



# ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA

## December Newsletter Issue



Brother Thomas  
Brother President



Stuart Glascott  
High School Principal



Eileen Quigley  
Elementary School Principal

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

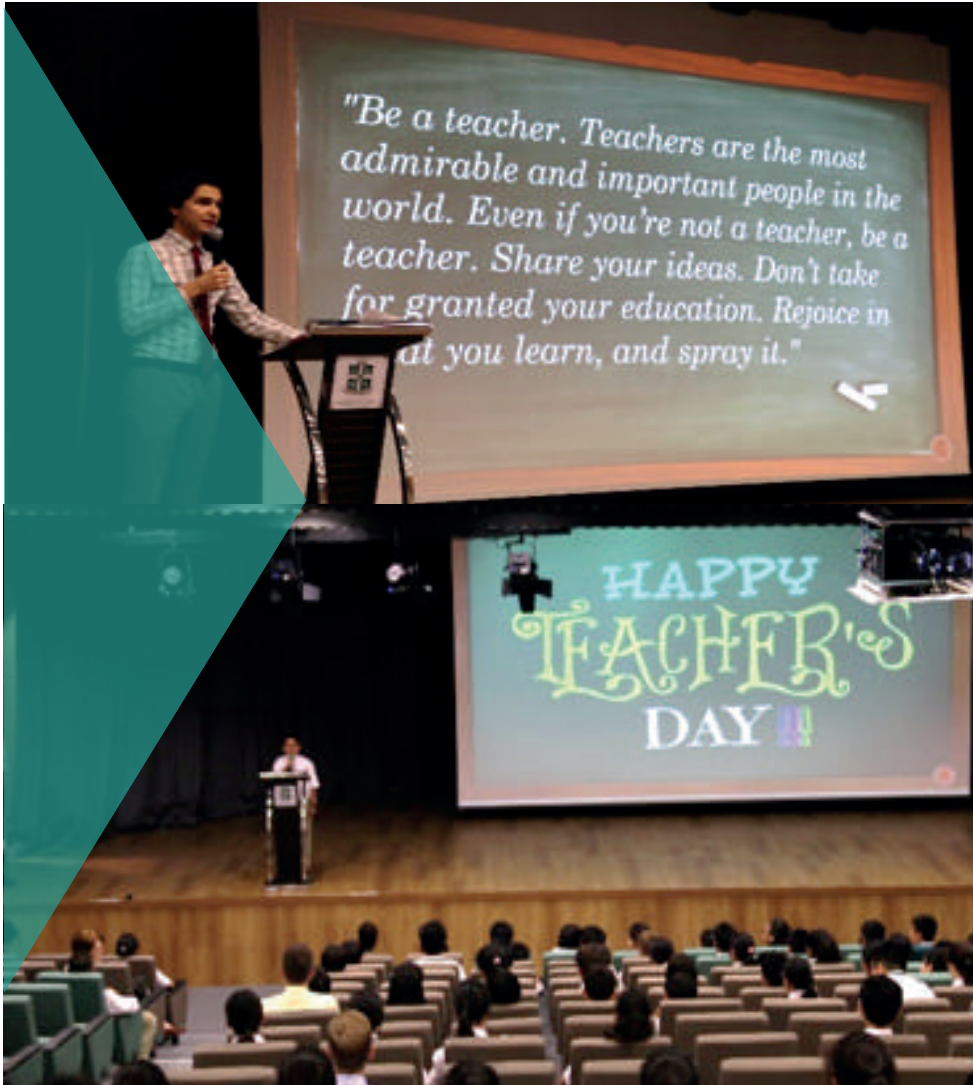
Our first term came to a wonderful climax with HS and ES concerts celebrating the story of Christmas in song and drama. Our youngest children in the nursery through to our Year 12's entered into the spirit of Christmas with moving performances of much loved traditional carols combined with more modern music and dance. We are blessed with a highly talented student body that can be very proud of their performances as we are. It was also a time to celebrate the birth of our new Lasallian school and give thanks for a highly successful first term. We thank you, students, teachers and parents and bless you one and all.

At the heart of our Lasallian education is a spirit of commitment to serve those less fortunate than ourselves. Our school motto, "Enter to Learn: Leave to Serve", reflects this. This Christmas, our parents and students have enthusiastically entered into the spirit of giving by contributing shoe-boxes of gifts for needy children and raising funds through concert ticket sales for our Lasallian boarding centre for rural children in Sabah. We thank you for your initiative and generosity and can see this Christmas, 'campaign of love', becoming a tradition to nurture in our school.

