



End of Term 1 Newsletter Issue



Brother Thomas
Brother President



Eileen Quigley
Elementary School Principal



Dr Nicola Brown
High School Principal

Message from Brother President

Warmest greetings to our SJIIM staff students, parents and friends and welcome to this Christmas edition of our newsletter.

Christmas is a celebration of life and family and this was done abundantly in the wonderful concerts exuding Christmas spirit at the end of term. The Parents Support Group (PSG) was an integral part of the celebration by setting up our Christmas tree and holding exciting food and toy bazaars. We express our very sincere thanks to them for their support and cooperation. We do hope that more of our parents will be able to come forward in the New Year to join the support group.

For the second year our Lasallian spirit of commitment to serve those less fortunate than ourselves was expressed through the "shoe-box campaign". Parents and students enthusiastically entered into the spirit of giving by contributing several hundred "shoe-boxes" of gifts for needy children in orphanages and refugee centers in KL and PJ. We thank you for your generosity and we are pleased that this Christmas 'campaign of love' is becoming a tradition in our school.

At the end of term we were very happy to have a special Christmas gift for all our students: a digital copy of the Founding Year Book hot off the press! This is a wonderful record of our inaugural year (2016-17) and I'm sure you will enjoy browsing the contents. We plan to have the hard copy ready for distribution early in the second term. Preparing our pioneer Year Book required enormous effort by our editorial team (Year 13) and their mentor, Brother Danai. We are grateful to them for this superb chronicle of our first amazing year.

The first term came to a close with a tinge of sadness as we bade farewell to Ms. Pam Carter. Pam was a member of the founding staff in SJII Singapore and so brought with her a wealth of Lasallian experience in the role of IB Coordinator at SJIIM. Our highly unusual achievement of obtaining IB World School status even before the school was opened was due in great part to her expertise and untiring efforts and we are very grateful. We shall miss Pam dearly but wish her a very happy retirement in her native Yorkshire.

We trust you are having an enjoyable Christmas break. We pray that all our families and members of staff will enjoy an abundance of blessings in the New Year of 2018.

Deepavali



Students across the ES spent a week exploring the customs of the Deepavali festival. Year 6 students worked as a team to create a beautiful rangoli in the foyer, designed by Owen Low from 6F. Thank you Owen for ensuring the rangoli was unique to SJIIM incorporating symbols from our crest.



All year groups worked on a variety of aspects of the celebration, and enjoyed many activities in their classrooms from dancing to food tasting. On Friday, there was an assembly where the traditions were shared through presentations. A cultural dance was performed by the Year 5 students. All students were in their traditional attire on this day and it was a splendid celebration.



International Day



International Week took place at SJIIM from Monday 13th - Friday 17th November. All year groups across the EYFS and Elementary School chose a country to study throughout the week, with students learning songs, dances, crafts and facts about their chosen locations. Classrooms were decorated with flags, maps and artwork - there was even an Indian temple and a Brazilian rainforest!

At the end of the week, students had the opportunity to dress up in traditional dress/costumes of their own country or the country their year group had been studying. In the morning, children took part in a 'Parade of Nations', showing off their bright costumes for parents and friends to see. Year 6 ended the parade with a beautiful song from New Zealand which they sang entirely in Maori.

We also invited parents to set up a table to share the culture and traditions of their own country or a country of their choice. What an absolutely fantastic job the parents did! Children not only got to see lots of different artefacts from around the world, but also experienced foodtasting, making their own crafts and even got to sit in an Italian sports car!



We would like to thank all of the parents involved. Your dedication and hard work didn't go unnoticed as the whole school was alive with excitement!

Furthermore would also like to say a huge thank you to the PSG who supported this event.



“International Week is such a great opportunity to allow children to explore cultures different to their own, and help create empathy for how different people around the world live. Having students experience a flavour of different cultures in EYFS and ES is so important to the global citizens we want our SJIIM students to become.” - Mrs. Lauren Bayfield and Mrs. Christine Pardo.



House Colour



On Thursday, November 30th, students from Year 1 to 13 gathered in the MPH to unveil the House Banners that are now displayed in the foyer. These banners were the cumulation of ideas from students and teachers from across the school.

