

# SJIIM Weekly Update

## 18th September 2020



### **The Road to Character: From Root to Shoot.**

Whether you visit an Elementary School lesson with a focus on the virtue of unity, a Year 7 Lasallian Education lesson discussing the meaning of service or an IB Geography lesson in which students discuss the moral and ethical implications of human migration, all teach students the value of 'good character'.

For the second year, students in the High School started the year with 'Character in the Classroom' week. The purpose of this being to demonstrate that, as educators we are not faced with a binary choice - to teach moral virtues such as courage, tolerance and kindness - or to teach academic material that enables us to successfully gain a valuable qualification. Rather, 'Character in the Classroom' demonstrates that we can do both. With thought, creativity and reflection, our engaging and stimulating curriculum can be a wonderful vehicle for encouraging moral discussion. Through such moral discussion, students develop the 'practical wisdom' to make better choices - not only as children, but flourishing members of society.

At SJIIM, we believe in not only investing in our students' academic and emotional wellbeing but also in their spiritual wellbeing as well. The Virtues Project is at the heart of our ES Character Education programme. As we enter our fifth year at SJIIM, we are proud to see how beautifully our community has embraced the Virtues Project and woven it into all that we do each and every day, creating joy and harmony in school and in our homes.

The Virtues Project gives us a common language to celebrate our children's triumphs as well as a way to offer counsel in handling their conflicts. At SJIIM, teachers seize every opportunity to bring attention and compliment our children for practising their virtues. The compliments given at SJIIM are very specific in nature since we truly believe effective praise brings out the best in everyone. Praising virtue help us build a warm and nurturing learning community, where every child is seen as the unique and extraordinary individual he/she is.

Over the years, we have offered Parent Virtues and Character Education Workshops which have helped our parents understand that we are all miners reaching out for gems (virtues), and with practice and patience in using them, our children are able to shine and be the best version of themselves.

As teachers, we explain that we all have muscles, some strong and some weak. As much as every muscle has to work each day, every virtue has to be worked every day, too. We call these our spiritual muscles. So just as we clean ourselves each day, we believe at SJIIM that we need to nurture 'who' we are in the same manner.

The founder, De La Salle, once wrote, 'The young should be able to see in your wisdom how they should behave.' It is this principle that continues to guide us, as educators, on the road to character - nurturing our students - from root to shoot.

### **Catholic Corner**

We are delighted to announce that we shall have our first Mass of the school year on 29th September at 12:30pm in the auditorium. Due to SOP restrictions, this Mass will be offered to students and staff in Year 3 upwards. Future Masses will take place on a monthly basis.

Also, we are currently planning a detailed programme of events for our ES and HS Catholic and Christian students for the year ahead. We look forward to sharing more about these events as the year progresses.

In the ES this week, our assembly focus was 'What it means to be Lasallian'. The children reflected on the sacrifices made by our founder Saint John Baptiste de La Salle, what it truly means to be a Lasallian and how it feels to be part of a Lasallian community. Please click on the link to see the assembly shared with our students.

*Show much kindness and love for the young people you teach- Saint John Baptiste de La Salle.*

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### Medical Form

The school medical team annually collects updated student medical information, so our records are up to date and we can keep children safe. The nurses have sent parents a google form so that you can inform of us any changes, or just confirm existing information about your child(ren). Please ensure you have completed the form by next Friday 25th September. Please click [here](#) to download the form.

If you have any questions about the form, please e-mail our school nurses at:

[intradevi@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:intradevi@sjj-international.edu.my) (Ms. Intra)

[kasturi@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:kasturi@sjj-international.edu.my) (Ms. Kasturi)

### Traffic congestion

Since our first update on 28th August 2020, we have received much feedback from parents on the traffic during peak hours on morning drop-offs and after school pick-ups. We thank parents who have provided constructive comments and suggestions on improving traffic flow.

We have politely advised parents and drivers against waiting and parking along the road outside the school for the safety of other road users and the students. We seek the co-operation from the whole school community in ensuring that traffic is at a manageable level. We also seek your patience and understanding if you have to wait or give way to other road users. We have consulted MBPJ and hope that the local council will assist in monitoring the congestion and take appropriate action(s) when required.

We note that traffic has relatively improved over the past weeks and traffic is cleared within 20-30 minutes, depending on weather conditions.