Being a newly founded school our opening term has been full of so many exciting and memorable firsts. This Christmas newsletter provides you with an update of exciting activities held in the second half of the term such as our first ever International Week in November. Happy reading and, if we feel pride in how much has been achieved in such a short time, we recognize the hard work of our devoted founding staff and are grateful for the support of our amazing parents.

On behalf of all in SJIIM we would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and an abundance of blessings in the New Year. Christmas comes just once a year but the inspiring words of Saint Mother Theresa reminds us that the spirit should continue throughout the year as she says: "It is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and sister and offer them your hand"

# World Teachers' Day Assembly



## World Teachers' Day Assembly

Wednesday the 5th of October was UNESCO World Teachers' Day. To mark the occasion, Mr. Glanz and 7K put together a special assembly for all of High School.

During the assembly, some outstanding courage was shown by four student speakers in 7K: Zhe Zen spoke to us about what the day means to her, Kwang Wei Tan shared his idea of what makes a great teacher, Jia Hao wrote and performed a speech on an excellent teacher he has had, and Kyra Chellam reflected on the importance of education.

Brother Thomas then spoke on the Lasallian values of Community and Service, and their importance to the profession. Overall, the assembly gave everyone in the SJIIM High School the chance to thank teachers for the hard work they do each day.

# High School Mandarin Assembly



Qin Wen - HS Mandarin Teacher



Many students find learning Mandarin to be very difficult. To emphasise why learning Mandarin is so important and how it can be fun, Ms. Qin Wen and her Year 9 students put together a special assembly for the High School.

During the assembly, great initiative was shown by bilingual MCs, Year 8 students Kai Henderson and Gwyneth Yee Wai Thong. Year 9 students Joo Wei Yeap and Kaylene Leong shared their thoughts on why learning Mandarin is important, from the perspective of being Chinese Malaysians.

To make the Mandarin journey fun, the whole class presented a humorous Chinese song centering on the challenges the language poses: 我的中文不好. To round off the assembly, Brother Thomas gave his reflection and encouraged students to appreciate the Chinese culture behind the language. Overall, the assembly was a way for us to appreciate the importance of Mandarin in SJII's thriving multicultural community.



# Armistice Day Assembly



On November 14 the SJIIM High School assembly focussed on the significance of November 11th, which is observed as Remembrance Day in the United Kingdom and some commonwealth countries, and Veterans Day in the United States. It is a day to honour everyone who has served in the armed forces of their countries, and especially to remember the many unfortunate soldiers who lost their lives in past wars.

Year 8 students John and Neha gave some brief background about the origins and significance of November the 11th, while Year 12 student Hong Xuan read a captivating poem about the horrors of war. After observing a moment of silence for fallen soldiers, Brother Thomas helped conclude the assembly with St. Francis's prayer of peace. Overall, it was a time for students and teachers to reflect on those who have sacrificed their lives in the ongoing struggle to preserve peace.

By Matt Lawson

# Slam Poetry Assembly



On Monday, the 28th November, students delivered 'Slam Poetry' in assembly. This was an opportunity for selected students to showcase their outstanding work in front of an audience.

In English, students were set the task of writing an original poem which they would perform for their peers. After watching examples of 'Slam Poetry', students began writing their poems. 'Slam Poetry' is poetry that is written with the intention of being performed. It gives people the opportunity to bring their words to life in an engaging and powerful way. To perform your own work in front of an audience can be a daunting experience. However, the students at SJIIM presented their work with confidence.

Well done to the following students: Kwang Wei Tan (Year 7), Kyra Sarada (Year 7), Jeslyn Yan Ching (Year 8), Yeap Joo Wei (Year 9), Katrina Ashley Susai Nathen (Year 9), Charli Bartlett (Year 10) and Karina Iqbal (Year 10).

By Gary Cairns

## Math Class!



Kerry McLennan  
Mathematic Teacher



The Year 10 IGCSE Maths class recently had the opportunity to look at a real life application of the statistics we have been studying. The aim was to determine if there was any correlation between different measures of the body. Some chose to see if there was a relationship between the length of arms and a person's height; others tried the length of legs vs hands. Some even tried the length of a person's thumb and the length of their ear!

