

# SJIIM Weekly Update

## 19th March 2021



### Back at last! Student views on the return to physical school

Returning back to physical school on Monday March 8, 2021 was seen as a day of celebration for staff, students and parents throughout the SJIIM community. Upon arriving back to school students were greeted with 'Welcome Back' posters, free cupcakes and a plethora of smiling teachers, but the question remained, was this truly a joyous occasion for all?

While returning back to physical school posed many positives for our students, it no doubt also brought with it varying levels of anxiety. Other than a short return to physical school in September, and a few weeks in October, 2020, most students have been learning online for almost a year. While we are aware that online learning is not optimal for student achievement, we cannot ignore the fact that it has literally become 'the new norm'. Waking up every morning and logging onto a device gave students the consistency they craved during a global wide-pandemic. Acting as a sense of routine and fulfillment when everything most of us knew about life had been put on pause. Stepping away from the virtual school screen and back into the face to face classroom would undoubtedly bring up mixed feelings for many of those at SJIIM.

In the Elementary School, Mr Woodhams and Ms Witz spent time talking to our Student Representative Council (SRC) to understand the children's perspective. In general, all the children were happy and excited to be back. Victorianne (5M), Chen Chen (4I), Mackenzie (5I) and Caitlyn (4S) were among many who highlighted the ability to see and play with their friends as something they most enjoyed about being back at physical school.

While some children were a little anxious about the return, they all felt that they understood the school's SOPs and were happy to follow them. They felt teachers had done a good job in helping them follow the SOPs and knew that they are designed to keep everyone safe. Arjun (3M) was particularly thoughtful in saying that he felt "everybody was helping each other to ensure everyone's safety."

The children all felt their interaction with friends and teachers at physical school was easier compared to virtual school. Alex (3S) appreciated the more instant feedback he gets inside the physical classroom, and felt on Zoom he needed to wait longer for the teacher to answer lots of individual questions before his own could be heard. Alex also felt "less time pressure" with lessons in the classroom compared to on Zoom.



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No longer having to put up with problems with lagging or other internet connection problems on Zoom is also something the children appreciate about being back in school. Victorianne mentioned that she likes not having to mute and unmute when she has questions and felt it's easier to "get help if you need it" in physical school. Caitlyn said that she thought the interaction with teachers in physical school is better; "they can show and explain things more easily." The children also liked that teachers could focus on student questions more individually; without having to address the whole class.

PE and Drama were both subjects that the children were particularly excited about doing in physical school. Caleb (5J) really enjoys the big open space of the field as a place to run around and play during PE, while the use of the Drama studio as a space to learn was also something the children were looking forward to.

We also took a moment to reflect on the long period of virtual school we've experienced and think about if they found out anything about themselves during virtual school that will help them in the future.

Improved skills in the use of technology was something the SRC all felt was something that will benefit them. Talia (3I) said she had "learned faster typing and can now use Seesaw to switch between classes" independently. Using the voice controls in Seesaw, Zoom shortcuts, new digital art software, Pear Deck, Tynker and "typing with two hands" were all other technical skills children felt they'd developed well in virtual school.

The children also talked about the virtues they'd used a lot of in virtual school, which have now been strengthened. For example, Sophia (6J) mentioned she'd shown a lot of commitment and self-discipline in completing tasks on time and more independence in her learning. Mackenzie and Caitlyn talked about strengthening their virtues of tolerance and patience during virtual lessons, in waiting for others to speak and overcoming technical difficulties.

Finally, Ava (4J) thought that the virtue of trust had developed between herself and her teachers. She felt teachers showed a lot of trust in their students working hard during virtual school and that students had repaid that trust.

### **Voices from our High School Students: Back in Physical School**

In the High School, Ms. Sousa interviewed the Student Representative Council (SRC), specifically students in KS3, to find out their feelings about our return to physical school.

The interview started off quite simple as students were asked 'how they felt being back in physical school?'. Aurelia in 7M said "being back in school is so much better than virtual school. Being able to see and talk to each other face to face, being in a real classroom that is not your house, and most importantly, no more internet issues when joining classes". Olivia Koh in 7Y also agreed that she was excited to be back in school, but she did admit that she "miss[es] having [her] comfortable items around". Isaac Liew in 7Y mentioned that he was happy to be back as now he "won't get distracted by things at home" and Inara in 9L mentioned how being back in physical school is better for students 'overall wellbeing'.

Next, students were asked about the SOPs in school, Matthew in 8K said he finds "the SOPs easy to follow" but is annoyed when they "affect [his] social life and learning experience". Inara in 9L agreed with these sentiments when she said that the SOPs "aren't hard to follow... although sometimes [they] are annoying, I understand [they] are necessary and I am willing to adapt and compromise".

