

SJIIM Weekly Update

18th December 2020



Merry Christmas to the SJIIM Community

This is our last Friday update for 2020. Throughout the world, people have learnt to live, work and play differently this year. We are all eagerly anticipating breakthroughs and developments in 2021 to make the world a safe, peaceful and happy place again.

Please enjoy the new year messages from members of our SJIIM community.

Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Mak Lai Ying, Frances

When you sing our Lasallian song especially the line in the chorus, "I am, you are, we are Lasallians." There is no such thing as a small role or a big part in God's way of unfolding miracles each day. You and I have a part in making miracles happen.

Recall what I wrote in the Josephian Annual 2020: we are SAINTS and as such, each of us has a vision. A vision of what each of us would like to achieve in our lives so that we can make a difference in the many people that we encounter in our own life journey.

So, what are your gifts that you bring to your family members and the school community, not just this Christmas, but every day of the year? Have the gifts been gradually maturing so that they have become part of your passion to do good to everyone?

Look not to the future within the walls of the pandemic - create miracles of joy with your vision and passion during the Christmas/New Year break. Create bigger miracles when you return to school in 2021.

Wishing you all in our SJI International Malaysia community, blessings of Christmas and New Year 2021. Keep well and stay safe. God bless.

Brother Paul Ho
Chairman, Board of Governors

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

Thank you to all the parents who have always supported and contributed to all Parent Support Group (PSG) initiatives. We are truly grateful for all your kindness and generosity throughout this unusual year.

The PSG has been serving with the purpose of assisting our school community in organising social events, charitable and volunteering activities. This year, we were able to help fund various charities and organizations to assist those affected by the Covid19 pandemic and underprivileged B40 families during this difficult time.

From our previous fundraising activities, we were also able to continuously assist our own security guards and housekeeping team with essential food supplies throughout this year.

As there will be no large events planned for this coming year, we hope we will still continue to come together to support the community.

We hope and pray that the situation will be better soon and look forward to a healthier & exciting 2021!

Connie Tan and the PSG team

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This term has been full of uncertainties such as the CMCO and the possibility of mock examinations being cancelled. Despite all of this, we persevered through these trying times; our teachers and peers have helped guide us through this unprecedented time. This term has been challenging but we have been able to stay calm and hopeful throughout. I hope that we, as a community, will continue to stay positive through these hardships and that future events will progress smoothly. We are grateful towards the staff, teachers and parents who have helped us immensely as without them, we would not be where we are today.
Chan Jun Yuan, Student from 11K

This update is an opportunity for me to introduce myself to the school community, but also to reflect back on the weeks I have been living here in Malaysia. Many people told me that this year was perhaps not the best time to move across the world, but in a way moving in such strange circumstances has made me far more appreciative of the things I do have now. I want to thank the school and my students for welcoming me, and the perseverance they have shown since we started virtual school. I would also like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2021. **Madeleine Davison, Y6 teacher**

Firstly, I would like to thank everybody from the SJI International Malaysia community for making me feel so welcome since I arrived in the summer. It has been a pleasure to become part of a thriving school which champions a message of hope and love during a time which has been difficult for everybody. I hope that the next year will be better for the global community than this one, yet we do not forget to reflect upon the sacrifices that others have made to keep us safe this year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy Christmas and to pass on my best wishes for the year ahead. **Adam Lakhani, Y5 teacher**

Nadolig Llawen! I am really looking forward to spending quality, relaxing time with my friends and “family” here. I wish the same for my daughters Millie and Grace (my first Christmas without them), my family and also for you. I am reassured and comforted to know they are safe and healthy and able to enjoy each other's company. December is naturally a time that many use to reflect and make resolutions. I will be reflecting upon 2020 as hugely significant, positive and successful. Whilst I do not make resolutions - I feel that sustainable lifestyle choices are preferable - I'm certainly looking forward to 2021. I approach the new year with a realistic mindset: 2021 is going to continue to be full of challenges, no doubt, and we will all need our support networks to keep moving forward. So here's to 2021 - a year, in which, I hope love and common sense will prevail. Treat yourself to a little bit of what you love - you deserve it, and to quote my hero - “keep smiling”. Blwyddyn newydd dda! **Joseph Laurence Taylor, HS Humanities Teacher**

