

# ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA

## Half-Term 3 Newsletter Issue



Brother Thomas  
Brother President



Eileen Quigley  
Elementary School Principal



Dr Nicola Brown  
High School Principal

Dear Parents and friends,

Warmest greetings from SJIIM.

We are happy to send you news of school life in the first half of the third term. The highlight of course was the celebration of Founders Week in mid-May. The Feast Day itself is traditionally on 15th May around the world. We marked this with the celebration of Mass followed by a most enjoyable concert with performers from the two schools. Students were then given a half day to mark this special day. We are always keen to reinforce our Lasallian values and so involved students in fund-raising for a new La Salle school in the impoverished country of South Sudan. We would like to thank members of the Lasallian Youth Movement (LYM) for a wonderful celebration of Founders Week 2018.

We are saying good-bye with a great deal of affection to our founding IB and IGCSE classes in our two inaugural graduation ceremonies. End of year newsletter will have reports on these moving occasions. We are quietly confident that both classes will do themselves and their mother school proud when results are announced. We offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the first alumni of SJIIM.

Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

# SJIIM Founder's Week

Founder's Week Activities for South Sudan organized by LYM (Lasallian Youth Movement)



Founder's Day this year was different from the last for two reasons: First, we decided to celebrate Founder's Day by, as a school, supporting Br Superior General's appeal to raise funds for our new Lasallian school in Rumbek, South Sudan. Secondly, in order to fulfil this objective, we expanded Founder's Day into Founder's Week. During this week, the LYM (Lasallian Youth Movement) carried out the following activities to raise awareness and funds for our new

Lasallian school in South Sudan:

1. Minute to Win It games: these were mini-games that were held outside the Lasallian Mission Centre, and which received great support from the school student body.
2. Solidarity with South Sudan T-shirts: students, staff and parents all donated towards the new school in South Sudan and will soon receive a personalized T-shirt, specially designed by LYM members.
3. Open Mic Session: a mic and speaker were set up outside the Lasallian Mission Centre, and students were given the opportunity to donate any amount and have the chance to perform or request a song of their choice.
4. Cookies for the Cause: spearheaded by some Catholic Parents, children baked and then sold cookies to raise funds for the project in South Sudan



Besides these activities, Founder's Week climaxed with the traditional Founder's Day Mass. This year the Mass was celebrated by Fr Gerard Louis C.Ss.R., a former student from St Joseph's Institution Singapore. After Mass, the Brothers treated all present to some ice-cream. Finally, the LYM organized a Founder's Day Concert featuring many guest artistes from the ES and HS. It also featured a music video that summarized all the HS Service Projects that

were carried out throughout Term 2 & 3.

The LYM did a wonderful job of organizing this Founder's Week, and it was very heart-warming to see our Community come together to support the less fortunate in South Sudan.

Dang Vu Minh (12L) and Kelynn Lee (12L)

# SJIIM Talent Show 2018



The corridors of the Elementary School recently became filled with children practising dance routines, and the sounds of harmonies being rehearsed and instruments being tuned drifted from classrooms on every floor. It was that time of year again - St Joseph's Got Talent! The success of last year's event inspired nearly 100 students to audition, and the level of talent was so high this year it was decided two finals would be required. Students from Years 1-3 and Years 4-6 were selected as finalists, and they all competed on the last day of term.

Years 1-3 demonstrated a range of skills in dancing, singing and music, and the level of confidence they performed with was incredible for students of such a young age. In the end, Alena Marcellus from Year 3 received the most points from the judges for her beautiful harp playing to emerge as the winner of the Years 1-3 category.

On Friday afternoon it was the turn of the Years 4-6 finalists. The standard of talent on display made the judges' decision a particularly difficult one, with acts ranging from dance crews to DJ's and storytellers to drummers! The audience was very enthusiastic and the performers all rose to the occasion, putting on a wonderful show to end the term. However, there was one act which the judges felt deserved top spot, and this went to Kotaro Hoshi from Year 6 who wowed everyone with a stunning performance on the saxophone.



This event has become a firm favourite on our school calendar, and will hopefully continue to go from strength to strength. Well done to ALL of the students who auditioned this year, to the hugely talented finalists who entertained us so fantastically, and congratulations to our winners of St Joseph's Got Talent 2018 - Alena Marcellus and Kotaro Hoshi!

Christine Pardo

## School Mural



To celebrate the significant occasion of Founder's Day, a few of the year 8 students - Alyx, Ni Co, Sen, Wei Ying, Ying Yi, Zoey and I, Allison - alongside Brother Danai created 18 comic strips as a display for our school wall. Prior to this project, we have done painting on a white wooden board, as a sort of 'practice' before painting on the wall so that we could really achieve our full potential.

The comic strip portrays the story of our founder, St John Baptist De Lasalle, in a fun and engaging way by using comic-like drawings to appeal to the younger generations. The painting was done using black paint and permanent marker; this allows the artwork to really blend seamlessly with the wall.