When we asked students what they missed most about virtual school, Bowen in 9L said he missed "sleeping in" and "more frequent breaks". Olivia Koh in 7Y stated that she "misses hanging out with family more often, reading in her spare time and feeling more... free". Evelyn in 8L agreed with all of these statements when she said "I miss getting up late... typing [my work] instead of writing, [using] a wider range of resources, not having to take as much time getting ready and spending [more] time with my family".

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Finally students were asked if they had learned anything about themselves in virtual school? Issac Hwang in 8K said that he “learned that planning is extremely essential” in order to balance one’s homework and daily life. Another student agreed, saying that during virtual school “I found out that I was quite a disorganised person who wasn’t very good at managing times and deadlines”. On a different note, Evelyn said “I realised that I don’t mind having lots of time to myself and I enjoy working independently”. Bowen had a similar realisation, saying that he works better alone, specifically “with music”. Olivia Koh made a statement which we believe resonates with many of our students at SJIIM, proclaiming that “we should be more grateful for our friends, not seeing them made me feel empty and I realised that without them, I was a bit lost”.

Our student experiences during virtual school and their feelings about being back in physical school are as different and unique as each individual student at SJIIM. In general, we are happy to see that most of our students are excited to be back and are focusing more on the pros of physical school than any possible cons. Regardless, we know that this does not take away from the fact that some of our students are struggling to adjust back to ‘normality’. We ask parents and students to be kind to themselves and patient as we slowly but surely revert back to a sense of physical normality. Any students who may be struggling are asked to speak to their tutor teacher, their HOY or any trusted adult in the school. We are all in this together and hope to make this transition a successful one for all students, parents and teachers!

"Being back in school physically is so much better, no more internet issues... learning new things becomes much easier. I definitely prefer being in school". - Aurelia 7M

"Virtual school compared to normal school is fairly different, longer breaks, different way of learning, etc... Overall I prefer normal school over virtual school as the learning experience and motivation level is higher. Some things I miss [from VS] are the longer breaks, eating during class and waking up later". - Inara 9L

"Physical school and virtual school are different in a few ways, like the less movement when transitioning from class to class and extra breaks. Virtual school is more distracting as our houses aren't suitable classrooms, especially with family and commotion". - Isaac 8k

"Virtual school and physical school both have their pros and cons, in virtual school some of us slack off and can't maintain focus, but it's more relaxed and convenient. In physical school we have a better learning experience but it is more stressful". - Matthew 8K

"I prefer physical school. Even though the extra breaks during virtual school and getting to sleep for slightly longer was nice. I missed talking with my friends in real life". - Evelyn 8L

"Virtual school is less strict, better food choices and more breaks. Normal school is better to concentrate and more facilities. I have mixed feelings over which I prefer, but academically, normal school is better". - Bowen 9L

In virtual school "I got to see my parents more often and had more free time." In physical school "we don't have to sit in front of a computer all day" I prefer VS because even though it wasn't too practical, it was enjoyable...". - Olivia Koh 7Y

In virtual school sometimes you can't see your friends, but in physical school you can see them and talk to them. I prefer physical school because it is less distracting. - Isaac Liew 7Y

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### Catholic Corner

#### Lent: The Season of Love

**“Example makes a much greater impression than words.”**

*MTR 10.3 [Med 202.3], De La Salle*

**To support devotion to St. Joseph throughout the year:**

<https://yearofstjoseph.org/>

#### The Year of Saint Joseph

December 8th 2020 - December 8th 2021

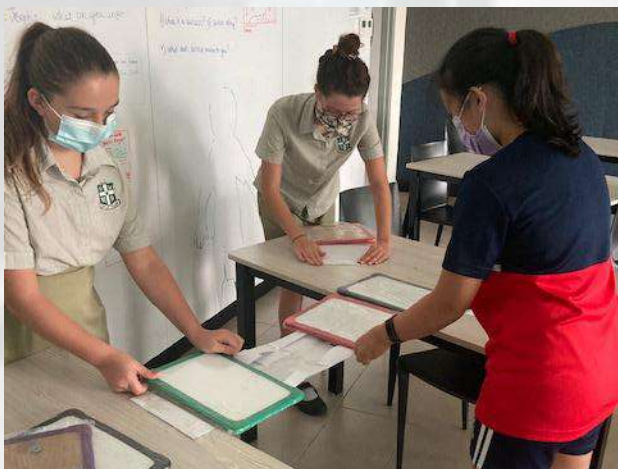
Today is the Feast of Saint Joseph. This year we strive to honour Saint Joseph as the protector of the Church with faithful prayer and devotion. The devotion of our founder to St Joseph is well known. Let us all rejoice and gather in prayer, thanksgiving and intercession for the Lasallian family and the needs of the world. Please see the details opposite to access a very special Mass to celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph during this year long commemoration.

