

SJIIM Weekly Update

4th September 2020



A message from Mrs Nicole Pantry, our new Assistant Principal/Elementary School

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Assistant Principal joining the Elementary School here at St. Joseph's. My name is Nicole Pantry and I am happy to share my professional background so you are able to get to know me better. Hopefully this information will give you some insight into who I am in a time when we are less able to meet and share. I look forward to working with you and your children throughout this school year and for school years to come

I was born and raised in northeastern Massachusetts in the United States and obtained my undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont, with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Recreation Management. I started my career in Recreational Therapy, creating therapeutic art and swimming programmes for Mass General Hospital's Youth Care Programme. Later, while working as an Activities Director for a youth ministry that partnered with a charter school, my interest in education began. Teaching PE and Art was a good transition into education and eventually I taught across many year groups in elementary school in the United States. I also have experience teaching the UK National Curriculum because for the past 10 years I have lived and worked in my husband's home of Bermuda, a British overseas territory. During my time in Bermuda I obtained my MEd from Bishop Grosseteste University in the United Kingdom and continued to further my career in education by advancing to the Deputy Head position at a well established International school. I have experience with International Baccalaureate, International Primary Curriculum as well as Singapore Math. St Joseph's is a good fit for me because not only does this school allow me to impart and develop my wealth of experience in various curricula but I also share similar values in the Catholic faith and giving back to the community.

Although it has been a long journey, I have very much enjoyed my first week on campus and feel my move was well worth the efforts. I thank you for making me feel welcome and I am looking forward to my own children joining this wonderful school.

Nicole Pantry
Assistant Principal - Academic Profile



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SJIIM Parents Support Group - 2020

Greetings to all our fellow parents. It has been nearly 6 months and we are so glad to be back in school.

Some of our new parents might be wondering what is the Parents Support Group (“PSG”) about and what do they do. Well, can you imagine Christmas with a bare tree, CNY with no “Kueh Kapek”, Raya with no “Lemang” or Deepavali with no “Murukus”? A little sad right. Well, then that is where the PSG comes in. We bring colours, lights, food, friendship and big big smiles and laughter to our SJIIM community. We not only work within our community but extend the love, hope and faith to the under-privileged, elderly, refugees and those in need. The purpose of the PSG is to assist the SJIIM community to work together through social events, charitable activities and volunteering activities between the school and our fellow parents.

Our “PSG Coffee Mornings” is something that new parents will look forward to as it is a chance to exchange experiences, learn new things and build new friendship. Our ever popular “Christmas Bazaar” fundraising, together with the Catholic Activity Committee (“CAC”), have brought much cheer and joy to many children, near and far. Through the support, commitment and generosity of our parents and the school, we are able to embrace our Lasallian ethos. The children love our events because they know it is always filled with love, care, fun and laughter. They learn to care and share in being part of our extended SJIIM family. Indeed, it is heart-warming to see the whole community working together as one for a greater purpose.

Who can join? Well, as long as you are a parent/ grandparent/ caretaker, you are welcome to join us. Together, we can support and enhance the learning environment for the children and build our SJIIM community spirit.

A quote from Helen Keller, **“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”**.

If you would like to be part of our talented, hardworking, creative, fun-loving, food-loving, loud and caring team, please do drop us a note at psg@sjj-international.edu.my

Sheela Samarasan
PSG Chairlady

Elementary School Update



PE

Health and wellbeing have always been a top priority in Physical Education (PE) and it continues to be so as we adapt to the new normal. During our first lessons back with the children, the PE team have been explaining how the new normal affects PE and what new procedures we are following. The children have been excited to get out of the classroom and release their energy by exercising in PE.

We have chosen activities that align suitably with the government SOP, but still offer a fun and stimulating environment for students to be active, get fit and be creative. Our focus for the first 8 weeks of school is Dance/Gymnastics in KS1 and Fitness/Athletics in KS2. This aligns well with social distancing procedures and allows children to work alone or in small groups without sharing equipment. When we move forward past these units in the second half term, we will look at racket sports such as badminton and tennis as well as striking and fielding in tee-ball.

The health and safety of students and teachers is our main priority. We will continue to operate under the government SOP and follow any advice and update procedures accordingly. When more sports and swimming is allowed in schools we will share this information with students and parents.



Playtimes and Movement

In the Elementary School, we understand very well the importance of physical movement and play for children. This goes beyond just PE lessons. Our school approach to teaching and learning incorporates physical activity, movement and games throughout the curriculum to support concentration and motivation.

With that in mind, teachers have been using their creativity to develop new ways to engage with the curriculum in physically active ways, while maintaining social distancing. We have also introduced a programme for ES students called the 'Daily Mile', where children go for a walk everyday with their classmates to help support their need for movement and fitness.

The staff will be looking into how we can utilise our outdoor facilities to provide more opportunities for structured (and socially distanced) games at play times.

Elementary School Update



Late Arrivals (after 8:10 am)

If you are arriving to school after 8:10 am, there will no longer be staff at the ES office taking temperatures. Please drop your child off at the main foyer. They will need to go through the thermal scanner and proceed to the ES office. The ES office team will register them and then they will proceed to their classroom.

