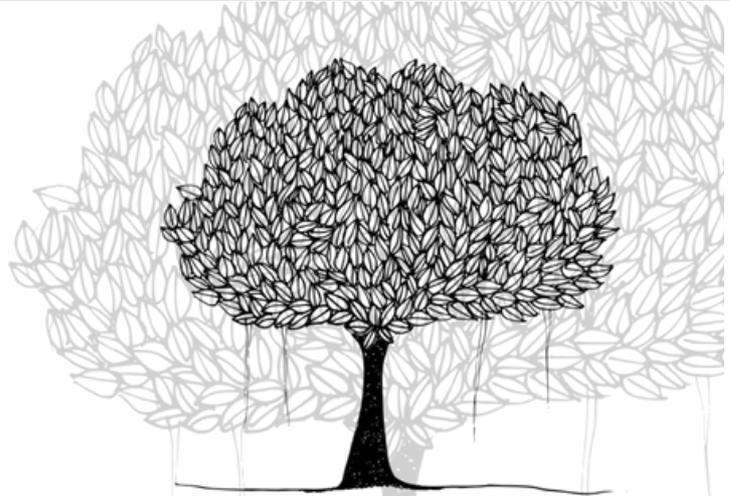


THE BANYAN



Issue 66

May 8, 2020



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

These past two weeks with the Year 10 and Year 13 students on campus has been a delight. They and the teachers are more than ready to receive the students arriving this coming Monday. Welcome back to students in Year 5 and up - we have missed you!

Our first days back in the classroom will involve restoring the class dynamic, sharing again in school friendships, and returning to the spirit and subtleties of daily school life. At the same time teachers will be continuing the conversations held in distance learning, further diagnosing areas for targeted instruction while progressing onward with the final units of the school year.

There has been a great deal of correspondence over these past few days. Instructions and updates regarding bus and private car transport were shared. The re-enrolment survey along with the fee policy was announced mid-week. Reminders to students on how to support the community's effort to keep the campus and city a safe place in the fight against the coronavirus were sent home.

Amidst all of the updates and reminders, a final few words...

Welcome back students - you are the key ingredient in the recipe of school life. We are so fortunate to be sharing this campus learning space with you again.

Warm regards,

Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School

Coming Events:

Monday, May 11

Students in Years 5 and up on campus

Tuesday, May 12

The Transition to the MYP for Year 6 with
Mr. Andrew - 1:30 pm @

Monday, May 18

Students in Years 2-4 return to campus

Friday, June 12

PYP Exhibition

Wednesday, June 17

Secondary Awards and Year 13 Graduation

Thursday, June 18

Primary Awards



Perfectly Primary



Dear school community,

I know you all must be feeling just as excited as I am about our return to campus. It feels similar to the energy of our annual August return. In my house, we're already getting uniforms ironed and ready to wear on Monday. Meanwhile, the teachers have been extremely busy preparing for a safe and meaningful classroom experience upon our return.

Our teachers will have three areas in which they will focus the rest of this term. First, we want to be sure we are meeting the social and emotional needs of every student in our school. We have access to a fantastic counselor who will be on campus two days a week (check last week's Learning Services newsletter for more information on that). Teachers are also working to create organic learning experiences that allow for social development. Our children have been through a lot these past few months, and we are dedicated to taking care of the whole child. Secondly, we want to be sure all students still overseas have access to the same high quality learning experiences their peers are receiving. Teachers

are making lesson plans to continue digital learning on Seesaw for anyone unable to return to campus. Finally, we will be assessing the learning needs of each student as they return in order to make the best use of student class time. Teachers are experts in differentiation, and they will work hard to ensure a smooth academic transition. To take this initiative even further, we've set aside one of our usual Friday afternoon activities for remediation, for any students who may need some extra academic assistance. This will take place each Friday afternoon until the end of the term.

We have missed you as much as you've missed us. We are committed to continuing our mission as we work to finish the year strong.