Last year the ES Student Representative Council chose the animals for each house and made them relevant to Malaysia: sea turtle, sea eagle, hornbill and the sun bear. The HS Student Representative Council chose to use the same Saints and colours as SJI Singapore to build unity with our sister school. The HS House Captains and Teacher Heads of House decided on the two virtues that describe the Saint. Brother Danai created the portraits of the Saints and the watermark of the animals in the background.

At the beginning of this school year, the HS students participated in a competition to design the House Crest. The winner, Chalu Jugo from Year 12, designed a crest for each house which you will see on future House Shirts. They are featured on the bottom right corner of the banners. You will soon be able to see some of the other great entries submitted on the screen in the foyer.



To celebrate this event, the HS Houses choreographed dance routines and taught it to their Houses during Tutor Time. As the music played, each House would stand up for their music and dance. The elementary students joined with their HS compatriots by waving ribbons in their House colours and some even tried to follow along. The atmosphere in the MPH was electric!



We look forward to more such events as the purpose of the Houses at SJIIM is to promote community, students working together from different age groups and building student leadership.



Singapore Maths

As teachers, one of the subjects that we all really love to teach is maths. We truly believe that the curriculum from Singapore is revolutionary as it offers all students excellent support for achieving success in mathematics.

Through using the Singapore Math approach, students are provided with a layered curriculum founded on solid number sense and supported by the use of concrete, pictorial, and abstract number sense activities.

Singapore math focuses on children not just learning but also truly mastering a limited number of concepts each school year and the sequence of the topics links to the developmental age of the children.

Through the use of layering, children regardless of their ability are supported and challenged. By providing hands on material to start with and finally progressing through to the more abstract, enables all children to experience success and to develop a positive mind-set towards mathematics.

What do our students have to say Year 5



“I really like using bar models for problem solving because the bar diagram helps me to see the problem more clearly and then I know which calculations I need to use to solve each of the questions”. -

Ian Wong (Class 5W)

“I like model drawing because it helps me to understand the question. I also like how we can show our working. Sometimes I can’t understand the question, so I use model drawing, then I know how to do it.” - Chloe Poh (Class 5H)



What our students have to say Year 6

I think Singapore maths is a great way of learning to solve maths problems in different ways and to push our brains to persevere. Using bar models helps me to understand maths better because it shows you the problem you are solving and helps you to see things clearly. - Jaden Poi

Singapore maths is a very fun and interesting subject, indeed. In SJI our teachers have thought about many creative ways solve problems. Singapore maths strengthens our understanding, when it comes to the bar model it shows the question in a clearer way by using a diagram. It helps us to challenge our minds and fills it up with knowledge. This also links with our Virtue of perseverance and unity, as we have to work together and collaborate as a team to solve problems. - Victoria Wong and Shawn Ng



Mid-Autumn Festival

It's time to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival at SJIIM-a chance to celebrate harvest and 聚 (tuánjù), which means family reunion.

The Y7-9 students had a fantastic workshop consisting of three sessions of activities, including: lantern riddle solving, Mid-Autumn tradition learning and Chinese tea appreciation replete with a tea party. Under their teachers' guidance, some of our senior students got the chance to make Chinese mooncakes and learnt about the importance of the family unit in Chinese culture.



During our Mid-Autumn Festival celebration, the students confidently modeled the attribute of being knowledgeable, reflective inquirers, in accordance with the IB Learner Profile.

We believe students learn a language, learn about a language, and learn through a language in an authentic environment. As teachers, we try to provide many opportunities throughout the year for students to demonstrate language abilities as well as develop intercultural understanding. As enjoying the delicious mooncakes we hope Chinese language is not only a social medium, but also a medium of inquiry at SJIIM.

YEAR 3 IPC



We want to share three emails with you with pics from each year three class. (This the first from 3F.) These are photos from our Skype chat today with a mystery class in a mystery location in the world. This activity ties in with our IPC topic, Different Places, Similar Lives. Each class took turns to ask questions until we were able to pinpoint where the buddy class was located. We found out our new friends live in Bangalore, India and are students in Year 4. They described Bangalore as noisy and busy.

