

SJIIM Weekly Update

26th November 2021

Important Dates:

10th December - Final Day of Term 1

Upcoming Events:

30th Nov - IGCSE Mock Exam
Virtual Parent Meeting

Enquiries:

T | +603 8605 3605

E | enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my

W | sjj-international.edu.my



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

"Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve"

Message from Catherine Ellis - Head of English (HS)

My first experience of Malaysia was way back in 1999. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was Prime Minister (for the first time), Y2K was a global concern, and I had just finished university, packed up my life in the UK and was enjoying a year-long backpacking adventure. As I stood at the base of the newly built Petronas Towers, I remember revelling in the sights, smells and sounds of KL, excited and thrilled by the prospect of what lay ahead. During my month-long stay in the country, I sampled the wealth of Malaysian cuisine, I fell in love with the wonderful people here, and I knew then that I would be back here one day. It took me 20 years to return, but when my plane touched down at KLIA in 2019, part of me felt like I was coming home.

Like many international school teachers, travelling has always been a big part of my life and personal growth. I am a firm believer that experiencing the planet and humanity through different cultures can really offer a unique perspective on life. I hope this comes through in my teaching, and it remains one of the reasons I choose to work at SJIIM: I feel a strong connection to the Lasallian ethos of the school. I believe that teaching young people goes beyond their performance in exams. If done well, meaningful teaching and learning experiences can shape who students are as individuals and how they can, in turn, contribute positively to the society in which they live.

SJIIM is my first international teaching post. Prior to 2019, I spent my career in the UK, and my last position there was as Assistant Principal / Head of Sixth Form at a high school in Liverpool. My leadership roles throughout my career have always bridged the gap between academic progress and the pastoral needs of the students, which is another reason SJIIM appealed to me so much. The care and commitment to the students here is second to none, and, for me, being part of such a supportive community felt as though I fitted like a round peg in a round hole. Now, as Head of English and a member of the Senior Leadership Team at SJIIM, I am thankful to be able to lead and help to develop, not only an exciting and challenging curriculum, but also a supportive ethos that allows our students to truly flourish.

Aside from my teaching, I still love to experience all that Malaysia has to offer. I have been lucky enough to visit so much of the country now, despite the pandemic, and I have made some wonderful friends (both local and international) along the way. I plan to make Malaysia my home for the foreseeable future, and I have most certainly laid my roots here, both within the country and the school. I have even acquired a golden retriever puppy during the 2020 lockdown (Huckleberry), who the students in my classes have eagerly watched grow into a huge, excitable dog during the weeks of virtual school. He loves his home here as much as I do.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our community a very happy upcoming Christmas period to enjoy with family and friends. 2021 has been a difficult year for so many reasons, and I am so glad that we can now look forward to such a bright 2022 together.



Catholic Corner

The season of Advent begins on November 28th. This is a very special time of year. In school we will be helping to prepare our Catholic and Christian students in the high school and elementary for the coming of Jesus. In the elementary school child centered Advent services will be taking place on December 1st to celebrate the first week of Advent. If you would like your child to join, please use link [HERE](#) to sign up. This information and sign up link is also accessible via Seesaw.



HS Advent Student Mission: Prepare the Way

On Monday 29th November, lessons 5 and 6, there will be an Advent Student mission and all Christian high school students are welcome across years 7-13. We are going to spend the time preparing for Advent by reflecting together and making some interesting crafts, we promise it will be fun! The session will be led by a group of students from Years 10-12. Due to SOPs we can only accommodate 30 students. Please sign up [HERE](#).



Meagan Motha has taken a leading role in the planning and delivery of this year's Christian Advent Student Mission. We asked Meagan why Advent is so special to her:

“Advent to me is about preparing our heart and home for the humble birth of Jesus. It's about connecting with your family and loved ones. It's about being kind when and where it is least expected. It's about love, joy, faith, hope and peace. It's about Jesus.”



Announcement

Regrettably Brother Patrick will be unable to join us this term due to visa restrictions, however we are looking forward to his arrival in Term 2. In the meanwhile, Brother Patrick is preparing a special pre-recorded video message for our whole school community. This will be available for viewing in next week's whole school update.



Christmas Blessing Bag -Thank You from The PSG.
(46 Christmas Blessing Bags are ready and will be gifted soon.)

A big shout-out to the SJIIM staff and parents for your generosity towards the Christmas Blessing Bag for our guards and cleaners.

We have exceeded our target and would now like to close donations towards this cause.

Your contribution will definitely put a smile on their faces.
Thank You!



