



ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA

Term 2 Newsletter Issue



Brother Thomas
Brother President



Eileen Quigley
Elementary School Principal



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Dear Parents and friends of SJIIM

Warmest greetings and we would like to wish all our Christian families a very happy Easter celebration.

We are trying all the time to improve our communication with you, our parents. It is a top priority for us. We hope you find our ES and HS updates each week helpful and informative. This end of term newsletter complements the updates and provides a colourful record of a very fruitful second term.

This term has seen a number of important 'firsts' as our school continues to grow and seeks to offer your children educational experiences second to none. We are very happy that three HS groups were able to go on overseas trips for Maths and Sports Competitions to the Philippines and Singapore respectively and that a group of more than 30 students went on a cultural trip to Taiwan. Our end of term musical concerts and talent shows were a delight and huge strides are being made in the development of our music groups. Our second year participating in the World Scholars Cup greatly surpassed last year's achievements. We were so proud hearing SJIIM students called repeatedly for top prizes. Well done to our staff and students and our very sincere thanks to all parents who have supported the school in various events and CCA activities this term.

Our Parents Support Group (PSG) which has given unstinting support to the school, held its second AGM on 9th March. There was a valuable exchange of views on the role of the PSG in school life. A new Committee for the 2018-2019 school year was nominated and a programme of events discussed and agreed upon. Our very sincere thanks to Mr William Wong who has steered the PSG since the beginning and to the parents who accepted nomination to the new committee. We would like to urge parents to lend as much support as possible to the activities being planned. A major one will be the PSG Social Evening being held on May 11th as part of the Founders Week Celebration.

We trust you will enjoy perusing this colourful and extensive record of a great second term. We do welcome feedback on this and all aspect of school life at SJIIM. Please be assured that our doors are open at all times. True to our Lasallian tradition we want the partnership between the school and our parents to grow deeper and stronger to ensure the highest quality of education for our children.

Chinese New Year Celebration



The Chinese New Year celebration was a fantastic session of our Chinese language program, coupled with cultural elements in art, craft and performances from each year level. Students were actively involved in the following activities: traditional lantern painting, paper cutting, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese culture challenge and Chinese traditional sweet rice cake tasting. Furthermore, all the artwork produced by the children was on sales or auction in the bazaar in the school foyer which was organised by our PSG to raise money for charity.

No doubt, the highlight of our CNY celebration was the CNY assembly. All ES children were treated to the story of Nian in the assembly. The story was enhanced with fantastic acting along with fabulous dances and ended with a whole school CNY song “活出自己快☑️ Whoopee”.

The day came to an exciting conclusion with the lion dance in the multi-purpose hall. Children and adults alike made every effort to catch the oranges and secure good luck for the year ahead!



Finally, thank you to all parents who ensured that all the children embraced the celebration by wearing traditional Chinese dress or the colour red. We wish all our families a happy and prosperous year of the dog.

SJIIM Sports Day



ES Sports Day - 3/2/18

It was wonderful to see the field awash with colour for our ES Sports Day and all the children enjoying a wide range of activities. Thank you to all the parents who came to support the children. It was fantastic to see such great house spirit and teamwork on display. Congratulations to Benilde House - our 2018 champions!



HS Sports Day - 24/3/18

It was fantastic to see our students participating in the first ever SJIIM HS Sports Day. A huge thank you to the teachers for helping out on the day and to all the parents who came out to support us. The House system has already resulted in a warm camaraderie and sense of loyalty among our students. The competition was fierce but healthy with all participants cheering and encouraging each other. The event enriched our sense of community as well as being a clear representation of it. We are already looking forward to next year. Congratulations to Benilde House - our 2018 champions!



Mock Exams - Year 11 and Year 13

Another milestone for SJIIM was reached in January with our first set of mock exams for Year 11 and Year 13. In these exams, the aim was to prepare students for the final exams in the summer term, as a sort of dress rehearsal for the final performance. This gave students the opportunity to experience writing full exam papers, with the conditions as close to that of the final exams as possible. It also gave students a chance to practice revision skills, and to review the effectiveness of these following the exams. Gaining direct experience with the practical aspects of the exams - such as seating arrangements, following an exam timetable, hearing the common instructions given by the invigilator - will allow them to feel more comfortable and confident when they reach the final exams. This was also a valuable experience for them in learning to cope with pressures with resilience and fortitude.

