

THE BANYAN



Issue 3

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Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

I am delighted to report that we received a positive membership visit from the Council of International Schools this week. The application, prepared over the course of last year, presented the CIS representative with over 50 school documents and a school prepared report. The visit itself allowed for a number of meetings, including sessions with our Board Chair, two groupings of teachers, senior leadership, groups of students, a parent group, and members of the Finance, Office, and Logistics teams. Thank you to everyone for sharing their perspectives and experiences with our guest.

Congratulations to all for bringing ZIS to this exciting moment.

This places us on the path for full accreditation with CIS, a process that involves a close self-evaluation of our practices and sets targets for school improvement. With successful accreditation, a two year process, we will join 514 schools globally who are presently recognized for meeting the CIS standards.

The coming months will ask for considerable reflection and collaboration among students, staff, and parents as we prepare for the next steps. I am excited to share in this process with you and invite you to be a part of this growth. More details on the expectations of CIS accreditation will be shared in the near future. For now, let's celebrate the achievement of taking this first step!

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

October Holiday
Oct 1 - 5 - no school

Years 11-13 Goal Setting & Year 7 Parents Meetings
Oct 9 - pupil free day for Y8, 9, 10

PYP Goal Setting
Oct 11 - no classes for EY & PYP

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

Sundowner
Oct 20 - 6-8:30pm



Perfectly Primary



Hello to all of our ZIS community! It's been another very busy week in the PYP. This was the final week of our first unit of inquiry for Years 1 through 6. As a result the students were busy throughout the week completing presentations, reflections, persuasive writing pieces and other demonstrations of their learning.

The week ended on a very high note, as parents in Years 1, 2, and 3 were invited to school to take part in and celebrate student learning. In Year 1 and 2 the students shared what they had learned about building important relationships through their own mind maps and personal narratives, and enjoyed a special buffet lunch afterwards. In Year 3 our students presented the communities that they built as part of their 'How The World Works' unit of inquiry to their parents. The students' creations were very creative, and they were able to explain all of the different services that were created for the people in their community. Well done everyone!

Friday was also a special day as students enjoyed their second House Challenge of the year. The challenge was a set of water races and competitions. The students had a great time having fun, competing and getting a little bit wet on a beautiful fall morning.

Thanks for reading and have a great holiday!

Jordan Rose

Head of Primary







Secondary Segment



Middle Years
Programme

Diploma
Programme

Dear Parents and Students,

It seems a little crazy that we are having a week off school next week but the weather is lovely and rest always is good to re-charge the batteries.

When we return to school, students will see the pace pick up a little. Zak and Diya will be training MUN students as part of their CAS project, Rock Band and Tiny Band (yes, this is their name at the moment - so cute) will be working hard on their respective new set lists. Students have already started reading for Battle of the Books and practices will commence after the break. This year our Chinese department are taking on the challenge of hosting the Chinese BOB and we are so grateful for their enthusiasm and expertise.

First thing after the break (Tuesday 9th October) we will have our Year 11, 12, 13 goal setting meeting. This is where teacher, parents and students can meet to set goals for these most important years.

This year I would also like to invite parents of our new Year 7's to meet with their teachers to be able to see how they have settled into high school.

A note will go home today to set times for your appointments, please bring them back on the first day of school or email Ms Leah directly. This will be a **pupil free day** for Year's 8-10. They will have the opportunity to meet with teachers after the first semester report.

We hope your travels are safe and relaxing.

Warmest Regards
Vanessa Leah
Head of Secondary



TINY BAND



Sound tracks, theme music, a symphony and a pop song. While we may be a much smaller group than last year's Big Band, the musicians assembled this year are diverse in their taste and very open to exploring new pieces. We really are a TINY band, six members strong to be exact. Featuring Matvey Finov on the drums, Ryan Hui on the piano, Linlin Huang on the violin, Anne Kim and Miho Kobayashi on the flute and a trumpet to round us off, we have the luxury of choosing what we will play together.

As a new teacher last year, joining students in the band allowed me to get to know a number of teenagers in a more relaxed, creative setting. Some of our quieter students make beautiful noise when given an instrument to play. We watched each other work through tricky parts, make mistakes and try again. It was a real joy to be able to participate.

This year I again have the chance to spend an hour a week with our Middle School students in a collaborative manner. Each one has been a risk-taker, shown genuine concern for the musical needs and interests of each other. My favourite moment so far involved discussion about which pieces to learn.

Ryan: "How about Titanic?"

Linlin: "I don't know..."

Ryan: "It will be good for the flute players; it has a great flute part."

Linlin: "True. Let's do Titanic."

We look forward to preparing some music for our ZIS community to hear!

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



Lunch Menus and past editions of "The Banyan" Newsletter are available at zischina.com

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