

THE BANYAN



Issue 10

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Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

This weekend we cheer our staff and students on as they raise funds in the UNICEF Run in Hong Kong. We also look forward to the participation of our Secondary students in a special event organized by our neighbours at the White Dolphin Reserve. This week also marks the launch of "Operation Shoebox", a cooperative effort between ZIS and our friends at MECH charity for the benefit of young students in neighbouring Guangxi Province.

Each of these events and initiatives are bound together by the common thread of service learning. We believe that by providing students with opportunities to connect with local, national, and international communities we are opening them to new interests and new understandings about themselves and the world. Service can take many forms, be it developing environmental awareness or making an impact on global disparities, and these activities give to us as much as it supports those we would see as the beneficiaries.

With three weeks of classes remaining in 2018, we have many events to look forward to as well, including our Qi'ao Community Dinner on the evening of December 12 as well as our special Christmas event on the final day of classes, December 14. Look forward to more details on each of these in the near future.

Friends of ZIS meets again this coming Friday, November 30 at 10am on campus. Parents are always welcome to join this opportunity to learn about the school and to share feedback from home.

Warm regards,
Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School

UPCOMING EVENTS

U19 Basketball @

Guangzhou

November 24

UNICEF Charity Run @

Hong Kong

November 25

Friends of ZIS meets

@ ZIS

November 30



Perfectly Primary



Hello ZIS Community. It's been a great week in the PYP. After all the adventures and outdoor learning during our Week Without Walls, it was good to get back to our regular schedule. Our students spent much of their time at the start of the week reflecting on the things they had seen and done during WWW, and completing the final assessment pieces at the end of our 2nd unit of inquiry. In the coming weeks our students will be exploring their 3rd unit of the year, while getting ready for a well-deserved Winter holiday.

At the end of the week our classes enjoyed themselves during a 'buddies class' activity. Each class pairing got together to share some of the things they did last week, and engage in some fun and cooperative activities together. And in our last period of the week was round #2 of our 2nd round of 'Friday Activities'. There are some great activities on offer this session such as, Tennis, Tee Ball, Debating, Gardening, Quilling, and Strategic Board Games. It's always a fun and educational way to end the week.

Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

Warm regards,

Jordan Rose

Head of Primary



Secondary Segment



SECONDARY WEEK WITHOUT WALLS

Dear Parents and Students,

This week we celebrate the return of our intrepid travelers. We spent Monday creating a celebration space on noticeboards and the photographs told just a small part of the story.

I wanted to let the students tell of their adventures in their own unedited way. Please read on to see how these WWW trips have impacted our students in such a positive way.

Thank you again to the teachers who gave their time to make such amazing experiences possible.

Warm regards,
Vanessa Leah
Head of Secondary

SAILING in KRABI with Ms Nadene and Mr Alan

I went to Krabi for sailing in Thailand during 2018 WWW. We stayed in Thailand for 6 days. It was such a great time. We spent most of the time on water every day to learn how to sail. And there were two days we did other activities too. One of my favorite parts of this trip was on the last day. The sailing coach drove a big fancy yacht and took us to an island, and then we spent the whole day jumping into the water, diving and swimming near the boat and sea. It was a good time on the boat. The hardest part of this trip was learning how to capsize. The boat was big and heavy. It was difficult to turn back the boat. All in all, it was an awesome trip. We learned many things about sailing and received a certificate as a sailor. We visited the elephant centre and had a fabulous time with those elephants. We met different people and communicated with them. I want to join this trip again if I have chance. **Jaccie Z - Year 12**

My favourite sailing activity was learning to go to the line of the no-go zone (right and left 45 degrees where the wind is blowing from) in order to get the most speed. Capsizing was also a fun activity, it is when the boat capsizes. I needed to climb on the dagger board and flip in over. At first, I couldn't leave the boat and swim to the back of the boat (where the dagger board was), because if there is strong wind, the boat might get blown away. Second, hold the boat and go to the back of the boat, climb on the dagger board, and the boat will flip over! I need to kick and push really hard to get back on the boat. When I got on the boat, I need to untangle the main sheet and the jib sheet. We learn many sailing skills: the rules of road, parts of the boat, parts of the sail, knots, tacking/ gybing, bear away, launching the boat, capsizing, points of sail etc.... There are so many more... I also learned how to ride a motor/ power boat, it was easy and the speed was high. I also enjoyed the elephants. They ate hundreds of bananas, I also helped to shower the elephants (wash them). My favorite activity was when we actually got on Captain Mark's Rover!!! But before that we did the test, and everybody passed. The Rover drove all the way to Chicken Island. We had so many activities: kayaking, stand-up paddleboard, swimming, snorkelling. Many of us jumped from the top of the rover (the rover had 3 floors) in to the ocean, and climb on top of the rover, jump in, climb, jump in etc.... I love the snorkelling, I swim near the Chicken Island, and dove to the ocean floor. The water was very clear, there's all kinds of coral, fishes, crab, and other sea creatures. One time a fish bumped in to my goggles. The steps of learning how to sail was the hardest part. I need to study and practice a lot for the test. But, the more I practice, the easier it gets. Thailand is a really amazing place to go. The ocean is pretty, and the activities are fun. Also, I loved the foods. Ps. I saw sea monsters (huge fishes) in a floating restaurant. **Judy O - Year 7**

