



St. Joseph's Institution  
International School Malaysia  
(Tropicana PJ Campus)

24 October 2016



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# The School Blessing

- Brother Thomas

**W**armest greetings dear staff, students and parents.

The official Blessing and Dedication of our new campus held on Sat 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 was a truly joyous occasion for our school community and for the Lasallian Family of Malaysia. Together we called for God's blessing on our new school and prayed: *"Open our hearts to your goodness as we bring to you in prayer all our hopes and dreams for the school community of St. Joseph's Institution International Malaysia."*

We were honoured to have Most Rev Tan Sri Murphy Pakiam, D.D. Archbishop Emeritus of Kuala Lumpur, as chief celebrant at the ceremony. In his homily after the Gospel the Archbishop spoke movingly of the new mission of the La Salle Brothers at SJIM and of the Lasallian core values of Faith, Service and Community which have marked our education in Malaysia since 1852. A very touching moment towards the end of the service was the blessing of portraits of our Founder St John Baptist De La Salle, which the Archbishop then presented to a representative from each class from nursery to Year 12. These have now been mounted on the front wall of each classroom. The service was concluded by a spirited rendition of our Lasallian song "We are Lasallians" accompanied by a video specially made for the occasion. Our founding students have really taken this song to their hearts and are already developing a strong Lasallian identify.....I am, You are, We are Lasallian!



We were pleased to welcome Br. Edmundo Fernandez, Br Visitor of the Lasallian East Asia District and Brothers from Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong together with Malaysian and Singapore alumni of Lasallian Schools. We greatly appreciate the presence of founding families and a very big thank you to our Principals, the many teachers and students, especially Year 12, who helped in the preparation of the ceremony and the conduct of tours of the school for our many visitors.

Br Thomas

Brother President

## Message from the Head of School

- Stuart Glascott



I arrived in Malaysia in September 2015. Since then I have literally met thousands of parents that have wanted information about our school. One of the most asked questions has been 'What is your point of difference?' In other words, what will we do different than other schools? I firmly believe we do a lot of things differently but one clear difference stands out; our Lasallian heritage that ensures we provide a values-driven education.

We have had a wonderful start to our school and in my opinion that can largely be put down to the desire from all key stakeholders to ensure that we fulfil our goal of being a values-driven organisation. I contend that parents who have entrusted their children's education to SJIIM have done so because they place great importance on values and this is reflected in their children's beliefs and attitudes. The students at SJIIM have settled into their new school quickly and seamlessly as they treat each other with warmth, care and compassion. I have never seen so many smiling children in a school.

The values-driven philosophy is important to the Board, Principals, the teachers, Parents' Support Council and the parent community in general, and this positively influences the attitudes of the students. The Year 12 students have been great role models for the younger students and this has also had a positive impact on the culture of our school.

One area that we need to be mindful of as we work towards a respectful and tolerant SJIIM community is the use of social media. I have spoken to the students in the High School about the fact that sometimes people do not always act in the same tolerant and respectful manner on social media that they do in person. I want the values that we discuss and expect at school to infiltrate all aspects of their life.

Society goes in fads and fashions and Group Chats appears to be one of the latest trends. I was shocked to be at dinner recently to have a parent from another school show me a 'Whatsapp' chat amongst parents of that school. The chat was just message after message of negativity. This group chat would have achieved nothing positive but certainly would have caused damage in so many ways. For our students to fully understand the appropriate way to use social media, it is important that key role models in their lives, such as parents and teachers, model appropriate use themselves.

Students have a right to feel happy and safe at school. My passionate belief is that Values Education is a key component of that. Staff and senior students must model respect, care, compassion and service so that these Lasallian values are not just 'Catch-Phrases' or 'Posters on a wall' but are lived and breathed in every action and event in the school. I believe that our parents share our desire to be a values-driven school. This is our 'Point of Difference!'



# Elementary School Principal's Diary

- Eileen Quigley

Dear Parents,

What an exciting half term we have had! I cannot tell you how proud I am of the founding children and their teachers. The school really has come alive to the sound of laughter and learning. The children's behaviour has been exemplary, they have embraced all of our Lasallian values and this is evident in all aspects of school life. The children are a real credit to you!



