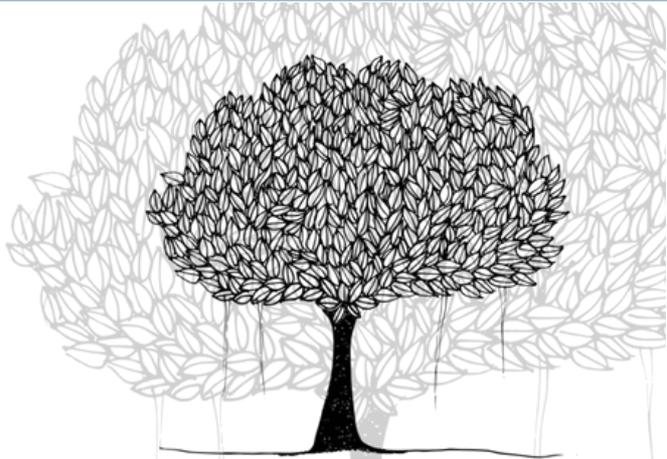


# THE BANYAN



Edition 1

September 14, 2018



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

## FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

This is our first official newsletter of the year and classes are in full swing. This newsletter will be published weekly and is our chance to share, to celebrate, and to keep you informed. You can stay connected with what is happening at school in other ways as well: subscribe to our WeChat account or attend a Friends of ZIS meeting. Take a closer look at the learning of your students by viewing the SeeSaw platform in Primary or by reviewing ManageBac in Secondary. It is important to us that there are many ways for parents to stay in touch with school life.

We were very glad to welcome so many parents to our **Parent Information Night**. I would like this to be the start to continued discussions of our programmes. Feel welcome to reach out to our section Heads by email any time you have questions. The Student-Parent handbook shared that night is available on our [website](#) and printed copies are available in the school office.

A new **Sundowner** date is set. We hope you will be able to join us on **Saturday, October 20** from 6-8:30pm. Let's welcome the new school year and catch up on the stories of the summer.

Our first session of **MAP Growth** testing is being scheduled for the end of October and early November. The complete schedule will be shared soon.

In two weeks we welcome Dr. Eric Jabal of the **Council of International Schools (CIS)**. Over the course of two days, **September 26-27**, 2018, he will be reviewing our membership application and speaking to students, teachers and admin, staff, and parents. You may remember that the IB evaluated our programmes in May 2017, looking closely at our curriculum and our approaches to teaching and learning. CIS does similar work in their evaluation, but also looks beyond the classroom to provide a comprehensive review of all aspects of the school. Parents who are interested in joining the parent session are invited to contact me.

There are additional upcoming events to note:

**Sept 15** - ZIS @ the International Schools Festival hosted by the South China Morning Post.

**Sept 20** - Our Secondary teachers present at the Approaches to Learning Symposium @ Discovery College Hong Kong

**Sept 22** - ZIS hosts Pearl River Conference Middle School Boys Football Tournament

We are expecting **Typhoon Mangkhut** to impact the region this weekend. We will announce any school closure following the guidance of the Zhuhai Meteorological Bureau and contact families

by NewsFlash and/or by text. Read more about our school closure procedures on our website here: <http://zischina.com/zis-policies-procedures/>

Warm regards,  
Andrew VanderMeulen  
Head of School

## NEW SUNDOWNER DATE

Join us on Saturday, October 20 from 18:00 - 20:30 on our beautiful campus.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **International Schools Festival**

*Sept. 15, Hong Kong*

### **PRC Girls Volleyball Tournament**

*Sept. 15, Guangzhou*

### **ATL Symposium**

*Sept. 20, Hong Kong*

### **PRC Boys Football Tournament**

*Sept. 22, ZIS Campus*

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## PERFECTLY PRIMARY

Hello ZIS Community! We are proud to say that things in the PYP and Early Years have gotten off to a great start. All of our classes hit the ground running and are currently in the middle of their first unit of inquiry. We're also proud to have welcomed a number of new students in the PYP and EY this year. I'm happy to say that they have all settled in nicely and have already begun contributing to the school culture here at ZIS.

This week saw our first two field trips of the year. Our Years 3 and 4 classes spent Tuesday morning exploring the Tangia community, as part of their current inquiry into 'How The World Works'. Our Years 1 and 2 classes traveled to Gree Coast Park on Thursday to play together and practice what they've learned about building good friendships. All the students really enjoyed both of these trips. In the PYP we are always looking for ways that our students can connect their learning to the local community and the world.