***Live Jesus in our Hearts Forever!***

#### HS Lent Student Mission

*Building bridges with love, together*

This week, students worked together to build a bridge. They did this in response to a group reflection based on the artwork opposite, ‘Christ is Our Bridge’. We finished the session with two simple questions: What bridges do we need to build? How can we be a bridge in our community?



Live  
Lent  
with Love



#### **Opening Mass for the Lasallian Year of St Joseph**

The worldwide Lasallian Family and Bethlehem University invite you all to join us in the special Eucharist for the Feast of St. Joseph, to be held March 19 at 5:00 p.m. Palestinian time in the Church of the Divine Child at Bethlehem University, in the city where St. Joseph’s family was from.

[Click this link for viewing options](#)



Christ is our Bridge., by Elisabeth Wang (1942-2016)

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ John 14: 6

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### Parent Workshops: Body Image and How Best to Support your Child

As part of our Professional Learning Communities, a group of teachers have formed to lead parent sessions on what we mean by body image issues, how they can manifest in school, and how parents can support their children in this area. Body Image issues can arise in students from Nursery right through until adulthood, so being informed is important. Sessions will be held on **April 19th** for parents of children in Nursery up to Year 3 at **2:00pm**, and Y4 up to Y8 at **3pm** on the same day: a Y8 and upwards session will take place in May. More details will be forthcoming though, for initial expressions of interest please email [abayfield@sj-international.edu.my](mailto:abayfield@sj-international.edu.my).



# Elementary Weekly Update



## School Photos

We are very excited to announce that next week (22nd - 24th March) we are scheduled to have our school photos taken. Typically this would entail each class taking one photograph followed by individual photos. This year, in line with SOP's, we shall be taking only individual photos and our talented friends at FotoRex will photoshop these shots into a wonderful class photo. As for sibling photos, families that are interested can make a booking at the photo studio by going to this website, <https://fotorex.simplybook.asia/v2/>

### Elementary School

Tuesday 23rd March and Wednesday 24th March

### High School

Monday 22nd March and Tuesday 23rd March

Your child's class teacher will inform you of their date.

We ask that you kindly check that your child is smartly dressed in full school uniform and their hair is neatly brushed before they leave for school. If your child is in Elementary School and has PE on their photo day they should wear school uniform. We will plan and implement PE routines according to the students' attire.

## Virtue of the week: Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm is taking time for the simple pleasures and enjoying the wonders of life. You can show your enthusiasm towards others too, by celebrating with them when something wonderful happens.

### Family Virtues discussion prompts:

*What would enthusiasm look like if ...*

- You particularly like a dish your mum or dad cooked?
- Your brother or sister did well in sport?
- You look outside one night and see the stars?
- You have a big chore to do to help your family?



## Art Month Update

The enthusiasm for Art Month is contagious. As we walk around the Elementary School, we see children busily working on incredible art projects. Here are just a few snapshots of our talented artists at work.



# High School Weekly Update



## High School School Photographs

As mentioned, the HS school photographs will take place on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Students have already been informed of the day and time when their photographs will be. Students should wear their white shirt and school tie for the photographs.

Year 9, who have PE before their photographs may come in their PE kit and we will provide a space for them to get changed before their photographs.

The following tutor groups will have their photograph taken on **Monday**: 7K, 7Y, 8K, 8L, 9K, 9L, 9M, 9Y, 10K, 10L, 10M, 10Y, 11K, 11L, 11M, Year 12 and Year 13.

The following tutor groups will have their photographs taken on **Tuesday**: 7M, 8M, 8Y.

## House Spirit Day

Next Friday, 26th March, is House Spirit Day. Students and teachers are asked to come to school in their House kit. There will be some small, socially distanced inter-year group House events with plenty of House points up for grabs!

## House Captains

On the subject of Houses, many thanks to our new House Captains for putting themselves forward for these esteemed leadership positions. This year, to get more people involved, we've created more positions. We hope that Term 3 will be a great opportunity for us to show that House spirit. Despite the many challenges of the last twelve months, we have still had some amazing House competitions and I'm sure there are more to come. Most recently, of course, we have had our Performing Arts Competition!

