



ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA

First Half-Term Newsletter Issue



Brother Thomas
Brother President



Eileen Quigley
Elementary School Principal



Dr Nicola Brown
Acting High School
Principal

Warmest greetings dear parents and friends of SJIIM

Our second academic year started on 28th August 2017 and we welcomed nearly 700 students with 31 new teachers. From the word go they were engaged in a wide range of educational activities and we are happy to send you the first copy of our Newsletter, giving a colourful account of most of these activities.

One of the key characteristics of our Lasallian tradition is that families and the school are in close partnership in the education of the children. An essential tool in ensuring this is good communication between the home and the school. We place great importance on this in SJIIM and both the Elementary School and High School are striving to improve channels of communication and points of contact. The Principals are sending weekly letters updating parents on developments in the school. Parents are invited to the school on a regular basis for information sessions and to provide feedback on school policies and performance. Invitations are issued to attend school events and student performances. The Parents Support Group (PSG) is now in its second year and is planning to involve more parents and families in its programme of activities. We welcome your suggestions on how we can improve further.

One very important area of communication concerns the progress of students in the school. The traditional ways are regular school reports and meetings of parents with teachers. This year SJIIM is introducing new methods in giving feedback. In the High School this takes the form of the "Student-Led Conference" scheduled to be held on Saturday 28th October. In this approach students are trained to reflect on the quality of their own learning and share this with their parents in the presence of their tutor. Training students to engage in personal reflection is a very important quality of Lasallian education and the SLC is an excellent instrument for this. However we do understand that it may be new to many parents and welcome your feedback after the experience.

Enjoy the Newsletter! May the good Lord bless our new school year, keeping us all safe and in good health and growing in wisdom and grace.

Malaysia Day Programme



As the nation celebrates its 60 years of independence, Malaysia Day has been given a special focus in our assembly programme on the 18th of September 2017. A day to remind us of how we have come together in the midst of diversity to form a melting pot of cultures, synonymously Malaysian, we celebrated the birth of our nation in our assembly programme with poetry recitals, a presentation on the history of Malaya and Malaysia and with a finale of NegaraKu and the recital of Rukun Negara.

It is very heartening to see our young generation singing to the anthem with pride, a showcase of our holistic education approach in our young. A very special thank you to Karina, Michelle and Faris from the Year 11 Bahasa Melayu class and Dylan Dev, Anastasia, Claudia Chang, Elaine Alaragajoo and Nicol Yong from the Y12 SL B Malay class and a heartfelt thank you to Daryl Chong from Year 13 who presented his winning entry "Pengajaran Nusa Dan Bangsa". Syabas semua!



Cikgu Ervina Atan

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-bullying week was packed to the brim with fantastic anti-bullying activities. Our hope is to open up this topic to everyone, so that our children can quickly recognise the signs of bullying and know how they can react in an appropriate and effective manner. In our Friday Anti-bullying assembly, we talked about using the 'Stop, Talk, Walk' strategy to stand up to bullying. Do ask your child what this means and what Detective Mc Gruff had to say about anti-bullying. The key to bullying prevention is open communication, so please do ask your child about it and help us spread the word about anti-bullying. Together we can make a difference!



AntiBullying Week At SJIIM

This week year 3 celebrated anti bullying week. A range of activities were proposed throughout the school. Below is Wendy in year 3 showing her heart and the effects when it is torn and crushed by unkind words and gestures.



AEO Tour



With so much information already available on college websites and in catalogs, students and parents may wonder why they should attend these in-person sessions. Here are six reasons to encourage students to meet with college reps:

- 1** Students have a chance — in their own town — to meet face-to-face with a rep and ask specific questions.
- 2** Students can let the college know they are seriously interested.
- 3** In many cases, the reps are admission officers from the college, so students have a unique opportunity to make contact with a person who may be valuating their application in the future.
- 4** The meeting provides students with a specific contact at the college to whom they can send questions.
- 5** Sometimes reps, particularly ones from state universities, will give an early read on students' transcripts, test scores and course selections during their visits. This helps students assess their fit at that institution and figure out what they can do to improve their chances of getting in.
- 6** It's an opportunity to bring to your students' attention to a college that you