The week ended with Friday's PYP Assembly. This assembly was run by the Year 6 classroom. The goal of the assembly was for our Year 6 students to introduce themselves to PYP community and talk about what they would like to do to help make ZIS an even better place to go to school. Our students spoke with poise and maturity. Well done Year 6!

Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!  
Jordan Rose  
Head of Primary

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## SECONDARY SEGMENT

Dear Parents and Students,

It is week 4 and our Secondary is already humming with activity and a sense of purpose.

We began 2018-2019 with a more "getting to know you" approach. We introduced all our secondary teachers using their favourite photographs and an anecdote, showing our students that real people do exist behind the curriculum experts they meet in the classroom. We welcomed Ms Amanda Yang (Maths and Physics), Mr Ian Mansfield (Sciences), Ms Lisa Gao (Language Acquisition Mandarin), Mr Owen Henry (I & S and Psychology), Ms Kate Lewis (Science, Language Acquisition and Language & Literature). We also welcomed Mr Noel Marionetti in a much greater capacity in MYP Language Acquisition English.

The students then engaged in different activities designed to build teamwork, collaboration, thinking skills and creativity. They discussed the appropriateness of educational quotes in their ZIS lives, build excellent murals to represent their House groups, competed in problem solving activities and created a House song.

We completed the day with a discussion of the Essential Agreements for Behaviour, Assessments, Bus Travel, Academic Honesty and Technology. Parents were asked to read through at home and co-sign with students.

It was lovely to see so many new faces at the Information Night. Please do remember to ask early and often if you have MYP, DP or Secondary questions. I am available any time as is Ms Hema Rai (MYP Coordinator) and Ms Monica Martin (DP Coordinator).

As it is and always has been, we move quickly from celebrating the successes of our DP graduates to supporting our new Year 13's through their final 9 months. With Extended Essays and Internal Assessments on their mind, they also look forward to a lot of finals....final volleyball season, final MUN (model United Nations), final BOB (Battle of the Books). Already they have begun the arduous task of university applications thanks to Ms Mirjam and Bridge U and our job is to now keep their feet grounded until the examinations so they can fly with confidence to their next big adventure.

Year 12 join the DP cohort with celebrated success in their MYP 5 examinations. Two students scoring in the high 40's with Leo achieving our highest ever result! It was such a pleasure congratulating all of the students on their individual successes.

We welcome our new Student Leadership Team. Leo, Sally, Jude, Brite, Josephine and Veronica have already made their mark this week with the second House competition. They will be pursuing ways to increase student voice and welcome ideas and suggestions.

Big Band and Rock Band are back! New faces are mixing with the old and we are working towards a smooth passing of the torch. It certainly won't be a case of simply filling anyone's shoes. Our inaugural rock band is now a ZIS icon and their dedication, and talented contributions have not and will not go unnoticed. New musicians with new musical focus and a new leadership under Mr Paul Stuart will create a sound and a path of their own. I am so grateful that our small school is jam-packed with so many talented students.

We have now updated *Managebac* and ensured that our Unit planners are sound and populated with assessment tasks so that student can be confident in their calendared information. Please encourage your students to share their login details and show you how to navigate through their classes and keep abreast of their academic growth.

Please keep in touch - communication is the key to solving many problems.

Warmest Regards  
Vanessa Leah  
Head of Secondary

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## LS SPACE

On Monday, September 24th, our senior students are invited to travel to The International School of Macau for their annual Universities Fair. This year, they are preparing to host almost 70 universities from around the world. While this is a school holiday, students and parents are invited to inform Ms. Mirjam [mirjamb@zischina.com](mailto:mirjamb@zischina.com) if they are interested in making their way to the fair with family members or a group of friends.

The fair commences at 9:30 and closes at 4:00 with an hour lunch break from 12:00-1:00. Dan d'Entremont, the Head of Academic Counselling, will receive the list of names of those ZIS

students planning to attend. He is aware that this is a holiday in China and recognizes these unique circumstances.

Who will attend?

- 3 universities from Australia
- 7 of Canada's finest institutions
- 8+ schools from Hong Kong, including Polytechnic and the University of Science and Technology
- 5 universities from Macau
- 3 European schools from France and Spain
- St. George's University from the Caribbean
- 25+ schools from the UK,
- 12+ universities and colleges from the USA

If you have any questions about specific schools, need directions to TIS Macau or require any further assistance as you consider this option, let Ms. Mirjam know.

Sincerely,

**Mirjam Berghuis**

**Head of Learning Services**

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