Warmly,

Dr. Lana Staton

Head of Primary



Secondary Segment



Dear students and parents,

On the eve of campus opening for all students, including Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12, the excitement levels are rising for what this will bring. Above all it means arrangements for a safe environment for everyone at ZIS. This includes eating, break time and PHE arrangements. Learning is being differentiated in this way: students who have gaps in their learning due to 13 weeks of online learning context will be evaluated and supported to consolidate their learning and be in a good place for starting next academic year.

Assessment is the bridge between teaching and learning at ZIS. Student are assessed on IB courses is rich and child-centred. The chart below summarises our approaches to assessment, which includes assessment for learning, assessment as learning and assessment of learning. Exams only focus on assessment for learning but as our students learn to design their own learning paths throughout their time at ZIS they learn to develop a clearer understanding of their own competencies and curiosities in every subject. Reflection becomes key in making students aware of their current position and their next steps on their learning journey.

Have a good end to the week!

Kind regards,

Micheal Coffey

Head of Secondary

The Eight Big Ideas of Classroom Assessment by Damian Cooper

1. **Assessment serves different purposes at different times:** it may be used to find out what students already know and can do; it may be used to help students improve their learning; or it may be used to let students, and their parents, know how much they have learned within a prescribed period of time.
2. **Assessment must be planned and purposeful.** Planning must ensure that assessment is aligned with curriculum, instruction, grading, and reporting.
3. **Assessment must be balanced,** including oral and performance as well as written tasks, and be flexible in order to improve learning for all students.
4. **Assessment and instruction are inseparable** because effective assessment informs learning.
5. **For assessment to be helpful to students, it must inform** them in words, not just numerical scores or letter grades, what they have done well, what they have done poorly, and what they need to do next in order to improve.
6. **Assessment is a collaborative process** that is most effective when it involves self, peer, and teacher assessment.
7. **Performance standards are an essential component of effective assessment.**
8. **Grading and reporting student achievement is a caring, sensitive process that requires teachers' professional judgment.**

Cooper, D. (2007). *Talk About Assessment: Strategies and Tools to Improve Learning*. Toronto: Nelson.



LS Space



The Yearbook Project

It's that time of year again when we put together the pages that reflect our school year. And what a year it's been! When Andrew and I first started laying out the contents of this year's edition, we were saddened by what we had missed as a school community: International Day, ISTA, Secondary Production, Battle of the Books, DP Art Exhibition, Sports Day, MYP Personal Project Exhibition... it felt like we'd been cheated out of something. Then we started going through the photos.

It turns out, we have a lot to be thankful for. Halloween, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Cross Country, MUN, Leo's Charity Run, Sean Karemaker, Kool Koor and so much more. Here are some of the really lovely memories we've been able to build already in 2019-2020. I hope you enjoy looking at as much as I did.

Warm regards,

Mirjam Berghuis
Head of Learning Services



Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.
William James

From there to here,
from here to there,
funny things are everywhere.



Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory.

Dr. Seuss



Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

Albert Einstein



Believe you can and you're halfway there.

Theodore Roosevelt



Collect moments not things

Karen Salmansohn

Spread love everywhere you go.

Mother Teresa



Don't wait. The time will never be just right.

Napoleon Hill



Under the Banyan Tree

June 22-26 & June 29-July 3

Year 2 and Up

What are your plans for the Summer?

Why don't you join us for summer camp?

Led by experienced teachers in an English setting, campers will be immersed in a range of learning opportunities, including:

- Experiential learning: nature exploration
- STEM focused sessions
- Leadership and Teambuilding activities
- Sports and Swimming
- Arts experiences: visual arts and drama

When – two weeks: June 22-26 and June 29-July 3 (9am-3pm)

Who – students in Year 2 and above

Where – ZIS campus on Qi'ao Island

Registration is open – scan the QR Code:



Please write summercamp@zischina.com for more information.

Secondary students are invited to apply to apply to join as Camp Counsellors. Write to the email above to learn more.

Cost - 6500 RMB for two weeks and 3500 RMB for one week.

We are pleased to offer ZIS families a 50% discount on the camp fees, which includes transport on designated bus lines (Huafa, Jida, Zhongshan, and Tangjia – dependant on demand), snacks and lunch, plus all camp related activities.

- ZIS SUMMER CAMP 2020 -



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

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