1. Assumption College - Andrew Kupec
California State University, Chico - Yuzhuo Sun (Snow)
2. Columbia College - Kathryn Trabue
3. El Camino College - Leonid Rachman
4. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Amy Pham
5. Everett Community College - Rebecca Adams
6. Georgetown University in Qatar - Brendan Hill
7. Hamline University - Paula Brugge
8. Indiana University Kokomo - Chad Broeker
9. Johnson & Wales University - William Priante
10. Marquette University - Ellen Blauw
11. Marymount University - Arlinda Fair & Ana David
12. Maryville College - Ahmed Abdelrahman
13. Michigan State University - Patricia Croom
14. Middle Tennessee State University - Gilmore Henry Chambers
15. Millersville University of Pennsylvania - Yang Zhang
16. San Francisco State University - Israeli Alilin
17. Seattle University - Dana Brolley
18. Skagit Valley College - Eric Anderson
19. St. John's University - Jianxiang Yang (Rebecca)
20. Tompkins Cortland Community College - Donna Casula
21. University of Iowa - Rebecca Hanson
22. University of Northern Iowa - Bryant Dowd
23. University of San Francisco - Jason Opdyke
24. University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire - Heather Pearson
25. University of Wisconsin-Green Bay - Katherine Jarosz
26. University of Wisconsin-Parkside - Karen Wislocky
27. Utah State University - Benjamin Wilkley
28. West Virginia University - Molly Rousch
29. Western Michigan University - Metilda John
30. Wichita State University - Fai Tai
31. Winona State University - Kemale Pinar
32. AEO Tour - Bob and Jenny Allan

IGCSE & IB Diploma Programme

Parents of students in Years 9 to 13 attended the IGCSE/IB information evening in the auditorium on 24 September. The evening began at 6pm with a talk by Mr. Gary Cairns about the subjects offered at SJIIM for IGCSE in Years 10 and 11. This included important details about the outline of the English, Maths and Science courses from Mr. Cairns, Mr. Darren Jones (Head of Science) and Mr. Jodis Henderson (Head of Maths). In addition to this, the talk also outlined strategies that will be implemented to support students as they approach the IGCSE examination.

Mrs. Maureen Fitzgerald then spoke to parents about the IB Diploma Programme offered to students in Years 12 and 13. She reinforced the importance of the IBDP as a holistic programme, developing students not only in academic aspects, but also in terms of their development in relation to a set of 10 characteristics, called the “Learner Profile” by the IB. These include becoming: reflective, balanced, open-minded, knowledgeable, inquirers, risk-takers, communicators, caring, principled and thinkers. In addition, she explained the “Approaches to Learning” developed within the IB Diploma Programme, which include skills in thinking, communication, self-management, research and social skills. The six academic subject groups and their relationship to the ‘core’ elements of the EE (Extended Essay), CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) and TOK (Theory of Knowledge) were outlined, with expert talks by our CAS Coordinator, Ms. Kathy Smyth, and our TOK Coordinator, Mr. Matt Lawson. Two Year 13 students, Hana Ryaz Patel and Eng Ying Xuan, gave a student’s perspective on their experience of the IB Diploma Programme.

Many thanks to all parents who attended, and to the teachers who presented!

Geography Field Trip



On the 29th of September, Year 11 Geography students went on their long-awaited coursework field trip to Janda Baik and Bentong. The purpose was to gather primary data about the pressing issue of deforestation on the Peninsula Malaysia. Students gathered sample data from a disturbed, and undisturbed forest area, then went to two sites to interview the local people about this issue. They had many questions about the causes and consequences of the removal of this country's rainforests.

