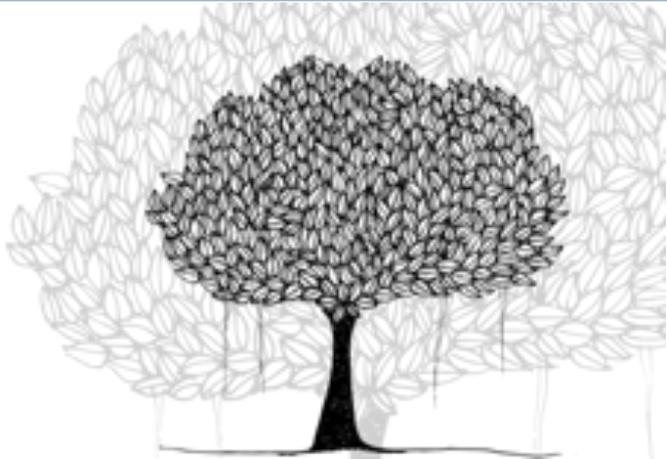


# THE BANYAN



Issue 40

September 27, 2019



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

## FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

This week a number of congratulations are in order. Our week was full of energy and stories of exertion, courage and exploration, as you can see!

Congratulations to the 24 Primary students who competed in the Cross Country races in Guangzhou on Tuesday. An incredible number of medals were on display on their return and their coaches reported that everyone gave their very best and demonstrated incredible team spirit throughout. Well done runners!

Congratulations to the Year 6 students who presented their application to lead the Primary Student Council during the Friday assembly. Regardless who emerges to take the leadership, with such a collection of capable and passionate students we know that the council will have a number of exciting initiatives for the school.

Congratulations and thank you to students and families for your support of the Mufti Day this week. This dress down day was organized in support of the IB students and families of Lucaya International School in Freeport, Bahamas who were recently impacted by Hurricane Dorian. The response was spectacular - thank you to our PYP Coordinator Ms. Sharon Rose for giving us this chance to express our compassion and to lend a helping hand.

With now five weeks of classes concluded we can enjoy the festivities of Golden Week. Upon return to session we jump right into more action, including:

### *MAP Growth Testing*

Letters went home this week with Year 4-10 students explaining the testing that begins on Monday, October 7 lasting two weeks. These tests will provide us a valuable data point for our planning for the rest of the semester and into the second testing session scheduled for April 2020. While these tests are not IB designed, we believe that they help to offer additional insight into student strengths and areas for development.

### *Stoke City FC Trial Week*

Each day after school from October 7-11 Coach Kane of SCFC will be leading football training with groups of students. If you have yet to sign up, please write [scfc@zischina.com](mailto:scfc@zischina.com) to get your child's name on the list.

Please note a slight change to our school calendar as well. We are moving the school's Cross Country event that was originally scheduled for October 17th as it conflicts with MAP testing. The new date will be placed in the first week of November, TBC.

Safe travels and happy holidays – see you all again on October 7.

Warm regards,

**Andrew VanderMeulen**  
**Head of School**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **October Holiday**

Sept 30 - October 4

### **Stoke City FC Trial Week**

October 7-11

### **MAP Growth Testing (Years 4-10)**

October 7-18

### **PYP Tennis Fridays**

October 11- December 13

### **PYP Goal Setting Day & Secondary Parent Conferences**

October 14 (no school)

### **Guest Author: Sean Karemaker**

October 16

### **Stoke City FC Training**

October 14 - December 13

### **Years 5/6 Week Without Walls Conghua**

October 21-25



Dear school community,

As we now enter a week of celebration and relaxation, I want to remind you of the events and initiatives happening in EY and Primary this October. A letter with more information about each of these was sent home this week, so be sure to check your child's backpack if you did not receive the letters.

**Makerspace lab:** We are in the process of stocking our Makerspace lab. This room will be a space to engage students in hands-on critical thinking projects. If you have any of the recyclable materials listed in the letter sent home earlier this week, please send them to school with your child in October.

**Goal Setting Day:** Mark your calendars for Monday, October 14th. School will not run on a regular schedule that day. As there is no school that day, there will also be no buses. Instead, the day is set aside for parents, teachers and students to meet together to discuss each student's progress and where and how the student can improve over the course of the year. After the holiday, EY and Primary teachers will contact you to schedule a meeting time on that day.

**MAP testing:** Students in Years 4 through 6 will begin MAP testing on Monday, October 7th. In Primary, testing will conclude on Friday, October 11th.