In a short space of time the children have become familiar with their new learning environment and are clearly motivated to learn. They are becoming more independent and able to engage in child initiated learning where they can demonstrate their understanding and mastery of the objectives that have been taught. Our lovely new resources have been well received – a distinct advantage of being a founding student. The children have been respectful of the new equipment and are using it well to support their learning.

We have had a whole school focus on cursive handwriting script and in many cases the results have truly transformed the presentation of the children's writing. I am sure you will have noticed the progress that they have made in this area. If your child is finding this difficult there will be on-going support in school. Children are now becoming familiar with the techniques used in 'Singapore Maths', and are confidently applying their knowledge to real life situations.



Our Brainwaves topic has focussed on developing a 'Growth Mindset', and on learning behaviours and attitudes. The children understand that they are on a journey and whilst they might not know YET, if they try hard and keep practising they will achieve success! Perseverance and resilience have been key words which we have taught this term.

There have been so many fantastic "firsts" that I cannot mention them all – suffice to say we have had an exceptional few weeks where children and staff have accomplished so much together. I personally would like to thank the parents - the care and support I have received has been quite overwhelming. I feel privileged to work with you and your wonderful children. We really can see the Lasallian values in action. Thank you!



## First whole school assembly

- Justin Rui Zhe Soon and Linda Ridzuan, Year 12

On the 30th of September, Linda and I had the opportunity to lead the first inaugural whole school assembly. The assembly was held as a sign of thanks to the Board of Governors for their massive contributions to the founding of our school. It was a truly moving and spectacular assembly which included a beautiful musical performance by Catherine Khaw, a fellow Year 12 student, a thought-provoking reflection and some inspirational speeches. Mr. Michael Sng, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, who is also a fellow Josephian, made an interesting speech emphasising the importance of service. He motivated us to serve the Lasallian community. Linda and I found it particularly gratifying that what Mr. Sng said coincides with our own personal values. Following his speech, there was a recollection of experiences from the scholars who participated in the Philippines leadership camp led by another fellow IB student, Ying Xuan Eng. We were then especially touched when the whole school sang a rendition of the song "I am Lasallian". The mini-Josephians were very enthusiastic and even danced during the song! Overall, the assembly was a great success and everybody involved, from the students to the board members, found the occasion iconic and joyous.

## Message from the Chinese Language and Culture Leader

- Goh Huey Ni

It has been a real privilege getting to know our students. All groups at all levels have worked hard this term- there is great potential for a real centre of excellence for Mandarin at SJIIM. The Chinese department have created a range strategies to deliver the Mandarin programme so that all of the children are engaged. For example, we have designed and written Chinese characters flash cards. We use the cards to revise the new vocabulary and play the games with classmates. It has been a pleasure to see the children's amazement as they learn new characters quickly. We are looking forward to building on this next term.

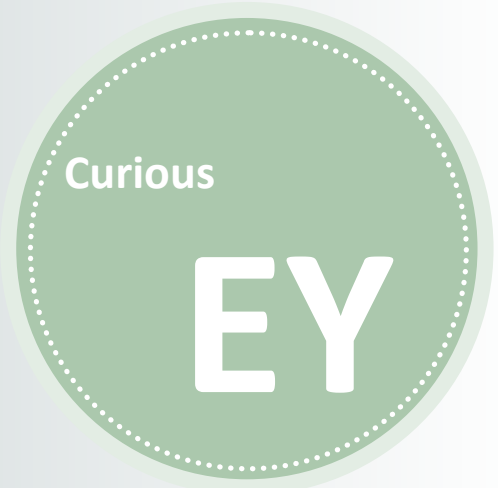
## Message from the Elementary School Teaching and Learning Leader

- Lucy Monnery

What an exciting half term we have had in the Elementary School. As you read below you will see that all the year groups have been busy settling into their new classroom environments and getting stuck into the curriculum. It is evident that the children have been working hard and have thoroughly enjoyed their first topic of Brainwaves. When I asked the children what has been their favourite part of the term so far they all give me a different answer, this shows what a diverse curriculum we are following. Ask your child what has been their highlight of St Joseph's so far. Below, each year group has summarised what has been undertaken in the past 7 weeks.



This term the children in Early Years have been exploring the theme of 'Me and My World'. Children have been learning the names of their friends, learning about the parts of the body, and investigating about the home and families. In Literacy, children have been practising handling pencils and paint brushes and giving meaning to the marks they make. In Maths, children have been learning more about numbers; how to recognise them in sequence and how to add and take away one. Reception children are truly settling in to school life and are becoming more independent learners. We can't wait to continue working with such a lovely group of children.