The most important aspect of these exams was the reflection which followed: teachers going through the papers with students, and students considering carefully which approaches to preparation were more or less effective, and how to approach timing and types of questions differently in the final exams.

Teachers will also have gained important information from the mock exams about student readiness for the final exams, which will inform their teaching in the last three months leading to the final exams.

As further preparation for the final exam experience, students' mock exam results were presented to them in a sealed envelope at a special assembly on 30 January. Emotions ran high as the students waited to open their envelopes, similar to how they will feel when the final results are released.

All in all, these mock exams were a success, and mark yet another stage of "firsts" for SJIIM. We look forward to the final examinations with hopeful anticipation of great success for our students!

Stock Exchange Trip



A group of 50 Business Studies and Economics students visited the Bursa Stock Exchange on Tuesday, 6th February, to listen to a number of presentations on the Malaysia Capital Market, Securities, and Derivatives Markets and Bursa Market Place. The students were given an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the speech, allowing them to challenge and extend their current knowledge of the Stock Exchange. The afternoon concluded with a tour of the Bursa and a serving of hot noodles and snacks to round off a very informative and interesting experience.

Music Education



The Elementary School students are proving themselves to be keen and talented in their musical pursuits. As we busily prepare for our end of term Music Ensembles Concert, it's a good time to reflect on the achievements over the past term.

The Instrumental Tuition Programme has continued to grow and two Recitals have showcased the progress of 30 students who play a variety of instruments. Our ensembles have fantastic attendance with more than 70 children now singing in a choir and 25 children playing in an instrumental ensemble. The newest ensemble is the Recorder Ensemble which will have its first performance on the 21st of March.

The addition of classroom instruments and singing into assemblies has been showcased by Year 6, Year 4 and Year 3 this term. It's so lovely to hear live music that is totally created by the students without the support of backing tracks. The Catholic children have brought their singing into Mass services and this is an area that we hope to develop over the next term. The children are very brave with their performance endeavours.

We look forward to the final term of music-making and performance.



Physical Education



It has been a busy term in Physical Education with a big focus on the fundamentals of fitness. The Year 4 to Year 6 students took part in the beep test, giving their best effort and setting a level on which to build as the year progresses. Each student has been set a target and we look forward to seeing the improvements made in the next installment.

We have continued to develop students fine motor skills in Nursery to Year 2 and it has been pleasing to see the growth in their movement, balance and ball handling skills. Their improved listening has also resulted in a greater understanding of the core skills taught in PE.

Year 4 to Year 6 students have worked well during their Inventing Games unit this half term. It has been fantastic to witness the development in the students cooperation, collaboration, creativity and leadership. I hope that all students will keep working on the monthly exercise of burpees and continue developing their fundamentals of fitness over the holidays.



Sports Tournament



I have found myself writing a lot about first times at SJIIM in the last six months. The first competitive sports fixtures, the first HS Sports Day and now the first International Sports Trip. I believe there is something magical about doing something for the first time. Perhaps it's the sense of adventure, or the excitement of the unknown, or perhaps it's simply the belief that no matter how many times you repeat an experience there is just nothing quite

like doing it for the first time.

We often refer to people who see potential, are innovative, and willing to try new things by pushing boundaries and overcoming challenges as Pioneers. Very much like the thirty Year 9 - 13 students that travelled to Singapore to participate in the first ever Singapore Lasallian Sports Trip on Friday 9th March. Our teams were selected based on student's representation in SJIIM sports teams during Term 1 and 2, their positive attitude, and most importantly their willingness to go and do something for the first time.



Competing against three other Singaporean Lasallian schools, St Joseph's Institution, St. Patrick's, and St Joseph's International, in basketball, volleyball and football, our students did SJIIM proud. They represented themselves, their teachers and their school in an extremely positive fashion both on and off the field, and far exceeded expectations across all three sports. A big thank you to Mr O'Connor, Mr Boyes and Ms Aruga who helped out on the trip, to Brother Danai for the fantastic photos and Brother Thomas who travelled to Singapore to support our teams.

