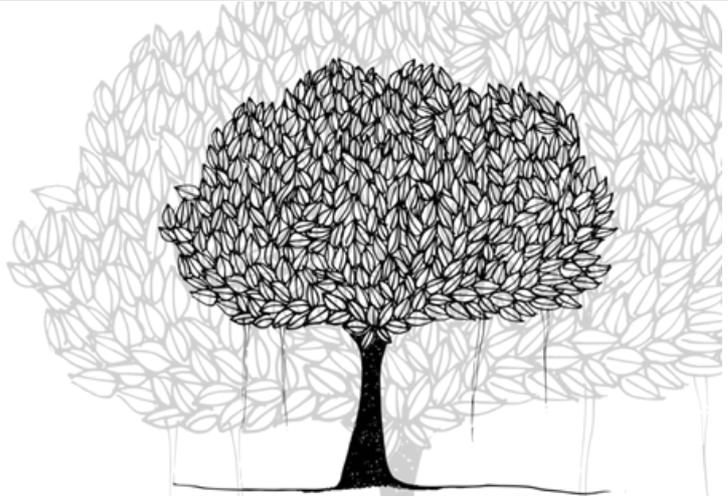


THE BANYAN



Issue 67

May 16, 2020



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

It was a successful week with a total of nine year levels sharing campus again. This coming Monday we are joined by students from Years 2, 3, and 4. Students still learning from home are being brought back to the classroom virtually with select lessons using live streams and even more peer interaction and group study.

A return to campus means the adjustment of routines. We line up more precisely, exit the canteen a certain way, have parameters on what play is like during breaks, and find ways to express ourselves even when wearing a mask.

The students have been attentive and responsible with all of these changes - a credit to their sense of community!

With more students returning this week the parent drop off area sees increased activity. Please follow the guidance of the staff there to allow for the safe arrival of all students. Parking for parents is limited to the available spaces on the street. This is an update of the previously published *Epidemic Control and Prevention Plan*. This shift allows us to more closely follow recent guidance from local officials and the traffic police have been very generous with their staffing to support this change.

You will find that the contributors to this week's newsletter share part of our vision for the week and months ahead. We aim to finish the school year strong: placing every student in a position to sustain their love of learning, celebrating their many accomplishments, and equipping them to think deeply and creatively.

Remember to place your book orders with Mr. Alan soon - details will be shared when

Obido is ready to receive your requests.

Welcome back to students in Years 2, 3, and 4 - we are so pleased to share campus with you on Monday!

Warm regards,

Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School

Coming Events:

Monday, May 18

Students in Years 2-4 return to campus

May 22 - 25

Online Book Fair with Obido

Week of June 1

Secondary Exam Week

Friday, June 12

PYP Exhibition

Wednesday, June 17*

Secondary Awards and Year 13 Graduation
(TBC)

Thursday, June 18*

Primary Awards (TBC)



Perfectly Primary



Dear school community,

We welcomed two of our primary classes back to campus this week, and it was such a joy to hear their laughter in the halls again. Even while maintaining social distancing, they were quite social with one another.

Not only have they thoroughly enjoyed being with their friends, they have already

enthusiastically dug in to inquiry based learning and collaboration within their classrooms. I heard discussions about the hero's journey, human rights, and gender equality. I saw them learning the martial art of tai chi in P.E. class. Children are so resilient, and their return has been incredibly smooth.

I read a blog this week discussing the idea that limitations can encourage innovation for children. As a school, we took advantage of the concept that creativity benefits from constraints by inviting student agency into our digital learning. I believe this is what allowed students to naturally fit right back in to their learning environments here. They are comfortable to explore, take risks, and engage because it is embedded into our school culture; both digitally and in-person.

We look forward to seeing even more of you this coming week as we continue the important task of educating the whole child.

Warmly,

Dr. Lana Staton

Head of Primary



Secondary Segment



Middle Years Programme

Diploma Programme

Dear students and parents,

This week sees Diploma Programme courses being decided for next year. Y11 students and their parents will be invited next week to make their choices. As always, speaking to subject teachers is the best way to get more information about DP subjects.

Some students continue online learning at ZIS for various reasons. We continue to support them, mainly via class streaming but also individually, sending them the work they need to finish up before the end of year exams in the week starting 1 June 2020.

We said goodbye to Y13 this week. They have finished their in-school exams and gotten feedback from them. Mr Damon and Ms Amanda did a great job organising the exams,

which included one student in Korea. Ms Amanda also laid on a party for them in her classroom and a big hit was the key-lime pie. We are looking at the possibilities of hosting a Graduation Ceremony, tentatively planned for June 17 as part of Secondary Awards. Details will follow on this.

Last week I explained a little that assessment calibrates teaching with learning. So much in assessment of, for and as learning depends on how reflection is encouraged in lessons. In the IB community schools learn from each other. The following chart comes from the Primary department at Yokohama International school. Note how students are given opportunities to create, choose, design, show and reflect. I use this constantly in MYP and DP lessons and hope to make it a feature of Secondary activities next year. Bear in mind that this only scratches the surface of how we can use reflection in student learning...

from <http://blogs.yis.ac.jp/pagez/?s=Learning+Wall>

Why we developed the learning wall

We wanted to promote a reflective classroom culture where our community of learners could consider how their choices promote learning, especially through play. The children chose to call this space "The Learning Wall". They decided each person in the class would have a space of their own. It is a rainbow of colours, each child choose their own wall colours. It takes up a whole wall of the class and shows the value we place on sharing thinking and learning.

What areas of learning do we focus on?

Green Wondering about something or think of a question. eg Does it hurt tadpoles taking them from the pond?

Light Blue New learning. eg I learnt to use the glue gun and made a model.

Orange IB approaches to learning (ATLs), using skills to help you learn. eg I listened to my friend and now I can connect my Lego pieces.

Lilac IB attitudes, how you act helps your learning. eg co-operation, working together to water the snap peas.

Red Doing something even if you are scared. eg reached top of the climbing frame by yourself **Children created this type of learning by themselves. **

Students, think about what adjustments you have had to make by being back on campus. What does that tell you about what you are learning that is not related to your subject curriculums?

Have a good first weekend back at home, and may you all have a good rest.

Kind regards,

Micheal Coffey
Head of Secondary



LS Space



From the Library

Dear Parents,

As students return to camps, all books checked out before we departed for Chinese New Year are due and must be returned, or rechecked. Textbooks and novels used for specific classes are excluded and due at the end of the school year when coursework is complete.

In order to provide summer reading material for students, Obido (one of our book suppliers) is planning to host an online book fair beginning Friday May 22 and ending Monday, May 25 hours 9am to 10pm each day. More details to follow.

Over the last two months, elementary students have been enjoying our weekly Zoom read alouds covering a range of topics from insects, the environment, folklore, and more. Year 12 students were recently reintroduced to our online resource collection in their initial preparation for their Extended Essay. Ms. Crystal and I look forward to seeing primary and secondary students utilizing library resources as we are reunited on campus and excited about the arrival of years 2-4 next week.

Warm regards,

Alan Barbee
Teacher Librarian



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.



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