We discovered that they get around using automatic tuk tuks. Krishna in 3W was very excited to tell our new friends in India that her family actually come from India. We all had fun talking to the children at Stonehill International school.



SJIIM Chinese Language Department

Video Conference



The SJIIM Chinese Language Department had an opportunity to collaborate with Taiwan Zhudong Junior High School to conduct one-to-one video conferencing for our students on Friday, 24th November. The interactive conference allowed students to learn the subject differently from their everyday class sessions and was the first time that they have participated in an interactive Mandarin conference.

Our Year 8 Chinese Language students were the first batch of students involved in this collaboration project. Year 8 Chinese Language students have been working on a short essay about their school life and personal life in their lessons before the video conference. During the video conference, they learned to use Standard Mandarin to communicate with Taiwanese students and answered questions from Taiwanese students. All of the students enjoyed the conference and said that it is a more interactive and fun way to practice Mandarin. Learners were connected, integrated and motivated through this viable and educationally sound means of communication.

Following the video conference, SJIIM Chinese Language Department are organising a Cultural Exchange Programme for students in years Year 8, 9, 10 and 12 to Taiwan on 26th - 30th March 2018. We will also visit Hsinchu Chudong Junior High School for a day and our students will follow lessons with their students, in order to completely immerse themselves in Chinese language.



Reflection from students

The Taiwan Skype Conference was an extremely special and rare experience for me. Communicating to them is one thing, but getting to know them and knowing what they like and dislike is another. Before this conference began, I had many doubts as to whether this will turn out as planned. But after everything, not only did it turned out better than expected but I made many new friends and got to learn about their cultures, our similarities and differences. So to sum all up, I really appreciate that I had an opportunity to talk with them and I would love to do it again! - Zen Ng (8M)

The Taiwan Skype Conference was an amazing experience that allowed me to communicate with students from abroad. Not only was it a good experience, I managed to learn about their culture, differences, hobbies, and many more. It was also an extremely enjoyable process, everyone enjoyed it and we were all having a great time bonding with them. I am glad that we had this opportunity to get to share and learn about each other. I still remember all of us smiling cheerfully as we said our goodbyes, wishing we had more time to talk. We should definitely continue this programme again! - Megan Tan Si Ying (8M)



Early Years Christmas Concert



Our special performances to mark the end of term 1 began with the EYFS concert. Our nursery and reception children created a little Christmas magic on stage with a beautiful performance, and managed to deliver the message of Christmas by singing in three different languages!



The children sang a range of Christmas songs and used actions to accompany their singing. The Flamingoes told the traditional story of Christmas and looked great in their costumes. The Hummingbirds were reindeers and sang beautifully and finally the Sparrows looked very festive in their Santa outfits! The Kingfishers and Sunbirds wore festive pajamas and sang joyfully to all the songs.

Every child had a role to play in making this a magical performance, the narrators spoke clearly and the singing was superb. It was a great start to the festivities.



Year 1 & 2 Christmas Concert - The Lost Kitten



The ES students prepared two shows. KS1 delivered a delightful performance of *The Lost Kitten*. It was impressive to see over 100 young children singing, dancing and performing to such a high standard. It was evident from the children's smiles and energy that they really enjoyed performing to their parents in the auditorium.

They told the story of the lost kitten through an arrangement of song and dance, ending with a very festive 'We wish you a merry Christmas'. In the lead up to this magical performance, the children worked incredibly hard. Music lessons were dedicated to learning songs telling stories of the animals Mabel met on her journey to find her lost kitten, dances



prepared and practiced, lines learnt and rehearsed at the end of each school day to beautifully retell the story of '**The lost kitten**'.



The show would not have been complete without beautiful props and costumes, a huge thank you to Agnes for her time and efforts in making these, they complimented the story perfectly. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!



Year 3 - 6 Christmas Concert

To complete the school's Christmas performances for this year, KS2 students treated their audience to a spectacle of song and dance in "The Santa Interviews". This involved 200 children from Years 3-6 acting, singing and dancing to a packed auditorium. Students from the year 4-6 Drama CCA told the story of Santa trying to find a new cookie supervisor for the North Pole, with all year groups performing festive musical and dance numbers throughout the production.



