

THE BANYAN



Issue 4

October 12, 2018



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

As adults, we all set targets in our lives to give direction to our efforts and to fuel our motivation. When we invite our students to participate in goal setting, as happened this week, we are not only encouraging focus and purpose, but we are also involving them in decision making, providing them with choices, and as a result engaging and empowering them as active and invested agents in their learning. It has taken a long time for the institution of education to get to this point, and I am certainly glad that we are here. Now the work begins: how do we keep these goals alive in the minds of the students? how do we keep their excitement for the next steps? how do we help to pick them up should they stumble along the way?

This week we met as a whole staff to investigate our goals for our IB learners. We asked ourselves to consider what we do to develop young people who act with social and academic maturity and integrity, who demonstrate flexibility and a creative approach to problem solving, and who reflect and learn from their actions and decisions. In line with goal setting week, we looked too at how we teach students to set clear and realistic targets and how they learn to prioritize and plan for success. The challenge to inspire the broad development of the student, promoting their intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and creative selves is what draws all of us to an IB education.

We were glad to hear so many of our young people share their aspirations and ambitions this week. May this be another step in their commitment to lifelong learning!

I hope you are able to join us for the Sundowner on Saturday, October 20 from 6-8:30pm. Food and refreshments will be available as well as live music performed by the ZIS Rock Band. More information will be shared soon regarding parking for the event given that our road is still under construction. I look forward to sharing campus with all new and returning families.

Warm regards,
Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School

RUN!

ZHUHAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

CROSS COUNTRY

FUN RACES FOR ALL

**FIRST RUN 9AM
WED, OCT 17, 2018**



NEW SUNDOWNER DATE

We hope to see you on Saturday, October 20 from 18:00 - 20:30. There will music, food and refreshments available.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundowner

Saturday, October 20
6-8:30pm

Week Without Walls Parent Information Night

Tuesday, October 23

Hallowe'en Fun with FoZIS

Wednesday, October
31

ISTA @ Guangzhou November 2-4

Week Without Walls
November 12-16



Hello ZIS Community! It's been a great week back after our Golden Week holiday. It seems that all of our students came back refreshed and ready to get back to school.

This week all of our PYP classes began their new units of inquiry. In Year 1 and 2 the students will be learning all about 'How We Organize Ourselves', by inquiring into why we have rules, and how they help us function well together. In Year 3 and 4 our students will be learning about 'Who We Are' as they inquire into the key elements of healthy living. Finally, in Year 5 and 6 our students will spend time finding out 'Where We Are In Place and Time' while researching the different aspects of culture here in China and countries around the world. Look forward to lots of great discussion at home, and hopefully some interesting student learning action!

A big thank you to all of our Early Years and PYP parents who came to school this Thursday for our Goal Setting Day. It was great to have so many parents, students and teachers get together to talk about working together towards student learning and social goals. Next Wednesday will be our ZIS Cross Country Day. It starts at 9:00 am and all parents are invited to come and watch and cheer on our young runners. We hope to see you there!

Thanks for reading!
Jordan Rose
Head of Primary



Dear Parents and Students,

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the first Parent-Teacher Interviews.

This first interview session has always been primarily for the Year 11, 12 and 13 students to look specifically at goal setting. This early in the year, we need time to conference with parents and students as they are on specifically demanding journeys.

- For Year 11, the MYP certificate looms and students are finding that they need to be better time managers with studies, e-portfolios and Personal Project.
- For Year 12, conversations often centre around the selection of subjects. Have they chosen wisely to round out not only talents but also with university requirements in mind. Have they started the year in a manner they mean to finish? This early warning system is an excellent way to catch students for anything critical affects their final year.
- For Year 13, conversations about Internal Assessments, Extended Essay, study skills and examination strategies are vital at this point in time. This is the final conversation where we can support students with advice before their May exams.

This year, we introduced Year 7 to our meeting time slot so that we could have conversations centred around settling into Year 7 and the challenges that this brings.

I welcome parent feedback, not just at Parent-Interview time - anytime. Please know that we are as invested in their success as you are and we want to ensure that our communication is current and accurate.

For those parents who are not yet looking at Managebac. You will need to use your child's school email login and then share their password. Tracking assessments and homework and results is a team effort and we have asked that you share these login details so that you can work together to understand the information and the process.

We have Whole School Cross Country next week and I invite any parents who can spare the time to come and cheer on the students.

Warmest Regards
Vanessa Leah
Head of Secondary



LS Space



AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES VISIT

Seven US universities will visit ZIS on Friday, October 19 to meet with students in Years 11, 12 and 13. Parents are invited to attend as well to learn about the programs, admissions requirements, and best practices when preparing applications. Join us from 12:45 to 1:45. Schools represented are:

- University of Redlands (California)
- Samford University (Alabama)
- High Point University (North Carolina)
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Nebraska)
- Kent State University (Ohio)
- Utah State University (Utah)
- Seattle University (Washington)

If you have any questions about preparing for studies after ZIS, please contact Mirjam Berghuis at mirjamb@zischina.com for advice on college applications and our use of BridgeU. Learn more about the power of BridgeU to support our graduates here: www.bridgeu.com.

A large graphic for the university visit event. It features a central lightbulb with the text "Friday, October 19 12:45" inside. Surrounding the lightbulb are several overlapping circles in various colors (red, yellow, green, blue, purple). Each circle contains a logo for one of the visiting universities: University of Redlands (a red circle with a white 'R'), Samford University (a yellow circle with a bulldog), Kent State University (a red circle with "KENT STATE"), University of Nebraska-Lincoln (a yellow circle with "UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska Lincoln"), High Point University (a purple circle with "HPU"), Utah State University (a blue circle with "STATE U"), and Seattle University (a green circle with a red shield and "SEATTLE UNIVERSITY").

University visit @ ZIS

Friday, October 19
12:45

Coming to a foyer near you...

University of Redlands, *California*
Samford University, *Alabama*
High Point University, *North Carolina*
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, *Nebraska*
Kent State University, *Ohio*
Utah State University, *Utah*
Seattle University, *Washington*

Mirjam Berghuis
Head of Learning Services

On November 25th our Year 13 student Ethan Fowler will participate in the annual UNICEF Charity Run in Hong Kong. While most charity projects are limited to a one-off money donation, this one enables students to start a running program and raise funds for the most

vulnerable kids in Africa.

If you are willing to join the race or contribute to this worthy charity, feel free to visit the official run website <http://run.unicef.org.hk/> or contact Mr Mike Piotrowski, the project supervisor at mikep@zischina.com



Lunch Menus and past editions of "The Banyan" Newsletter are available at zischina.com

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