Creative

Y1



Year 1 have had a brilliant first half term and have settled in to their new school extremely well. We have been learning about fairytales and the children have immersed themselves within the wonderful world of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Gingerbread Man and Little Red Redding Hood. The children have also excelled within mathematics learning about number bonds, addition, subtraction and geometric shapes. We are excited to continue this learning journey together as Year 1.





Persevering

Y2

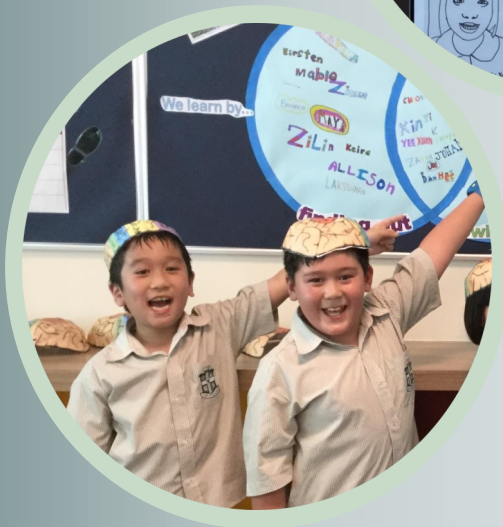
The children in year 2 have been extremely busy this term. In our Brainwaves topic, the children learnt about training and challenging their brains. We talked about how it is okay to make mistakes and that making mistakes helps our brains to grow stronger. The children then designed their own posters to encourage others to adopt a positive mindset.

They learnt how to become resilient learners. They explored the learning behaviors of perseverance, working collaboratively, using their noticing skills and managing their distractions in their learning.

In literacy, the children have been learning about the character of Angry Arthur. They learnt about his character traits and used adjectives and similes in their writing. Year 2 was so lucky that Angry Arthur came to visit them. They wrote him questions and interviewed him. Later in the week, they then wrote a letter to Arthur thanking him for his visit. Take a look at our amazing work!







'Year 4 has had a busy and very productive first term, and the children have all settled in well to their new school and class, and produced some wonderful work.

They have been studying Instructional texts, and are now studying recount texts, examining how we write newspapers, diaries and travel texts. Year 4 have also been looking at how they learn and how to care for our brains as part of our topic on Brainwaves, they have extended this during their science lessons where they have been learning about their main organs, their functions and how they control our bodies. Year 4 mathematics is advancing well starting each lesson with a problem, working their way through their tasks and challenges to find solutions every day. Year 4 have studied and painted colour wheels, made self-portraits in art, and are now developing their artistic flairs and knowledge using their entire bodies with word art influenced by Jean Miro.'

Co-operative

Y4

In Year 5 the students have particularly enjoyed learning about their brains and how they can enhance their learning in our IPC Brainwave Topic. They have undertaken challenges, taught their Learning Partners new skills, and worked collaboratively on a variety of tasks, culminating in their Learning Seminar to be presented to the Year 6 students. Having explored the power of positive thinking, we will continue to work with a growth mindset in the weeks and months ahead.

Resourceful

Y5





Resilient

Y6

**W**hat a fantastic group of children we have in Year 6! They have risen to the challenge of leading the Elementary School and acting as role models in both their behavior and their learning. They have

begun taking on leadership roles and building our

St. Joseph's community. The children have made a great effort to challenge themselves across many areas: with their reading, developing their cursive writing, exploring the growth mindset, improving their mathematical problem solving abilities and daily swimming. The children have particularly embraced the idea of being in the right state of mind for learning, how our emotions can affect our learning and the concept of 'growing our mind' and our abilities.



## Message from Middle School Leader

- Nicola Brown

How satisfying it is to have reached the first half-term break after what has proved to be a very busy and exciting period in school. As anticipated, there has been a great deal to celebrate in all year groups and I hope that your children have found these first several weeks with us fulfilling and affirming. We are all developing our relationships with each other and are designing activities to promote a sense of belonging. We have enjoyed some marvellous assemblies and I thank all those staff and students who have worked hard to produce presentations of such quality and purpose. The major theme of the assemblies for the term is 'Building a Community'. The latest event was focused on the value of the teacher (more details below).

