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THE BANYAN



Issue 65

April 30, 2020



Zhuhai International School: weekly newsletter

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR

Dear ZIS Community,

The recent announcement of the return of our students to campus this May means we have the opportunity to come together as a school community again. It will be a reunion to remember - I

know we all look forward to sharing our learning spaces again in person very soon.

Monday, May 11th we welcome students in **Years 5 and up**, joining the Year 10 and Year 13 students who resumed their time on campus this week.

Monday, May 18th sees the return of students in **Years 2, 3, and 4**.

Your teachers are more than ready to complete the school year in person - this is wonderful news for all of us! For the families overseas, we haven't forgotten about you and we will continue to support your learning via distance learning.

We remain focused and alert, assigning health and safety the highest priority with the return to campus. We continue to work closely with the community health officials who have throughout these months been providing detailed guidance and thorough inspections of our preparations. Acknowledging that this May long weekend will be a busy time for travel and tourism, our attention must be wholly given to healthy practices and the cleanliness of our school environment. Please continue to emphasize healthy practices amongst your family members and we will reinforce all of these lessons at school as well.

Last week I shared brief biographies of the incoming Primary teachers for August. This week the incoming Secondary teachers receive their moment. Our Learning Services team has all expat members returning for another year, so in total we have six new teachers arriving for the new year, two of whom are presently in China at the moment.

Sam Dowell is an American who has taught much of his career at international schools in the Bahamas. He holds a Masters in Teaching Foreign Languages and has years of experience teaching MYP Language Acquisition. He is also a certified football coach (soccer!) so our staff team adds a potential MVP to the squad.

John Wasteneys is a Canadian who is presently teaching Advanced Placement courses in Hangzhou. He holds two Bachelors degrees and is trained in a multitude of areas including guidance counselling, special education, Project Wild, and TESL in addition to his Canadian teacher certification. John is a practicing artist who has even managed to complete his language

studies up to the HSK 3 level.

We are delighted to be welcoming Sam and John, along with Cindy, Amanda, Stephen, and Michael who were introduced in last week's newsletter. Towards the end of the school year we will celebrate our departing teachers and share our gratitude for their time with us in Zhuhai.

Looking ahead to August, in the coming week we will be sending home an enrolment survey to learn of your plans for the new academic year. At the same time the fee policy for new families will be published.

These are busy weeks ahead with the PYP Exhibition, MYP Personal Project sharing, as well as the celebrations of our Year 13 graduates and our students completing the MYP and the PYP. Planning for these events will need to take into consideration the health and safety guidelines issued by local authorities so details will be shared as they become available.

Be well over the May 1st holiday and enjoy this long weekend.

Warm regards,

Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School

Coming Events:

Monday, May 11

Students in Years 5-9 and 11 and 12 return to campus

Tuesday, May 12 (postponed from 5th)

The Transition to the MYP for Year 6 -
Mr. Andrew

Monday, May 18

Students in Years 2-4 return to campus



Perfectly Primary



Dear school community,

It has been a nice change of pace to have our EY and Primary teachers on campus each Wednesday, getting ready for the arrival of your children. Over and over again I continue to hear from our teachers how much they miss having students here. Campus just isn't the same without

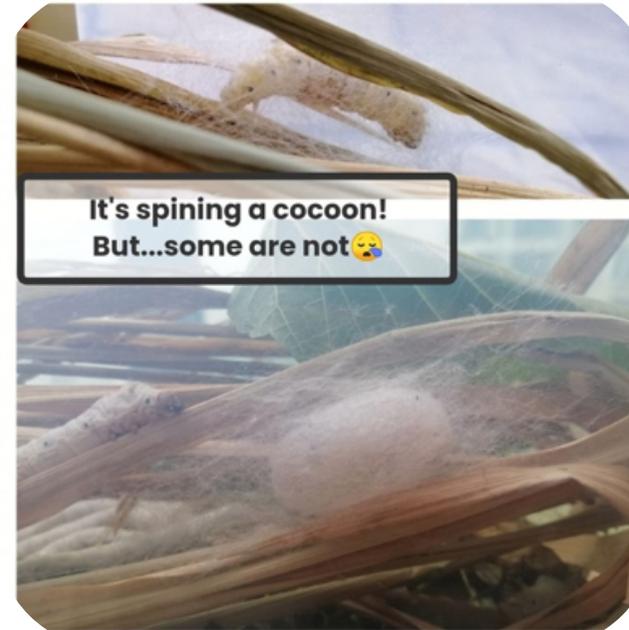
them. Even though we aren't together, we have continued to share in exciting learning opportunities digitally.