The students worked enthusiastically during rehearsals to ensure they knew all of their lines, lyrics and choreography, and the stage and costumes looked incredible thanks to a team of parents and teachers working behind the scenes.



We would like to thank the staff and parents for all their hard work in putting on these productions. Without the support of our parents, who worked tirelessly to make costumes, create set designs and props, these special concerts would not be so magical. Thank you to the children who also worked very hard in preparing and delivering such amazing shows.



High School Christmas Concert

The High School swung into Christmas with style in 2017 with our Christmas Concert featuring orchestra and choir collaborations, jazz combo, a capella choir, duets, soloists, community carols and poetry.



The opening number featured a band made up of teachers from our Instrumental Music Programme alongside students from the orchestra. They accompanied the High School Choir in a medley including Silver Bells and I'll Be Home For Christmas in a swing style. Bright brass lines, smooth strings and a smokin' rhythm section brought the music to life.

Throughout the evening we all joined in singing five carols together led by the choir and soloists: Sean Ho, Katrina Susai Nathen, Daryl Chong, Mira Irdina Mohamad Seth and Aishia Datta. The final carol as we concluded our evening was We Wish You A Merry Christmas and surprise puddings were handed out by the Orchestra members as we sang of wanting our figgy puddings.



Two takes on the classic poem, 'Twas The Night Before Christmas were interspersed throughout the performances, one a delightful take with Santa calling upon teachers to inform him on who'd been naughty and nice, the other, The First Night of Christmas told the story of a baby to be called Christ the Lord being born in a stable on that first starry night.

Themes of hope and thankfulness were woven through the programme and Daryl and Mira

shared touching reflections on Christmas time. The climax of our evening Thankful by Josh Groban was an inspiring number by the Orchestra and Choir conducted by Mrs Cockerill and Mr Hague in tandem. It encouraged us to look beyond ourselves, to hope and to be thankful and that even with our differences there is a place we're all connected, that each of us can find each other's light.

There was a buzz and excitement as our evening came to a close and the audience made their way home, the spirit of Christmas alive in their hearts.





IB Honour Roll



The IB honour roll at SJIIM recognises students in each grading period who have shown exemplary commitment to their studies and have achieved outstanding academic results. Those in Year 12 who are recognised for their academic achievement have earned 36 points or more in their report, whilst those in Year 13 have earned 36 points or more, plus an A or a B in TOK.

The SJIIM honour roll also recognises those students in either year group who have earned effort grades of 'consistently' across all subjects (including TOK in Year 13).

Well done to all of these students! It is such a pleasure to see that we have so many hardworking students, who are aiming to achieve their best results.

Year 12 - Effort

Lanz Bosita

Lai Shu Xian

Dang Vu Minh

Yip Song-Ling

Chang Claudia

Muhammed Hazim

Kelynn Lee

Chong Ting Shen

Yong Nicol

Tan Hailey

Year 12 - Achievement

Lanz Bosita

Catalina Jugo

Foo Peace

Dylan Dev

Yip Song-Ling

Chin Xuen Rong

Lai Shu Xian

Natalie Law

Kelynn Lee

Chong Ting Shen

Ong Rachel

Yong Nicol

Tan Hailey

Year 13 - Effort

Lee Christine

Cheah Cadence

Leongan Annabel

Eng Ying Xuan

Ng Angeline

Lee Wei Lyn

Cheng Hui Wen

Visagan Ravindran

Kon Emily

Hana Ryaz Patel

Ng Wey Han

Law Joshua

Choo Jun Yi

Loo Hui Qi

Year 13 - Achievement

Chong Daryl

Ng Wey Han

Cheah Cadence

Visagan Ravindran

Kon Emily

Hana Ryaz Patel

Goh Rachel

Tan Hong Xuan

Cheng Hi Wen

Choo Jun Yi

Loo Hui Qi

Lee Christine

Tan Justin

Law Joshua

Eng Ying Xuan

Ng Angeline

