home and school active:  
<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/87DWDuat>

A number of you have already taken the opportunity to share your feedback with us through the survey - thank you for using this avenue. Every one of your words of encouragement are welcome as too are your comments on how the online learning can be refined moving forward.

Our teaching teams are reflecting on your feedback and evolving in their provision of learning experiences for the students. Many of you have made a note of the lengthy times students are spending on their computers, especially in Primary, and so the PYP team are introducing the trial of a screen free day each week. Please read the full details in Dr.

Lana's article below. In Secondary the team has introduced a daily class conference using Office Teams to help connect students and teachers. Overall this has been a well received upgrade to the home learning experience.

We are committed to working together to ensure the best possible learning takes place in these weeks off campus. We also remain in contact with the Education Bureau to ensure campus is prepared and with the International Baccalaureate to best support all of our students, especially those who are in an examination year.

As information becomes available we will share with the community as soon as possible. To our families who are overseas please continue to monitor travel advisories and we look forward to welcoming you back to Zhuhai.

Warm regards,

**Andrew VanderMeulen**  
Head of School



Perfectly Primary



Dear primary parents,

尊敬的小学部家长们，

As the situation continues to develop regarding the campus closure, the leadership team has been looking at ways we can continue to support students during this difficult time. We have had a lot of discussions with parents and also feedback in the form of the parental survey that was sent out. Initially, plans were made to cover what we thought would be a short closure. Now, with the extension of the closure, it has been necessary for us to look at tools and strategies that can be used to help deliver an online programme of this nature.

由于疫情的影响，校园目前还仍在关闭中，学校管理层一直在研究各种办法，让我们能够在这个困难的时期继续为学生提供支持。我们跟家长们进行了很多讨论，同时也有家长通过调查问卷向我们提供了反馈。最初，我们觉得不返校只是短期的，因此所做的计划是应对这种情况。现在，随着不返校时间的延续，我们要去寻找更多可用的工具和策略，来帮助实行此种情况下的在线课程学习，就变得非常有必要。

One of the concerns we've heard from parents is that their children are spending an awful lot of time looking at a computer screen and working digitally. While this is the nature of digital learning, we share those concerns. In Primary, we would like to trial the idea of a 'screen-free day' once a week. **This should not be viewed as a work-free day.** Each Wednesday, teachers will prepare reading, writing and mathematical tasks which can be completed without access to a screen. These tasks will be shared ahead of time and will focus on independent work for the students. We cannot guarantee that students will not ask for help with these tasks, but the design of them will aim to ensure that teaching and close monitoring is not necessary from the parents. It may help to discuss with your own children, the need to work alone sometimes and approach these tasks as challenges which they can solve with perseverance and creativity. This Wednesday, March

11, will be a trial screen-free day. If it is a success, we will continue to implement this each Wednesday until our return to campus.

我们从家长们那里听到的一个担忧，就是他们的孩子们都在长时间盯着电脑屏幕，做电子作业。虽然这是电子化学习的特质，我们也同样有这些担忧。因此在小学部，我们想要试行一个每周一次“无屏幕日”的做法。但这不应该被看成一个无作业日。每周三，老师们将准备好不需要使用电子屏幕就能完成的阅读、写作和数学作业。这些作业将会提前布置，并且重点是要让学生们独立完成。我们不能保证学生们不为完成这些作业请求帮助，但是设计这些作业的目的，就是让家长不必去教孩子和密切地监督孩子（去完成作业）。有时他们需要独立去作业，把这些作业当成挑战，用毅力和创意去解决问题。如果您跟自己的孩子先就这些进行讨论，可能对他们会有帮助。本周三，3月11日，将会是一个无屏幕日的试行日。如果试行成功，我们将会每周三都实行，直到我们返回校园。

We hope that this situation is over quite soon and we can return to normal, but while school is not open, we will continue to evaluate the programme we are providing and the feedback from students, parents and teachers.