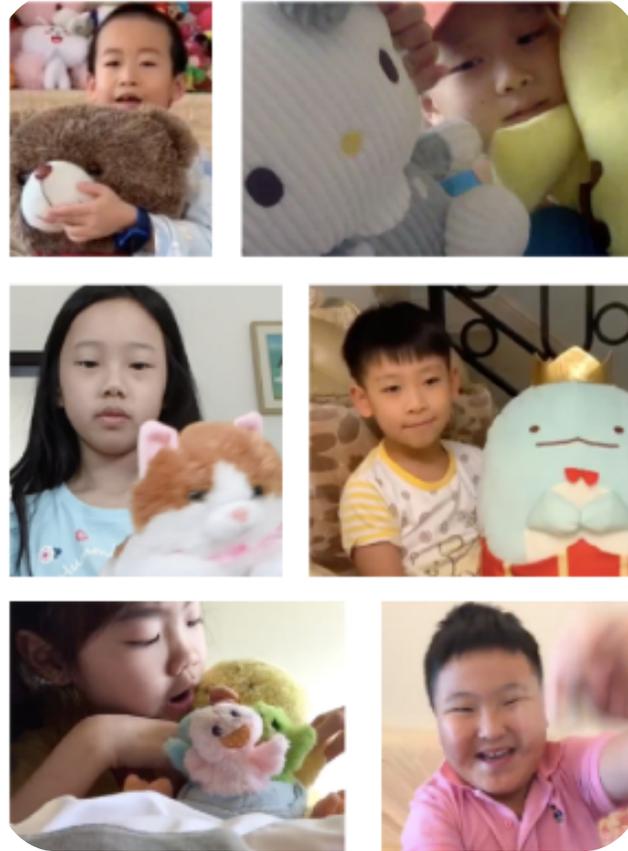
In Early Years this week, students have been conducting science experiments from home. Check out this photo of a Reception student's experiment with seed growth!

Year 1 and 2 students have been finishing their unit on insects

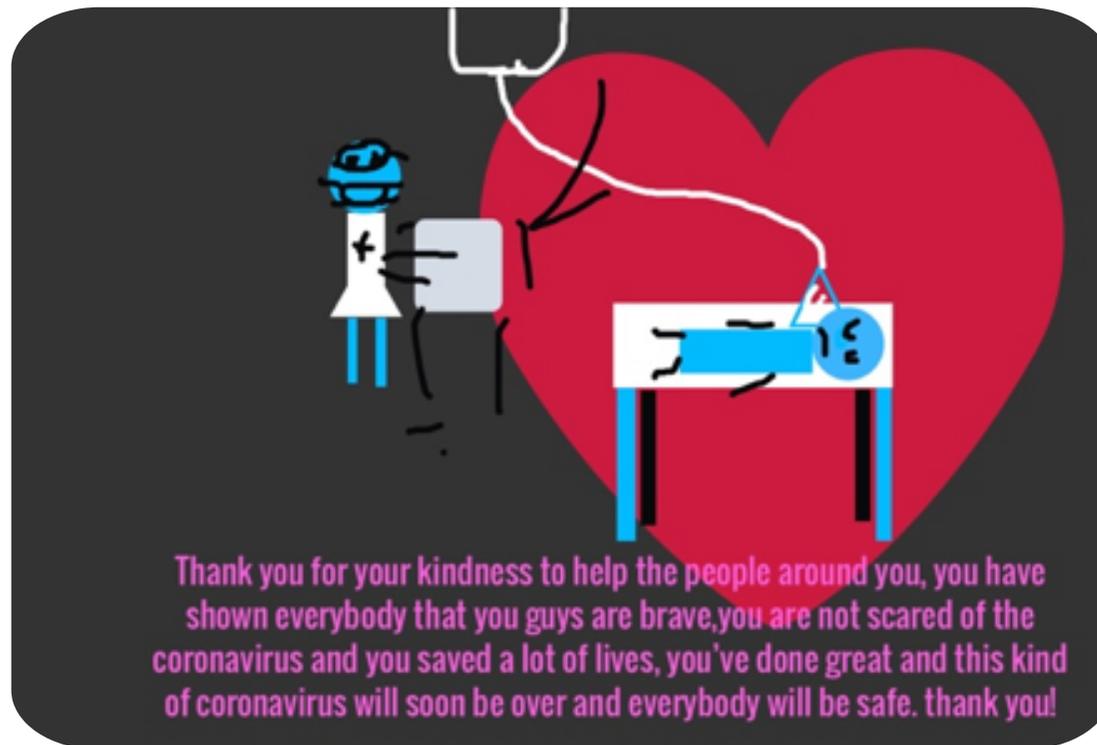
These photos from are by a year 2 student who found silkworms and documented their life cycle growth:



Year 3 students were tasked this week with creating a video to say “good morning” to their classmates. Here is a collage of some of their video screen shots:



Year 4 students completed an activity they called “Operation Gratitude,” in which they had to create a card to thank the healthcare workers for their hard work fighting COVID-19. Check out this digitally produced card from a Year 4 student:



Year 5 students have been busy finalizing their 5 paragraph research essays about governments in different countries around the world, and they also created art to symbolize the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Here is a Year 5 student's art depicting worldwide child rights:



Year 6 students have been busily working through the exhibition process. Anyone familiar with the PYP knows the exhibition is a celebration of what students have learned. It is a process of independence. I am extremely proud of all of the hard work they have been putting in these past few weeks, along with the support of their teachers and their staff mentors. You will see and hear a lot more about that in the coming weeks.

