

# SJIIM Weekly Update

## 28 August 2020



### **A welcome message from our Head of School, Mdm Mak Lai Ying Frances**

The last few months were extraordinary times for the world. I was in Singapore and I went through the “circuit breaker” for longer than two months. Social interactions were only allowed for people staying in the same household, but I live alone. Dining out was not an option. All the condo facilities – the swimming pool and the gym – were closed. Then I arrived in KL on 31 July and I completed my quarantine on 14 August. During my quarantine, I was on my own in the hotel room.

I am glad that over the years I have developed different interests. I am also open to doing things I have not done before. I have always loved reading. I read English and Chinese materials. I learnt how to play the piano 4 years ago and piano playing has given me much joy. During the “circuit breaker” period in Singapore, I tried for the first time working with nanoblocks. I also spent more time praying and talking to God. My family, friends and I exchanged encouraging messages.

I worked from the hotel during my quarantine. During that time, I got to know SJIIM better through the teachers and administrative colleagues. They have been working hard to ensure that the school is safe for all of us. Our students are very blessed to have all the teachers and colleagues looking out for them.

I hope all of us have learnt more about ourselves during the last few months, when we have all had to live, work and play differently. How we manage challenges depends on the character traits and life skills – resilience, empathy, ability to deal with ambiguity, self-regulation, knowing where/who to get support, developing strong family relationships and friendships – that we develop over the years. A strong relationship with God is also very important.

This academic year of 2020/2021 will also require all of us to adjust to new norms. We will all have to play our part to ensure that the SJIIM community is COVID free and that we all remain safe and well. I have heard from the teachers that we have good and responsible students. I am confident that all of us will have a very productive year.

Welcome back

Mdm Mak Lai Ying Frances

Head of School

August 2020

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### Traffic congestion

We seek the co-operation of parents/guardians in the management of traffic during drop-offs and pick-ups. During the past few days, the school has timed that the traffic within the school and outside the main road. It will take approximately 30 minutes to clear. The drop-off on Friday 28 August, was smooth going and children were in school by 8:00 a.m.

We have received feedback from residents near the school that traffic is made worse by vehicles parking or waiting along the main road outside the school. We wish to remind parents that parking or waiting along the main road is illegal and not advisable for safety reasons and it adds on to the congestion during these times.

We hope that with our new SOP, the pick-up situations will improve.

We welcome constructive feedback from parents and residents near the school but seek your co-operation to remain cordial and polite when contacting the school as staff have been at the receiving end of rude and inappropriate calls.

# Elementary School Update



## Welcome back to the Elementary School

We are very happy to be welcoming our students and staff back to the start of a new school year on campus. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new students and staff joining our St. Joseph's family. It has been lovely to hear the sounds of laughter and learning in the corridor over the past few days. We look forward to building relationships and providing meaningful learning experiences, while also learning to respect the expectations of our new environment. Our values of resilience, gratitude and creativity are just some of the characteristics we can call on to help us make the most of the upcoming school year. We are happy to report that our new teachers: Ms Davison, Mr Lakhani and Ms. Irvine are all now in Malaysia and in school. We are thrilled to have them joining our community.



## Your Support

Starting the year with routines that will set the tone for optimal student learning and wellness is the goal of staff and parents alike. As always, we would appreciate your support in some areas that will keep our students happy, healthy and ready to learn. Please ensure that your child arrives on time to optimize learning and that you are prompt for pick up to promote health and safety. Consistency in following pick up and drop off time frames will support the necessary physical distancing protocols that our new staggered arrival and dismissal schedule provides. Elementary School students not picked up by 3:05 will be sent to the ES office.

Although we would like all children to attend school daily, the choices parents make when sending children to school, during these unprecedented times, could have impacts on the whole school community. Please make decisions around your child's health and attendance in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Students with any symptoms of Covid-19 at home should not be sent to the school. Parents must inform the school and must produce a medical certificate from a doctor before returning to school.
- Students with any symptoms of Covid-19 sent home from school will be dismissed to parents with a clear explanation. Students can only return to school after 24 hours with no fever (and no fever-reducing medication) and should produce a medical certificate from a doctor before returning to school.
- When returning to school students must come to the Medical Room first to consult with the nurse before entering the classroom.
- Students with siblings: if sibling (1) has a fever and sibling (2) has no symptoms of Covid-19, sibling 2 still can proceed to the classroom.

*\*Covid 19 symptoms include: Fever (temp above 37.5C), Flu, Cough, Sore Throat or Shortness of breath*

# Elementary School Update



## Housekeeping

As problem solvers and creative thinkers, over the next few weeks we will continue to find ways to improve our new routines. That being said we are asking for the following to be sent to school:

**Reusable cutlery:** will reduce waste and is a way to show consideration toward the environment during a time when there is an increase in the use of disposable items.

