

SJIIM Weekly Update

13th November 2020



Why Study Spanish at SJIIM? by Sr. Julio Garcia and Apolinar Garcia

If you want to know why you should learn Spanish, let me ask you this: what would you think if I told you that Spanish is the second most-spoken language by native speakers in the world? It has more than 400 million native Spanish speakers in 21 countries, and other places such as the USA has adopted and integrated Spanish into their culture and everyday life, due to the huge presence it commands in many states.

Regarding education, as a recognition of the importance of Spanish as a world language, it is one of the three languages in which students can study on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, alongside English and French. Similarly, the Cambridge (CIE) IGCSE Languages curriculum offers Spanish as both a foreign language and as a first language. In fact, Spanish has emerged as the most important second language for the UK in an analysis made by the British Council, and is becoming of increasing importance in Europe and all over the world.

A number of aspects of culture in the Spanish speaking world have become world-renowned and famous. Artists such as Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Fernando Botero, and Frida Kahlo have produced some of the most famous pieces of artwork in the modern era. Writers from Cervantes to Vargas Llosa and García Márquez, have enriched world literature. In fact, a total of eleven Spanish-speaking writers have won the Nobel Prize for Literature: five from Spain and six from Latin America. Moreover, as you have probably noticed, Spanish is also a relevant language in the world because millions of people know and sing songs by Camila Cabello, Shakira and Luis Fonsi.

Spanish and South American sports, such as football, have heavily influenced and have led to the development of the study of Spanish all over the world. Examples of well known sports successes in Spanish speaking countries have included Spain's victory in the World Cup in 2010 and as European Champions in 2008 and 2012. The Argentinian football player Messi has won the FIFA Ballon d'Or three times, and in tennis, Rafael Nadal has won 20 Grand Slam titles.

The admiration for the Spanish language is also evident in popular culture. I am sure that you know someone who has watched the series *Money Heist* or *Elite* on Netflix, or that you have enjoyed these series yourself. As you can see, the Spanish language is within reach and we can see it everywhere. Oh! And if you think that Spanish speakers talk very fast, don't be shocked, because it has been proven that Spanish is the fastest language - just in front of Japanese.

For another reason, knowing Spanish improves your English. This is because much of the vocabulary of English has Latin origins, since many of these words came into English by way of the French. As a result, since Spanish is also a Latin language, you will find, as you study Spanish that you have a better understanding of your English vocabulary. In fact, learning Spanish helps you to learn other languages, too: if you can learn Spanish, you'll have a head start in learning the other Latin-based languages, such as French and Italian. And it will even help you to learn Russian and German, since they too have Indo-European roots and have some shared characteristics. Learning Spanish might even help you learn Japanese or any other non-Indo-European language.

Spanish is easy and fun: it is one of the easiest foreign languages to learn, because much of its vocabulary is similar to that of English. In addition, written Spanish is almost completely phonetic - look at almost any Spanish word and you can tell how it is pronounced.

Beyond education, knowing Spanish may help you to find future work: when you finish university, you will find your opportunities will be expanded through knowing Spanish. And wherever you live, if you're in any occupation that involves international trade, technology, communications, or tourism, you'll find opportunities to use your Spanish language skills.

We, Sr. Poli and I, recommend that you study Spanish at SJIIM. Not only for the reasons above, but also because it is an important part of the process of becoming more internationalized; because you will learn about a worldwide language; and because you will be very proud of your ability to communicate with a wide variety of people in the world.

In the Elementary School, we are looking into offering Spanish from year 6, instead of waiting until students move to HS in year 7. Early in term 2, we will be sending a survey to parents of current year 5 students to see if they would be interested in starting Spanish in year 6, instead of Mandarin.

SJIIM Weekly Update

13th November 2020



Catholic Corner

Are you ready for Advent?



Advent is the time when we get ready to approach the mystery of Christmas, the mystery of God choosing to come among us in human form - the most fragile of human forms, a vulnerable baby - to experience with us all the joy and suffering of this human life. How do we get ready for such a thing? The church, in her wisdom, sets aside the time to approach this mystery with the season of Advent. We hope you will set time aside in your life for the offerings at Good Shepherd that can prepare you to create an opening for the coming of the light.

This year in preparation for the Advent season, we will be doing a range of different activities to help us to prepare for the Advent season and of course for Christmas. The theme for this year is 'Be the light'. Activities will include Advent liturgies in both the elementary and high school, whole school service based projects and a sharing of different Advent activities that our SJIIM families can do at home.

Please do click the [prayer link](#) to see the most beautiful prayer written by Mr Jyron Raz and Br Armin Luistro FSC, a visitor of the Lasallian East Asia District (LEAD). It is a Lasallian prayer asking the Lord to protect us during the Covid-19 pandemic.