Parents are requested to park in the Open Carpark if you have appointments and visits during school hours. Please refrain from using the lifts while in the school. Thank you.

### OPEN DAY - 27 SEPTEMBER 2020

SJIIM will be hosting an Open Day on 27th September 2020, 10.30am - 2.45pm. Prospective parents who are looking for a quality international school are encouraged to come for this event. There will be a chance to speak to our Head of School and Teachers besides the opportunity to attend our Taster Classes.

Kindly help us to spread the word should you have any friends who would be keen to attend and discover how we are truly special as a Lasallian international school.

To RSVP, please contact Ms. Yani at [enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my) or call 03 86053605. Thank you.

ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA (TROPICANA PJ CAMPUS)  
"Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve"

**Open Day!**

27 September 2020 | 10.30 AM – 2.45 PM

Our Head of School and Teachers welcome you to learn more about our Lasallian School. Please RSVP for one of the sessions below:

OPEN DAY ITINERARY		
INFORMATION SESSIONS	10.30 AM	2.00 PM
SCHOOL TOURS	11.15 AM	2.45 PM

3-18 Years Old International Primary Curriculum  
Daily Mandarin & Singapore Math  
IGCSE and IBDP  
Welcome Package available for Nursery admissions!  
50% application fee discount for on-the-spot registrations!

In accordance with RMCO standard operating procedures and guidelines, places will be limited and a prior reservation will be required to attend this event. To RSVP, kindly write to [enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my) or call us directly at +603 86053605.

St Joseph's Institution International School Malaysia (Tropicana PJ Campus)  
No. 1, Jalan P.J. 2/3, 47100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.  
Email: [enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my](mailto:enquiries@sjj-international.edu.my)

[www.sjj-international.edu.my](http://www.sjj-international.edu.my)  
St. Joseph's Institution International School Malaysia  
+603 86053605

# Elementary School Update



## Parent Information Sessions (Zoom)

We would like to thank Ms White, Mr Lim and Ms Nalla for hosting parent information sessions via zoom this week. We hoped it helped parents to better understand our language programmes, as well as one of our learning platforms, Seesaw. Thank you, parents, for your kind engagement. Please see upcoming parent information sessions below.

EY Parent Information Session Tuesday 22nd Sept @1:15pm

EAL Parent Information Session Thursday 24th Sept @ 11:00am

Please check your child's Dojo page for the Zoom codes.

## WhatsApp & Digital Citizenship

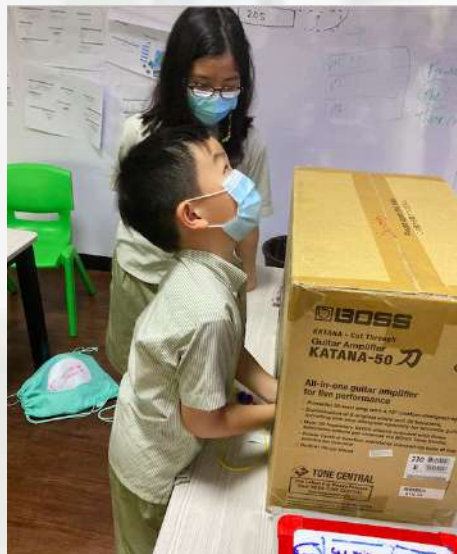
We would like to remind parents that the use of WhatsApp has a minimum age requirement of 13. We do not condone children under 13 years of age using the app, and we do a lot of work in teaching children how to use appropriate technology safely and responsibly. However, we are aware that since the period of lockdown some children may be using this form of communication. We ask that parents show strong vigilance in monitoring and guiding any children using WhatsApp to use it responsibly and safely. We also ask that there be no use of group chats whatsoever that are linked to school, no class groups or year group chats etc. There are many risks and problems that can be the result of use of group chats and the school wants to protect children against these. Your cooperation and support is much appreciated.

## Correct footwear for PE

PE staff have noticed that some children do not have the appropriate footwear for PE. Children cannot do PE in their school shoes, they should have trainers appropriate for sports. Please ensure that your child is fully equipped for PE with a full school PE kit and sports trainers. Trainers can be of any colour, as long as they are not too bright and do not have flashing lights.

## Spotlight on Year 5:

This week Year 5 had their entry point for Mission to Mars topic - conducting various activities that would train them to be space explorers! Check them out!



