

SJIIM Weekly Update

9th October 2020



A message from Madam Mak Lai Ying Frances, Head of School

We live not only our own lives but, whether we know it or not, also the life of our time.

Laurens van der Post

A mask has become part of our daily outfit. We no longer shake hands or hug friends. Covid-19 has brought about a new normal to our way of life. Many of us monitor the Covid-19 numbers and are concerned with the well-being of our loved ones. Most of us avoid crowded places and eating out. The above quotation should resonate with all of us – we are all living the life of our time.

My staff and I hope and pray that the Covid-19 situation improves and schools do not close. We are all here for our students. While we have had a successful virtual school during the MCO period, we have concerns with our students' mental well-being. Our students need the social interaction with their peers and significant adults. They need to have face-to-face learning and some form of normalcy. Teachers want their students in school where they can actively observe and guide them.

Prolonged home-based learning is not totally productive. The younger students cannot cope with extended screen time and need constant supervision from parents. Virtual science experiments are never the same as those done in the laboratories. Teachers provided feedback that for a minority of our students, they observed that their retention of what they learnt during MCO was not particularly strong. The PE colleagues lamented that they could only do mostly fitness items during online lessons.

The school has put in additional SOPs such as getting our vendors to do school ordered deliveries only after school hours. We, staff and parents of SJIIM, must continue to work in tandem to ensure that our school remains a safe place for all.

Lastly, I would like to share the lyrics of one of my favorite hymns, "Still" with all of you.

Stay safe and well.

*Hide me now
Under your wings
Cover me
Within your mighty hand*

*When the oceans rise and thunders roar
I will soar with you above the storm
Father you are king over the flood
I will be still and know you are God*

*Find rest my soul
In Christ alone
Know his power
In quietness and trust*

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Catholic Corner

“The **Rosary** is the most beautiful and the richest of all prayers; It is the prayer that touches most the heart of the Mother of God. Say it each day!” Pope Francis

Let us offer our intentions to Our Lady during the month of October:

Hail Mary, full of grace,

the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,

and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

Pray the Rosary, or a simple Hail Mary with your family.



Catholic CCA reminder

To sign up for Catholic CCA (Year 1-6), please click the [link](#)

A message from Brother Paul

Dear Lasallians @ SJIIM,

Every year in September, our Lasallians throughout the world pray for peace in the world. Perhaps you might be sceptical over this and wonder why pray for peace in the world when most of the time, many countries in the world have not enjoyed peace. But let us not be narrow in our outlook. Haven't we experienced peace with our families, relatives and friends especially during this pandemic?

As Lasallians, our first value is FAITH and with this value, we continue to believe that peace is possible so long as we do our part to bring peace to ourselves and the people that we meet. God will do HIS part in his time.

I wish to invite you if you are free to join the Lasallians of Singapore for a session with La Salle. Let us be a channel of peace.

Our next Wednesdays with La Salle session will be on Wednesday 21 October, 4.30pm to 6pm.

To commemorate International Lasallian Days for Peace happening from 21 September to 21 October, we are organising a peace gathering to close the campaign. We are happy to have Br Kelvin Tan FSC leading us in this.

Do join us if you are available. You will need a candle and something to light it during the session. This is an inclusive session, all religions are welcome to join. Kindly register at www.tinyurl.com/sqwwls. Do share with your friends and colleagues.

Thank you & God bless us all.

Regards,

Bro. Paul Ho

Chairman, Board of Governors

Elementary School Update



MOE Survey for parents

The school has received a request from MOE Private Sector to disseminate the [link](#) to all parents. Please do complete if possible. Just a reminder that in the communication, MOE has stated that the survey is to be completed by registered parents and not to be shared in any form or medium.

Trial CCA Sign-up for Term 1 on Schoolbuddy (For Year 5 and 6 ONLY)

Sign-up for Term 1 CCA: 17th Oct - 24th Oct

Please refer to the list of CCA for Term 1 [here](#).

All CCA sign-up for Term 1 will be done through Schoolsbuddy. Please email Mr. Kilbourn (nkilbourn@sj-international.edu.my) if you have not activated your Schoolsbuddy account. Thank you.