PRAYER OF LASALLIANS
IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



Elementary Weekly Update



Deepavali Celebrations

Another 'new normal' festival was celebrated in the ES this week, as students learned about the Hindu festival of light and the Rama and Sita story in our weekly assembly. Students enjoyed dressing up and learning more in their individual classes on Friday. For example, in Year 4 students are creating a rangoli using shapes they learnt about in maths this week.

We would like to wish all of our Hindu families a Happy Deepavali. May this auspicious occasion light up your lives with happiness, joy and peace!



Elementary Weekly Update



Attendance in PE

The PE staff have been working hard to deliver two PE sessions per day in an effort to keep children active at home. It is important for children to have breaks from study to work on their physical development. Also, regular physical activity can help with concentration, sleep and mental wellbeing.

Recently the PE teachers have noticed a decline in attendance to PE sessions, especially the afternoon sessions. We hope parents can help us to promote a love for physical activity by encouraging your children to engage in PE sessions. Children see different members of the PE team each day to work on a range of fitness components and develop skills such as ball skills, coordination, flexibility and strength.

International Fortnight

International Fortnight begins next week! Students will discuss countries of their “home, host, heritage” as well as exploring a country from across the globe as a year group. **Dress up day** will be held on Friday **20th November**. On this day we will gather photos to create a video collage that will be shared at the end of the second week.

Thank you to all of the parents that supported us by sharing a parent presentation about their home country. The students will enjoy hearing about the variety of cultures represented in our St Joseph’s community.

IPC in Virtual School

As the exit point from their dinosaur topic, year 3 have been very creative in their IPC lessons on zoom, collecting resources from around their house to build these amazing Dinoramas! They also wrote non-fiction books, which were chock-full of facts and exciting illustrations!



Ms Tan - Wedding Celebrations

We would like to extend our most heartfelt congratulations and good wishes to our Mandarin teacher, Tan Yin Qian on her wedding. The event looked stunning, but what stood out most was the joy and love beaming from the bride and groom’s faces. We wish Yin Qian and Yang Peng a lifetime of joy and laughter together!



Elementary School Update



Parent 'Coffee Morning' for November

We would like to keep meeting with our parents, and trying to provide opportunities for you to come together as a parent community, even whilst we are under MCO. The ES leadership team would like to invite you to a parent 'coffee morning', where we focus on digital citizenship and helping teach our children about media balance. There will be a short presentation on this by Mr Woodhams, as well as an opportunity for small group discussion and reflection.

The session will be held on Wednesday **18th November at 12:30pm**. We hope that this lunchtime session will be a convenient time for parents who may be supporting young learners at home. The zoom code is:

Meeting ID: 737 695 0225

Passcode: balance

Phonics Screening

Year 2 have recently finished administering the phonic screening check. The phonics screening check is an informal test, administered 1:1 by our KS1 teachers. The check helps ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics and are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning. We are very pleased to share with you that the results were very strong this year which is a real indication of all the hard work our Early Years and KS1 teachers and students put into teaching and learning phonics every week. Even more impressive is that we were able to achieve these high standards during a period of distance learning last year and this. Well done to all of the students, parents and teachers!

Year 4 learning update

Over the last two weeks in year 4, we have worked hard to give the children opportunities to complete tasks that do not require them to be on screen. We have been delighted with the enthusiasm and creativity that the children have shown when taking on these challenges. It has been particularly wonderful to see parents and siblings getting involved too! In our study of Ancient Egypt we learnt about different gods that the Egyptians worshipped and then painted the goddess (of Cats) Bastet. We also learnt about the importance of the River Nile to Egyptian civilisation, and the pupils produced a painting of the river with some of the local flora and fauna! During science we have been learning how to conduct a fair test. Here you can see Xavier investigating whether shape affects an object's ability to float, and Hyojae investigating oxidation.



High School Update



Happy Deepavali!

The HS wishes everyone a Happy Deepavali! Today, students were encouraged to dress up in traditional costume or bright colours. Next week, in Lasallian Education and tutor time, we will follow up with more exciting activities.



Reducing Screen Time

With the VS continuing until at least the end of term, we are conscious of the importance of trying to limit screen time outside of lessons for students, particularly for those in Years 7-9. From next week, teachers will aim to set homework that can be done on paper wherever possible. Students will then need to submit a scan or photo of the work on the Google Classroom. For Year 11 and Year 13 students, when practice exam responses are set in class or as homework, completing these by hand will also be good exam practise. Where possible, classroom activities that limit screen time will also be used for all students, in order to support students' wellbeing and encourage them to have time away from devices.

Use of Camera During Virtual School

During Virtual School, HS students are strongly encouraged to turn on their cameras during lessons.

Student Representative Council 2020/2021

The HS are now receiving applications for positions on the Student Representative Council. We're hopeful that 2021 will be the year that our students can start initiating projects again in school and are looking for some driven, hard-working, caring students to make that happen for our community. Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 can apply for positions. We will also be looking to elect our new SRC President from our Year 12 applicants. To apply, students need to complete the application that was emailed to them and submit a 1-2 minute video explaining why they would like to join the SRC. The videos will be shown in tutor time and then their classmates will be able to vote.