**Canvas or reusable shopping bag:** will allow students to carry their individual materials, like white boards and pencil cases, from place to place with ease.

**Elementary School Booklist:** will help to be sure you have purchased the correct books for this school year and for your reference can be found [here](#).

**Birthdays in School:** If it is your child's birthday, you may still send in a small individual cupcake for the children in your child's class. Please do not send in party bags or other gifts. Given the current situation, if you do not want your child to have a cupcake, please inform your class teacher.



## Upcoming Parent Information Sessions

This year we will be conducting our parent information sessions via Zoom. There will be a session for each year group, as well as for various subject areas. Next week, on Tuesday 1st September Mr Leung will host the music information at 8:10 on Zoom. He will post the Zoom code on Class Dojo.

Other subjects and year groups will be in the following week. Please look for further information on Class Dojo and next week's update.



# High School Update



## Welcome back to the High School

Firstly, we are so happy to welcome the students back to school. It seems strange seeing all of the children wearing masks while they learn, but at least we have them here with us at school and there are measures in place to keep them safe - that is the most important thing.

On the first day back, students spent an extended tutor time with their form tutor or Head of Year. Before moving onto administrative tasks like timetables and school routines, the tutors designed activities for their students that helped promote connectedness with their teacher and each other.



## Welcome to our new students

On Tuesday 25th August, our Student Representative Council hosted an induction day to welcome new students to the SJIM Community. This is an annual event and a very important part of the school calendar. Over the course of the new day, new students got to meet other students and build relationships. They also learned about St. John Baptist De La Salle and what it means to attend a Lasallian school.

At the end of the day, it was great to see all of the students coming down the stairs with smiles on their faces. We look forward to the contribution they can make to our community and thank our SRC for a wonderful job

## Welcome to our new teachers

Welcome to our new teachers. This academic year we have 23 new teachers in the High School. Please click into the link to know more about them [HS new teachers note and Profile](#).

## Character in the Classroom Week

This week saw our high school teachers use their subject specific lessons as a vehicle to teach character, with a special emphasis on how their teaching links to courage, kindness, gratitude, integrity and tolerance.

Our department heads will soon share with our teachers how their department interpreted and incorporated these virtues into their lessons.

This is a further example of how, at SJIM, character education reaches beyond our pastoral focuses and become explicit in our teachers' daily work in the classroom. Next week we will share some visuals of how the week went.

## Welcome note from the PSG 2019/20

Please read message [here](#) from the Committee of the PSG 2019/20.

# High School Update



## **Parent Information Sessions**

As always, we will begin our term with Parent Information Sessions. This year our parent sessions, hosted by our Heads of Year, will be held on Zoom. Your child's Head of Year will send out Zoom invitations. The session will provide you with an overview of your child's experience in the school and some specific information relating to their year group whether they are just starting High School or entering the final year of the IB Diploma. Each session will be held from 4pm onwards on the following dates:

- 1 Sept - Y11 - with Ms Cole
- 2 Sept - Y7 - with Ms Sousa
- 3 Sept - Y12 - with Mr King
- 4 Sept - Y13 - with Mr Hollis
- 8 Sept - Y8 - with Mr Hussain
- 9 Sept - Y9 - with Ms Pollitt
- (TBC) - Y10 with Mrs Lordina

## **Y8 Advanced Chinese**

Y8 Advanced Chinese students have started their first lesson today, with the unit "The Power of Love". To expose students to the similarities we all are facing now in this pandemic, despite being different, students were watching a couple of video clips made for the Malaysian and Chinese Frontliners of this coronavirus pandemic. They shared their feelings with peers then started writing their "Thank you" messages on the post-it notes and pasted them in the classroom display wall. In the coming weeks, while continuing to learn about the method of journalistic writing and narrative writing, students will be showing their gratitude through classroom activities, such as the gratitude game "The Pick-Up Stick" and "Gratitude Journaling for the Teachers & Staff".

## **Lesson 1: The Power of Love**

Picture 1: [Students were watching the video clips of Malaysian and Chinese Frontliners in the Battle of Coronavirus](#)

Picture 2: [A thank you message to our Frontliners](#)

Picture 3: [Students' gratitude - a moral virtue in our Character Education](#)

## **P.E Department Update**

Please refer [here](#) for an update from the P.E Department.

## **Art Department Update**

NOW WHAT?! is a podcast show hosted by two Malaysian students, Aaron Leong and Scarlet Wong, that aims to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on students. After going through a strange period of MCO in Malaysia, we are aware that some students face difficulties in virtual learning. By being students ourselves, we share tips and strategies to optimise this experience and alleviate the negative impacts on mental and physical health as much as possible.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1chxS83HioI7CA8FmpqCvflOeZunW4y1\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1chxS83HioI7CA8FmpqCvflOeZunW4y1_/view?usp=sharing)

# 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](#)  
[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 \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)