Thank you,

我们希望在线上课的情况很快就能结束，恢复正常的上学，但即使现在校园还没开放，我们也会继续评估正在提供的课程，以及学生们、家长们和老师们的反馈。

感谢您！

Warmly,

**Dr. Lana Staton**

**Head of Primary**

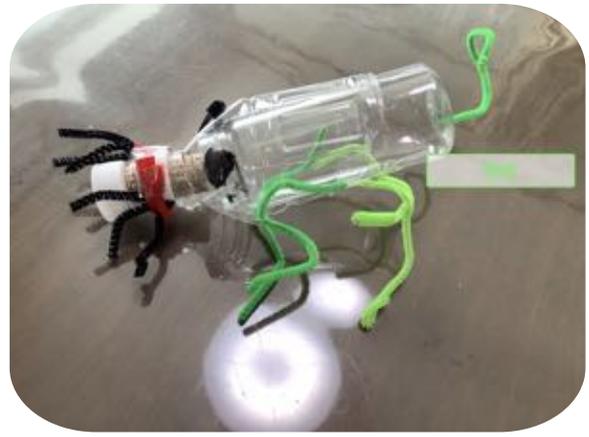
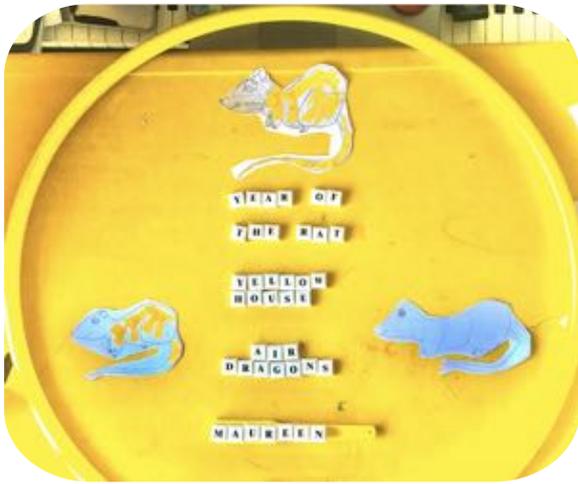
Dear Parents,

It was a great week for ZIS primary's first Digital House Challenge. Students were given a week to create a work of art that linked their house with the theme of 'Year of the Rat' I was very happy to see the creativity that was used in the creation of the various art pieces. We had paintings, drawing, sculpture, digitally generated artwork and a piece made from food! Have a look at the samples below.

It was a wonderful event and I'm glad we had so much participation. In all we had 92 submissions!

Have a great weekend everyone,

Mr. Dan



Secondary Segment



Middle Years Programme

Diploma Programme

Dear students and parents,

In Secondary we are stepping up our game in online learning. We continue introducing new platforms and ways of working to our students. We are covering new curriculum content and will be in a very good place for the opening of the campus later on this semester. We have plans in place for different opening dates. These plans look very different depending on when we return. Rest assured though that all plans are within IB allowances, so no student will be disadvantaged.

However, while we know working from home presents many challenges, we urge students to persist and stay strong. This period of working from home is the time to be up to date, or get up to date. Once we return to school, classes will continue their pace. The logistics for the remainder of the semester's activities will likely be tightly organised.

Limitations exist to online learning; communication is key here. We are maintaining our high expectations for learning as well as for safety, and we are preparing for the May 2020 IB exams just like we do every year. The IB is allowing our final coursework components to be conducted online. We will work together to ensure that students are ready for these adjustments. Instructions went out to teachers earlier this week and these will be relayed to Year 13 and 11 students shortly.

Have a great week.



## **Supporting you Language Learner at Home**

Working in a foreign language is tough. Helping your child learn a concept in one is even harder. Let's look at 4 strategies that can support your young learner.

1. Focus on learning, not perfection.
2. Trust your child; they know the class routines, the teacher and have prior knowledge. Don't forget to ask for help!
3. Find the words you know first and then use a tool (like a translator) to fill in the gaps
4. Do what you can. You will reinforce the knowledge you have and build from there.

**Ms. Mirjam Berghuis**  
**Head of Learning Services**

Focus on the learning,  
not on perfection or  
quantity.



Trust your child; they  
know a lot about  
school.

Ask for  
help  
when  
you  
need it.



Do what you can. Use  
words you know. Stop  
when you are tired.



Decode the words you  
and your child know  
first. Use a translator  
for the harder parts.



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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