My favorite part of this trip was the sailing. We sailed two kinds of sailboats—Argo and Topper. Argo is a two-man dinghy, one helmsman and one crew, the helmsman is like a skipper, he (or she) needs to control the tiller and the main sail. The crew's job is to control the headsail and help balance the boat. Topper is a one-man dinghy, it's much smaller than Argo, there is only one sail on topper and the driver only needs to control the mainsail and tiller. It was so fun to drive in a sailboat (although I cannot go too fast because the wind was weak), sometimes, the wind became strong so the

boat got faster and it nearly turned over because of my weight. I think the hardest part of this trip was to feed the elephants. We fed the elephant with a mixture of some small brown balls, tiny brown bars, bananas and glutinous rice. It was extremely disgusting, I nearly got sick when I tried to smell them, we had to squeeze them together and make some nausea balls as big as tennis balls to feed those elephants. I thought the elephants were so unlucky, they had to eat those disgusting things. I never eat banana after that. It was a marvellous trip overall, I had lots of fun and exciting experiences and I learned a lot in this trip. I got a great grade in the sailing test! **Justin W - Year 9**

My favorite part of this trip was sailing on the "Topper", it is a one-person sailing boat, it is hard to control the direction, you have to see the wind come from which side and reef. I did a lot of practice on Topper so I can did a lot of the things on a boat. The food was amazing, we got BBQ at last day, but every day's food was still amazing. The most hard part for sailing it to read the wind, we have to know where is the wind come from, so we will not go in to "No Go Zone", I don't know how to read the wind at very first time, but Ms. Nadene told me I can use face to feel it and see the flag on other boat, I try this two ways so I know where is the wind come from. This trip was very good, but there is no shopping place, but still good. I will share to my other friends. **Justin L - Year 8**

My highlight in Thailand was visiting the elephant sanctuary because it was really nice to see how happy the elephants are and also it was really fun to swim with the elephant because we could brush them clean. The biggest challenge in Thailand for me was to catch the wind on the sails in the correct angle. And also it was a challenge to drive all in all because a lot of times there was no wind at all or only a light breeze. I got through it by having patients with my learning. Overall: * Food was really good. * I had a lot of fun with my friends. * I really enjoyed the paddle boarding every morning. * It was really hot. * The rooms were really nice. * I slept very well. I recommend it because everybody who went with us enjoyed it and next year it would probably be the same. **Micha VR- Year 7**

My favourite part was when we had to capsize into the ocean, it was really fun because we had to do it with a partner and after the boat capsized we had to swim around it and go to the back of the boat and because me and my partner was both too light to bring the boat back up we had to do it together. (the thousands of jelly fish's made it extremely scary and fun in the same time.) Some of the hardest parts were taking and gybing the sail boat, I had some hard time understanding how this was done but I figured it out after asking the instructors and the teachers. I think the food was amazing it was so delicious and because it was so delicious, I had the same exact food for 7 days even though there were many on the menu. The elephants were so sweet and the place we lived around was amazing there were many monkeys and mangroves. Snorkelling on the last day was brilliant we saw beautiful corals and colourful fish. **Melody W - Year 7**



YUNNAN with Mr Mike and Ms Yan

I think the favourite moment was when we went up the mountain. It was still hard to breath but we could see beautiful views. That is why I liked this activity. Riding the bus to go to the place was hard. I didn't like this because it took a lot of time to

go there. We had to ride about 3 to 4 hour a day. If we only fix this problem it would be an amazing trip! I think this trip was awesome. We had a lot of fun, and got some good picture of the mountain. (Snow Mountain.) I hope I go there with my family later. It's a good place to stay with family or friends. There was fun activity. 1. We climbed the mountain and looked at the view. 2. We played games every night until about 8:30 pm. 3. We went to buy foods, drink, and teas. Their food was pretty good.