Compared to our previous project, the number of students contributing has increased substantially, almost by double. On behalf of everyone contributing, we are all grateful to have had the opportunity to showcase our skills in a way that helps our community.

By: Allison Yee Hui Xin 8L

## Teachers Appreciation Day



Teaching is a very noble profession that is respected and appreciated by students as well as parents. The PSG on behalf of all SJIIM parents organised its first Teacher's Appreciation Hi-Tea on Monday, 14th May 2018.

Our teachers and staff truly enjoyed the Indian food. Tote bags with

printed quotes and other goodies were given as gifts to all attendees as a token of appreciation.

The Brothers, Teachers & Staff expressed their gratitude. The PSG was pleased to carry out this event and once again wishes to express its appreciation to you dear parents for your continuous support.

A big Thank- You to the Committee members – Sheela, Pui Leng, Suryana, Natalie Chow, Joanna & Natalie Motha who worked towards making this event happen.

Regards,  
The PSG Team.



## Year 4 Camp



### Janda Baik

Our Y4 residential trip to Janda Baik was a huge success. The children showed lots of courage and enthusiasm during all the exciting activities; including trekking up a river, scaling an obstacle course, fishing (and actually catching fish!), creating their own shelter and cooking life-saving hot dogs on an open fire. Lots of great memories have been forged and the children and staff really enjoyed their time together.

## Year 5 Camp

Kayla Lim - Rock climbing was definitely the most challenging activity because we had to climb on real rocks. Even though it was hard, I pushed myself and I was very proud of what I did.

Shawn: My heart was beating so fast when I saw the flying fox, so I kept asking questions about it, but when I did it, it was so fun that I wanted to do it 100 times!

Chloe: It was really fun when we went ziplining because it was thrilling to fly!

Joshua: I loved learning about survival skills and the Leap of faith was really thrilling.



## Year 6 Camp



“Camp was a great experience for us all because we all had to step out of our comfort zone and accept challenges. We practised the virtues of courage, confidence, cooperation, unity, perseverance and many more!”

-Hou Yienn and Jiwon, Year 6

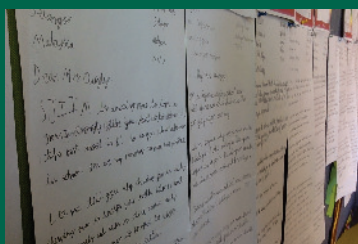
“Our team loved working together, creating our own team song and singing around the campfire!”

-Victoria, Year 6

“Camp was special because we had to adapt our mindset and explore new cultures, surroundings, food and so much more!”

-Inara, Year 6

## English - Year 3

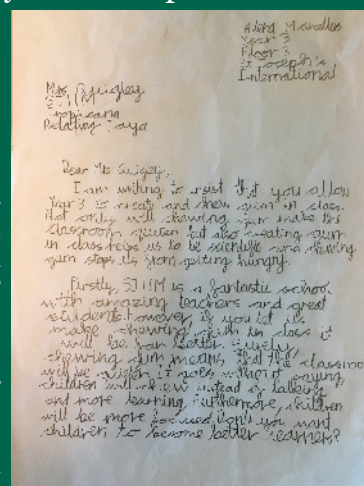


Children have worked hard throughout the year to explore a number of literacy genres ranging from newsletters to poetry. Over the past few months Year 3 have focused on persuasive letters and story writing.

Through role playing and debates, children

explored persuasive language, using this language to encourage one and other to change a viewpoint. With these new skills children were given the scenario of challenging St Joseph's strong views on chewing gum being banned at school.

A scientific project based on creating chewing gum was proposed, however with the strong rules opposing gum in school children would need to encourage Mrs Quigley to change her mind. Arguments for chewing gum being both created and chewed in school were collated and children used all they had learnt to create excellent persuasive letters to be given to Mrs Quigley.



## English - Year 4



Our Y4 residential trip to Janda Baik was a huge success. The children showed lots of courage and enthusiasm during all the exciting activities; including trekking up a river, scaling an obstacle course, fishing (and actually catching fish!), creating their own shelter and cooking life-saving hot dogs on an open fire. Lots of great memories have been forged and the children and staff really enjoyed their time together.

## English - Year 5



A primary focus here at SJIIM is fostering a lifelong enjoyment of English. We aim to do this by exposing the children to a wide variety of genres and texts that enable them to improve their reading, writing and speaking and listening skills.

During the last term alone, children in Year 5 have had the opportunity to immerse themselves in persuasive texts, narrative poetry and a range of drama activities, all of which have taught them new skills that

will assist them in their progression when moving up through the school.

Our marketing project that aimed to sell a new brand of cookies combined elements of English, IPC and Computing and allowed the children to work in teams to create a unique brand and implement their persuasive skills in order to sell them at a stall.

