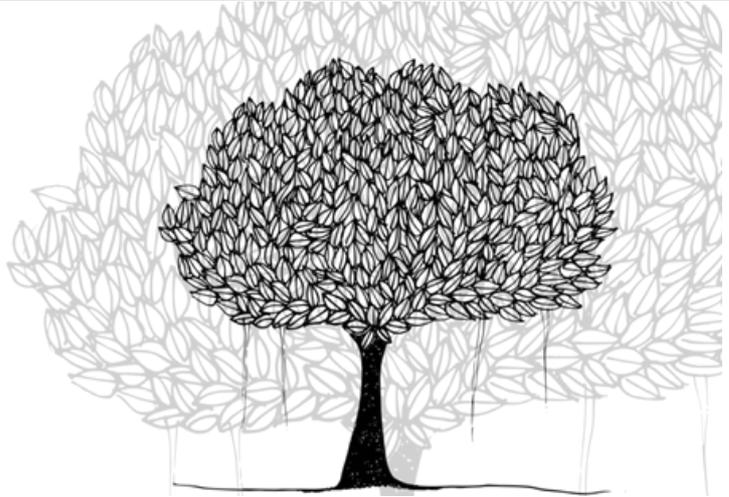


THE BANYAN



Issue 55

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Zhuhai International School: *weekly newsletter*

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

Today we conclude the second week of learning at home and I want to congratulate everyone again for getting it off to such a successful start. Students and parents are putting forward a tremendous effort to engage with the planned learning experiences during these challenging circumstances. Thank you to all of the teachers who have dedicated themselves to continuing to offer relevant and rigorous learning experiences online. As we use the weekend to rest and prepare for the coming two weeks, and the possibility of an even further extension, we are facing continued uncertainty and the anxiety that results. Working together and remaining optimistic in the weeks ahead I am confident our students will achieve their goals and maintain their enthusiasm for learning.

You can expect our continued focus on the learning experiences of our students, as discussed in Dr. Lana's summary of the recent PYP parent survey.

Scroll down for the Chinese version of her article.

请向下滚动，查看她文章的中文版。

Next week Mr. Coffey will share an update on the learning taking place in Secondary.

Share any questions with us as they arise and we will update you with information as it becomes available.

Warm regards,

Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School



Dear school community,

I have been so proud of the way we have all come together as a community during this stressful time to support the digital learning opportunities for our students. Students have impressed me with their in-depth responses using multiple modalities (microphone, video, and written responses). I have also been very impressed with the dedication our teachers have had to their students and to you all during this time. Teaching and learning online can be difficult, but we are all in this together to do the best with what we have.

Thank you to all of the parents who submitted their answers to our digital learning in the PYP survey. The survey was emailed at the beginning of this week to all families. I'd like to share some of the results with you, and let you know that we are listening.

87% of you agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that *“The online learning for PYP students is clear, and we are able to understand expectations.”*

95% of you agreed or strongly agreed that *“The number of online learning tasks for PYP students is adequate.”*

The positive comments reflected the same gratitude I have towards the dedication our teachers are showing during this time.

There were three primary frustrations addressed in the comments:

- The nature of online learnings itself- slow internet speeds, issues with videos loading, and VPNs. We've asked teachers to not use sites that require a VPN to view, but if you find that something is not viewable due to speed or other barriers, please let your child's teacher know. They may not be aware of this unless we let them know. We are all working through this together, and we can be flexible with individual needs.
- The language barrier. As many of our students are non-native English speakers, it certainly is a challenge to complete work at home without the support of the English-speaking teacher guiding the student along the way. Some of you have asked for video instruction to support this. Please understand that this is not possible at this time. As evidenced by our survey results, the internet speeds in our homes (for both teachers and students) is not enough to support constant video uploads and downloads, especially not live video streams. Additionally, many of us are also in different time zones right now as we await word to return to school. We have a goal to continue our IB pedagogy during this time, which means we want children to be fully engaged in hands-on activities that promote independence and critical thinking. In addition to not having the bandwidth to support this, utilizing video lecturing as a teaching method wouldn't promote the inquiry-based learning we strive to offer our

students. Students who are currently in EAL classes can reach out to their EAL teacher to help them as well.

- The amount of work. While some parents have requested more work, many of you spoke of feeling overwhelmed with the amount of work each day. In order to address this, I'm asking teachers to make it clear to you about what the day's requirements are, and what the extension activities might be. If your child is not able to complete everything, we completely understand!