The exception to this is, of course, our EY students who start at 8:30.

Dropping off items in the day - Reminder

Movement around school is more highly regulated at the moment, and staff are extremely busy with all of the extra supervision required to ensure your children are safe and as active as possible, within the government's SOPs. As you know, parents are not allowed on site, as per the MOE guidelines. For these reasons, we are unable to accept items dropped off from home during the school day (lunches, books, etc).

Also, it is important to note that one key skills we are trying to help develop in your children is independence. This includes learning to manage their belongings. We also want them to build resilience and learn how to manage day-to-day when things don't quite go to plan. We hope you will support us in encouraging these key skills.

Pick Up Point Change - Year 4 and 6

To further improve the flow of traffic at pick up time, there will be a slight change to the pick up locations of Year 4 and Year 6 students.

Year 6 students: main foyer (collected by proceeding along the inside lane of traffic)

Year 4 students: middle island (collected by proceeding to the football field side of the pick up lane).

We hope this is helpful for everyone.

Parent Info Session

Next week's Parent Information Session schedule is as follows:

Y1- 10/9/20 @ 10.45am

Y2 - 8/9/20 @ 9.00am

Y3 - 9/9/20 @ 9.00am

Y4 - 9/9/20 @ 11.30am

Y5 - 11/9/20 @ 9.00am

Y6 - 07/9/20 @ 9.00am

These will be conducted via Zoom.

Zoom codes will be sent by HOY via class Dojo.



High School Update



Parent Information Sessions

Many thanks to the Heads of Year that have hosted their parent information sessions this week. We are really pleased that so many parents have attended. The meetings are recorded and will be shared following the session.

This year our parent sessions are being 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:

8 Sept - Y8 - with Mr Hussain

9 Sept - Y9 - with Ms Pollitt

(TBC) - Y10 with Mrs Lordina

Lunch and snack arrangements

In order to comply with the Government SOPs for students returning to school, only pre-packed meals will be served at break time and lunch. Students can either choose to bring a packed lunch and snacks from home or to purchase a prepackaged meal from Sodexo.

Please note that as parents and others are not allowed on site during the school day, food drop offs are **NOT** permitted.

Character In the Classroom

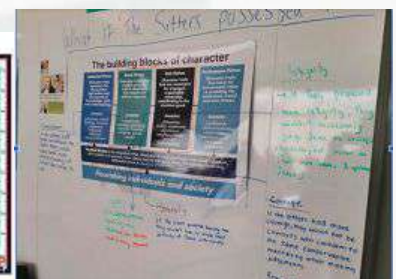
As mentioned, the last two weeks have seen our teachers infuse their teaching with character based activities, highlighting their imagination and creativity, and ensuring character is 'taught' as well as 'caught'. Amongst others, Humanities saw the usage of ethical and moral scenarios in Geography and Economics, whereas English and Malay used the terminology on our classroom walls to help make virtues explicit. In Drama, students used their bodies to perform virtues, and in Maths numerical tasks were placed in real world contexts where virtues could be seen.



Discussion?

With your partner, discuss how these virtues can relate to one of the novel's themes:

Courage
Integrity
Kindness
Gratitude
Tolerance



Humanities

Economics - science of decision-making (resource allocation)

How do we decide who should be given a Covid-19 vaccine?

- Kindness/need vs ability to pay

* Considering equity vs equality

How to use Game Theory/Prisoner's Dilemma (using practical wisdom and intelligence) to influence better decisions/choices while maintaining integrity and kindness.

V1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75v108230U> (without practical wisdom, integrity and kindness can lead to a suboptimal allocation of resources)

V2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55aK118Q2E8> (using Economics to prevent V1 and influence optimal allocation of resources)



WARM-UP: VIRTUES IN ACTION

Courage
Integrity
Kindness
GRATITUDE
Tolerance

- What do each of these virtues mean?
- Think of a time when you have shown one of these virtues
- Create an action that represents that situation
- We will create a Virtue Circle using these movements



TASK: VIRTUE TABLEAU

Year 9
Tableaux



High School Update



Y13 CAS

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/1chxS83Hiol7CA8FmpqCvflOeZunW4y1_/view?usp=sharing

Instrumental Music Lessons

It's exciting to see 56 enrolments for private instrumental music lessons, ready to go for lessons beginning next week. The timetables will be live on the [Instrumental Music Website](#) from 2pm on 5 Sept 20. Please take note that lessons will only be arranged and scheduled for applications made via the sign up page this year, even though your child has previously had private instrumental lessons at SJIIM. If you are still interested in lessons but did not sign up we will have a second intake prior to the half term break.

To find out about the [Y7 Band Programme](#) please click into the link where you are also required to fill in an online form for indicating instrument preference, and agreeing to the terms of instrument allocation and loan.

Art Department

The Art Dept would like to welcome Mr Glen Johnston who started this week. In the past two weeks, HS Art Dept has begun by looking at the Intellectual Virtue of Creativity where the Yr 7-12 all engaged in demonstrating their creativity through a number of Creative drawing tests. In addition, Y10- 12 have begun their coursework for IGCSE and IBDP Visual Arts.



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 \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)