Well done The Saints!

Mr. T Harron

IPC Year 5



Year 5 recently started their new IPC Science unit Bake It! For their Wow Day they researched recipes and then baked delicious cookies, cakes and brownies. The smells were incredible!

The students have also investigated the effects of different conditions on yeast, an essential ingredient in bread making. The students experimented

with changing the temperature of the water added, or increasing the amount sugar or yeast. Some of the results were quite impressive!

The froth that the yeast experiment produced showed us that a gas had been formed to create the bubbles. But we couldn't see the gas! So the Year 5 students then carried out an experiment involving adding bicarbonate of soda to vinegar. They then covered the mixture with a balloon to "capture" the gas produced. This proved that by mixing a solid and a liquid a chemical reaction occurred that made a third material - gas! - Christine Pardo, Year 5



IPC Year 6



This term year 6's IPC topic, 'Out of Africa' focused on the evolutionary journey that all life on earth is a part of. The children had a great time during our 'WOW' day, dressing up as futuristic humans to start their inquiry.

We looked at a few key questions during our learning:

- What is evolution?
- Where is the evidence from evolution?
- What is meant by adaptation?
- Why is there so much diversity of life on earth?

We linked our computing unit to this topic and the children enjoyed working together to produce a PowerPoint presentation. They loved having an opportunity to work in the computer lab and be creative. It was lovely to see their presentation at the end.

A trip to the Aquaria at the end of this topic allowed the children to consolidate their learning. This was a great opportunity for the children to ask the experts some challenging questions and enjoy seeing all the different wildlife.

World Scholar Cup



On Saturday 3rd March and Sunday 4th March, 44 students from SJIIM participated in this year's regional round of the World Scholar's Cup. Competing against 39 schools and over 500 students from across Malaysia, students from SJIIM performed to the highest standard and took home the top individual prizes at both Junior and Senior level. Mae Chew, from Year 10, was the overall Champion in Junior Division whilst Ying Xuan Chong,

from Year 12, was the overall Champion in the Senior Division.

In addition to this, Yip Ren-Wei, Mae Chew and Emily Ng (all from Year 10), were the overall Champions at Junior Division, as well as winning the trophy for the best debaters in the Junior Division and coming runner up in the team writing category. The first-place award in the team writing category also went to a team from SJIIM, featuring Kyra Chellam, Zen Ng and Sandra Ong of Year 8.



Other outstanding results were:

1st place individual writing champion at Junior Division - Kyra Chellam.

Katrina Iqbal, Michelle Wong, Chalu Jugo - 4th place overall debate team at Senior Division

5th place individual writing champion at Senior Division - Chalu Jugo

3rd place overall team at Senior Division - Rachel Ong, Kelynn Lee, Ying Xuan Chong

All the teams from SJIIM qualified for the Global Round.

Lasallian Youth Movement: Outreach Project to Zotung Refugee Catholic Learning Centre



We are proud to announce that we completed our second and third camp of the Outreach Project to the Zotung Refugee Catholic Learning Centre (<http://www.zrcmalaysia.com/home.html>) . Over two consecutive Saturdays in March, approximately 40 students ranging from ages 8-14 years old visited us in school. Over the weeks the kids participated in various events including sports, art and music activities. We are very happy to host each camp as the children

were very involved and enjoyed themselves.

We had our first programme with our guests on 10 March 2018. We are grateful to the P.E. teachers and helpers (Mr Bowden, Mr Monnery, Mr Higgins and Mr Ooi) who prepared some football drills for the children and a series of matches at the end. The rest of us assisted as helpers. We participated and helped in the drills and played with them some matches at the end. As many of the children like to play football, it was very enjoyable for everybody.

