

# THE BANYAN



Issue 52

January 17, 2020



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

## FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

I hope you all enjoyed Friday's Chinese New Year celebration. The organizers wanted to bring the whole school together to celebrate our home and host culture. With the Lion Dance, firecrackers, cultural dress parade, displays of student work, cultural activities, and the memorable and history-making whole school lunch, we were all treated to a tremendous day of sharing and celebration.

Thank you to Ms. Eva for leading the PYP Chinese effort, to all of the PYP Chinese teachers for coordinating the fabulous student work for display and the activities in the EY courtyard, to the Secondary Chinese teachers for their input and inspiration, to Ms. Nadene and the Secondary student Art Club for making a special artistic and activity based contribution, to Miss Carol and the Office team for their great support. Thank you as well to Friends of ZIS for the wonderful decorations in the foyer. Finally, thank you to Dr. Lana and Mr. Michael for taking on the challenge of the first whole school CNY event in a long time.

We look forward to two and half more days in Semester One next week with an early departure at 12:45pm on Wednesday, January 22.

We resume classes on Monday, February 3, and I look forward to welcoming you all back to campus. A number of new students will join us for the second semester and I know you will help me in warmly receiving them to the city and to school life. With many new faces, introductions are a must, and so our teaching staff have composed brief introductions, now shared on our website. Visit <http://zischina.com/our-teachers/>

[Our Teachers | Zhuhai International School](#)

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to read about their backgrounds, their interests, and more - you will need the password **zis2020** to access the protected page.

Wishing you harmony and joy for the whole family!

Warm regards,

**Andrew VanderMeulen**  
Head of School

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Chinese New Year Break Begins

January 23

### Spring Semester Begins

February 3

### ZIS Open Day

February 6 & 13



Scan the QR Code  
above to access  
the ZIS Parent  
Survey 2019-20

Thank you! Your  
feedback is  
appreciated.



Perfectly Primary



Dear school community,

EY and PYP student led conferences are coming up on February 10<sup>th</sup>, so I wanted to take a moment to give you a little more insight into what a student led conference looks like, especially for any family new to a PYP school. PYPTeachingTools.com has excellent resources for teachers and parents alike. The following description of student led conferences is from their website:

*“The shift from a private, teacher led conference with parents to a student led conference is exactly as it states. The teacher takes a step back and is simply the facilitator of the students’ preparation prior to the conference and the child takes the lead on the day of the*

event, leading their family through a snap shot of what they have learned, how they learn and how they are progressing.

*It is a simply amazing experience to see how children step up to the challenge. They are beaming with pride as they guide their family through their classroom and involve the parents in the process of their day to day learning. Even the most shy pull out their communication skills as they show their visitors around their classroom- a place where they feel comfortable and know.”*

Student-led conferences help children to take an active role in their learning, while reflecting on the Learner Profile traits that they are developing as a PYP student. Some of the questions you can ask your child during and after the conference include:

What piece are you most proud of?

What would you do differently next time with this project/assignment?

What do you find easy or difficult about this piece?

Teachers will be in touch with you soon to schedule a block of time for you to come in with your child on February 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be no buses and no classes on that day.

This is an excellent opportunity for reflection and communication, and we are excited to have our students share their growth with you all.

Warm regards

**Dr. Lana Staton**

**Head of Primary**





Secondary Segment



Middle Years Programme

Diploma Programme

Dear students and parents,

This is the week of finishing things and of celebrating.

Firstly reports are being finalised ready for opening up to students and parents on ManageBac next week. I am confident that you will find them supportive, informative and useful in working out the strategies for each child's continuing journey of learning at ZIS. You can discuss them at the Parent Teacher Conference at the start of next semester, on Monday 10 February 2020. The information and signing-up letters will go out first thing next week.

14 of our students last week went to Model United Nations U2NESCO 2020 at UISZ, Guangzhou. They all performed impressively, with Nora and Elena winning best delegate award in their respective teams. Congratulations everyone! You can view the event here with VPN <http://www.u2nesco.com/media.html>

[Media - Utahloy United Nations Educational Scientific & Cultural Organization](#)

Below you will find pictures and videos from previous years of U2NESCO. Pictures from the 2019 U2NESCO Conference can be found here  
[www.u2nesco.com](http://www.u2nesco.com)

On Friday we host our third school-wide celebration, My China 我的中国日 (Wode Zhongguo Ri). Some events like the House Picnic are whole-school activities, and there will be an exhibition, a special China assembly, a Chinese quiz, a dumpling lesson, lantern making and Chinese calligraphy. With the one exception of Year 13 who will focus that day on their DP IAs.

I wish you a prosperous New Year and a restful break.

Regards,

**Micheal Coffey**  
**Head of Secondary**



LS Space



## **ROOTS to WINGS: ISTA Middle School Festival**

Every year we take our Middle School students (Year 6-Age 14) to an ISTA festival in the region as part of our on-going development of theatre arts here at ZIS. This year we will travel to Shanghai to join the festival hosted by Dulwich College Shanghai.

Each ISTA theatre festival has a starting point. This year's event is entitled, "Roots to Wings". It aims to look at "how we need to understand who we were in order to discover who we are and how we can move forward."

Students will leave Zhuhai on May 7th to fly to Shanghai. We will be staying at a hotel near the school, organized by the festival leadership team. May 8th-10th will be filled with workshops exploring the central idea, culminating in a final sharing on the afternoon of the 10th. We hope to fly home on the 10th.

Current ticket prices to Shanghai are still quite high, making trip cost estimates hard to gauge. At this point, we suspect the cost will be close to 9,500 RMB.

There are only 12 spots available so sign up soon! Contact Ms. Mirjam for further details at [mirjab@zischina.com](mailto:mirjab@zischina.com).

Ms. Mirjam Berghuis  
Head of Learning Services  
College Counsellor

# ROOTS TO WINGS



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**ISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATRE FESTIVAL**

SHANGHAI, May 8-10 *For students in Year 6-10*

See Ms. Mirjam for details. Only 12 spaces available!



Lunch Menus,  
our food safety guidelines,  
and past editions of  
"The Banyan" Newsletter  
are available  
at [zischina.com](http://zischina.com)

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