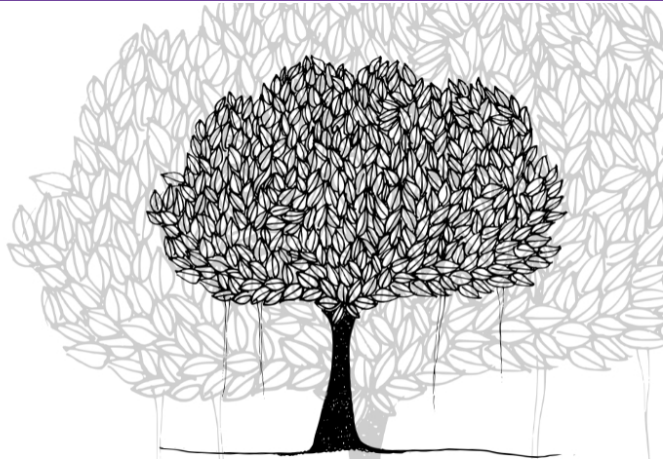


THE BANYAN



Issue 172

March 17, 2023



Zhuhai International School weekly newsletter



From the First Floor

Dear ZIS Community,

A visit to one of our MYP Mathematics classes captured so much of what makes learning at ZIS meaningful, engaging, and relevant. Had you been there for the morning session, you would have observed best educational practice on all levels. Students were respected and respectful, clearly caring for each other and their learning. They were warmly greeted at the door and the quality relationships that have been built were on clear display. Learning objectives for the class were posted and a warm up exercise awaited for students, projected on the board. Students were organized, attentive, and productive during the session. Beyond these "normal" traits of a good learning environment, there was even more to see:

- Students routinely asked insightful questions and sought clarification in order to confirm their understanding. Student agency and student ownership of their learning was strong.
- Collaboration was the norm - learning is not an individual competition but a shared experience. Students worked together to test ideas and to encourage success in their efforts.

- An engaging lesson, rich in vocabulary and worked examples, with engaging pacing and grounded in prior knowledge. Sprinkled in was good humor, a willingness to try and fail and try again - a low-risk, high-reward learning space.
- Individualized planning to support differentiation. Every student in the room was being stretched with new skills and content based on their readiness.

Parents don't often have the opportunity to view the classroom in action, but assemblies are wonderful chances to share in student learning and it was great to see so many families in the audience for the Year 4 assembly this Friday. This was another great example of what we value in our classrooms. The students confidently shared a song, actions and all. Groups of students informed and entertained as they presented their research into the World Wildlife Foundation and other environmentally minded organizations. Students shared their theatrical skills at every turn, showing their character and their courage. Teachers announced Learner Profile awards with deserving recipients, certificates in being 'Principled', 'Communicators', and 'Risk-Takers', for example.

Further in the newsletter you will find an invitation to the Toddler Play Group beginning March 25. Thank you to Ms. JoLeen for offering this opportunity to the ZIS Community. I hope you will join in, enjoy the EY facilities and some great company while the children explore, discover, and begin their lifelong learning adventure.

Best of luck to the MYP students who depart today to Shenzhen for the Business Simulation competition and to the footballers who travel away on Saturday for their football exchange. Wishing strength and endurance for the intrepid runners too test themselves on campus Saturday morning for the Qi'ao Running League!

Warm regards,

Andrew VanderMeulen
Head of School



Upcoming Events

March 18: Qi'ao Running League @ ZIS - Run #2

March 24: Open Day for Prospective Families

March 25: First Toddler Play Group

March 31: ZIS Sports Day (Primary & Secondary)

April 3-7: Spring Break Holiday

April 10-14: Spring MAP Growth Testing (Years 3-10)

