

SJIIM Weekly Update

1st October 2021

Important Dates:

2nd Oct - Virtual Open Day
9th/11th Oct - Parent Teacher
Conferences

Upcoming Events:

7th Oct : Phonic Parent Info
Session

26th Oct : Parent Coffee
Session

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

"Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve"

Message from Mr Andy Bayfield (High School Asst. Principal - Character Development and Well Being)

Dear Parents,

I first joined the school in 2016, and I believe I was one of the first teachers employed. What drew me to the school were two things; the fact it was a start up school and the unique ethos of the school and what that would mean for the educational choices that happen within it. The start up school element intrigued me as I like being a part of building new things- I like the freedom to question things, think differently and be creative in ways of working and decision making. That is part of my personality. I like innovation and felt that a new school gave me the chance to be a part of something fresh and original, and SJIIM has not let me down. The ethos of the school was so strong from my early meetings with the founding principals, and I could relate and engage with their vision. I would like to think I have a good gauge of things and people that are authentic or not and I felt, and still feel, that this school's wider vision is authentic and transparent. I have been proud to be a small part of that vision and its implementation.

Away from work I have varied hobbies. I read widely and always have, in particular non fiction books around psychology, history, geography and sport. I have found that this wider reading has really helped me in my leadership roles in schools, and I will often relate what I have read to practical things that happen in work- again, this is something I find very enlightening. I am currently reading the final part in Ryan Holiday's Stoic series 'Courage is Calling', about the nature of moral and physical courage, as well as re reading Antony Sampson's seminal biography of Nelson Mandela. I would recommend both. I also love exercising and have done since my youth, and before training as a teacher I worked for a performance company in the UK, working with businesses and sports teams around company culture and group dynamics, amongst other areas. I was a very young man at that time and was perhaps somewhat out of my depth, but I now look back and see how formative that was in my development and understanding of people and organisations. You may have seen on social media the recent growth in my culinary skills; I am sorry to say I have now returned to preparing dry chicken and plain rice for the Bayfield clan but hope to return to the stove in a more creative way soon. My final interest is writing, and I edit other's and produce my own original work for TES Magazine and other educational publications: I have a piece in The Guardian next month. Though the quality of my output is variable I enjoy the process nonetheless.

Since joining SJIIM in 2016 I have gotten married, become a father and seen the school change and shift beyond my imagination, from a building site when I first visited in April 2016 to the place it is today. As we transition to the new normal, let us express gratitude that we seem to have weathered the worst of times and that the best is still ahead.



Catholic Corner

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

In this month of October, let us consider this beautiful prayer of the Rosary as a means that we too can use in order to draw closer to Jesus and Mary by meditating on the great mysteries of our salvation.

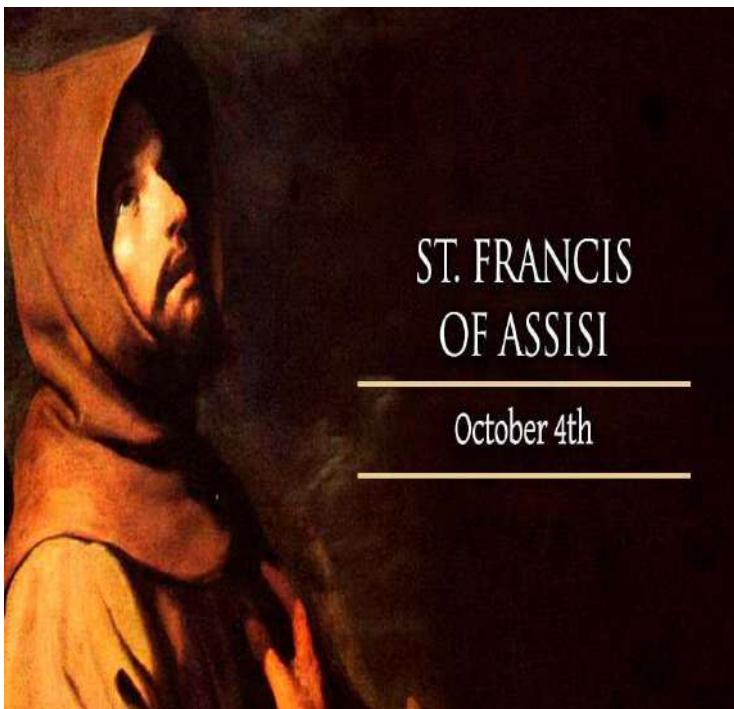
*Where two or three are gathered together, there I am with them
-Matthew 18:20*

In honour of the Blessed Mary, we would like to invite all Catholic families to join in prayer for the Rosary 8:45--9:45 pm led by Mr. Dennis Tang.

Join us via Zoom as we collectively pray together for thanksgiving, our school community and for our own personal intentions.

Meeting id: 861 0669 6884

Passcode: 259156



October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. We remember his work on Earth and we pray for peace in our world today.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.



Message from the Parent Support Group (PSG)

Hello to all SJIIM parents and a warm welcome to new parents who have joined the SJIIM family recently.

For this year, it has been mutually agreed upon by the Senior Leadership Team and the PSG 2021 committee members that the PSG will work together as a team, sharing responsibility, till we settle down to near normal days at school.

We are currently a group of 8 parents and would love to have many more onboard this committee. If you'd like to join us, please write to us at psg@sjj-international.edu.my



Online School Shop Free Delivery

TEK Bookmart is taking the initiative to ease parents delivery cost due to the delay in exercise books availability. Hence, all purchases made from the 27th Sept - 8th October will enjoy a free delivery.