# Elementary School Update



## Perseverance

This week's virtue is Perseverance. When we think about this virtue card we picture a ship in a storm trying to ride out the waves. In assemblies this week, we have talked about this analogy at length, making a connection with this ship and how it links to our own lives.

We have all seen our children struggling and working hard to manage common emotions such as boredom and disappointment. Since these emotions are part of everyone's life, we believe it is helpful to avoid shielding our children from every challenge they face. Using the virtues, we give our children a new lens to see the world through and to process these challenges and prepare themselves to be creative problem-solvers.

We believe that obstacles can be a teachable moment for children, to wrestle with the question of whether to continue with an activity or perhaps stay in an unhealthy friendship or speak up when they are worried about something that seems unjust. The virtue of perseverance teaches our children the skills to wisely face difficulty and to not give up.

We hope to instil an awareness within our students that **a challenge represents an opportunity to grow**, that **success is built on failure** and that **we have what it takes** to overcome hurdles with humility and grace. So just as we strengthen our body muscles, we also need to strengthen our spiritual muscles too so that we become stronger day by day.

**Perseverance** *You are practicing* **Perseverance**

**when you...**

- Choose your commitments wisely
- Set goals and stick with them until completed
- Pace yourself, and take one step at a time
- Don't let doubts or tests blow you off course
- Stand by your friends and loved ones

**Affirmation**

*I have perseverance. I finish what I start.  
I keep a steady pace in what I choose to do.  
I am loyal and committed.*

Perseverance is being steadfast and persistent. You commit to your goals and overcome obstacles, no matter how long it takes. When you persevere, you don't give up...you keep going. Like a strong ship in a storm, you don't become battered or blown off course. You just ride the waves.

THE VIRTUES PROJECT™

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# High School Update



## Wearing of Masks

Since returning to school, the students have done a fantastic job with wearing masks both in and out of lessons. The safety of our community is of great importance and it is essential that everyone remembers to wear a mask, wash their hands and maintain a safe physical distance. Please continue to reinforce this at home and our teachers on duty will keep reminding children in school.

## Character and Wellbeing Programme

Next week, students in the High School will start the first topics of their Character and Wellbeing Programme. During tutor time, students will begin studying a range of topics looking at things like healthy minds, healthy bodies, ways to learn more effectively and ways to build stronger relationships with those around them.

## Accidental Counsellor Training

This term, the Heads of Year in the High School will all be engaging in counselling training so as to further develop their skills when working with students. The Heads of Year will be looking at techniques to build connection and help students to develop solution focused resolutions to challenges they may face.

## Swimming Lessons

We are pleased to announce that we have received confirmation from the Ministry of Education that we can resume swimming lessons.

Initially, we will begin with our older students in **Years 7 and Year 8**, from the week beginning **Monday 21st September 2020**.

All students will need to follow the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and maintain a safe distance of 3 meters from individuals whilst swimming. Our Swim Coaches have planned activities and drills to facilitate this. Students will keep their face mask / shield on until they reach the poolside.

We encourage all swimmers to **wear their swimwear underneath their PE kit to school on the morning that they have swimming**. This will help to reduce changing time. At the end of the lesson, students can change back into their PE kit for the remainder of the school day. In addition, swimmers will need to bring the following items to lessons:

- **Swimming cap**
- **Goggles**
- **Towel**

Due to hygiene reasons, we will not be lending out swim caps or goggles. SJIIM swimwear and swimming caps are available to purchase from the school bookshop.

Please note, children with allergies or weak immunity will not be allowed to swim at this time. Any non-swimmers will not be allowed poolside and alternative arrangements will be made. **If you do not give permission for your child to swim, please send an email to inform your child's PE teacher.** The PE teacher will then contact the Swim Coaches.

# Useful Links



[ES Student Absence Form](#)  
[HS Student Absence Form](#)



[HS Parent Calendar 2020/21](#)  
[ES Parent calendar 2020/21](#)



[Whole School Teaching Staff Email 2020/21](#)



[Sept 2020 Menu](#)  
[October Menu](#)  
[Term 1 2020 meal charges](#)



University & Careers  
Counsellor (TBA)



[PSG - Welcome Note](#)



[Music Website](#)



[Sports Website](#)



[Epurple \(Top up credit\)](#)  
[Tapestry \(For ES\)](#)  
[Parent portal \(For ES\)](#)



[CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)