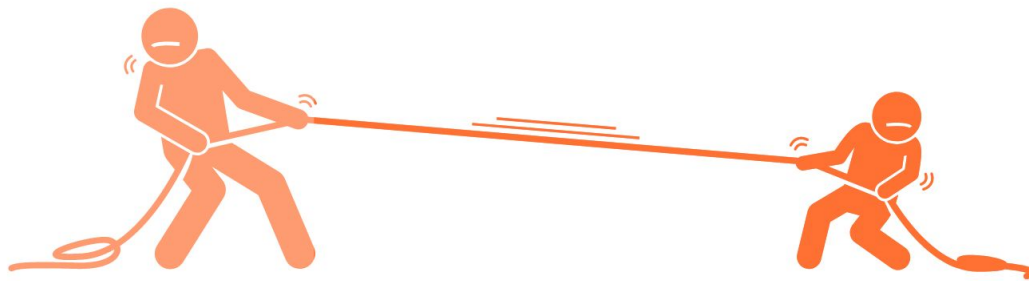
April 12: TEDx Youth @ ZIS - BOLD

April 15: Math Kangaroo Competition (Primary and Secondary)

April 22: ZIS International Day (TBC)

May 1: Labor Day Holiday





SPORTS DAY

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Perfectly Primary

Year 3 – A Celebration of Stories Around the World!

Every year our “How We Express Ourselves” unit, all about stories around the world, gives us an opportunity to get students excited about stories from around the world, and to write their own story in the end.

This year, just like last, students had a unit filled with activities from Book Month and from inside the classroom. We started by looking at some books from the library, and where in the world those stories came from. We also invited teachers to come read to us in different languages and to read stories from different geographic areas. We also had fun reading to other classes, bringing in our favorite story books to share, and in the end, writing our own stories.

In an increasingly globalized world, to understand and appreciate stories in a global context, helps students to be more open-minded and understanding of others' cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Over the course of the unit we had Ms. Elana come in to share a bilingual story from South Africa, in English and Afrikaans and Ms. Lorene come in to read a story to us in Cantonese. We also heard a poem in Polish from Mr. Mike, and one parent came in to read a story in Mandarin Chinese. In addition, we heard about the traditional Māori stories of New Zealand from Mr. Chris!

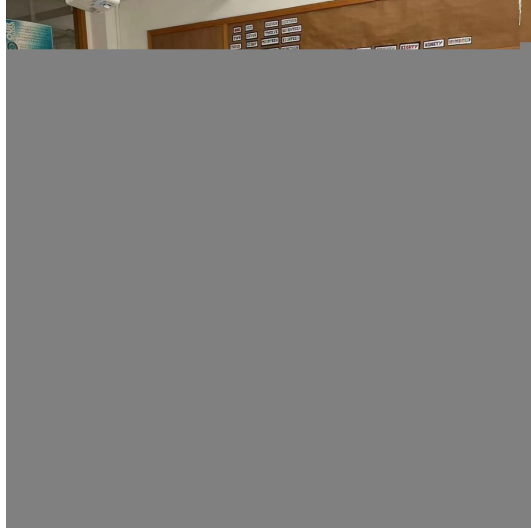
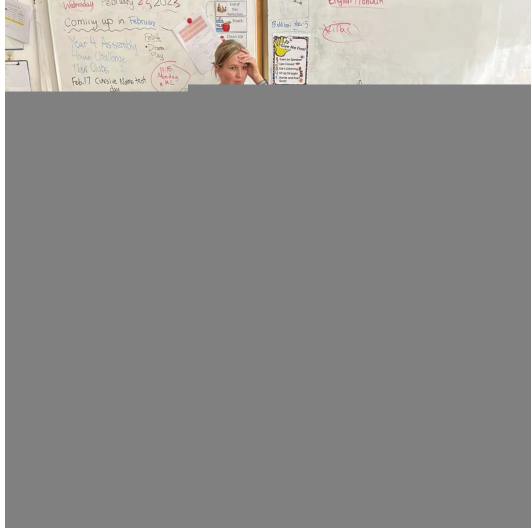
Students were also invited to bring their own favorite stories in. These stories could be in any language. They then had an opportunity to share their books and learned how to talk about the reasons why they liked their favorite books. To continue our celebration of reading, Ms. Eva's and Ms. Lin's Chinese classes completed a book sale and exchange, where students had the opportunity to trade, sell and buy new books. What a great way to get new literature!

