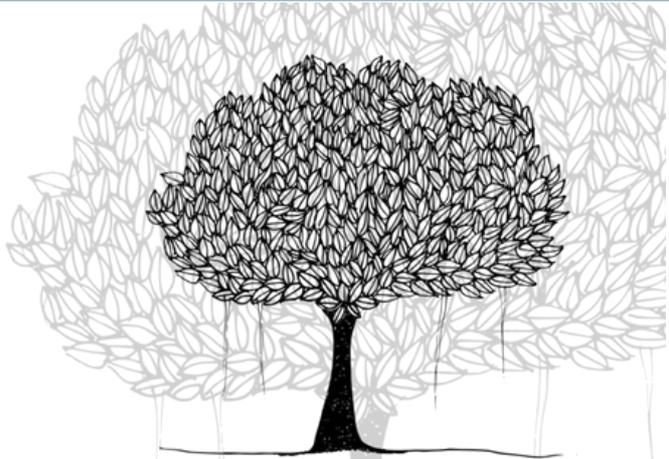


THE BANYAN



Issue 18

February 22, 2019



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear Parents,

We look forward to Student Led Conferences in EY/Primary and to Parent-Teacher Conferences in Secondary next week Tuesday. You may also be interested in joining the College Counseling session on the same day at noon, led by Ms. Mirjam.

We welcomed Vanessa Younger to the teaching team last week and we are very glad to have her join Ms. Lin in the Year 6 classroom. We also welcomed Thomas Beasley, a graduate of the Ryde School in the UK, who joins us for the rest of the semester as he uses his gap year to contribute to our work and campus while learning about living in China. Welcome to Vanessa and Thomas!

This week recruitment for our teaching positions for August 2019 was completed. As the incoming teachers busy themselves with their transition to Zhuhai they are preparing short bios which will be shared with you. Excellent teachers are at the heart of student success as you know, and we thank and bid farewell to departing staff and pass on the challenge of continuing to engage and inspire our scholars with the full complement of IB programmes.

Good luck to the PYP students and their families who will represent ZIS this weekend at the UNICEF event in Hong Kong. Working with the theme 'for every child, a better world', the competition will raise funds for UNICEF's 'Cash Transfers for Deprived Children' (CCT) Project in China, dedicated to giving a good start in life for every child by improving the maternal and child health services in China.

The school photography team from Pret-a-Portrait will be on campus Thursday, Feb 28 and Friday, Mar 1 taking individual and class photos. Students are all asked to wear a summer polo shirt on Thursday for the whole school photo and on Friday if their class is scheduled for pictures. Information on how to order online will be shared with home once proofs are available.

There has been an excellent response to the opportunity to join training with the Stoke City football coach, thank you for your interest. Unfortunately, the scheduled week has to be postponed until the week of May 13. We hope this delay still allows all of our registered

participants to join in and that even more families can participate. New registrations are welcome through our WeChat or by contacting Ms. Li at atlih@zischina.com

We look forward to Book Week in the first full week of March. Mr. Alan Barbee, our Teacher-Librarian, has planned a wonderful week to help 'fan the flames' of our joy for reading. Later in March we are excited to welcome visiting author Gail Clarke who will share her creative talents with our students on the 14th and 15th. A great deal of work goes into special events such as these and into the maintenance and development of our library facility. Thank you to our parent volunteers who support the efforts on the fourth floor. Thank you as well to our parents for their donation of a wide selection of Chinese language books for the library. We are proud of the diversity of language resources we provide the students and are fortunate to expand our offerings.

Though not officially a part of Book Week, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Jeremy Brown, formerly of Princeton and Yale, to campus on Wednesday, March 6. Dr. Brown visits us representing his latest enterprise *Challis Educational Opportunities*. He will be speaking to Secondary students and faculty on the topic of "Rethinking Education" from 11:15 to 12:15 in our main foyer. Parents are welcome to share in the presentation as well - join us!

Much more is in store for our students and staff in the coming weeks. Future editions of *The Banyan* will share updates on Battle of the Books adventures, student led service learning (our annual CAScert among other projects), as well as information sessions and coffee mornings.

Wishing you all the best for the coming week!

Warm regards,

Andrew VanderMeulen

Head of School

MARCH 4-8

Book Week Events

Monday March 4:

Book Fair by Oink n Oink Books

Tuesday March 5:

Book Fair by Oink n Oink Books

Wednesday March 6:

Battle of the Books Competition in Guangzhou and Dongguan

Thursday March 7:

Black-out Poetry Contest: Secondary
Book Trailer Contest: Secondary

Friday March 8:

Dress-up as your favourite character or author; Read your favourite E-book

Caterpillar Book Reading Contest - until June



BOOK WEEK

UPCOMING EVENTS

Student-Led & Parent-Teacher Conferences

February 26

College Counselling Presentation

February 26 (12:00-12:45)

Photo Days: Portraits and Class Pictures

February 28 & March 1

BOOK WEEK!

March 4-9

Battle of the Books

March 4-9

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jeremy Brown

March 6 @ 11:15

Visiting Author: Gail Clarke

March 14-15

BOB: Chinese

March 19

Photo Days

Thursday, February 28 & Friday, March 1 2019

Photographers: Prêt-à-Portrait
Individual and Class Photos
Wear summer polo shirts please
Photos will be available to purchase online

	Thursday, Feb 28	Friday, March 1
AM	Reception, Y4, Y5, Y12	Nursery, Y1, Y3, Y7, Y13
PM	Y2, Y9, Y11	Y6, Y8, Y10



NEW DATE:
Tuesday, February 26, 2019
12:00-12:45

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER ZIS

FIND OUT HOW WE SUPPORT
OUR GRADUATES

A chat with our College Counsellor



Perfectly Primary



Hello ZIS Community! It's been another great week in the PYP. Our teachers and students have been getting excited for next week's Student Led Conferences. On Tuesday, February 26th all of our parents are invited into the classroom to get a hands on look at their child's learning. The Student Led Conference is always a great day for our PYP Students, as it's lovely for our parents to see how much pride the students take in their work as they take their parents through the classroom. The Student Led Conference is also a wonderful demonstration of the progress all of our students have made over the course of the year.

