

SJIIM Weekly Update

3rd September 2021

Important Dates:

16th September Malaysia
Day (Public Holiday)

Upcoming Events:

9th Sept : Seesaw Parent Info
Session

10th Sept: ES Mandarin Parent
Info Session

1st - 15th Sept:
HS Y7-13 Parent Information
Sessions

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ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA
(TROPICANA PJ CAMPUS)

"Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve"

Dear SJIIM community,

I hope that the start of the academic year has, so far, gone well for you all - students, parents and teachers. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new students and families. Supporting your transition to life at SJIIM has been at the forefront of our consideration, given the circumstances in which you join us.

For those of you who have children in High School, I am sure you will know me - I may have taught your child English, or coached them in the World Scholar's Cup or perhaps I have met you at one of the school information sessions or coffee mornings.

For those of you with children in the Elementary School, I hope that, in the coming years, there are many opportunities for you to get to know me too - in person, rather than virtually.

This is the sixth year for St. Joseph's Institution International Malaysia but, also, the sixth year for me personally. I joined the school when it opened in August 2016, having moved here from Beijing, China.

At that time, my wife, May, was expecting our first child, Benjamin. He is now in Year 1 and our second child, Alexander, will be joining St. Joseph's later this year too. We were keen to avoid the harsh Beijing winters with a young baby and had decided to return to South East Asia. Our plan was to leave Beijing and return to Thailand, which is where my wife is from originally.

Although that was our initial plan, I also submitted an application to St. Joseph's Malaysia and, over the Christmas holidays in 2015, I met with the then Head of High School. He had flown to meet me in Bangkok where my wife and I were spending our Christmas holidays.

Like many of the incredible teachers I've worked with, the amazing students I have taught and the supportive parents I have known, I left that interview having bought into St. Joseph's and a Lasallian Education. Despite the pull of moving back to Thailand, I went home and managed to convince my wife that this was the right move for us as a family. It is a decision that we have never regretted and I am proud to see my children now growing up in this environment.

I am proud to have been part of building a school that delivers, not only a quality learning experience, but a quality Lasallian experience that supports the development of good character and pupil wellbeing.

The reality is that all of us have faced challenges and uncertainties over the last eighteen months or so. In spite of these challenges, I still believe, as I did when I left that interview in December 2015, that our school's vision is something unique - something authentic and real.

When we welcomed the staff back for the start of the new academic year, I told them that the past is *exclusive* - you were either there in those early days of the life of the school or you were not. However, the future is *inclusive* and all of us, teachers, students and you - the parents - have a role to play in shaping our school and bringing to life what it means to be a Lasallian. I have made some amazing memories at St. Joseph's and I hope that, when we emerge from these times, we can make many more as an SJIIM community.

For now, I wish you and your family all the best for the coming year and I hope to safely welcome you and your children back soon.

Gary Cairns
Deputy Head of School & Deputy Principal High School

Catholic Corner

Prayer FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder
of our being, for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;

Give wisdom and knowledge to
their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and
zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In school this week, our assembly focus was on 'Inclusive Community'. Our students reflected on the teachings of Saint John Baptiste de La Salle. We identified from his teachings words that promote an 'inclusive community' such as 'Lasallian family' and 'We are one, but we are many'. In Year 4 the children drew and decorated their own 5 pointed Lasallian stars and wrote inclusive messages to share with the new families and staff joining SJIIM this year. We would like to wish all our families and staff a blessed and wonderful year ahead.





House Performing Arts Competition

We are excited to announce the first ES House Performing Arts Competition this week. Designed to give students a chance to showcase their talents, the House PAC is a fantastic opportunity over the next few weeks for students to create their own or collaborative music, dance or drama performances; earning valuable points for their House along the way. More details and how to apply have been sent via Seesaw.



Upcoming Parent Information Sessions

Thursday 9th September 2pm - Seesaw. Join one of two sessions designed to support parents in the use of Seesaw to support their child's learning. Ms White leads a session for new users; parents new to the school or with children in Y5 & 6. Ms Wright will lead a session designed to support returning parents with children in Y1-4.