Deepavali Celebration Day

On Thursday 12th November we will have an special day to celebrate and learn more about the Hindu festival of light, Deepavali. Students are invited to come in traditional dress or brightly coloured clothing to celebrate. In classes and assembly, children will learn more about the festival.

Meet The Teacher

We look forward to meeting you all tomorrow at Parent Teacher Conferences. Please do try to log on 5-10 minutes ahead of your meeting time, so that if there are any technical difficulties they can be resolved before your meeting slot begins.

Drop-off and Pick-up Time

We would like to remind parents to please avoid parking outside the ES office at drop off and pick-up time. You will be asked to move on by school staff, as this causes congestion and delays for other parents.

Medical forms

Class teachers have handed out medical forms to students. Please assist us in completing the medical form and returning it to school so we can update our records. If you have already completed the electronic medical form sent out via email earlier in the academic year, you do not need to resubmit.

Pupils being kept at home

We understand that as parents you may be concerned about your child's health and safety at this time. While we are doing everything possible to keep the children safe at school, it is your decision, as a parent to either send them to school or keep them at home. School will be open, until we have been told otherwise by the MOE. Please do fill in the absence form if you are keeping your child off ([link on the final page of this update](#)).

As such, our teachers' main focus is on teaching the children in school. However, in order to support those families who are choosing to keep their children home, class teachers will set independent tasks for the week, which children can complete to help them keep up. Please inform your class teacher if you would like work to be set. As with all communication, teachers will respond to you within 24 hours. During the school day, teachers may not see your messages, as they are busy working with students. If there is something urgent (an early pick-up time, etc), please call the office.

Elementary School Update



Respect - this week's Virtue

Respect is an attitude of honouring people and caring about their rights. We believe it is particularly important to be respectful of elders, like parents, grandparents, and teachers. Because they have lived longer, they have wisdom and can teach our children many things. While everyone deserves respect, elders deserve a special measure of courtesy and respect.

Being respectful includes self-respect. This means that you protect your rights, such as privacy and modesty. If anyone violates your rights, this must be stopped. Every woman, man and child was created by a higher being, and we all deserve respect.

As families, we can introduce this virtue of respect by talking about how each member of the family would like to be treated. How would you like others to treat your belongings, your right to privacy, your need for dignity?

The following are some scenarios you can discuss at home. What would respect look like if...

- You want to use your friend's bike but she is not around to ask?
- Your grandparents come over and start giving you advice?
- You find yourself talking back to your mother?
- Your brother is in the washroom and you need to ask him a question?
- There is a rule at school you do not agree with?

Spotlight on Year 2

Students in year 2 have been using a sketching app in conjunction with their English unit to explore the novel, Claude.



High School Update



HS Wellbeing 'Coffee' Morning

Mr Cairns, Assistant Principal for Character and Wellbeing, would like to invite High School parents to attend a virtual coffee morning on the subject of student wellbeing. In the session, Mr Cairns will discuss wellbeing in schools, how we identify students who may be in need of support and wellbeing intervention strategies in the High School. The session will take place on Wednesday 14th October at 9am. If you would like to attend the session, please email Bee Ling in the HS Office and she will share the Zoom code. Her email address is beelingpeh@sj-international.edu.my.

Medical forms

Tutors have handed out medical forms to students. Please assist us in completing the medical form and returning it to school so we can update our records. If you have already completed the electronic medical form sent out via email earlier in the academic year, you do not need to resubmit.

Exit passes for students wishing to leave school at the end of the day

From Monday 19th November, to help with the HS pickup arrangements and increase the flow of traffic into the school, students will need an exit pass to leave the school site at the end of the day. We have received feedback from parents that cars are stopping to collect children outside the school rather than coming into school to pick up at the agreed point and this causes traffic to build up. To request an exit pass for your child, please email Syu in the HS Office. Her email address is hsyuadah@sj-international.edu.my

Parent Teacher Conferences - Saturday, 10 October

The teachers are looking forward to speaking with parents about the students' progress and learning this term in the PTCs tomorrow. The instructions for joining these conferences online can be found from page 9 onwards on [this document](#). Please log into these conferences a bit early, in case of any technical difficulties. Due to the nature of the online platform, all conferences will end automatically at the end of the appointed time, even if parents are delayed in joining the call. The booking system for these meetings has now closed, but parents are always welcome to contact teachers by email to arrange meetings to discuss their child's progress.