These were answered by representatives of an NGO, and the Betong Forestry Department. Such practical work about the real issues facing people and the environment is integral to the study of Geography, and will be a common feature to the program in coming years at SJIIM.

by Garry Glanz



Master Class with Steve McMahon



Our Year 9-13 boys and girls football team experienced being coached by an ex-professional football player and manager, and now TV pundit today. Steve McMahon is an ex-professional football player from England, who played from 1979-1998 - for clubs including Aston Villa, Everton, Manchester City and, most notably, Liverpool.



He was part of the highly successful Liverpool squad who won many FA cups and Premier league titles during his time there. He also received 17 caps for the England international team, playing in the 1990 FIFA World Cup.

He used our football teams to film some drills and practices for a company he is currently supporting, which will provide information and help to young people around the world, educating them about sports, business, cooking and more. Check out some of the photos from today!

Year 9 Camp



Messages from Year 9

Challyse Lim - 9K

I think camp was a really amazing first camp experience with St Joseph. I really loved how I have really bonded with my new friends and I really loved river trekking even though I lost my glasses, because I really liked how we were trekking in a river which I have never done before. The closest I have ever done to river trekking would be trekking in a cave filled with clear water last year in year 8 camp.

Yu En Sy - Y9K

Year 9 camp was an unforgettable experience that I'm glad to have been able to share with my peers. I was very glad to have seen everyone getting along so well, people that you wouldn't usually talk to started talking to you, and you start to create this bond. It was also great to see everyone helping each other, for example during the hike up to the waterfall, it was slippery but there would always be one person lending you a hand up or just helping you get across something in your way. That person who helped you wouldn't necessarily be your friend, they could be someone you haven't spoke to before, yet they would still help you. I found the river tracking challenging as you wouldn't be able to see what was in your path, but it was always hysterical when you or your friend falls into water, these were one of the moments i treasured the most. Though it had always been sunshine and rainbows, camp was challenging when it came to a certain criteria like needing to maintain within school rules and achieving what was meant to be done, but that definitely did not stop us from having a blast. At the end of camp, I learned that all your small actions contribute into a huge achievement like friendship, knowing that even if you may not have the strongest ties or bonds, it could be build, if you barely know each other, lend a helping hand, and that'll change everything.

Elementary Music Programme



The Elementary Music Programme is now in full swing with all children in Early Years and Elementary School accessing weekly class music lessons. Music has also begun to enhance assemblies and the children are developing a repertoire of songs that they share together.

The Elementary School has four new music ensembles that are busy rehearsing for their first performances which will take place shortly after the mid-term break. These ensembles are:

Piccolo Singers - KS1 Choir who rehearse on Mondays at lunchtime

The Cantabile Singers - KS2 Choir who rehearse on Wednesdays 3 - 4 p.m



The Concert Band - an ensemble for woodwind, brass and percussion students on Tuesdays 3-4 p.m

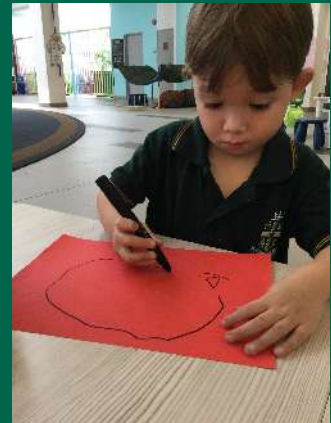
The String Orchestra - an ensemble for violin, viola and cello students on Wednesdays 7.20 - 8 a.m

We are particularly keen to develop our brass and woodwind musicians and have opportunities for lessons available at school and on Saturdays. These instruments include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, oboe and french horn. Students in KS2 who are interested in learning these instruments are encouraged to talk to Mrs Taylor.

We look forward to watching these flagship groups develop over the year.



Nursery



Nursery children have had a very busy first term at SJIIM. They have settled into the routines of school well and are forming friendships that we hope will last a lifetime. This term the topic was "Marvellous Me". The children shared their "Marvellous Me" boxes with each other and talked about themselves and their families. To celebrate the end of this topic the children showcased their artistic skills in the "Who's Who" portrait exhibition. Parents were invited along to see if they could guess who was who.