After a brief water break, we went up to the Black Box to dance to the song 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. Although the dance movements were slightly tough, our superstars Dixon and Mark guided us through this dance. After we finished dancing, we went to the Dining Hall to serve them some food. We worked together to serve lunch in different stations. I was in charge of serving ice water. I saw that they really liked the food we served them. After cleaning up, we wrapped up for the day and went home with good memories to keep.

On Saturday March 17th, another 40 students arrived and were ready for the activities we prepared for them. We first divided them into four groups: Red, Blue, Green and Yellow. I was put into the Blue group. After that we went to the MPH for icebreakers. The team that organised this activity instructed the kids to be put in the groups they were given. Then each student introduced themselves and their hobbies.

Each group was then given four balloons. We were supposed to pop the balloons with only one rule: that we could not use our hands to pop them. This task made them think creatively. I found this activity rather scary because I am scared of the sound of balloons popping. After that we went to the black box to dance again. We continued to dance to the same song. This time everyone was more focused with more energy.

Our guests seemed to enjoy playing Captain's Ball very much. The next sport we played was Futsal basically just football but indoors. This was even more enjoyable for the students because from what we heard from the icebreakers most of the children love to play football. Once we wrapped up the sports we went outside to the basketball court for an art activity. The children painted hard boiled eggs with paint to decorate them. Soon after we had two full racks of colorful eggs. Right after that we took a group photo. Then we had our lunch with the students. We sat next to them and started a conversation with them. Finally, when we finished, we said our goodbyes for now. We look forward to meet them again and prepare more fun activities for the kids to enjoy. - **Gabriel Chong, 8K**

SJIIM Service Project 2017-2018

Throughout Term 2, Year 7-11 students have been refining their understanding of Lasallian Service and have begun planning their Service Projects to the venues listed below. These are expected to be completed by early Term 3. During Founder's Week (9 May - 15 May), a gallery walk which showcases these projects will be displayed in the HS.

Class Service Project

7K - Micro Service

ASCC - Planting vegetables. The harvest will be donated to an orphanage.

Reading buddies; play buddies; Read to the reception kids and guide them in their day activities during lunch and Rave-Drama swap.

Ad hoc Y5 maths tuition/coaching.

Special help with the Mud Kitchen in the Nursery.

7L - Micro Service Project

Security guards: create a video presentation that features the security guards.

Create a promotional video to promote respect in the school among the student community.

Ad hoc Y5 maths tuition/coaching.

7M - Micro Service Project

Nursery: Ms Carolyn - lunch time Tuesday & Wednesday 1:30 - 1:50p.m tell stories,

ASCC (After School Care Club) help take care of kids 3:10 - 5p.m

Distribute cold water to Guards & Cleaners.

8K - Meso Service Project

Visit Rumah Ozanam. Interact with the children and respond to their needs and items needed by the home; shampoo, Dettol, Cholorox, floor wash, dish washing liquid, washing powder, garbage bags etc.

8L - Meso Service Project

Visit the Children's Home of Hope by the National Cancer Society of Malaysia. Interact with the children and decorate their ward.

8M - Meso Service Project

Visit Agathians Shelter (orphanage). Interact with their children and provide groceries and household items as requested.

9K - Meso Service Project

Visit My Fathers Home (Home for the Aged). Do gardening work, maintenance work, musical presentations. Have tea with the old folks and interact with them.

9L - Meso Service Project

Invite the children from Rumah Pengajian Xavier (RPX) in PJ to SJIIM. Interact with them through various activities: English, Mandarin, Arts & Crafts, sports (basketball). Sensitise the children about care of the Environment as requested by RPX.

10L - Meso Service Project

Visit the Assunta Children's Society and interact with the children by:

Telling stories in English

Demonstrating a debate/public speaking abilities ("just a minute" game. Children will learn impromptu speaking skills)

Demonstrating a presentation (perhaps about SJIIM) by providing a skit activities etc

Making a 'dream board'.

11K & 11L - Macro Service Trip

Paid trip to Cambodia [as advertised by Mr Gary Cairns]

OR

Each student selects ONE project offered by Y7-Y10 classes. They will focus on creating a Vlog in order to promote their adopted class' project in video format to the whole SJIIM Community during Founder's Week (May 9 - 15).