The Year 12 students have been leading weekly Lasallian training sessions to further our knowledge of the founder and his values. These sessions have fostered empathy between different year groups and have elected our Year 12 students as role models and guides.

Some academic highlights of this half term have included the Year 7-9 students taking part in the GL Progress assessments to measure their understanding of mathematics and English for their relevant age groups. The students in Years 10 and 11 have taken part in the GL CAT4 assessments.

The information gathered from each of assessments will provide teachers with baseline data to enable them to prepare continually challenging and engaging lessons for your children. Gathering information on our students and discussing their future plans strengthens our sense of community still further.

by Dr. Nicola Brown



Risk-takers

Y12

Year 12 have continued to be very busy. The pace of their studies is mounting up but they have not let this interfere with their participation in everything the school has to offer. For a start, they have continued to lead the Lasallian Formation Sessions with the younger students every Friday. For such young adults, the way in which they conduct these sessions shows a level of maturity beyond their years and it is obvious that the younger students are enjoying the sessions. A number of Year 12 students were involved in both the inaugural whole school assembly on 30<sup>th</sup> September and the School Blessing on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Once again their conduct and competence was most impressive and it is most gratifying to see these young men and women leading the formation of our school community in these ways.

They have also had their first visit from a university; on 26<sup>th</sup> September they met with the Associate Director of International Admissions of LaSalle University in USA, who provided them with a lot of very useful advice as well as details of the university itself.

With regard to their day-to-day DP activities, Year 12 students are embarking on their first practice Theory of Knowledge presentations and are engaged in interviews with their Form Tutors about their Creativity, Activity and Service activities. On top of that of course they are beginning to experience their first big assignments and their first tests!

It is very safe to say that our pioneer cohort of IBDP students have made a very good start to their Senior School career and there is no reason to doubt that they will go on to even bigger and better things!

By Pam Carter ( IB Coordinator )



## Invitation to an IB pre-universities symposium

The IB Asia-Pacific office is inviting parents, university counsellors, teachers and students to an **IB Diploma Programme (DP)** seminar and mini exhibition by at least 20 local and foreign universities, on 12<sup>th</sup> November. An invitation is attached to this newsletter. The seminar will be hosted by Gregory Biggs, Global DP Product Manager. There is no requirement for you to reply and there is no limit in term of the number of delegates.

This is the first time the IB has organized this event, so it may well be interesting to visit.



The invitation card features a dark blue background with a light blue vertical bar on the left side. The word "INVITATION" is written vertically in white, serif capital letters on the dark blue background. On the right side, there is a white rectangular area containing the IB Diploma Programme logo at the top right. Below the logo, the title "IB Pre-universities Symposium" is centered in blue. The main text is in black, describing the history of IB in Malaysia and the details of the symposium. At the bottom, the date, time, and venue are listed in blue and black text. The IB logo is also present at the bottom right of the white area.

**INVITATION**



**IB Pre-universities Symposium**

**International Baccalurate (IB)** were first introduced in Malaysia in 1989, and in the past 27 years we have seen IB programmes flourish in Malaysia. The IB programmes are taught in 26 schools, in both private and public school sectors. We continue to receive positive interests about the IB programmes from students, parents, schools and higher education institutions.

The IB Pre-University symposium is dedicated to parents, students and educators in Malaysia to show case the IB programmes, particularly the IB Diploma Programme (DP). There will also be sessions focusing on the merits of an IB Education in the 21st century, highlighting where your child/student can go with the IB qualifications.

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**DATE :** 12 November 2016

**TIME :** 14.00 ~ 17.00 hrs

**VENUE :** Sunway Hotel Resort and Spa  
Persiaran Lagoon, Bandar Sunway  
47500 Selangor Darul Ehsan  
Malaysia

 International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalaureat International  
Bachillerato Internacional



## Ying Xuan Eng

**GOLD Awarded  
in Malaysia  
Computing  
Challenge**

On Saturday 1st October, Year 12 student Ying Xuan Eng, represented SJIIM in the Malaysian Computing Challenge. Having earlier attended and participated in our school blessing, Ying Xuan spent his afternoon working through a series of increasingly difficult coding problems, competing against over 350 other students from throughout Malaysia.