Many thanks to Bryan, our SRC President, and the rest of the SRC for organising these elections in challenging circumstances.

High School Update



HS Year 12 Parents Session on Cialfo (University Guidance Platform) and Predicted Grades

Mr Hollis, University and Careers Counsellor, would like to invite parents of Year 12 students to attend a virtual meeting on predicted grades for university applications and to introduce parents to the university guidance programme. Part of the session will also cover how parents can access Cialfo, which is the university guidance platform used in school to support university applications. The session will take place on Wednesday **18th November 2020 at 4-5pm**. 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@sjj-international.edu.my

Weekly Maths Competition

The maths department are pleased to announce that the school has entered into a weekly mathematics competition competing against schools from all over the world. The competition page can be found at puzzleoftheweek.com and there will be a new puzzle each week. Students, staff and parents are encouraged to represent the school by entering the competition and hopefully one week soon SJIIM will top the weekly leaderboard. Please email Mr Lawrence at jlawrence@sjj-international.edu.my if you have any questions regarding signing up and entering.

Year 10 Mandarin First Language - Poetry Study

Year 10 Mandarin First Language students are learning about the topic of "hometown" . This week they read an article written by a Taiwanese writer and poet called Yu Kwang-Chung. After reading the article, the teacher introduced the poem entitled "Homesick" by the same writer, in which he expresses his homesickness by using the metaphor of his home country as a mother. Following the study of this poem and the significance of the central metaphor, the teacher, Ms. Ay guided the students to imitate the poem. Chia Jia Lin and Low Mei Ting have done an excellent job of imitating this poem to create their own original works! Please see their poems linked [here](#).

|《睡眠》

小时候，
睡眠就是一碟碟恶心的菜条，
父母辛苦喂我吃，
我却把它吐出来。

上学时，
睡眠就是一粒粒宝贵的米饭，
时时刻刻都有，
我却没有好好珍惜。

成人后，
睡眠就是一群香甜的鲍鱼，
每天都想要，
我却常常得不到。

老了后，
睡眠就是一瓶瓶危险的砒霜，
吃了，
可能长眠在地下。

|《童年》

小时候，
童年是一条清澈的小溪，
快乐在里头，
烦恼在外头。

后来啊，
童年是一道长长的大桥，
幼稚在后头，
懂事在前头。

成年了，
童年是一个甜甜的美梦，
回忆在里头，
现实在外头。

老了时，
童年是一张温馨的照片，
稚气在里头，
人生在这头。

High School Update



Student Led Conferences - 2nd November to 11th December

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the Zoom session about the student led conferences at SJIIM on Tuesday. For those who were not able to attend, you can find a video of the session [here](#) and a copy of the presentation used [here](#).

During that session, some of the parents requested guidance about how to use questions to support their child's reflections during the SLC discussions with them at home during the week of 5th December. Mrs. Fitzgerald has added some questions to help with this on slide 18 in the presentation. Please contact Mrs. Fitzgerald at mfitzgerald@sji-international.edu.my in case you have any questions about this.

Today the majority of students' SLCs with their subject teachers will have been completed. Teachers in those subjects with only one double lesson per week will complete their SLCs with students next week. Students will then have their SLC discussions with their form tutors over the next two weeks, so that by 5th December, students will be ready to have their SLC discussions with parents at home.

A reminder of the content of the SLC reflection booklets can be found in the links below:

[Ys 7-9 SLC booklet](#)

[Ys 10-11 SLC booklet](#)

[Ys 12-13 SLC booklet](#)

Please see below some examples of the reflections written by students in preparation for their SLCs with their subject teachers. It is a pleasure to see the emphasis on a proactive consideration of their learning in these reflections.

Student 1 Sample

What helped me to feel successful in this work? What were some successful approaches that I took to my learning? (e.g. planning study time, asking for help when needed, studying with a friend, looking back at my notes, etc.)

It feels more satisfying to get the concept and understanding right than just copying the mark scheme and reaching the correct answers

- Instead of spending 30 minutes on 3 questions, I spent 30 minutes on just 1 question - figuring out the essential concept - will benefit me more in the actual exam

Student 2 Sample

What were some of the reasons that I found this work challenging or difficult?
What did I do (or can I do) to overcome these challenges? (e.g. looking back at my notes, studying with a friend, asking for help when needed, researching extra information, doing additional practise, etc.)

Some things that I have found challenging is writing as I am not so used to writing essays. Things that helped me to overcome this is to map out my ideas and plans for the essay and jot down key phrases or words I wanted to use; along with this, I would also practice using more advanced and new vocabulary in smaller sentences first then I would apply them to my essays.

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](#)



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



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



[CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)