We can't wait to fill our halls with pieces of your children's art work and classwork again.

Warmly,

Dr. Lana Staton

Head of Primary



Secondary Segment



Middle Years
Programme

Diploma
Programme

Dear students and parents,

Finally the green light for inviting all secondary students back on campus has arrived. The announced date of 11 May 2020 for Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 coincides with rounding off the year nicely. Quite how this will pan out is still being decided, but there will be most normal end of year activities. Years 10 and 13 have been settling in well to campus life in semester 2 and ZIS will welcome the remaining students back in just over a week.

This has been an intense and sometimes anxious time. Teachers have to design face-to-face lessons as well as host live streaming. Online students also have questions that need answering. If the last 12 weeks has taught us something it is that digital literacy is more than just being able to “read” an app, it means straddling expectations, behaviours, emotions, and communications across analogue and digital components of our lives. The poster below puts it more eloquently:

Have an enjoyable long weekend and with a bit of luck see you soon.

Kind regards,

Micheal Coffey

Head of Secondary



Remote Learning

Opportunity

to:

as an

NOT to:



create learning experiences that allow us to explore **new forms** of teaching and learning



build skills that will support the **now literacies** (digital citizenship, information literacy, media literacy, network literacy global literacy)



build skills that will foster a new sense of community (again not aiming to substitute the same in-person- community we are used to)



find learning experiences for us as educators as well as our students that help develop **now skills** (communicate, collaborate, connect, critical thinking, create)



amplify collaboration and embed crowdsourcing



document FOR Learning in order to support reflection and metacognition and collaboratively learn from this crisis



communicate with each other beyond space (geography) and time (asynchronously)



move from consumption of information to **creation** (remixing, adding value, creating new) of information.



foster **self- directed** and **self-motivated** learning and working skills



foster **social-emotional** learning



continue to do "**business**" as usual



ignore that we are **flying as we are building the airplane**. Cut yourself some slack, embrace the action research



substitute the exact same in-person-**schedule** students follow traditionally in school



give our students a package of **worksheets** to complete as "busy work" and a way to say "we covered it".



have our students **sit quietly** in front of their screens through long lectures of recorded videos or live video conferences



expect the same **results** as face to face teaching and learning



focus on **analog** reading and writing skills **alone**



isolate ourselves and students in our learning, not connect beyond our quarantined walls and not to connect globally



ignore our students **strengths** and **passions** to connect and personalize learning.



practice **balance** between our analog and digital activities



amplify reading and writing to include new forms

LANGWITCHES
THE MAGIC OF LEARNING



LS Space



IB CONTINUUM



Here to support our community,
we welcome

Mars Zhu

Every Wednesday and Thursday - on campus
Contact Mirjam Berghuis for details

As we prepare for a full return to campus, we want to ensure that the emotional health and well-being of our community is supported.

Each week, beginning on March 13th, Mars Zhu will be available on campus for those needing extra help dealing with these stressful times.

Email mirjamb@zischina.com for more information



Warm regards,

Mirjam Berghuis
Head of Learning Services



Under the Banyan Tree

June 22-26 & June 29-July 3

Year 2 and Up

What are your plans for the Summer?

Why don't you join us for summer camp?

Led by experienced teachers in an English setting, campers will be immersed in a range of learning opportunities, including:

- Experiential learning: nature exploration
- STEM focused sessions
- Leadership and Teambuilding activities
- Sports and Swimming
- Arts experiences: visual arts and drama

When – two weeks: June 22-26 and June 29-July 3 (9am-3pm)

Who – students in Year 2 and above

Where – ZIS campus on Qi'ao Island

Registration is open – scan the QR Code:



Please write summercamp@zischina.com for more information.

Secondary students are invited to apply to apply to join as Camp Counsellors. Write to the email above to learn more.

Cost - 6500 RMB for two weeks and 3500 RMB for one week.

We are pleased to offer ZIS families a 50% discount on the camp fees, which includes transport on designated bus lines (Huafa, Jida, Zhongshan, and Tangjia – dependant on demand), snacks and lunch, plus all camp related activities.



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

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