This year I have moved abroad and experienced the wonderful hospitality of the Malaysian people and the wider SJIIM community. If this is how everyone behaves under these strenuous times, then I am most excited to experience SJIIM in the happier times in store for us next year. Last month, not one nor three but numerous pharmaceutical companies published impressively successful data regarding their numerous vaccines under development. As a science teacher this news both delighted and fascinated me. I had been teaching DNA vaccines the week prior in fact. Not only is such new mRNA technology pertinent to the current COVID situation but will enable even more rapid and personalised approaches to treat a host of diseases. I will be sending and receiving much fewer material gifts this Christmas but feel the richer for it; as this Christmas, despite not being with my family in England, I am blessed that they are safe. This Christmas, the sense of communal duty, empathy and fraternity is particularly strong, and I hope that it will be treasured and remembered in the years to come. Wishing you all in our SJI International Malaysia community a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Keep well and stay safe.
Mr Christopher Pegg, HS Science Teacher

'Be the Light' Virtual Christmas Concert 2020

Today we release the Virtual Concert for Christmas 2020, 'Be the Light'. Much effort has been put into the concert by staff and students over the last few weeks whilst in virtual school, including performances from the ES classes, HS Choir, WS Orchestra, drama students, Lasallian Education and English team to coordinate a poetry competition.

[SJIIM WS update Christmas Concert 2020](#)



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A special farewell and message of thanks to Mr Neoh Soon Ken

All of us at SJIIM would like to extend our great appreciation to Mr Neoh Soon Ken, our Director of Business Development, Marketing and Communications who will leave us at the end of this term. Ken has been with SJIIM since 2015 and he has played an important role in establishing our school. In particular, Ken was instrumental in ensuring that we opened so successfully to so many families in August 2016. We asked Ken to share some of his thoughts about his time at SJIIM.



What does being a Lasallian mean to you?

This is an interesting question and the reason, being a true blue Free School boy, it was strange for me initially to join and serve in a Lasallian school as back when I was schooling back in Penang, the St Xavier boys were one of our traditional 'rivals'. The sentiment is there today whenever our old boys association has any friendly games with the Old Xavierians. Many were actually surprised during my early days in SJIIM that I was actually now working in a Lasallian institution.

Having said that, I must say that my time with SJIIM has opened my eyes towards what it means to be a Lasallian and the characteristics the school embodies in every student. To me, it will always resonate deeply back to our 3 core values which are Faith, Service and Community.

I still remember my many early conversations with our Lasallian Governors and our first Br President Br Tom on how SJIIM should be remembered in the mindset of every family we meet and student we recruit and it always came back to the same consistent pivots – the core values of Faith, Service and Community. This was both enlightening and refreshing to me as the more I thought about it, the more it appeals to almost anyone and everyone in this big world we live in.

SJIIM will always be a special school to me as it didn't matter whether who or where the principal object of my faith was but as long as what I do is for the service and betterment of the school's community, our goals will always be aligned to the three core values that are characteristically Lasallian in nature.

What stands out in your memory most about those early days of helping to set up SJIIM?

Plenty, SJIIM was set up for success and with it came the weight of expectations as well. Every emotion you feel from the project is amplified when you are part of a founding team, you feel two times the amount of pain but more importantly you also feel double the joy as well when it all comes to fruition. More so being one of the original central admin staff of the staff. My staff number 003 says it all, I had the privilege of being the first central admin staff recruited for the school (so much so that my contract back then was in the MS word draft) and it has been a wonderful adventure. I will especially remember our founding governors – who have supported us and been true to the mission and vision of the school. Rarely have I seen governors who are as invested and dedicated as our governors are to the development of a school. A special mention must definitely go to Mr Dennis Tang, who was heading the executive committee and was personally involved in getting our Lasallian school off the ground from concept to reality. I will always remember my numerous meetings with him and Michael when I was first introduced to the mission and vision of the SJIIM project and I will always be grateful for the honour, privilege and opportunity they have given me to be part of this truly special endeavour.

I also remember with fondness all our founding families who have believed in us from day one when we were walking around with just a Brother, a brochure and a scale model of the school. They formed the bedrock of our school and have contributed so much the growth of the school in so many ways. Without their support, we would not be where we are now. I especially remember Mdm Ng and her daughter Hailey who was our very first registered student and the throngs of parents from international schools nearby who gave us a lot of useful feedback during our first few site previews.

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Lastly, all our founding staff who worked tirelessly to make sure that we were ready for the first day of school. From the management team, the teachers, the central administration staff, the cleaners, to the security team, everyone had a hand in doing everything and this was what made us special. Everyone in our Lasallian school played their part no matter how small and no one exemplified this more than our first ever security guard Anil who not only performed his duties with utmost dedication and responsibility but also insisted on chipping in to help out with odd bits of work such as inserting flyers into our brochures, carrying test tables and chair and assisting to set up our paraphernalia during information events.

