

THE BANYAN



Issue 20

March 8, 2019



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community

If you were able to join us this week for the presentation by Dr. Jeremy Brown on "Rethinking Education" you likely found his message to be a familiar one. He spoke of the pitfalls and limitations of traditional education systems and the need for a more enlightened approach to teaching and learning. He emphasized the importance of collaboration, communication, creative and critical thinking, as well as a balanced, reflective, open-minded approach to every day life. These are easily recognized by those of us in an IB setting.

Though Dr. Brown didn't state this outright, I think the key message he delivered to us is that a necessary outcome of education is learning that is authentic and genuine. When the knowledge and the skills we acquire at school fuel further curiosity we know the student's intellect is truly engaged. When attitudes and approaches toward learning are unquenchable, it is then that we know that a school's goals have been attained and its mission realized. We set lofty expectations for our programmes: our mission challenges us to empower and equip students to be "compassionate lifelong learners who will contribute positively to the future of our world." Compassion stands out from this part of our mission statement, though it is sometimes easy to overlook. Compassion means to be empathetic, to demonstrate kindness, to practice and promote tolerance and benevolence. It is an action that can be witnessed as much as it is a state of mind. And it only results from authentic caring and genuine engagement. Imagine the possibilities when our compassion and our plans to change the world intertwine!

Dr. Brown reminded us that scores in our classes are only one indication of who we are as learners. Scores are important for sure, however we would be unwise to sacrifice our passions, our curiosity, and our compassion in their pursuit.

Warm regards,
Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visiting Author: Gail Clarke

March 14-15

BOB: Chinese

March 19

Friends of ZIS Meeting

March 22



Year 7 explore Food Webs in their Science class. Ask them what happened to the web when one *biotic factor* was eliminated.



Perfectly Primary



Hello ZIS Community! I'm happy to report that our PYP and Early Years students have had a very fun and exciting Book Week. On Monday and Tuesday the students had the chance to purchase some great new books at the Book Fair. It was great to see how excited the students were to pick up some new reading material. The Book Fair was also a big success, as a portion of the money spent by parents and students will be used to buy more new books for the school's library.

On Wednesday, 18 students from Year 4-6 went to Dongguan International School to compete in the South China Battle of the Books. All of our 3 teams did an amazing job competing against students from schools across the region. We are very proud to say that one of our teams finished in 2nd place in the entire competition, only one point back of the championship team. Congratulations to all our students, and our teachers Mr. Alan, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Tom, Ms. Christy and Ms. Swan who worked hard to make this such a successful effort!

Our Book Week ended on a high note as well, as it was Book Character Day! Students from Reception to Year 6 came dressed as their favourite Book Character. Our students came together in the foyer to show off their outfits and prizes were awarded to each class for the most creative, most original and most committed book character. It was a fun morning for all!

At ZIS we like to think that every week is a 'book week', but it certainly was fun to celebrate this past week. Thank you to all the parents who help us build their child's love for reading. There is no better way support your child at home than to spend time reading and talking about books with your son or daughter.

Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

Best regards,

Jordan Rose

Head of Primary & Early Years





Dear Parents and Students,

People often ask me if I like my job and I always answer the same way. No.....I LOVE my job. Even on the worst days when politics or paperwork threaten to drown me, there is some student who makes me smile, makes me laugh out loud, makes me proud of their bravery and just so happy to be able to share in their journey for even a short time.

I listen to my students and watch them as they navigate all kinds of stress that adolescence, friends, teachers, school work and life brings. I see them stumble and sometimes fall, I see them shout from the rooftops when they succeed and watch them bravely bear up when someone hurts them. Even those times when they lash out in frustration when they feel they are not being heard...these are the magic times that all go together to build the adult they will become.

This week I have noticed some wonderful things happen in all kinds of subjects. Beautiful artwork from journals and e-portfolios, crafty designs from Design class, posters and presentations from Literature. It is wonderful to see little pieces of student's personality embedded in their work.

I wanted to leave you with one piece that stuck with me this week. Year 7/8 presented their poems in class and I was fortunate to see Micha deliver both of his with great animation, presence and gusto (he even had movement!). Then there was Andy Kim. As someone who loves to write fiction and poetry myself, this one just made me pause and marvel.

