

# THE BANYAN



Issue 2

September 21, 2018



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

## FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Our week was defined by the arrival of ***Typhoon Mangkhut*** over the weekend. Upon their return to campus after the Monday closure, students had many tales to tell about their experience of the storm. We were very glad to see everyone return to classes safe and sound and were fortunate to sustain minimal damage on Qi'ao as a result of the high winds. The logistics team have done an excellent job cleaning up the grounds and have set a course for the full repair of the damage sustained by buildings.

If you haven't yet received your copy of the **Student-Parent Handbook**, it is available on our [website](#) and printed copies are available in the school office.

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

This is an important week as we welcome **Dr. Eric Jabal of the Council of International Schools (CIS)** on September 26-27, 2018. I will be sharing the results of his visit with you as we work towards accreditation with this highly respected organization.

Wishing you all a Happy Mid-Autumn Festival! May the round moon bring you and your family happiness and a bright, successful future! We take our first official holiday of the year on Monday, September 24th and welcome students back on the 25th. Enjoy the long weekend!

Warm regards,  
Andrew VanderMeulen  
Head of School

## NEW SUNDOWNER DATE

We hope to see you on Saturday, October 20 from 18:00 - 20:30. There will be music, food and refreshments available.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**PRC U14 Boys Football Tournament**  
Sept. 22, ZIS Campus

**Day after Mid-Autumn Festival Holiday**  
Sept. 24 – no school

**October Holiday**  
Oct 1 – 5 – no school

**Friends of ZIS Meeting**  
Oct 12 @ 10am, ZIS Campus



Perfectly Primary



Dear Parents,

I hope everyone made it through our most recent typhoon unscathed. Things have been even busier than usual in the PYP and Early Years thanks to the shortened week. Our PYP students are now in the fifth week of their first unit of inquiry, and many classes are in the midst of exciting and open ended learning experiences as part of their inquiries.

This week also marks the second session of our first round of Friday afternoon activities. At ZIS we are very lucky to have a talented and diverse staff who are capable of sharing their skills and interests with our students. The activities that we offer continue to provide students with some unique and fun learning experiences. This round of activities includes sessions in: modern art, drama, running training, logic games, chess, bird watching, kick ball and traditional Chinese games. It's no wonder that our students are so excited for our Friday afternoons.

Thanks for reading and have a great long weekend.

**Jordan Rose**  
Head of Primary



## Hands On Science Investigations in the PYP

This Tuesday our Year 3 and 4 students had a very special learning experience. Both classes got the chance to visit Ms. Hema in the MYP Science lab to engage in some fun and mind-opening experiments with electricity. The students explored how to create static electricity, how to connect an electric circuit and how solar panels can convert the sun's rays into electricity.

The idea to explore electricity came from questions the students asked during their current 'How The World Works' unit of inquiry. Our students had learned that electricity is a very important part

of a functioning community during this unit, and were curious to know more about how electricity works and how it powers the things we do.

A big thank you goes to Ms. Hema for planning these great experiments and for collaborating so willingly with our PYP teachers and students. The Year 3 and 4 students loved every minute of their time in the science lab.

Mr. Tom and Ms. Frances



Secondary Segment



Middle Years Programme

Diploma Programme

Dear Parents and Students,

I have been thinking about technology. It was a major point of contention last year driving discussions amongst both teachers and students. Like everything in our world technology can be good, bad and ugly at times depending on the way it is used.

I still remembers taking the school "mobile" on excursions in my first 10 years of teaching. This "mobile" was the size of my forearm and was accompanied by a briefcase which held the "portable" battery. All it did was make calls - sometimes. Now students have multiple devices with which to call, text, play games, search the internet, fly their drones and read books (I am sure there are more things they do but I haven't figured them out yet). Technology is not good or bad for children today - it just IS. It is simply an extension of them and they glide between cyber-world and the real world as easily as moving between rooms in a house.

I truly believe that with some common sense and a mutual respect we can ensure that these wonderful tools enrich our lives and enable us to do so much more than we thought we could. Like all tools though it is imperative that we as parents help our children learned to use them in safe ways and at appropriate times. Pick the wrong tool at the wrong time and it can be dangerous and unhelpful but pick the right tool at the right time and you can build something

amazing.

Some common sense things to look for:

- High-tech machines do not necessarily mean high tech users - does your child know the most basic of functions that will allow them to get through their school day (Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint, email, managebac)
- Is time spent on the computer/laptop/lpad/mobile/game consol part of a healthy balanced lifestyle or are children using this as a way to avoid homework and other necessary tasks. Do they stay up way past bedtime on their devices and then come to school overtired and disengaged?
- Do your children understand the safety concerns of being online with the variety of hackers, viruses, stranger-danger issues and how to travel virtually in a safe way?
- Do children understand that items published on the internet are open to EVERYONE, FOREVER and that potential universities and bosses look at social media for ways to gain some insight into the person they might accept. How are they presenting themselves digitally?

Again, let common sense prevail. I am always in awe of the things young people can do with technology and with guidance, they will hopefully bring us all beyond the 21st century.

Good luck to our Football boys this weekend!

Warmest Regards  
Vanessa Leah  
Head of Secondary



LS Space



## INCLUSION at ZIS

Last weekend, at the Hong Kong International Schools' Fair, the word "inclusion" came up in a few conversations. More and more, we see a need and a desire for inclusion in our schools. What is inclusion? The IB defines it as, "an ongoing process that aims to increase access and engagement in learning for all students by identifying and removing barriers." (*Learning Diversity in the International Baccalaureate Programmes*). This highlights how important it is to move past a label or a fixed idea about learning. By removing the barriers instead of highlighting the differences, we are able to create an inclusive school.

How do we support inclusion at ZIS? Successful inclusion requires us to:

- Chose a curriculum model that supports and promotes inclusion (the IB)
- Recognize that our students are unique individuals with their own learning needs
- Understand that inclusion benefits all members of our community

Our teachers spend a great deal of time designing learning engagements that allow for natural differentiation and varied approaches to learning. Collaboration, creativity and inquiry promote a rich learning environment; both students and staff are challenged to think, investigate and create in this manner. Most importantly, we strive to ensure that school is a positive place to gain knowledge and understanding, where mistakes are seen as a natural part of learning.

Mirjam Berghuis  
Head of Learning Services

On November 25th our Year 13 student Ethan Fowler will participate in the annual UNICEF Charity Run in Hong Kong. While most charity projects are limited to a one-off money donation, this one enables students to start a running program and raise funds for the most vulnerable kids in Africa.



If you are willing to join the race or contribute to this worthy charity, feel free to visit the official run website <http://run.unicef.org.hk/> or contact Mr Mike Piotrowski, the project supervisor at [mikep@zischina.com](mailto:mikep@zischina.com)



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

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