How do you feel the school has grown since then?

I feel that SJIIM has definitely grown from strength to strength over the past 5 years. The numbers and our brand standing in the Malaysian international school education community does not lie and it shows the fruits of our continuous labour in school. Our community has evolved and so must our best practices at the same time. I am however really pleased that for most things, we have improved for the better and that shows our resilience and commitment towards making our Lasallian school better for all our stakeholders. The worst thing we can do is to rest on our laurels which would have been easy to do given our early robust success and the hype to go along with it but thankfully we have always recognized the need to improve and evolve with the times and not depend on the same recipe for success all the time.

What is your proudest achievement at SJIIM?

We have achieved many successes that we can be proud of at SJIIM, from academic results to student well-being to our many life changing outreach service programmes. However, the one proudest achievement that is most personal to me will always be the 430 happy students commencing their first day of school in late August 2016. The figures and the manner in which we managed to achieve it is something historic and will probably be never repeated for a long-long time for a Tier 1 school in Malaysia. Once in a while, I allow myself some moments of self-satisfaction when I look back at the group photograph of the staff and students we took in the school field during the first day of school and the occasional glimpse of the names on our founding board in the foyer still brings a sense of pride and joy to my heart.

What is your fondest memory of SJIIM?

I will have a lot of fond memories of SJIIM such as our first day as a team, the launch of our IBDP scholarship programme, taking initial pictures of our founding students in their school uniforms, moving into the school, first day of school, first whole school assembly, the official blessing ceremony of the school, first Christmas concert, our opening ceremony and first founders day and the list goes on, but I think most of all, I will miss the people behind this wonderful Lasallian school.

From the day I embarked on this project, I have been truly blessed to have worked with some wonderful colleagues, past and present. My time at SJIIM wouldn't have been as fulfilling without them and if I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't have any other people together with me other than ones I worked with together in this school. For this I would like to make a special mention to Jin Nee and Amanda of the admissions team. The blood, sweat and tears we shed together will always be our bond and is something that no one will be able to take away. Many thanks to Yani and Nadhirah who has since left SJIIM for ably assisting me for the PISF fair for the past 5 years.

It was also special from a personal point of view to have one of my nephews, Tian Shern as one of the founding students of the school and subsequently his younger sister, Qia Qian joining us as well. Bumping into them from time to time in the school is definitely something I will miss dearly.

I leave SJIIM with a heavy heart but also with wonderful memories of the past 5 years with the school! I am confident that SJIIM will scale even greater heights under the stewardship of Mdm Mak and wish everyone in the school the very best for the future.

I am, you are, we are Lasallian!

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A warm welcome to Mr Tony Lai Chee Hoong

Joining the school his term as Director of Marketing, Admissions and Communications is Mr Tony Lai. We welcome Tony to the SJIIM community and look forward to working with him in the coming years. Tony shared these thoughts concerning his background and what he is looking forward to about working at SJIIM.



I worked in the financial industry for over 20 years, ranging from commercial banking, stockbroking, investment banking and asset management. I worked with a wide variety of people and institutions clients from around the world. Before moving into education, my last position was as Chief Marketing Officer, responsible for overseeing the planning, development and execution of an asset management company's marketing initiatives.

Prior to joining SJIIM, I was the Director of Marketing & Admissions at Epsom College in Malaysia. My primary mission was to facilitate growth and increase student recruitment by developing comprehensive marketing plans that promoted brand recognition and helped the school gain a competitive advantage. I was also responsible for overseeing the facilities, policies, security, and technology in my first year with the school as Chief Operating Officer.

I am delighted and honoured to join SJIIM as the Director of Marketing, Admissions and Communications, as Lasallian education has long been recognised as one of the most respected and preferred education choices of parents for their children in Malaysia. I am very much looking forward to working with the dynamic team of staff, creating positive relationships with parents, continuing the outstanding work that is taking place at SJIIM and introducing new initiatives to address the evolving situation in these challenging times. Rest assured that my goal will be to continue to build on what everyone has worked so hard to achieve, and to use that strong foundation to keep SJIIM soaring. Together, we will continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities and academic excellence for all of our students.

Catholic Corner

Catholic Corner can be found in the 'useful links' section at the end of this Update. Please do take a look at this week's final Advent reflection and the Virtual Christmas Service.