Finally in the end students had the chance to exercise their creative muscle as they moved towards their final assessment for the unit. After examining stories and their elements throughout the unit, students wrote their own original story and published it. Very soon they will get the chance to share it with other classes too!

Books and stories need to be celebrated! Our students are readers, writers and authors who have been enriched by this unit!

We are also fostering open-minded global citizens who can appreciate different cultural and linguistic backgrounds and different ways of viewing the world.

Michelle Hobbs
Year 3 Teacher





Secondary Segment

AN ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Living a healthy lifestyle lifts our mood, self-esteem and confidence, changing

aspects of our life that make us unhappy. We feel better in our bodies, live longer and reduce the risk of illness and disease!

It is beneficial for students to live a balanced healthy lifestyle because it increases their mental and physical health. Sports have many transferable skills for life and career. When you're active and living a healthy lifestyle, it doesn't mean you're abandoning your academics, nor does it mean if you stop being active that you'll get better grades. You need to balance the two as they need each other. Make enough time to study, make enough time to exercise and make healthy choices when it comes to nutrition or recreational games. Make enough time to switch off from academics and sports, just rest enough.

Being active and living a healthy lifestyle develops learning and focus; it also teaches you discipline. I encourage you to take control of your health and well-being. Be in charge and in control of your life; take your power back. Reflect on your behavior, lifestyle, and health choices. Decide what kind of person you want to be and then take the steps to be that person. Sports are life.

If you do not make time for an active healthy lifestyle and for your wellness, soon you will be forced to make time for your illness. Please read the phrase again.

Warm Regards,

Sego Mokgothu

Secondary PHE Teacher

Dear Parents,

I am Jenny from Year 12. I'm organizing a garage sale to raise funds for student government events such as the upcoming spring dance. Instead of throwing away unused items, you can donate the items! Donation boxes are placed in the hallway.

If there are many interested participants, we may open the garage sale to the wider school community. If you are willing to join, please let me know. Feel free to contact me for further details or with any questions.

Thank you!
Jenny Y12

WHAT'S COOKING?

SCHOOL
LUNCH



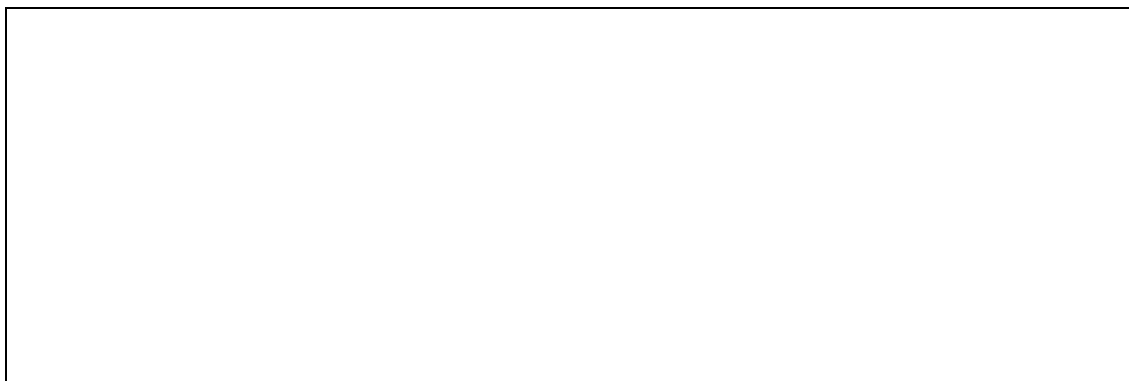
Lunch Menus,
our food safety guidelines,
and past editions of
"The Banyan" Newsletter
are available
at zischina.com



learn about WELL-BEING at ZIS

learn about BOARDING at ZIS

learn about our ACTIVITIES





As a CIS Internationally Accredited School, ZIS meets and exceeds the standards in the nine domains listed in the diagram.

Being both an IB and a CIS school means upholding the highest standards in:

- excellence in teaching and learning
- advancing global citizenship
- commitment to student well-being



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