

SJIIM Weekly Update

3rd December 2021

Important Dates:
10th December - Final Day of Term 1

Upcoming Events:

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 Rachael Whitworth -
Lead Practitioner for Early Years and Key Stage 1(ES)**

I first arrived in Malaysia almost six years ago. With an exciting year ahead of me, little did I know I'd be calling this beautiful country my home for years to come and meet my future husband here too.

One question I hear often is 'Why Malaysia?' To this, I reply with two reasons. My teaching career began in North West London, and through my five years there, I enjoyed mentoring NQTs and as head of year supporting others to develop their practice. On a cold, miserable bus ride home from school one day, I saw the perfect job post. A position that would take me to a new and exciting destination and allow me to continue my passion for helping others with their practice. Asia was new to me and, with only one experience in this part of the world, I felt there was so much to learn and explore. Malaysia was the perfect base! Pristine islands with crystal clear waters were temptation enough, never mind its surrounding countries.

I grew up in Newcastle, in the North East of England. With the buzz of the city and the fresh, salty sea air a short walk away from my family home, it was a great place to be. I spent my childhood summers on the beach with my twin sisters, Amanda and Claire. Those salty jam sandwiches will forever be etched in our memories. The beach, for me, is a place of calm; perhaps this is where my passion for travelling and exploring new places, especially islands, first began. During my holidays, you will find me making the most of what Malaysia has to offer. Each summer, I am fortunate to host family and friends and share with them the same adventures I have enjoyed and can't wait to revisit. Pedantic planning ensures I have options for where to go, what to see and, of course, what to eat. Travelling in Asia has been truly unforgettable and, as expected, I have learnt so much.



I am incredibly grateful for my first post in an International School that brought me here. Leading an all Malaysian team, I felt immersed in the culture and could learn so much from those most passionate about the country. My time here was a culinary experience too. A new delight would land on my desk every week, followed by faces excited to hear what I thought. This post was different to anything I'd experienced before. Autonomy over the professional development programme for my team meant I could get to know them and tailor a programme to support them in the best way possible. I spent my days working 1:1 with the teachers across the key stage. Moving from class to class meant I knew all of the children, but I missed the connection and community that a teacher has with their own class. This need to be in class full time was what led me to St Joseph's.

Malaysia has brought me travel, great food and wonderful memories with the best people, but it is also where I met my husband to be, Van Hayder. He, too, recognises Malaysia and its beauty and has been proud to call it his home for over 20 years. Sharing a love of island life, he planned the most beautiful proposal on the idyllic Perhentian Island. With both of our families strewn across the world, choosing a wedding destination was tricky. We finally decided on one of my favourite European countries, Italy and in a little over four months, we will be in Tuscany for our wedding. I know that because of this, in years to come, no matter where we are, Malaysia will always have a special place in our hearts.



If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is to be grateful for the small pleasures in life. A dinner out with friends, a coffee in a cosy cafe or even a hug are moments in life we should value. One of the most challenging times for me last year was not going home to spend Christmas with my family. This is a holiday we hold dear in the Whitworth household. Pure, uninterrupted family time is priceless. As we approach the holidays, another year on, I am overwhelmed with excitement to relive my family Christmas traditions once more. I wish I could say the same about the cold Northern temperatures that await me! To everyone travelling, be it in Malaysia or overseas to visit loved ones, enjoy and relish every moment. Merry Christmas, everyone!

Catholic Corner

[A special Advent message from Brother Patrick](#)



This week Mrs. Stacey and Mrs. Willoughby enjoyed chatting with Brother Patrick about his upcoming visit to Malaysia and about the many ways in which he can interact with different members of our school community. The conversation was very heartwarming and we feel very excited about the new year ahead. Please click the link above to watch a wonderful message from Br Patrick to the SJIM community.

ES Advent Celebration

In our Advent services our students in Year 1- Year 6 enjoyed learning about the meaning of Advent. Together we lit the first Advent candle, decorated our tree and prepared the stable for the birth of Jesus. Each child decorated a Christmas star and our older students in Year 5 and Year 6 thought of ways in which they could do good deeds for others.



HS Advent Mission
Empowering young Christians to lead their peers in prayer and journey together this Advent.



[Advent Family Calendar](#)

made by Meagan Motha Yr 12, for the families of SJIM.

"Real wealth is the ability to think and to feel, not to be possessed by possessions; to give, to receive, to reason, to share. Children know this; there is no class distinction among them. If I can open their minds and let the sun enter in, if enough of us can do this, if we can reach beyond the boundaries marked rich and poor, if we can open their minds to this light, the world will become a brighter place, closer to peace, closer to human fraternity."