MOE Survey for parents

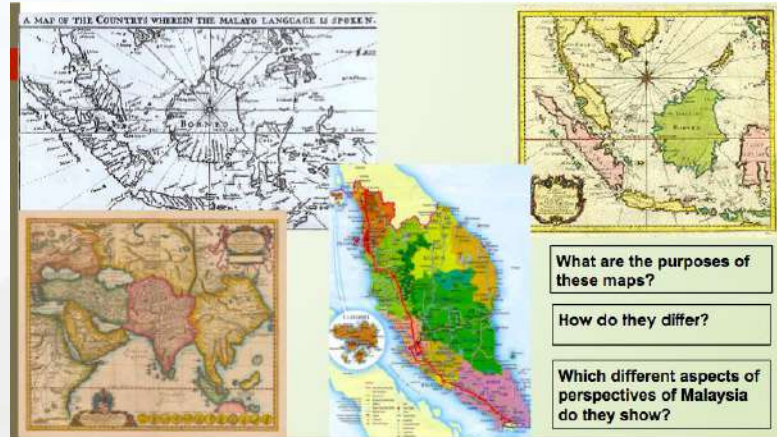
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High School Update

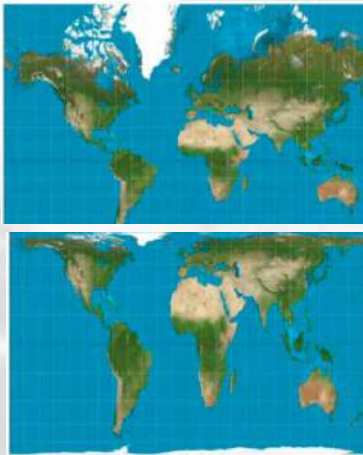


Knowledge as a Map

In Theory of Knowledge this week, Year 12 students considered the metaphor of knowledge as a kind of a map. Depending on our individual experiences, the culture in which we live, the major influences in our lives, and what we are exposed to, our knowledge will differ from someone else's. Knowledge is organised and categorised into subjects, and distinctions are made about what is considered valid (or invalid) knowledge, important or unimportant knowledge, depending on the perspectives of groups of people (or "knowers").



Similarly, a map plots out and represents the boundaries of countries and which countries are recognised by certain names. Over time, these boundaries and how countries and continents and other geographical features are represented on maps also change. Below are some of the versions of maps of the world used over time, which have changed according to the perspectives or priorities of those making them.



What kind of potential impacts on knowledge of the world, of people, of cultures might a representation of the world like the Gall-Peters map have?

How might this knowledge differ from that stemming from the Mercator map?



▲ The Gall-Peters equal projection map, but the other way up this time.

Based on this work, students answered the following questions about knowledge as a map, and then created their own knowledge maps. What would yours look like?

Metaphor - Knowledge as a Map

Paired or group discussion:

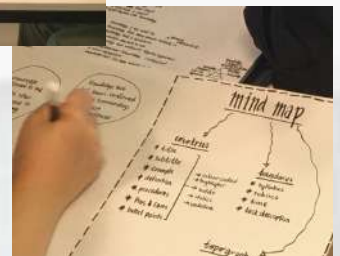
What other sorts of "maps" of knowledge do you follow without realising it? (ways of structuring knowledge)

What are some of the "countries" on your map? (types of knowledge considered important)

Who or what creates the boundaries of knowledge in this metaphorical "map"? (authorities/those in control)

Which aspects of topography are seen and unseen? Labelled or ignored? (perspectives)

Draw this metaphorical map, labelling the above characteristics.



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](#)



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



[Catholic Corner](#)



[PSG - Welcome Note](#)



[Music Website](#)



[Sports Website](#)



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



[University & Careers Counsellor \(TBA\)](#)



[CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)