Andy Kim – Year 8

I think in this trip to Yunnan, my favorite part was the show, "Lijiang Eternal Love". We watched the performance on Monday afternoon. It lasted about one hour. The "Lijiang Eternal Love" is the core product of Lijiang Eternal Scenic Area. It is located in Yulong Snow Mountain. Its geographical environment is superior. It tells a lot. Every part is wonderful. The stage lights are very good. The members are very dedicated. What I am most impressed by is an acrobatic part. The woman's foot is on the man's shoulder. They don't wear ropes. Finally, the girl's foot is on his shoulder. I think this action is very dangerous. If it were me, I would not dare to finish it. I think the most difficult part is to climb the mountain. Our goal is to climb to the top of the snow mountain. Although I have been there once, I still feel a little uncomfortable when I go up this time. Because it is a plateau, so I often have difficulty breathing when I walk two steps up the stairs. And most of us climb the top of the mountain. So many year7's classmates went up. I think it's still great. I think this trip to Yunnan is quite good. We have eaten a lot of local food and watched two performances. Although these places are similar to the places I visited last year, there are still different feelings in this trip, which makes me understand the culture of Lijiang and Dali better, and our team is also very good. Harmony, we have experienced a lot of things together. I think this trip is very meaningful. I go out with people in my school. I hope the school organizes more such activities. **Janey H – Year 11**

The best part in WWW Yunnan trip is the climb up the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, I was surprised because I thought I would not climb up and we didn't buy oxygen. I thought I would breathe poorly and have a high altitude reaction. But I saw that my friends didn't give up trying all the time. I also walked with my classmates and when I reached the top of the mountain, I was proud of myself. Mr. Mike also gave us "Snickers" as a reward for reaching the top of the mountain. I think the most difficult part of this tour is that there are many junior students who sometimes needed assistance, but with the help of teachers, we can solve the problem and spend the whole trip together. Finally, I found this trip very meaningful. I learned about the culture and history of Yunnan and some of our traditional customs. I also exercised my patience and accomplished things I felt I could not accomplish. **Jenny S - Y11**

My favourite activity is we went to the Lijiang town, There we can feel the ancient culture. There are a lot of Yunnan specialties there, and we have some free time. In free time, I bought some flower cakes there. I picked it out in many jewellery stores because I wanted to buy a bracelet for my friends. Finally, I bought a very simple bracelet, but it was beautiful, with a flower hanging in the middle. We still had lunch there.. I also bought a cup of nitrogen drink, I really enjoyed the time in Lijiang Town. There we also realized Yunnan's Ancient culture. Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is the hardest part of what I think. We took the cable car from the bottom of the snow mountain to half of the mountain, but because my head felt a little uncomfortable, I did not continue to climb. I sat in a coffee shop to have a rest. I also drank a cup of honey and pomelo tea there, and I ate a cake. I waited for them in the coffee shop for about an hour. I think this trip is generally very good, let us deeply feel the culture of Yunnan, but also eat a lot of unique delicacies. **Jenny K – Year**

My favourite activity of the Yunnan Trip was visiting the Blue Moon Valley at the foot of the Jade Dragon Snow mountain. The colour of the valley lake itself was a very bright blue colour, because of the colour of the rock floor underneath the lake. We were able to take several photos and pictures of the lake and its surrounding waterfalls as well as the tall mountain in the background. 2. The hardest part of the Yunnan Trip was climbing up the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in Lijiang on the fourth day of the trip. The altitude at the top of the mountain was about 4,800 meters above sea level and the level of oxygen was greatly reduced at the top compared to the bottom, meaning we had to walk extra slowly to avoid feeling too tired. It was difficult to climb the mountain because most of us had trouble adjusting to the altitude and air pressure, meaning we had to take several breaks in between. 3. Overall, I think that the Yunnan trip was very enjoyable and incredibly interesting, and I would recommend the trip to anyone who would want to join the next year. The air is much less polluted as compared to city air, the local food is also quite enjoyable and the villages around the area are very relaxing and peaceful. The temperature is much cooler and less humid, and the architecture of the local buildings also makes for great photos. Climbing up the top of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is also somewhat of a challenge, though I think it is well worth doing. I was able to learn a lot about the local culture from the many tours and shows that we experienced and visited, as well.