Our House Captains are:

### **Jaime**

**House Captain: Darrell Tan**

**Senior Vice Captains: Fiona Ong, Shir Ning Fong**

**Junior Vice Captains: Amira Marcellus, Shir-Ree Fong**

### **Mutien**

**House Captain: Merissa Saleem**

**Senior Vice Captains: Tisha Chia, Justine Poi**

**Junior Vice Captains: Carwyn Williams, Jenshen Ng**

### **Miguel**

**House Captain: Challyse Greiss**

**Senior Vice Captains: Kaelyn Miranda, Caitlin Lim**

**Junior Vice Captains: Kayla Lim, Julia Yim**

### **Benilde**

**House Captain: Henn Yuen Chuah**

**Senior Vice Captains: Franco Becker, Raiyann Kunimoto**

**Junior Vice Captains: Chloe Lim, Nikhail Harish Nair**

# High School Weekly Update



## **My Freedom Day - Humanities Dept**

For the past two weeks a group of Year 12 and Year 8 students have been working together on projects for the CNN 'My Freedom Day'. This is an annual event where schools from all over the world come up with ideas on how to raise awareness of the issue of modern day slavery, then upload photos of their projects to Instagram, which then appear on the CNN 'My Freedom Day' blog. This year, My Freedom Day fell on the 16th March, and our students came up with some really creative ideas. One group interviewed teachers about what freedom means to them, another made an information poster, while another created a group discussion resource to be used by the tutor groups. We opened it up to the Year 8s as they have recently finished a Humanities unit on slavery, and the Year 12s as many are new to the school this year and we wanted to give them the opportunity to work with younger students, as well as using it for their CAS program. Overall, it was great to see them collaborating effectively, and the final products were of a very high standard. We will definitely take part in this initiative again next year, opening it up to even more year groups.



## **House Performing Arts Competition 2021 - Drama**

Today marks the final part of the House Performing Arts Competition in HS, with our final of the Drama competition. The competition was judged by Mr Carl Graham, a professional model and actor, as well as CEO of Bookd!, a local and global talent agency based in Malaysia.

Congratulations to the winners, sisters Kayla and Caitlin Lim, and the runner-up David Motha (Year 8), who will both receive a trophy for their success. All other entrants, including the above, will receive a certificate of participation and house points. The FINAL house points for the House Performing Arts Competition are:

Benilde - 29 points

Jaime - 112 points

Miguel - 45 points

Mutien - 45 points

Well done to Jaime for their talent and efforts in the competition!!!

## **Instrumental Music Showcase - Mr Luke Hague (Instrumental Music Coordinator)**

I have the pleasure of sharing with you the videos of our students performing, ready for sharing more widely. It's amazing the practice and focus and performance brings and we look forward to sharing these with our community.

[Instrumental Music Showcase Video](#)

[Instrumental Music Showcase Programme](#)

We are so thankful for the input and support given by parents and teachers to enable these performances.

Term 3 Instrumental Lessons - new enrolments date extended to Tuesday 23rd March

We have an enviable group of Instrumental Staff who offer lessons and enrolments are open for lessons beginning in term 3.

[Instrumental Lesson sign up information and enrolment form](#)



# STRAVA RUNNING UPDATE (After Week 16)

## This week's top 3 runners (kilometers ran!)

### Miguel

1. Rahim Yahya
2. Arni Anwarrudin
3. Eva W

### Mutien

1. Cindy Lai
2. Carwyn Williams
3. Ven Chellam

### Benilde

1. Joe Taylor (Humanities Teacher)
2. Siew Ying
3. Anna Ngooi

### Jaime

1. Michaela Goodson
2. Darrell Tan (Y12 Student)
3. Jeff Hashim

**Mutien**

**5642**

**Miguel**

**5415**

**Jaime**

**3328**

**Benilde**

**2681**

## SOME TIPS IF YOUR MILES HAVE DROPPED...

- ★ Change up your running route - it's nice to see new things
- ★ Treat yourself to some new running shoes - it'll be sure to get you out again
- ★ Make a new playlist, or find a new book/podcast to listen to
- ★ Now we can, find a running partner, or even group
- ★ Run for time, not distance
- ★ Leave your gear close to the door!

**What do you think is the best tip given above?**

# Useful Links



[ES Student Absence Form](#)  
[HS Student Absence Form](#)



[HS Parent Calendar 2020/21](#)  
[ES Parent calendar 2020/21](#)



[Whole School Teaching Staff Email 2020/21](#)



[Term 2 AY 20/21 meal charges](#)  
[ES Menu March 2021](#)  
[HS March 2021 Menu](#)



[Catholic Corner](#)



[PSG Update](#)



[Music Website](#)



[Sports Website](#)



[Epulse \(Top up credit\)](#)  
[Tapestry \(For ES\)](#)  
[Parent portal \(For ES\)](#)



University & Careers  
Counsellor (TBA)



[CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)



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