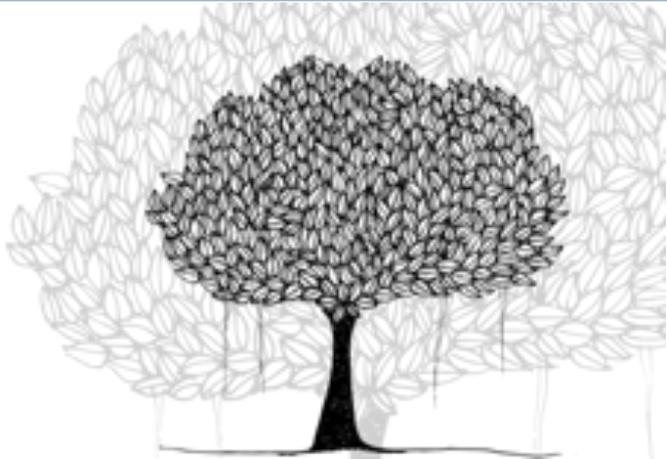


# THE BANYAN



Issue 38

September 14, 2019



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

## FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

Happy Mid-Autumn Festival! May the round moon bring you a happy family and a successful future.

We were treated to a beautiful evening during the Sundowner and it was wonderful to share campus together to help start the school year. The student band impressed us again with their poise and performance, setting the tone for a festive Saturday night. Thank you all for joining us.

We have now concluded the third week of school and students are certainly immersed in their learning. The sports schedule has already taken off with after school training underway and a Cross Country meet concluded with outstanding results by our athletes. Congratulations to the runners who braved the heat of Guangzhou last weekend and who represented ZIS so well. Student governments have held their first events and the House system we all enjoy has presented us with our first friendly competitions.

Looking ahead on our calendar, mark Tuesday, October 14 in your agendas for PYP Goal Setting meetings and for Secondary Parent Teacher Conferences. Opportunities to set appointments will be published soon.

You are invited Tuesday September 17 at 2:30, to learn more about the plans for Stoke FC football training for our students. The trial week, October 7-11, is taking registrations now and is open to students from Years 1-13. Secure your place by following this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b4baba928aaf85-stoke>

Students who wish to continue after the trials will be welcome to register for weekly sessions after school and on Saturdays. These weekly sessions will be held between October 14 to December 14.

Email [scfc@zischina.com](mailto:scfc@zischina.com) for more information.

We hope that adding this program to our school life will provide yet another way for our students to challenge themselves, to discover their passions, and to grow as exemplary citizens of the world.

Warm regards,

**Andrew VanderMeulen**  
Head of School



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friends of ZIS Meeting

September 20

### Years 11-13 to Macau University Fair

September 23

### October Holiay

Sept 30 - October 4

### Stoke City FC Trial Week

October 7-11

### Guest Author: Sean Karemaker

October 16

### Stoke City FC Training

October 14 - December 13



Perfectly Primary



Dear parents and students,

Do you remember how easy it was to make friends as a child? Children have a natural inclination to be social with one another. One of the ways we foster that inclination here is to promote social skills through our buddy program. Each Friday morning, we rotate between assemblies, buddy activities, and house challenges. Last Friday, students were introduced to their buddies for the year. Our buddy program is a way for the older students to partner with a classroom of younger students in order to build a strong school community across grade levels.

We are working to build confident, collaborative, and open-minded students at ZIS. The buddy program is one way to do this through relationship building. It gives the older students a chance to practice responsibility and empathy, while it allows the younger students a chance to be mentored. For all students, it enhances cooperative learning behaviors. This week, our Early Years and Primary students gathered together in our foyer to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. The photos below highlight some of the fun we have had these past two weeks while building our school community.

Warm Regards,

**Dr. Lana Staton**  
**Head of Primary**





Secondary Segment



Middle Years Programme

Diploma Programme

Dear parents and students,

Our staff are very excited regarding Week Without Walls. There is a positive and curious attitude to the adventures that have been organised for students by Keystone Adventures in October time. This tremendous attitude is being shown also by a number of students in Secondary but by no means all. I will just say here that the bonding opportunities and subsequent collaborations these trips create at this moment of the school year are useful for continuing and giving momentum to your children's learning.

Our new experiential learning coordinators Mr Owen and Ms Amanda decided to set up activity groups on ManageBac which students will need to join. Here is where students set targets for their cocurriculars and sporting activities and reflect on their journey through them. Also ManageBac and the Secondary timetable will reflect the Diploma students' SL/HL lessons later this week. Slowly but surely we are setting up our databases in preparation for your logins just prior to the Parent-Teacher Meeting on 14 October.

Some staff have been busy getting upskilled with the first tranche of professional training programmes finishing at the end of next week. The IB and Ontario Principals Council are some of the awarding bodies running these sessions for our staff. Professional Development and training are also happening on-site for teachers. Wednesdays after school and some Mondays is when this happens. A schedule is being drawn up for parents too which will be published soon for the whole year.

Some of the events over the past week include the Friends of ZIS meet on Thursday morning in Secondary. We welcomed special guests on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to find out how an international school operates. On Monday we had our first Assembly run by the student government team - thank you Elena! The Sundowner event was attended by many people and the feedback I got from it was all positive. On behalf of all Secondary teachers I would like to thank the organizers for laying on such an enjoyable event.

Have a great end to the week!

Regards,

**Michael Coffey**  
Head of Secondary



LS Space



## **LEARNING TOGETHER**

Ever Wednesday, the teachers meet in their divisions to plan for the weeks ahead, collaborate with each other, and work to improve programming. The best meetings are the ones where you walk away having learned something new that you can use immediately in the classroom.

This past Wednesday, in Learning Services, Jarred Vargus and Jennifer Habel presented a system aimed to support spelling, reading and writing called, *Words Their Way*. It was clear why both of them love using it. They carefully walked us through the diagnostic assessment and then demonstrated how to take students from their current level to new understanding of how English works.

After the initial pretest, a teacher can quickly determine what a student needs in order to move forward in all 3 areas, teaching phonics, vocabulary, and spelling in a targeted, systematic manner.

One of the most rewarding parts of teaching is working with other educators who are passionate about learning, keen to share their understanding and willing to try out something new.

**Ms. Mirjam Berghuis**  
**Head of Learning Services**  
**College Counsellor**

ZHUHAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# VOLUNTEER NOW. LEARN HOW.

**ZIS LIBRARY NEEDS  
VOLUNTEERS FOR THE  
2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**

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LIBRARY

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