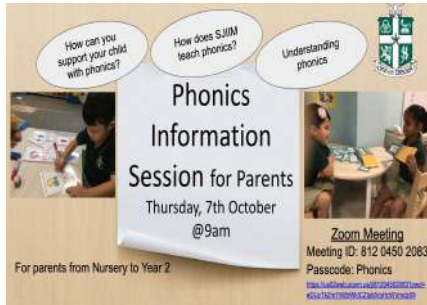
Parent Coffee Session - Managing Difficult Conversations at home

Tuesday 26th October at 12 pm

[Click for zoom link](#)

We invite you to [sign up](#) and join our coffee morning to share your experiences and to connect as parents.

Mrs Fried, our Virtues Leader will share how we can use the Companionship Strategy to facilitate discussions with our children in a respectful manner and find solutions together.



Phonics Parent Info Session

Our English Leader, Mrs. Hannah Woodhams, will be hosting a Phonics Information session for parents of children in Early Years to Y2 on Thursday 7th October at 9am. Please find the meeting code below:

Meeting ID: 812 0450 2083

Passcode: Phonics

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81204502083?pwd=eDUzTkZmYW8rWldCZlpldVpHcWVmdz09>



House Scavenger Hunt & House Captain Elections

On Friday 8th October, we will have our first house competition this year, a House Scavenger Hunt! Children are asked to wear their House colours that day. It will take place in year groups at different times during the day with each House competing against the other Houses. The House Captain elections will also take place next week in each year group. Children will get to meet their House Leader and vote for their House Captain this year. Thank you to all the courageous Year 6 students who have made video applications. Good luck!



Parent Teacher Conferences

A reminder of our Parent Teacher Conferences on Saturday 9th October from 8.00am-12.30pm. This will be a chance to meet your child's class and Mandarin teachers and discuss how your child is doing at school. There will be an additional Mandarin teacher session on Monday 11th October from 1.30pm-4.30pm. The meetings will take place virtually on our Meet the Teacher platform. Bookings will be open on Monday 4th October, 8.00am. Further details were sent to your family gmail with your login details and guidance on how to sign into and use the system. If you have any technical difficulties when signing in, please email helpdesk@sjj-international.edu.my



Seesaw Family

We hope you are enjoying seeing all the amazing things your children are up to on Seesaw. Please be aware that you can add up to 10 different family members to your child's account, so more of your family can view, comment and engage with your child's learning. To add more family members, simply contact your child's class teacher, with details of the email addresses you wish to share with. The class teacher will then be able to invite them to join.



Library Book Access

We are working on a plan to provide interested families with access to library books in line with current SOPs. If you are interested in accessing physical library books from our school library please look for communication early next week that will include a form for your request. Once we have received parent requests we will organise book packs for pick up from the main foyer the week of 11th October. The book packs could include a class reader, colour banded readers, picture books or chapter books. Although we will not be able to take individual requests for titles we hope to provide a range of readers, meeting your child's needs.



Returning to school - change in lunchtime

From Monday October 4th, there will be a slight shift in the timings of the school day, with lunchtime beginning at 12:30pm and ending at 1:20pm, and tutor time beginning at 1:20pm and finishing at 1:50pm. This is to allow more time for ES and HS students who are related to spend time together whilst working from home, as well as to break the chain of screen time for students and teachers. This will be communicated to students shortly. When we eventually have the whole school back physically, we will review this again in light of SOPS and matters of space. I hope you support and understand this change.



Preparing for the Return to Physical School

To prepare for the return to school, the pastoral team have administered surveys to all students of Years 10-13, in order to better understand their needs and concerns about coming back to physical school. These thoughts have been collated and shared with all teachers. We have also created a transparent system for all staff should a student encounter an attack of anxiety, with details of where to go and what to do. We look forward to seeing students on site from Monday!

Parent Teacher Meetings - 9 October

The PTMs on 9 October will be an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers and to discuss their children's progress together. Further details and reminders about how to set appointments for these meetings and to log into the 'Meet the Teacher' system will be sent out by email today.



Sign ups for appointments will begin on Tuesday, 5 October at 8am and the system will close for making appointments on Thursday, 7 October at 4pm. This will then give teachers time on Friday to prepare for these meetings.

Please note that these appointments will be 5 minutes each. Although this does not leave an opportunity for a developed conversation, this timing should enable sufficient availability for all parents to be able to speak to each of their children's teachers on that day. Parents are always welcome to request a further meeting in the weeks following these PTMs, in case they have further questions or concerns.



IB 5 Year Evaluation Visit - 27 to 29 September - Initial Report

The IB 5 year evaluation visit was extremely positive for all involved. The two members of the visiting team from the IB met with most of the IB teachers in subject groups, as well as heads of department and subject leaders, the senior leadership team and Ms. Anthonyova as the Coordinator of the IB 'core' subjects (CAS, TOK and EE). They also met with a group of IB students and a group of parents of IB students. In the lead up to this visit over the past year, the school had submitted evidence of our work in implementing the IB Diploma Programme over the past 5 years.

The school will receive a final written report in the next few months, but the initial verbal feedback was incredibly complimentary. We were commended for the following areas:



- Alignment with the IB philosophy
- Pedagogical leadership
- Parent support and knowledge of the IB
- Promoting responsible action
- Open and respectful communication with students
- Continuity between years of learning
- Good work with implementing the IB's "approaches to teaching and learning"
- Having a strongly holistic programme
- Quality of our library provision

Thank you so much to all of the students and parents who contributed to the visit!

It was particularly satisfying that the school's ethos was acknowledged by the team. They were very impressed with the school's ability to enable students to achieve very good final results, alongside our ethos and care for individual students.





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



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



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



[HS October menu](#)
Term 1 AY 21/22
meal charges



[Catholic Corner 20/21](#)
[Catholic Corner 21/22](#)



[PSG Update 20/21](#)



[Music Website](#)



[Sports Website](#)



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



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

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