De La Salle's final words in "BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES" by Br. L. Burkhard FSC

Lasallian Formation - Character

On Monday 29th November, staff took part in our first Lasallian Formation session of this academic year. The session was led by Brother Michael Valenzuela, who visited the school many years ago, currently the Institutional Lasallian Animator of De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde in Manila, Philippines.

In preparation for the session, Brother Michael asked the staff to watch the following short film, '[lan](#)'. The staff were asked to consider how this film is relevant to:

- Our work as a teacher?
- Our students?
- Our school, as a Lasallian community?
- This country in light of the pandemic?

The focus on Character is drawn from our 'C the future' development and improvement programme. In the session, staff developed their understanding of what character development means in a Lasallian context, how to foster respect and dignity in all that we and our students do, and how we develop our students to serve in the immediate, local and wider community.



PSG Update

Please find [here](#) more information on the projects undertaken by the PSG as below:

1. Hampers giveaway to honour the Security and Maintenance Team
2. Christmas Deco from the HS students
3. Thank you to our silent heroes



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 JomPAY as follows:



BillCode: 900779
Ref-1:
Ref-2:

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.



Last Week of Term

The last week of Term 1 has arrived! It has been a whirlwind term and we want to acknowledge the hard work, resilience and flexibility our parents, students and staff have shown. There are lots of exciting events planned for the final week: the finals of our Christmas door decorations, class parties, and our Christmas benchball competition. We look forward to a fun-filled week.

Christmas Concert

All classes from Nursery to Year 6 have been busy practicing their performances for our Christmas Concert. Our music department and Ms Pardo have been recording these performances in our auditorium this week and we are excited to be showcasing this to the children on the last day of term. The video will be shared with parents shortly after on Friday afternoon.



Swimming restarting in Y3-6 next week

With the exciting return of swimming for Year 3-6 next week (and with the rest of the school starting in Term 2), the swim team have prepared this short [video](#) showing the steps we are taking to ensure everyone's safety and the swimming SOPs we will follow. This has also been posted on Seesaw. If you have any questions, please contact our Head of Swimming, Coach Zyanne: zhienhuey@sj-international.edu.my



Non-uniform day next Friday

Next week will be a joyous week of sport, singing and celebration. The culmination of our festivities will be a non-uniform day on Friday 10th of December. Students can come dressed in whatever they like, including jovial accessories. Y6 will be participating in their benchball competition of Friday so they will need to come in their PE kit, however accessories are still welcome.



2nd Annual Inter-House Performing Arts Competition

The Performing Arts Leaders at SJIIM are proud to bring back SJIIM's 2nd Annual Inter-House Performing Arts Competition! This inter-house competition will allow HS students to compete in three categories: Music, Drama, and Dance.

Students are to apply through a [Google form](#) found here and posted on their House's Google Classroom by the 7th of January 2022. Houses can have as many submissions as possible, with each submission contributing house points. Students can participate in more than one category. Unlike last year, there is no specific theme for the competition, and so students are free to perform any song they wish with a 3-minute time limit.

Music submissions: performance of any piece, any style/instrument

Drama submissions: monologue/duologue either written by a student or a professional

Dance submissions: performance of any style

If you do have any queries, please do contact either Mr Stacey, Mr Hague, Ms Pardo, or any of the HS Performing Arts Leaders (Alysa Y11, Shir-Ning Y11, Amira Y10, Victoria Y10, Sher Ying Y10, Shir-Ree Y9, David Y9, Nathan Y9, Aurelia Y8, Shuen Y8, Vayden Y8, Michelle Y8).



HS Christmas Concert 2021

The Performing Arts Leaders have been working hard to bring you a HS Christmas Concert highlighting the talent of our high school students. The show has been coordinated, compiled and will be presented by the PALs, with leadership by Year 10 students Amira Marcellus, Sher Ying Lee and Victoria Wong. The concert will be shared with all students during tutor time on Friday 10th December and will be shared with parents in this update on the same day.

Student Representative Council President

This week, in tutor time, students and teachers have been voting for their choice of SRC President. Five of our Year 12 students submitted applications for the position and, along with the application, they produced a video to be shared with students in tutor time explaining why they wish to serve as our new SRC President.

As always, we have some outstanding candidates this year who will, we're sure, provide outstanding leadership, drive and commitment to the school. We will announce our full SRC in next week's update.

Our candidates for SRC President are:



Arjun Gunalan



Alastair Tan



Dhanya
Dharmendra



Sandra Ong



Deborah Ong

House Spirit Day

Last Friday saw our House Spirit day take place and the students participated in a range of activities, from pop up drama to sport, in order to gain points for their house. The results were as follows....

- 4th: Miguel 11 points
- 3rd: Benilde 15 points
- 2nd: Jaime 18 points
- 1st: Mutien 20 points





[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](#)



[Epurple \(Top up credit\)](#)
[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](#)