**Week Without Walls:** Years 5 and 6 are visiting Conghua from October 21 to October 25. All students from Year 5 and most of the students from Year 6 have indicated their plans to attend. If you have not returned the permission slip to your child's teacher, please do so as soon as possible.

All other EY and Primary students will have a chance to experience their own version of Week Without Walls. During that same week (October 21 to October 25), teachers will plan various field trips around Zhuhai in order to further enrich their curriculum. More information about those trips will be sent home in the weeks following the holiday.

I hope you all have a wonderful time with family and friends next week, and I look forward to seeing your children's smiling faces again on Monday, October 7th.

Warm Regards,

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

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Dear ZIS Parents

Today we had our first Mufti Day of the school Year, in support of students and teachers from Lucaya International School in Freeport in the Bahamas. As you know they suffered terrible damage to their school and students and teachers also lost a great deal.

We wanted to hold Mufti Day as a way to raise money and to help teach the children about compassion. In the classrooms this week, teachers have been working with your children in supporting them to write letters of inspiration and to explain about how we as an IB World school are able through being Caring can help those in need. Conversations have taken place incorporating our Approaches to Learning. The children have been developing their Thinking, Communication, Research, Self-Management and Social Skills. They did

this through tasks that required them to evaluate the situation the students and teachers are in. Writing their letters to the students. Formulating questions to help them better understand the situation. Making informed choices about donations and how they can help others. And finally, showing empathy through taking Action today.

With your support and student Action, we raised more that double our expectation. We do not yet have the final count, but it is over 5000CNY. This money will be gratefully appreciated by those at Lucaya International School. Thank you for your amazing support. ZIS, a true school community.

**Ms Rose**  
**PYP Coordinator**  
**Year 2 Teacher**



Secondary Segment



Middle Years Programme

Diploma Programme

Dear parents and students,

Five weeks have shot by and I speak for many people in saying that we are ready for a week's rest. I would like to celebrate two important things we have achieved already in this

time.

First of all the students settled into their lessons quickly in the first two weeks and they have been maintained an excellent rhythm and level of work. Many students have modelled themselves on teachers and parents by showing each and every day much courtesy and humour.

New clubs and sports continue to be created and this adds more opportunities for students to enjoy learning with us at ZIS. The flip side to this is monitoring of learning, and the first fortnight back in October we will carry out MAP testing in three subjects areas: Reading, Writing and Maths. This will be for Years 7-10 in Secondary as well as Primary classes.

But the school year is only starting. It is clear that we are also achieving for the longer term perspective. I can already see relationships either starting to be built or becoming stronger. Our size of School counts in our favour. To quote Lynch in Matthew Lynch What Factors Make A School Effective?

<https://www.theedadvocate.org/author/the-advocate>

December 15, 2015

Apart from the five factors of a successful school already mentioned, the size of the school seems to be a school effectiveness factor. Research has found that the smaller the school, the better students perform, especially in the case of older students This is the rationale behind the concept of schools-within-schools. Students in smaller learning environments feel more connected to their peers and teachers, pass classes more often, and have a higher probability of going to college.

This is echoed also in Cotton, K. (1995). Research You Can Use to Improve Results. Alexandria, VA: ASCD and Portland, OR: NWREL. See Chapter 2, Management and Organization.

We are onto something here and I look forward to sharing the learning of our students during the remainder of the year.

Regards,

**Michael Coffey**  
**Head of Secondary**



LS Space



## UNIVERSITY FAIR in MACAU

This past Monday, I had the privilege of bringing our senior students to Macau for the annual TIS Macau University Fair. With over 80 representatives from universities around the world, it was an excellent opportunity for us to learn more about the options available to our students after they leave ZIS.

Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the University of British Columbia, the Paris College of Arts, The University of Washington and City U's School of Creative Media were popular booths.

Many Admissions officers shared how their schools are becoming more and more international. What was clear was the effort put into making campuses around the world more welcoming to students from abroad.

The British Council had a real presence on campus as well, promoting their IELTS guides as well as giving a talk about UCAS and the application process for the UK in general.

All in all, it was a very fruitful day. As you can see, our students were enthusiastic to share their knowledge with their peers here on Qi'ao.







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

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**Z I S I S P R O U D  
T O P R E S E N T**

**SEAN KAREMAKER  
PEARL RIVER DELTA TOUR**



**GUANGDONG, CHINA 2019**

**Graphic Novelist and Artist  
October 16, 2019**

  
**SCHOOL  
LUNCH**  
**WHAT'S COOKING?**

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

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