James E - Year 10

I went to Yunnan and my favorite activity was Lijiang old town, because we shopping over there, we bot a lot of things (for family or friends). The hardest part of the trip is the Jade dragon snow mountain, the elevation there is 4,680 meters high, when I climb half of the mountain, I really want to go down. It was high and cold, sometimes I want to spit. I think this trip is very good, first is because of the food, and some of the hotel, the first day and the last the hotel a little dirty, and it smell very bad, but the2,3,4, the hotel is 4.8 star. And the food in the hotel is good too!!! **Helen H – Year 7**

The favourite activity of my is go shopping in Lijiang old town, it was super nice, Because I buy a lot of stuff that I want, and buy a lot of present for my family and friend. The hardest part of this trip to Yunnan is when we are climbing the Yuulong Mountain, it was 4680 meters, and it was very tired, and I felt like I can't even breath, but at the last I still get to the top. The way how I get though it is there is food on the top, and I'm hungry so I get to the top! Over all, I think this trip is very nice, we have a lot of fun. We played games every night at 8:30 and the whole day iswasvery good. You will have lot of fun in Yunnan. **Abby Y - Year 7**

My favourite activity is climbing the snow mountain because of it's breathtaking scenery of the mountains when you reach the end and the satisfying "Snickers" bar at the top of the mountain. It gave me a a sense of accomplishment, I felt proud. It is a one of a lifetime climb up the mountain. I almost feel bad for the people who didn't climb because it was absolutely beautiful up there. You also get bragging rights about how you climbed up the mountain without oxygen support. The climb up the snow mountain is also the hardest part of the trip because of it's little oxygen while you climbed the never-ending stairs while clusters of people took pictures of James. It was also hard in the middle because, there was nothing to motivate you to climb the stairs. You had nothing you can look forwards to and that is what almost made me climb down. It was hard and it felt like a crawl because we needed to take several breaks. I personally got through because of the temptation of Mr. Mike's offer of a "Snickers" bar. And that's what drove me to climb the mountain. It was the Snickers Bar. Without the Snickers Bar, I would have climbed down a long time ago. Go to Yunnan, it's the best because the sun feels like it is working with you instead of against you like in Zhuhai. Believe it or not, it has several other amazing tourist attractions that really impressed us. It was fun for all of us to see the beautiful scenery of Yunnan.

Nicky Li – Year 7

My favourite activity of this trip was when we went to climb the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. I remember the moment when we arrived on the bottom of the mountain very clearly; my hands were trembling from the cold, but my eyes were amazed by the jaw-dropping scenery. I recalled the climb of the mountain just as vividly; it took tons of self-determination and hope for me and my peers to finally reach the top. When we finally arrived, the pride I felt was unexplainable. Mr. Mike gave each of us one candy bar to reward us, and every tiniest bite of the chocolate felt like gold. I knew that this pride would stay with me forever. The hardest part of the trip for me would definitely be the haunted house we went through before the first show we saw. As soon as I stepped through the entrance, I felt a shiver down my spine. It was cold and dark, and smelled damp. I closed my eyes in terrible fear, when suddenly, a deafening wisp of smoke pierced the air, and everyone shrieked in horror. The haunted house had lasted for about 6 minutes, but to me, every second felt like an hour. Sleeping was a big challenge for me that night, as whenever I closed my eyes, all I saw was the ghoul that tried to grab me with its wet and cold arms. The next morning, I realized that I had been mentally tricked by the ghouls and thought to myself, "Everyone has a fear." It calmed me down to understand that everyone was afraid of something and the haunted house remained as a fun memory in the Yunnan trip. Yunnan was a wonderful trip filled with tasty treats, wonderful scenery and beautiful weather. I would definitely recommend Yunnan to anyone with a brave heart, big stomach and the passion to explore and learn. **Stephanie P - Year 7**