During our recent study of Alfred Noyes' famous poem, The Highwayman, Year 5 have had the opportunity to study narrative poetry in depth, improving their questioning and analytical skills, as well as producing a number of excellent pieces of writing.



## Poetry Study in Year 6



Students often approach poetry units with long faces and low motivation, with preconceived notions of reading and writing poems as “difficult” and “boring”.

But a transformation took place. The children finished the half-term feeling confident in understanding puzzling verses and creating their own pieces that showed an understanding of figurative language. Stop by one of the Year 6 classrooms and look at our growing collections of students' self-published poems.

- \* What happened in to bring on this change?
- \* Exploring a wide range of poetry, particularly free-verse
- \* Learning about how professional poets do their job
- \* Performing poetry in class
- \* Using poetry for comedy

If you see a Year 6 student, please ask, Who is your favourite poet and why? You'll likely get an earful about Michael Rosen or Maya Angelou - a couple of our best literary friends.

# **IGCSE Examination**

The IGCSE examinations are well under way at SJIIM and we send our best wishes to all of the students and teachers that are involved. Beginning on 30th April with International Mathematics and ending on the 12th June with Spanish, the IGCSE examinations, along with the IB examinations, represent another milestone in our life as a school.

We look forward to the students and teachers receiving the results in August. We have every confidence in the students.

Celebrations following the examinations will include, on the 13th June, a Graduation Ceremony to recognise the achievements of the students. Following that, students will end the year with a week long service learning project in Cambodia.

## **IB Examinations**



The school has been filled with excitement and anticipation since the IB examinations for our first batch of Year 13 students began in May.

In preparation for the final examinations, revision sessions were offered for all subjects during study leave. Due to the rigorous regulations surrounding the exams from Cambridge

International Exams (CIE) and the International Baccalaureate (IB), students were also briefed on these expectations in advance of the examinations.

After three short weeks (from 1 May to 18 May), the IB examinations have now been completed, much to the joy of the Year 13 students. Now we will wait with optimistic anticipation for the results on 6 July!

On 23 May 2018, we will celebrate with these students in SJIIM's first graduation ceremony. Caps and gowns will be worn by the students, and a dinner will follow the ceremony. This will enable the students to celebrate the end of their course and examinations, after two years of hard work.



**\*\*Please note that the photographs of students in the exam hall were not taken during an IB examination.**

# ES World Book Day



On 23rd April, Cats in Hats, Harry Potters, Matildas and all types of creatures from many different books celebrated our SJIIM World Book Day. The elementary school staff and students dressed up as their favourite book characters and enjoyed sharing their characters' stories with their friends.

Our morning began with students from KS2 participating in book quizzes and scavenger hunts. Our year 5 & 6 students took part in a "Readers Theatre" activity in collaboration with High School students. In KS1, the children were read stories by Julia Donaldson. Our Year 7 High School students also read with them. Students from years 3 and 4 shared their favourite picture books with the children in Nursery and Reception. This proved to be a hugely enjoyable, particularly for the younger children.

At our WBD assembly, we enjoyed watching our very first SJIIM World Book Day video which featured our Elementary School students. The students enjoyed listening to a story, watching a special drama presentation of 'The day the Crayons quit' by our Year 2 students, as well as some recited poetry and a rap from some Year 8 students. In a packed auditorium, our assembly had a great atmosphere with characters of all shapes and sizes- what a fantastic way to celebrate our love of reading together.



In the Lasallian spirit of our school, the Elementary school set up a 'book swap'. This was an opportunity for both parents and students to bring an old, well-loved book into school to swap for another book of their choice. Any additional books that were left, were donated to local charities. This was an opportunity to teach our students the value of both community and service. Our second WBD at SJIIM was a real success. We would like to thank you all for your continued help and support with this.

## HS World Book Day

Monday 23rd April saw a variety of activities happen to celebrate World Book Day. Most excitingly was a collaboration between Years 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, with the students working together on a piece of Readers' Theatre. Not only was this an impressive spectacle, but it also furthered the very important collaboration between ES and HS students and staff. Simultaneously, 9K worked with Years 1 and 2, reading and performing their take on the children's classic The Gruffalo. The teachers of those students were highly complimentary about the mature, thoughtful way 9K worked with the younger children.

Later in the day, some of our Year 8 students performed in the ES assembly, with Bryan Chen's imaginative and daring 'Why I Love Books' and a highly creative piece of theatre from Meagan Motha, Matthew Chang, Sandra Ong, Keely Low and Ying Yi Kwan really exciting the young audience.

Finally, a special World Book Day assembly in the HS saw students recognised for their progress and effort within English, with awards given, and special mention should go to Musa Iqbal, (spoken performance), Peace Foo, (creativity), Allison Yee, (precision and accuracy), and Chloe Chai, (insight and understanding within literature). These students were nominated by their teachers, including Miss McMahon's classes with Miss McMahon corresponding via email to add her nominations, and then, after discussion amongst the English Department, winners decided. A final well done to all students who were nominated across the four categories.