Friday 10th September 10.30am - Mandarin. Our Mandarin leader, Mr Jimmy Lim offers an introduction to the SJI Mandarin curriculum, including our grouping system, teaching styles and new daily lesson structure in virtual school.

Further information and Zoom codes for both these sessions have been sent via Seesaw today.



Parent Reps

We are still looking for some additional parent reps for each year group. The role of the parent rep is to help build community amongst our St. Joseph's parents, support communication between home and school and (when we are back in school) support with enrichment activities (like International Week, class celebrations, etc). Please message Stephanie at sfedorowicz@sj-international.edu.my or let your class teacher know if you are interested.



Virtues

The Virtues Project helps parents to awaken the qualities of character that exist in potential in their children. By speaking the language of virtues, setting virtues-based boundaries and recognising teachable moments, we bring out the best in our children - and ourselves.

Virtues discussions for the family:

Take turns to do a Virtues pick by clicking on the tab below. Take a moment to read out the card, then share which sentence speaks to you the most. Explain how it relates to your day.

DO A VIRTUES CARD PICK

Click on the [link](#) to find out more about the Founders of the Virtues Project.

HS Year group Info Sessions dates:

Year 7 with Ms Sousa - 7.9.21 (Tue)
Year 8 with Ms Battle - 14.9.21 (Tue)
Year 9 with Mr Husain - 15.9.21 (Wed)
Year 10 with Ms Pollitt - 1.9.21 (Wed)
Year 11 with Mrs Stacey - 8.9.21 (Wed)
Year 12 with Ms Cole - 2.9.21 (Thurs)
Year 13 with Mr Hollis - 9.9.21 (Thurs)

Head of Year Information Sessions

Please check the parent calendar for the dates for these sessions. Heads of Year will send an invitation, along with the codes in advance of the meeting. The session, which looks ahead to the coming academic year, provides parents with important information and guidance on how to support their child.



World Scholar's Cup: Expression of Interest

Mr Cairns is inviting students to express their interest in resuming WSC virtual debate training by completing [this form](#).

Whilst we do not know when the next regional round in Malaysia might be, we want to keep our skills sharp for when the competition eventually returns.

Whether you are a WSC veteran or new to the experience, this is an opportunity for you to be part of our team. Please complete the form to express an interest in commencing debate practice and, depending on demand, we will look to set up weekly or fortnightly WSC virtual debating sessions on a Wednesday after school.



Election of House Captains

We are pleased to announce that the election process for our House Captains, Senior Vice Captains and Junior Vice Captains for this academic year will soon be beginning. Shortly, a short application form will be released to all students and we will ask interested parties to upload a short video pitch. We are looking to raise the profile further of the Heads of House this year, and encourage as many applications as possible! Please encourage your children to apply when their Head of House gets in touch.

Drop off of Musical Instruments and Collection/Drop off of English books

We understand that some parents have had challenges accessing the booking form and calendar. From Wednesday 8th Sept, we have allocated a time for tutor groups to come and drop off/collect books. Those that have already booked a slot for next week, may come in as planned.

Wednesday 8th Sept

7K: 8am - 10am
7L: 8am - 10am
7M: 10am-12pm
7Y: 10am-12pm

Thursday 9th Sept

8K: 9am - 10am
8M: 10am - 12pm
8Y: 10am - 12pm

Friday 10th Sept

11K: 9am - 10am
11L: 10am - 12pm
11M: 10am - 12pm

We will update parents of students in Years 9 and 10 of their slots at a later date, when we have collected class readers from other year groups. Parents with children in more than one year group may drop off/collect at one time and do not need to make multiple trips.



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



[HS Parent Calendar 21/22](#)
[ES Parent calendar 21/22](#)



[WS Teaching Staff Email 21/22](#)



Term 1 AY 21/22
meal charges



[Catholic Corner 20/21](#)



[PSG Update 20/21](#)



[Music Website](#)



[Sports Website](#)



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



University & Careers
Counsellor (TBA)



[Guide CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)



If you need support, please email sjiim@tekgroup.my or call 0125537202 (Ms Kosmita)

[SJIM Book Order](#)
[HS Booklist 2021/2022](#)
[ES Booklist 2021/22](#)