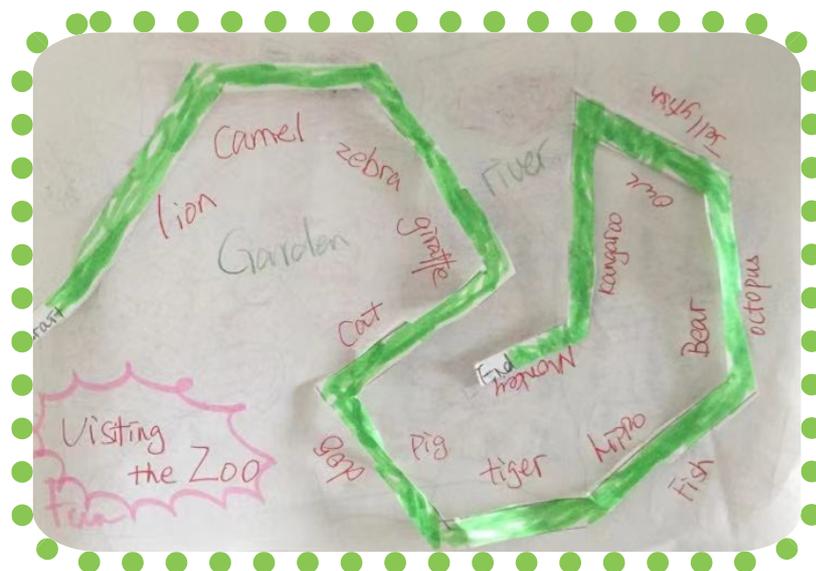
The activities posted in Seesaw not only offer skill reinforcement from prior learning, but also ask students to be creative and to dig deeper. If a student gets stuck on a skill, that is okay! Do what you can do each day, and take brain breaks throughout the day. Many of our teachers are parents too, and we understand the challenges you may be facing with this type of learning. Let's keep moving forward together until we can see each other in person again.

In the meantime, let's celebrate the amazing efforts our students have put forth this week! Below are some highlights from Seesaw recently:

Warm regards

Dr. Lana Staton

Head of Primary



A cutting maze done by a student in our Reception class

一位学前班学生做的剪纸迷宫

A still shot from a video of a year 3 student showing his learning from his teacher's math video lesson:

一位3年级学生的一段视频截屏，展示他在老师的数学视频课上的学习。



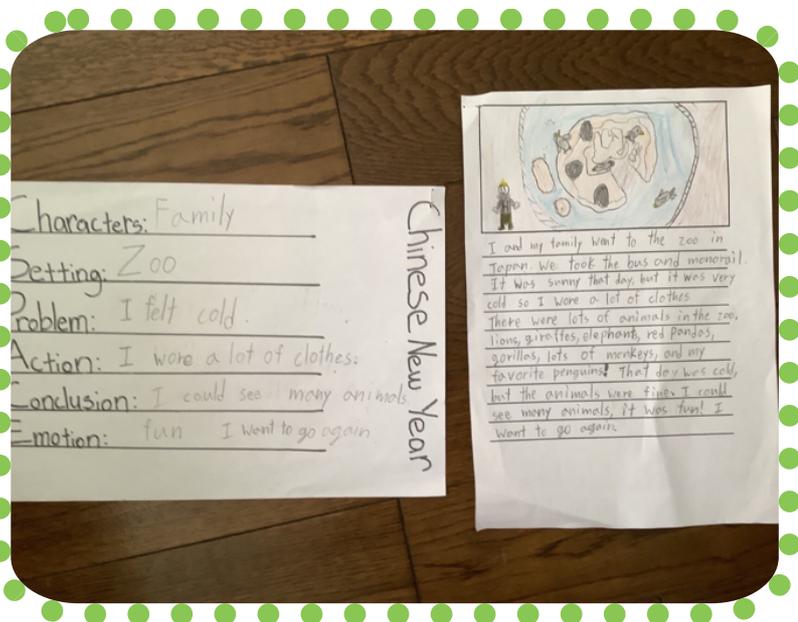


A year 2 student's art activity response:

一位2年级学生的艺术活动作业

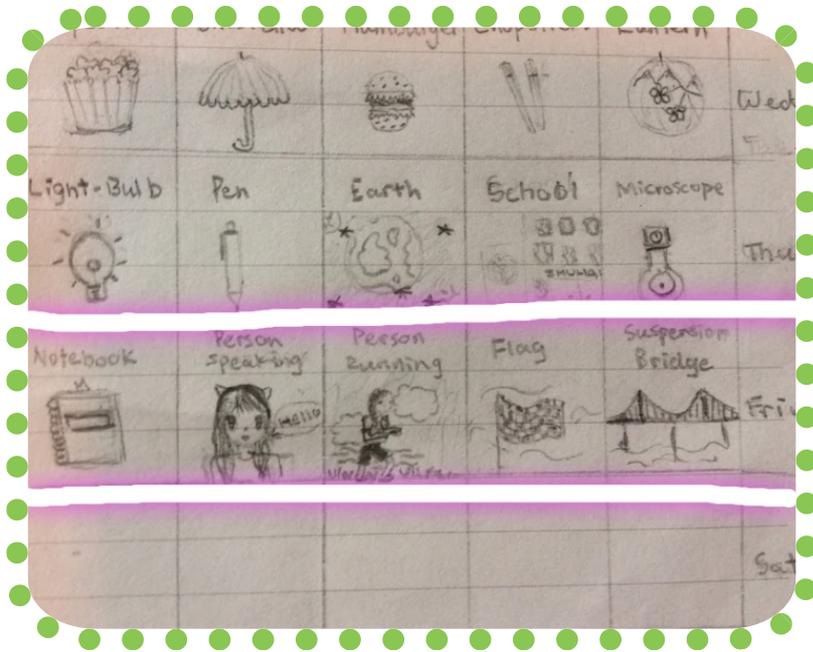
An EAL student's fantastic writing sample:

一位EAL学生做的非常棒的写作作业



A year 5 student's Doodle Notetaking:

一位五年级学生的手绘笔记



尊敬的全体家长们，

在这段大家都颇感压力的时期，我们整个学校社区携手一起，为学生们的网络学习提供了支持，我对此感到非常自豪。学生们对于多种学习方式（麦克风、视频和书面回复）的使用有深入的回应也让我很欣赏。同时，我也对老师们在这段时间里为所有学生和家​​长做出的奉献感到非常钦佩。在线的教和学都有可能遇到困难，但是我们都在一起携手，尽我们最大所能来克服各种困难。

感谢对我们关于网络学习的PYP小学部调查问卷进行了答复的所有家长。这个问卷是在本周初通过邮件发给了所有家庭。我在此想要与你分享一下调查的一些结果，并且也想让您知道，我们正在倾听您的反馈。

87%的家长同意或强烈同意这个说法“为PYP小学部学生开设的在线学习课程是清晰的，我们能够理解学业的各项要求”

95%家长同意或者强烈同意：“给PYP小学部学生的在线学习任务的数量是足够的”

这些正面的回应都反映了对老师们在这段时间的奉献的感谢，我也同样感谢老师们。

在这些回复当中也说到三个主要的问题：

- 在线学习本身---如网速低，视频下载和VPNs使用有问题。我们已经要求老师们不要使用要有VPN才能看的网站，但如果您发现资料由于网速或者其他阻碍无法看到，请告诉您孩子的班级老师。他们可能没意识到这点，除非我们告诉了他们才能知道。我们现在都是一起来想办法克服困难，对于个别情况，我们可以弹性对待。
- 语言障碍。因为我们的很多学生都不是母语英语的学生，当在家要完成作业时，没有了讲英语的老师的支持和全程指导，当然就会很有挑战。有些家长要求提供视频指导来提供支持。请理解目前这还没可能做到。我们的调查结果表明，很多家庭的网速（对老师和学生都如此）都不足以支撑连续的视频上传和下载，尤其支持不了直播视频的流量。此外，我们很多人现在都还在不同的时区，因为我们还在等待开学的通知。IB课程的教学，这就意味着我们想要孩子们完全投入到实践活动中，这些活动可以促进独立性和批判性思维。除了没有足够的带宽来支持视频讲课之外，使用视频讲课作为一种教学手段也不会促进探究式的学习，而探究式学习却是我们尽力在为学生们提供的教学内容。EAL（英语加强班）课程的学生们也可以直接联系他们的EAL老师来帮助他们。
- 作业量。虽然有些家长要求有更多的作业，但是也有很多家长说，感觉每天的作业量都忙不过来了。为了说明这点，我正在要求老师们更清晰地跟家长说明，当天的要求是什么，有哪些是属于延伸的活动可以做。如果您的孩子不能完成所有的内容，我们也完全可以理解！

在Seesaw上面发布的活动，不仅仅是提供了对以前学过技能的加强内容，同时也要求学生们更有创造性，学习得更深入。如果一个学生卡在一个技能上了，也没关系的！每天尽可能地做你可以做的，然后一天下来也要让大脑得到休息。我们的很多教师同时也是家长，我们都理解你们在这种类型的学习中可能要面对的各种挑战。让我们一起努力前行，直到我们开学后能够再次面对面地进行交流。

Warm regards

Dr. Lana Staton

Head of Primary



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

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