I think the best is a performance called "love in Lijiang". The performance of Lijiang's eternal love is about an hour or so, and the scene is very elaborate. And the plot is also very rich, from the beginning, we began to introduce the Naxi people is an ancient and wise nation, they created a brilliant Dongba civilization in the difficult living environment of ancient times. Then the scene began to change, and the actors with wings slowly fell from the sky. The first act is Lugu Daughter's Country, which talks about the quiet and beautiful Lugu Lake, the ancient and mysterious Daughter's Country, a land of human dreams. The Mosuo people living here are a branch of the Naxi people and the only ethnic group in the world that retains matriarchal clan relations. Up to now, they still continue the custom of "going married without marrying men and without marrying women". The second act is the legend of the gang. The third act, the ancient way, is about the generation of caravans. Act 4 The third country of Yulong tells us that the Naxi people are a people who advocate freedom of love. They have paid a heavy price for love in the process from the original marriage system to the "parents' orders and matchmaker's words". Every year tens of millions of debaters gather in Lijiang, shocked by the past "martyrdom" and inspired by the freedom of love, where they are looking for their own hearts of Shambala. Generally speaking, the storyline of the performance is very strong, using pressures and many technological changes to show the perfect stage, and very touching, so I like it very much. During the journey, the most difficult place is to climb Yulong Snow Mountain. Because of the cold weather and high altitude, it is inevitable that there will be challenges. Encouraged by the company of my partners, we climbed the peak with tenacious will. On the whole, the trip to Yunnan is very meaningful. We have appreciated the cultural and ethnic characteristics of Yunnan, learned a lot of things and knowledge, let us become better.

Sissi - Year 11

In this Week Without Walls Trip, I liked hiking in the Spruce Meadow and Blue Moon Valley of Yulong Snow Mountain. The hike was a 1km hike in a spruce forest, with a meadow of grass and yak. The trail surrounded the green meadow with the snow mountain in the background. The green forest blended in nicely with the snow mountain, grey and white, and the blue sky that looked purplish when you looked closely. Blue Moon Valley is a lake area that had clear lakes with colored stone on the bottom, blue to green, with very clear water, making the water very blue, very

beautiful and unique in its way of colour. Going up Yulong Snow Mountain, 4680 meters of altitude, was a very big challenge, because the low amount of oxygen with many stairs, high winds made it very challenging. In order to get over this hard challenge, we climbed slowly, one step at a time, about half of the speed that we normally go in Zhuhai. We also needed to take breaks every so often, to replenish our energy on the 322-meter long hike, with an altitude change of 176 meters. It was like climbing 60 floors with only a small amount of oxygen. We helped each other, motivated each other with music, and gave them advice to help them using the correct strategy. Most people came down with altitude sickness, but I was fine, although it was still very hard, since the highest mountain I have been to is Huanglong, Sichuan, 3526 meters. It was all stairs, which makes it hard, and not on flat ground, which is easy but running is still not a good choice there. I find Yunnan a relaxing trip. It was a way for me to live the "slow lifestyle", enjoying the people there, and looking at the culture there. However, I would be happy if the traditional meals we ate are better, and eat a bigger variety of foods. Overall, I recommend this trip since it allows you to see great sights and also learn about culture, but bring some snacks to counter the food, since it is not the best! **Felix Q - Year 7**





DIVING with Mr Luke and Ms Mirjam

My favourite activity was the night dive because we got to experience diving in a completely different fashion. The scenes we saw were amazing and they were so different from the things that you can see on a normal dive. The hardest part was actually getting enough sleep, and the way that I dealt with it was just trying to get some extra sleep during the afternoons, when everybody else seems to have infinite stamina and was playing in the pool. The trip was fun and the food there was great. Next year I suggest we increase the price slightly and create the chance of doing more dives after the course has been done without needing to spend the already small amount of pocket money that we brought. Each extra dive was 200 rmb and the teachers only suggested us to bring around 600 rmb of money, we didn't have the ability to pay for extra dives. **Brite Y - Year 10**

I went to CEBU, it was such an amazing experience. I loved the dive resort and the people that we went diving with. If I were to go to the Philippines again I would definitely go back. My favourite part of the entire trip was the night dive, it was such an amazing experience I would definitely do it again. I got to see three turtles for the first time and the reef was stunning. All of the coral and fish were healthy and super close to the dive resort, you did not have to take a boat because it was their house reef!!! My least favoured part was the

airplane flight. It was super late and we did not get a lot of sleep. And I am the opposite of a morning person. I LOVE my sleep. So if I was to change any thing I would get better flight times. Overall I thought it was the best dive experience I have ever had, I would definitely go back. I recommend that we get better flight times. But other than that, amazing. **Simone V – Year 9**

My favourite activity on WWW was going on the night dive. I enjoyed seeing the sea turtles, clownfish, and lionfish on this dive. The hardest part of the trip was trying to stay buoyant underwater for our PPB (Peak Performance Buoyancy) dive. I am very buoyant already and having the same amount of weights as some one half my size didn't help my floating predicament. I think it was a fun trip and I learned a lot about diving. I would recommend this trip to anyone who likes to swim, wants to dive, or likes being rained on every night. **Luke R – Year 8**





The Time Has Come!

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



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