Reception



Well, what a wonderful beginning to the Reception year! Starting the year with our Marvellous Me boxes was a great way to get to know each other! We found out about each other's likes and interests, who is in our families and what we did during the holidays.

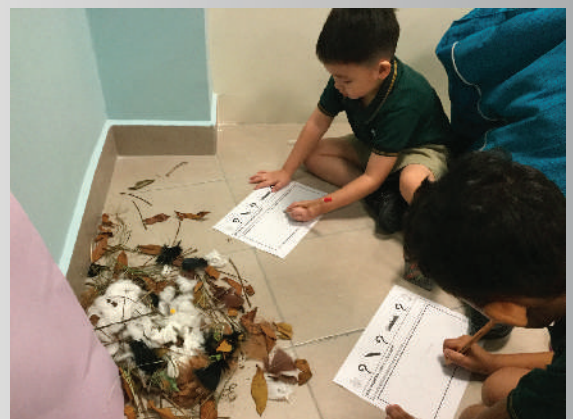
It has been great to finally see the new Reception classroom in action. The staff have been ever so pleased with the way that all children have settled into the Reception environment and routines. The children separate into their respective classes for whole class lessons and phonics, and mix together to engage in the the range of exciting activities on offer each day in the different areas of the room.

Here are some quotes from the children about school:
"I like to play with all the toys, because all of the toys are nice!"

"I love the magic board!" (the interactive whiteboard)

"I like learning phonics, because I love the sounds!"

After a great start, we are really looking forward to the next half term!



Year 1

We are very proud of how well the children have transitioned into Year 1. They have made some wonderful friendships and have settled well into their school routines. This term we have focused closely on adopting a positive mindset through our Brainwaves Unit in IPC. The children learnt the terminology of 'I just can't do it...YET!' or 'I will try harder'. The children persevered in their learning by developing this positive attitude. In class the children have had different levels of learning challenges to choose from. These are known as 'comfort', 'stretch' and 'challenge'. They have been very independent in choosing what level of challenge is appropriate for them.

The children have used the Open Zone well to engage in a range of activities to help them to be independent, consolidate and apply their learning from other subjects. Here are some quotes from the children this term. We are really proud of how well they have settled into Year 1. We want to say a big thank you to all of our parents for their support this term.
by Year 1 Team

Message from Year 1

Professor Spark's Lab (Role Play Area)

"We were scientists. You had to wear a white coat to go into the lab. We made potions. We want to make our brains bigger and stronger!" –Henry, 1M



ICT

"Mr Bowden played against us on Kahoot, and he got the top points but when we practiced we were able to get all the answers right!" - Ke Rui, 1B

Our Earth, Our Home (IPC Unit)

"We made habitats for animals. My habitat was for a fish. I put sea and blue paper for the water. My fish needs to be in the water or it will die". - Raphael, 1M.



Year 2



In Year 2 we have had a brilliant start to the new academic year. We have learnt lots of new and exciting things.

"It has been good so far. I like my phonics and maths and also I love IPC and English." Kyra 2C

"I have learnt about unity, perseverance and conjunctions." Zyan 2C

"I love the school and the teachers are kind so all of us will keep trying." Shawn 2C

"I have enjoyed learning about virtues. My favourite is unity." Jia Xin 2B

We have enjoyed learning in the open zone at stations as we have worked through our Brainwaves and Circus IPC topics.



"I have enjoyed my station work, especially the circus stations. I now know that Philip Astley started the circus and that trains were invented to take circus people to town to town." Daniel 2B

"My topic is the circus and I have enjoyed learning about the history of the circus." Megan 2C



Year 3



The year 3 students couldn't believe their eyes when an oversized box was delivered to their classroom by Mr Woodhams a year 4 teacher who found the box. Carefully labelled and intended for the year 3 students at SJIIM, the box was quickly opened by Ms Fried and the 50 excited students. Inside a letter from a famous palaeontologist seeking help was discovered. He was in search of help from school children to finish his work. The children quickly set to work to complete the tasks to fulfil his last wishes. They obtained a

palaeontologist diploma and promptly changed into their outfits to complete the final challenge of the afternoon. Equipped with hammers, masks, hardhats and chisels.