Ying Xuan competed in the sulung (senior) section against other students from schools. There was an elementary and middle school section also and all students tried the same questions. Prizes were awarded in categories for individuals and teams - Gold, Silver, Bronze and Honorable Mention. Ying Xuan was awarded the top category - Gold, which is an incredibly impressive effort.

Ying Xuan also encourages others to learn how to code by helping run two after school CCA clubs in our High School, each of which is very popular. We hope next year to enter a school team into the challenge. Below is an example question from this year's challenge. There is a row of  $N$  skyscrapers in the Kuala Lumpur skyline labelled from 1 and  $N$ . Fluffy the Squirrel has been tasked with surveying and reporting the heights of the skyscrapers.

A skyscraper is a peak if it is strictly taller than the skyscraper on its left and on its right; if the skyscraper is the leftmost or rightmost skyscraper, then it can never be a peak, because it has only 1 neighbour.

Fluffy can remember whether each skyscraper is a peak or not, but has forgotten some of the skyscraper heights because of his poor memory.

Help Fluffy determine if it is possible to construct a list of skyscraper heights from the incomplete information he remembers and construct such a list if it is possible.

If you are curious about the solution please contact Ying Xuan.

## Middle School World Teacher's Day

- Garry Glanz

- Photos  
by Joshua Law  
(Y12)



Wednesday the 5th of October was UNESCO World Teachers' Day. To mark the occasion, Mr. Glanz and 7K put together a special assembly last Monday 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 SJIM High School the chance to thank teachers for the hard work they do each day.



# Elementary School

## CCAs

Our first term at SJIM has seen a fantastic and enthusiastic start to the CCA programme. The wide range of activities has allowed the students to experience something new or continue with an interest they already have.

The sports CCA's have been popular and the students have been developing their individual skills and learning valuable team building exercises. The Choir and Music Ensemble have had a brilliant start to the term and hopefully everyone can enjoy their music in the near future. Arts and Crafts, Food Craft and App Smashing have highlighted the creativeness we have in the Elementary School. The Chess Club is training the next set of St Joseph's Grandmasters and if you want to see some amazing technical creations our Lego and Origami clubs are producing some wonderful pieces of work. From learning about Lasallian values, Silkscreen Printing and reading in the Library club we really do have something for everyone. We are continually looking to develop and enhance our CCA programme and welcome any feedback from parents and students.

If any parents have an interest and the capacity to support the Elementary School CCA program, please feel free to contact Liam Monnery at

[liammonnery@sj-international.edu.my](mailto:liammonnery@sj-international.edu.my)



## High School CCAs

- Peter Bartlett

It is great to see our Term One CCA program into full swing with a range of Sporting, Artistic, Academic, Service and Religious options. We are seeing some wonderful progress from our Drum Corp and Percussion Ensemble and our Orchestra has also been launched complete with double bass. The Photography CCA have produced some great images using perspective and the High School choir has jazzed up a version of 'hush little lullaby'. If you want to know how to calculate the length of paper in a toilet roll... our Maths Competitions club can tell you! Or you could check in with our lego engineers on how to make round objects from square pieces. Our recreational tennis players are exploring the ideal trajectory of a tennis serve (and I am pleased to say that we have had less balls into the pool or onto the field as the weeks have progressed!). Our golfers are also making great progress as they work on their chipping and move onto the putting green. This is just a small sample of the holistic development that is occurring in our students through our CCA program. We look forward to continuing to enhance the program further using the feedback and expertise of our staff and students. If any parents have an interest and the capacity to support the High School CCA program, please feel free to contact Peter Bartlett at

[pbartlett@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:pbartlett@sjj-international.edu.my)





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



# Open Day!

**13 November 2016 | 10.00 AM – 3.30 PM**

Our Brother President, Principals, Teachers and Students welcome you to learn more about our new Lasallian School. Please RSVP for one of the sessions below:

## OPEN DAY ITINERARY

INFORMATION SESSIONS	10.00 AM	12.00 PM	2.30 PM
SCHOOL TOURS	11.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.30 PM

**3-18 Years Old**  
**International**  
**Primary Curriculum**  
**and Singapore Math**  
**IGCSE and IBDP**

**JAN 2017 intake**  
**available for selected**  
**year groups!**

Kindly RSVP for your preferred session through [jinneekwa@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:jinneekwa@sjj-international.edu.my) or call us directly at +603 86053605.


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