We look forward to seeing all of our parents for this fun-filled day in the PYP and Early Years at ZIS. Please remember that this is not a regular school day, and that teachers will have a schedule of times available for parents to visit the classroom with their children.

Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

Best regards,

Jordan Rose
Head of Primary & Early Years



Secondary Segment



Middle Years Programme

Diploma Programme

Dear Parents and Students,

Thought for the week: The difference between Learning from your mistakes and being paralysed by the fear of failure.

I recently read an article that stuck with me. The statement that we need to improve self-confidence in children was something that I had read before and would probably have agreed with myself. This article, however, talked about the dark side of bolstering self-esteem and spoke of the greater value in teaching children **self-compassion**.

University of Texas psychology professor Kristin Neff, author of *Self-Compassion: The Proven Power of Being Kind to Yourself*, wrote that self-esteem is about value but self-compassion is about caring for yourself.

Self-esteem is a judgement about how valuable I am: very valuable, not so good, not valuable at all. In contrast, self-compassion isn't about self-evaluation at all. It's about being kind to oneself. Self-compassion is a healthy source of self-worth because it's not contingent and it's unconditional. It's much more stable over time because it's not

dependent on external markers of success such as grades.

So, am I saying we should teach children to not care about grades? Not at all. It's a matter of whether your child sees grades as the ultimate end goal or a positive side effect of embracing the learning process.

Neff says most of us motivate ourselves through self-criticism. Your child is aware of the consequences of failing that test. But the side effects of this approach are perfectionism, [a fear of failure](#), and even procrastination because the fear of not measuring up can be paralyzing.

I particularly liked the part in the article where it shares to help children to “encourage them to support themselves as they would a friend”. I can be tough on my friends, but I can be horrible to myself. I am sure that we are all similar.

It is possible that we need to teach ourselves to hold ourselves accountable and learn through moments of our failings but also not to let it stop us from moving forward.

I will finish my thoughts with a quote from one of my favourite authors:

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the things you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.”
Mark Twain

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Parent/Teacher/Student conferences next Tuesday.

Warmest Regards
Vanessa Leah
Head of Secondary





FROM THE LIBRARY

This month Primary students had a variety of learning opportunities in the library. Years 5 & 6, students experienced a first-hand account of copyright violation by creating an original work then having a peer from a different year claim the work as their own. This was upsetting to some students but demonstrated an essential lesson regarding the importance of crediting the ideas of others. Years 3 & 4, students focused on adaptation for their new unit of inquiry. We examined how stories are adapted to their audiences with the same story written/modified to suit a different cultural background. Most if not all students know the story of Cinderella, but none were familiar with Egyptian Cinderella. While the story contained similar elements, new changes to the same story provided students with a different perspective of the time honoured tale. In Years 1 & 2, students began to look at families and changing forms. How do families, books, and stories change over time. Year 2 students looked at how toys of 100 years ago are much different then what children play with today.

The first couple of weeks in March is an exciting time for library related events. March 4-8 is book week.

Book Week Events:

Monday & Tuesday: Book Fair by Oink n Oink Books with titles for K-12

Wednesday: Battle of the Books Competition teams go to Guangzhou and Dongguan

Thursday: Blackout poetry contest in the secondary

Friday: dress as your favorite author/book character, and record your favorite E book.

Caterpillar Reading Contest

Who can read the most books by the end of the school year in June? Students to write a brief book summary on each caterpillar form (body) found in the library.

The Grand Finale, children's book author **Gail Clarke** will be at ZIS Thursday & Friday March 14 & 15 sharing her experience with students in the PYP and MYP programs.

Students will have the option to purchase her books. There will be a fish and chameleon coloring contest prior to Gail's arrival.

We are really looking forward to Book Week!

Warmest Regards

Alan Barbee

Senior Teacher Librarian

Author & Illustrator Gail Clarke



Zhuhai International School Visit

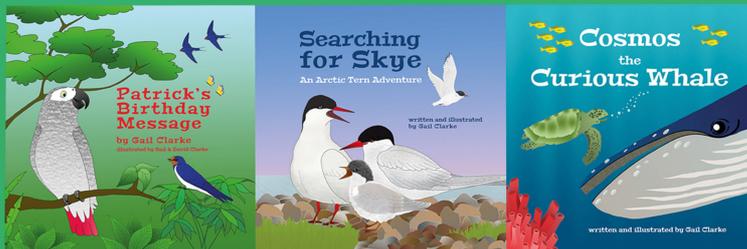
Thursday March 14th & Friday March 15th

We are pleased to welcome children's author, illustrator and storyteller Gail Clarke who will be visiting our school and sharing her books, stories and experiences with all our students.

Gail has more than 35 years experience as a primary school teacher In U.K. and Hong Kong. Her book presentations are lively, fun and engaging and have been enjoyed by more than thirty-five thousand children in many countries around the world.

Her animal adventure stories, based on the themes of migration, animal journeys and looking after our planet are told with the help of her story book friends: Patrick, the excitable African grey parrot puppet, his great-grandfather Gilbert, Cosmos the curious baby humpback whale who wants to explore the oceans in search of polar bears and penguins. and Jed the hammerhead shark.

Children and parents are welcome to buy a signed copy of one of Gail's books at the end of each school day. Order forms are also available from the school library.



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

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