I hope you like it too.

Warmest Regards

Vanessa Leah

Head of Secondary

So you want to be a writer?

Andy Kim

if

it doesn't come bursting out of you

in spite of everything,

don't do it.

unless it comes unmasked out of your
heart and your mind and your mouth

and your gut,

don't do it.

if you have to sit for hours
staring at your computer screen

or hunched over your

typewriter

searching for words,

don't do it.

if you're doing it for money or
fame,
don't do it.

if you're doing it because you want
women in your bed,
don't do it.

if you have to sit there and
rewrite it again and again,
don't do it.

if it's hard work just thinking about doing it,
don't do it.

if you're trying to write like somebody
else,
forget about it.

if you have to wait for it to roar out of
you,
then wait patiently.

if it never does roar out of you,
do something else.

if you first have to read it to your wife
or your girlfriend or your boyfriend
or your parents or to anybody at all,
you're not ready.

don't be like so many writers,
don't be like so many thousands of
people who call themselves writers,
don't be dull and boring and
pretentious, don't be consumed with self-love.

the libraries of the world have
yawned themselves to sleep
over your kind.
don't add to that.
don't do it.

unless it comes out of
your soul like a rocket,
unless being still would
drive you to madness or
suicide or murder,
don't do it.

unless the sun inside you is
burning your gut,
don't do it.

when it is truly time,
and if you have been chosen,
it will do it by
itself and it will keep on doing it
until you die or it dies in you.

there is no other way.

and there never was.



LS Space



READING ROCKETS

So often we have parents ask us how they can help their children at home to develop their English. READ. This is by far one of the best ways to improve language skills. Reading (in any language) builds vocabulary, models good sentence structure, teaches cause and effect, develops an understanding for different perspectives, puts feelings into words, builds curiosity, stimulates imagination and encourages reflection.

This week, the Learning Services team explored the website Readingrockets.org to find resources to share with our community. In the Parent section, there are some excellent tips to support your young readers.

For children in Early Years:

- Point out print everywhere - the world is full of things to read
- Know when to stop reading - we want it to be enjoyable, not a burden

For students in Years 1-2:

- Don't leave home without it - bring a book anytime your child has to wait
- Dig deeper into the story - ask questions about what you've just read

For those in Years 3-4:

- Variety is important - read different genres (fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers, maps)
- Spend some time in word play - use homonyms (words that sound the same but have different meanings) to make jokes or riddles together

Want some interactive tools? Check out this link to find apps that support literacy.
<http://www.readingrockets.org/literacyapps>

Warm Regards

Mirjam Berghuis
Head of Learning Services

“Reading Tips for Parents (in Multiple Languages).” *Reading Rockets*, WETA, 4 Oct. 2018,
www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-multiple-languages.

Author & Illustrator Gail Clarke



Zhuhai International School Visit

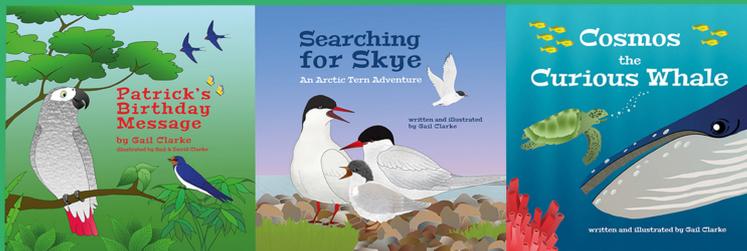
Thursday March 14th & Friday March 15th

We are pleased to welcome children's author, illustrator and storyteller Gail Clarke who will be visiting our school and sharing her books, stories and experiences with all our students.

Gail has more than 35 years experience as a primary school teacher In U.K. and Hong Kong. Her book presentations are lively, fun and engaging and have been enjoyed by more than thirty-five thousand children in many countries around the world.

Her animal adventure stories, based on the themes of migration, animal journeys and looking after our planet are told with the help of her story book friends: Patrick, the excitable African grey parrot puppet, his great-grandfather Gilbert, Cosmos the curious baby humpback whale who wants to explore the oceans in search of polar bears and penguins. and Jed the hammerhead shark.

Children and parents are welcome to buy a signed copy of one of Gail's books at the end of each school day. Order forms are also available from the school library.



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

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