

THE BANYAN



Issue 60

March 21, 2020



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

Schools across the world impacted by the coronavirus have turned to online learning while some have taken a pause. Nearly 200,000 candidates for the IB diploma, awarded to Year 13 students who complete coursework along with examinations scheduled for May, await the decision of the International Baccalaureate on how their qualifications will be earned. The IB publishes an updated FAQ page for educators, students, and parents at ibo.org. Yesterday they published that a decision on the May examinations will be shared no later than March 27. We will share that announcement with all of you when it arrives.

With the announcement of the Canadian government's strategies to control the coronavirus outbreak there, a high school friend shared her reflections on what lies in store for her and her community. Her thoughts still ring true for us though we are already many weeks into the battle here in China. My friend shared that it was just a couple of years ago that she experienced months of social distancing and hyper-attentiveness to hygiene. Rather than in response to a previously unseen viral outbreak, she and her husband had just welcomed their first child, premature by about 3 months. For just under a year, in order to protect this very vulnerable young life, their home became a sanctuary of cleanliness involving frequent hand washing, mask wearing, and avoidance of popular spaces, public transport, social gatherings.

What lessons did she share?

- time at home meant getting to know their young person
- anxiety was high - she wishes she had remembered to take care of herself more often
- she wishes she had asked for help more often
- the change to a 'new normal' meant opportunity to refocus and reprioritize

Her message arrived to my screen at a perfect time and her reflections hit home. We are still facing an uncertain reopening date. We are watching the initiatives being taken by the world's nations and waiting for their efforts to take hold, witnessing our friends and family abroad go through the same experiences we endured back in February.

In response to Dr. Lana's question posed in her newsletter article this week, I am thankful for the chance to learn from friends and colleagues during times such as these. And not to give away the entire piece, I too am thankful for the power of technology to keep us all connected when social bonds are most needed.

Wishing you all another safe and productive week ahead.

Warm regards,

Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School



Perfectly Primary



Dear school community,

I have been intentionally trying to find something to be grateful for each day during this time, and today I have been reflecting on how grateful I am that we live in an age where there is so much information available to us digitally.

Our teachers have provided a host of valuable online resources for our students during our time with digital learning. As many parts of the world have also started learning digitally, more and more free learning resources are becoming available for students worldwide. I am really proud of the way everyone has worked together to share information. I recently read about a new website you may want to check out; published by Scholastic Learning. Scholastic has set up a '[Learn From Home](#)' website with four categories: PreK and Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2, Grades 3-5, and Grades 6+. Each day of content is filled with exciting articles and stories, videos, and fun learning challenges. The students can even go on virtual field trips or meet best-selling authors. [Click here to visit the website.](#)

While learning online certainly has its challenges, it also comes with a host of opportunities. For that, I am thankful. What are you thankful for today?

Warmly,

Dr. Lana Staton
Head of Primary

Check out some of the exciting activities our students have been doing this week:

A Year 2 student created an insect out of leaves.



A year 4 student imagines what type of invention he would create:



Part of a year 6 student's design process project



Secondary Segment



Middle Years Programme

Diploma Programme

Dear students and parents,

The support within the ZIS community is great. We keep each other informed, help out when necessary and keep the humour alive during these difficult weeks. There is so much information being offered about our current situation, but we interpret it usefully and accurately when we can for ourselves and each other.

The use of our online platforms and portals for online learning are being used consistently and regularly. Students are engaging with online classes in what is more challenging activities and slowly, both teachers and students are improving their IT skills because we have to. Communication, organisation, time-management and sharing is happening almost exclusively online. Our digital school is getting the stronger for it, and we will continue benefiting from this when our campus reopens.

Have a great weekend, and a successful Week 8 of Semester 2.

Have a great week.

Micheal Coffey
Head of Secondary



LS Space



A Chance to Meet

This week most of the Learning Services team had a chance to get together to share what we've been working on. It was wonderful to see each other again (at a safe distance of course) and chat about our experience so far.

Collaboration is a huge part of the teaching profession. We may work on an island but we certainly don't operate as one when we are on campus. It's been challenging being separated. While we have met via email, Zoom and WeChat, there really is not substitute for being in the same space.

Our LS teachers have conducted many live chats with their students, provided support for different tasks, helped organize and structure projects and tried to alleviate some stress. The job we do in Learning Services is not one that naturally lends itself to distance. We're all looking forward to more proximity and face-to-face interaction. Won't that be nice?

Mirjam Berghuis

Head of Learning Services



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

[Friend on Facebook](#)

[Follow on Instagram](#)

Copyright © 2020 Zhuhai International School, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).