Not only did the students have fun deciding what measurements to take (and even more fun taking those measurements while they themselves were getting measured at the same time), they were able to determine that there were weak or moderate positive correlations between most body parts across the class. A job well done by all!



# Early Years International Week



As part of the International Week celebrations the children in Early Years engaged in different activities based on Malaysia! During the International Week, the children looked at the Malaysian flag, designed their own flags, and made Malaysian 'crowns' to wear during their parade through the whole school assembly. On Thursday, we were lucky to have had some parents come in to class to make onde-onde with the children. A big thank you to Sue and Adeline! This was lots of fun for the children and they got to experience their very own hand-made Malaysian treat!

Friday was the big day. The children arrived dressed up, which was very exciting for everyone. In the morning, we toured the numerous parent stalls, tasting foods and looking at ornaments from countries such as Italy, India, China, Singapore, Mexico, Australia, South Africa, Japan and of course, Malaysia.



## Year 1 and Year 2 International Week



During international week the Year 1 children were introduced to France and its culture. At the beginning of the week they built the city of Paris and learned interesting facts about the famous landmarks. The children acted as tour guides for each other and for others who visited the classroom.

The children created French flags and also designed their own jerseys before taking part in their own version of the famous cycling race - Le Tour de France.



For International Week in Year 2, we chose India as our country. The children were able to learn lots of information about India through watching videos and stories told to them by Ms Darshini. The children were fortunate to have their parents or Popo's in to help us run some stations in class around India.



The children learnt how to make Lassi drinks, how to Bollywood Dance, make Rangoli patterns using dyed rice as well as creating artwork of the 'The Peacock' and 'The Elephant'.

Year 2 would like to say a huge thank you again to all of the families who helped to support us during International Week. It was such a fantastic week and the children learnt so much!



## Year 3 and Year 4 International Week



During International Week, Year 3 had a fantastic time learning all about China. We looked at Chinese culture, learnt Chinese songs, wrote Chinese words and created Chinese art. Tin showed us how to do an amazing lion dance in his fantastic costume.



International week in year 4 was a truly global affair, with the children having the opportunity to explore two countries. Children chose either to study Australia or France, learning about the country, culture and customs which make each country unique.

From the Eiffel Tower to the Sydney Opera, the children spent the week enjoying a range of activities all about each country. The children were able to share their learning with the other year groups who visited our classroom, some even daring to take the Vegemite Taste Test!

# Year 5 and Year 6 International Week



Year 5 had a fantastic time learning all about Ireland - from Leprechauns to Hurling! They enjoyed presenting what they had learnt to the visitors on the Friday. Mrs Lysaght and Br Thomas enjoyed teaching the students about their home land.



## Message from Year 6 students

I have only 3 words to describe International Week. BEST. WEEK. EVER! Never have I had such a wonderful week at school! Everything we did was fun (visiting other classes, touring the parents' stalls, making headbands and poi, creating fact files and flags and especially dressing up). The final day of International Week took my enthusiasm to the limit. Walking into another classroom was like being introduced to a whole new world! In addition, the food we gobbled up was beyond scrumptious! Please join us next year - By Ali

International week was my favourite week at school so far. My class performed a New Zealand song and showed other students around our classroom. I feel lucky to be part of such a diverse community at SJIIM! - By Leo



# Christmas Shoebox



We have been overwhelmed by the generosity, thought and care that has gone into the shoe boxes - in total we collected 341 boxes. It is clear that our community have truly embraced our core value of service. The children have thought about the contents of the boxes and have really understood the true message of “giving”. There will be some very happy children this Christmas!

The Shoebox distribution went to:-

1. Special Children Centre received 34 gift boxes on Dec 14, 2016.
2. WAO received 80 gift boxes on Dec 16, 2017.
3. Puchong Christian Centre received 227 gift boxes on Dec 15, 2016.

# High School and Elementary School Christmas Concerts



Our first Christmas together was indeed a very special occasion. The students from both schools threw themselves into their performances and enjoyed retelling the traditional Christmas story through music, dance and drama. Our school community truly bonded through this experience. Our new Parent Support Group worked so hard to provide refreshments and help with the smooth running of these events for the parents and students.

We finished the year with a whole school assembly. Students for both the ES and HS watched the highlights of each others concerts and of course we all sang together, "We Are Lasallian", whilst watching a slide show of photographs from our first term. We end this term feeling privileged to be part of the St Joseph's Lasalian community. We wish you and your families a joyful and restful Christmas break.