The enthusiastic team of young palaeontologist were ready to "Get cracking". In rhythm the students chipped off morsels of the fossils with great care and attention.

Little by little remnants of bones were revealed as the students brushed the dust off their dinosaur specimens. These were to become the first pieces of the year 3 museum.

A fabulous afternoon was had by all. The new IPC topic has officially begun.



Year 4



The children have made a great start to their new year and for many, to their new school. We've been really busy with our learning. We kick started the year with our 'Brain-waves' IPC topic, learning about how we learn and developing our understanding of how our brain works. In English, we've been doing a lot of work exploring different forms of poetry with all children creating their own limericks, haikus and cinquains. Our addition and subtraction skills and understanding have been spruced up thanks to

our maths lessons and we're now even using bar models to help us solve problems. Our current IPC topic has enabled us to better understand 'How Humans Work', in which we've done some amazing biology inspired art, and learnt about teeth, vision, the heart and keeping healthy. We finished this half term with some lovely Deepavali inspired art activities, created our own rangoli patterns and diva lamps. Here are two children's views about what they've been up to.

Tara: I've enjoyed playing in the football field at my new school. I've learned about the human body in IPC and how your brain works. In maths, I've been doing addition and subtraction mentally and with regrouping. In English, I've been proud of my handwriting because I don't have any green marking! I've done chess in my CCA and I've found it fun and as well as this in swimming CCA I have fun playing things in the pool.



Year 5



"I was excited for my first day of school, but it was a bit hard to figure out where things were and to make new friends. But now, it is easy because I know where everything is and everyone is good friends with me."

~ Nathan (5H)

"I was excited and happy to start in SJII. I was looking forward to meeting new people. I had seen the school before and I really liked the classrooms and meeting the teachers. I felt ready to start a new adventure."

~ Isabelle (5W)

"Before, I thought my classroom was just going to be tables and chairs, but on my first day, it was so fun. My classroom is big and I like how it is very opened and I also love the bean-bags." ~ David (5O)



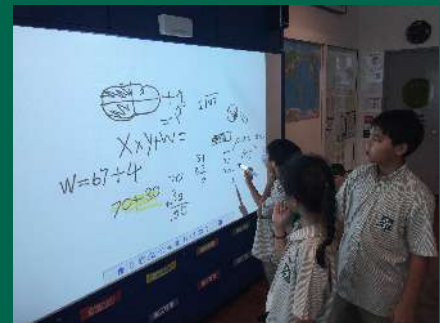
"I was feeling really shy and scared, but after one week I felt happy and safe and excited about my new school. I really liked my new classmates and teachers. I had lots of new things to learn, for example IPC, but everyone helped me." ~ Manisha (5W)



Year 6

Sean Riley Hashim - Student 2016 - 2017

I'm a pioneer student at St Joseph's and I am also ready to start the brand new year! I've been put in the same class with some of my friends from last year, including some new fresh starters. The challenges I would like to face this year are: being a good role model and doing well in my challenges. Things I am excited for this year are the school trips and the super fun activities.



John Lee - Student 2016 - 2017

I was so excited and enthusiastic to be in Year 6! I was like, 'Yes! I am in year 6! Woohoo!' I have to admit that I like the feeling of Year 6 as I am growing up. Of course the first thing I did was to catch up with my old friends. Then I made some new friends from my new class. I enjoy the way my new teacher teaches. I hope to learn more challenging and fun things in Year 6!

Rayden Lim - New student

When I first came to SJIIM I was really excited to meet my new class and my new teacher. My new classmates are very kind and I have made some good friends. I like the fact that my new classroom is on the 2nd floor on the building. School life here at SJIIM is different to what I have experienced before — I like it a lot more. I know I will face challenges this year but I am determined to overcome them. I am excited to have the responsibility of being a role model and especially excited for school trips!