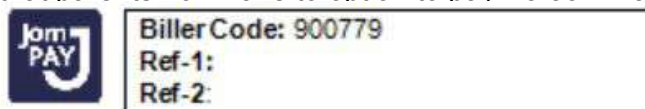
PLANT Joy! KitaKitar Krismas campaign

This Christmas forget the mistletoe and show love with a plant instead! KitaKitar is collaborating with Rumah Pengajian Xavier (RPX), a home for boys run by the Society of St Vincent de Paul Malaysia that has been helping disadvantaged families for over 20 years. The RPX boys are growing plants to raise funds for much-needed laptops for school work. For a minimum donation of just RM30, you will receive a plant gift that is nurtured by the aspirations of the RPX boys, and dressed ready for Christmas by KitaKitar volunteers. Donations can be channelled to KitaKitar via the School's Finance Office from **22 November - 3 December 2021** or transfer your donations to :

BANK NAME : OCBC BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD
SWIFT CODE : OCBCMYKL
ACCOUNT NAME : TROPICANA SJI EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SDN. BHD.
ACCOUNT NO. : 7071281859
REFERENCE NO.: KitaKitar (Your child's name and class)
EMAIL : finance@sjj-international.edu.my

Payment via Jom Pay

Finance will be sending out the Term 2 Invoices by 30th November 2021. We are also pleased to announce that parents now have to option to pay via Jom Pay as follows:



JomPAY online at Internet and Mobile Banking with your Current, Savings or Credit Card account

For any clarification on the invoices, kindly email finance@sjj-international.edu.my.



Farewell Mrs Windley

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Windley, who leaves SJIIM at the end of term. Karen is excited to return to her home country of New Zealand and is leaving now so her children can be back for the start of the school year. Mrs Windley is a founding member of staff who has worked tirelessly both as a Year 3 class teacher and as our EAL leader. She has developed our EAL department to deliver first class language provision for our EAL students. She is a truly dedicated professional, placing the wellbeing of the children in her care at the forefront. We will miss her very much and wish her and her family every happiness in their journey to their new home.



Drug Awareness Week

In PSHE this week, children learned about medicines and drugs that help us, as well as those that harm, and how to stay safe around medicines in the household. We have also been grateful to be joined by doctors live streaming into our assemblies to support the children's knowledge and understanding. A huge thank you to all the doctors that helped out!



Advent

On December 1st, Catholic and Christian students in the Elementary School are invited to celebrate the first week of Advent. If you would like your child to take part in this, please complete this [form](#). There will be three services for different age ranges taking place on Dec 1st led by Mrs Willoughby. If your child has a Santa hat or reindeer antlers, please do bring to school to wear for this occasion!



House Spirit Day/Spelling Bee

Today was the first House Spirit Day for this academic year. The children enjoyed competing for their House in the Spelling Bee as well as doing lessons in all subjects with a House theme. Keep an eye out for the results announced by one of House Captains on Seesaw next week!



Keeping Students Safe in School

Now the children are back in physical school, we've spent time reminding them of the systems that help keep them safe. This has included practising our fire drill and evacuation procedures.



The Gold Project - donations closed!

Members of the LYM present, The Gold Project (Gifts of Love and Dreams). [Watch this video](#) to learn more.

Thanks to the donations from our wonderful staff, students and parents we have managed to reach our target already. A special thank you to the PSG for supporting the project with a huge donation! The students are working hard to deliver 60 packs to children from three different homes in the area. They are excited to share the finished product with you all during the last week of term.



IGCSE Mock Examination Virtual Parent Meeting

We would like to invite you to a virtual mock IGCSE examination session on Tuesday 30th November, 4-5pm. During this session, Mrs. Stacey will talk about smart, healthy revision habits that will prepare students emotionally and academically for the exam series. Mr Bush will also be talking about expectations, procedures, and routines and will be there to answer your questions.

Zoom Meeting Details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87488935431?pwd=Z3VUSkVjWXBvMUUVGNXZsOFVvazJYZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 8893 5431

Passcode: 502345



Ornament Decoration

Our Year 12 students launched a new project this week with the aim of raising funds to purchase Christmas presents for the guards from our students.

The Year 12 students have sent out a form to students and teachers to sign up to purchase a Christmas decoration that can be either decorated by the purchaser themselves or the year 12 students will write a personalised message for them. Orders are to be submitted by the 28th November. Completed baubles will be displayed around the school.



[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 Nov/Dec menu](#)
[ES Nov/Dec menu](#)



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



[PSG Update 20/21](#)



[Music Website](#)



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[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](#)