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Last day of Term 1 - 18th Dec 2020

Term 1 2020 will end on 18th December 2020. We start Term 2 on 5th January 2021, except for some Y11 students who need to come in for the Y11 mock exam on the 4th January 2021.

Kita Kitar

Kita Kitar is SJIIM's rebranded recycling initiative. Launching in January 2021, we will be selling pre-loved uniforms and beautiful upcycled creations from recycled uniform materials. So gift your old SJIIM uniforms for charity because 100% of net profits are donated! Uniform donations are accepted at the High School Office.

Hampers of Light Assembly & Collection

Thank you to the staff and parents who have sponsored a Hamper of Light. Together, we have raised **RM 19, 910!** 200 hampers costing RM 13,015 were assembled on Wednesday 16th December, and today parents and staff welcomed staff from the The Hope Branch who arrived by truck to collect the donations. The remaining balance of RM 6, 585 will go towards supporting the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in their work with local children and families. In January, we will share photographs and information regarding the Hope Branch destination families and the educational resources we will be providing for SSVP. A huge thank you to the PSG, Catholic Parent Group and staff members who worked on this project. Thank you to the HS students and LYM for their messages of light and card designs that were attached to every hamper. Together we are the light!



PSG news update:

It's beginning to look alot like Christmas.....

On the 15th of December, the PSG presented our security guards and housekeeping team with a Christmas hamper each as part of our ongoing activity. The hamper included food, a lovely fruit basket and some personal items for them. We also presented a gift each to Khairol and Akmal, our 2 SJIIM Superheroes from the maintenance team who have helped us tremendously from decorations to carpentry works!

We would like to thank everyone who supported and contributed their time and energy and we are blessed to have the spirit of love and care in our SJIIM community.

PSG would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year!



Elementary Weekly Update



Fun and Festive

In the final week at school, students have been treated to parties, special Christmas activities and an amazing whole school Christmas extravaganza! A huge thank you to Mr Stacey, Ms Spensley and the whole arts department for the creativity and hard work putting together our heart-warming Christmas concert. Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas!



High School Weekly Update



Student Representative Council: The Students have voted for their SRC President!

Since our founding students created the Student Representative Council in 2016-17, the role of the SRC President has been one of the most important and coveted student leadership positions in the school. Elected by their peers, over the years, we have had some outstanding young people take on the position - **Ying Xuan, Nicol, Marcus** and, most recently, **Bryan**. Their names are proudly displayed on our Honours Board and each served the school incredibly displaying their work-ethic and character. Of course, each of those students would also acknowledge that they were also supported by outstanding teams made up of students from Year 7 up to Year 12.



"A Lasallian Leader to me is a role model who displays the core Lasallian values : faith, service and community. Throughout my years in SJIIM, the term 'Lasallian' has always made me feel like I am part of a family".

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our other outstanding applicants. Each student met with Madam Mak, Head of School and Gary Cairns, Assistant Principal. We were greatly impressed with their vision, their mature understanding of leadership and their investment in SJIIM.

Y11 and Y13 Mock Exams

The IGCSE and IB mock exams will run in school from the 4th to the 15th of January for Year 11 and from the 4th to the 22nd of January for Year 13 students. During this time, students' normal lessons will be cancelled. Details of the arrangements and timings of the exams have been shared with students and parents. Good luck to all of the students taking exams, and we are sure that their hard work and preparation in these exceptional circumstances will be reflected in their grades.

IB Scholarship Launch

SJIIM offers two opportunities each year for students in Year 11 to apply for an IB scholarship, which pays for the tuition fees in Years 12 and 13. Scholarship awards can range from 25% to 100%. The information and applications about the January round of applications have been updated on the school's website at <https://www.sji-international.edu.my/ibdp-scholarship-programme/>. We warmly welcome applications from our current students in Year 11, and look forward to receiving and considering these. If parents or students have any questions about the application process or the scholarships, please contact Mrs. Fitzgerald at mfitzgerald@sji-international.edu.my.

10% flow-through discount for Year 11 going into 12

Good news! We would like to inform our parents that **all of our current Year 11 students are entitled to a 10% discount in their tuition fees for both Year 12 and Year 13**, should they continue with our IB Diploma Programme for the 2021/22 academic year. **This offer is also applicable to students who are currently recipients of our existing welcome packages.** We hope that this will support parents to enable their children to continue their studies with us into IBDP. We would love to have all of our Year 11 students with us next year!

For further information, you may contact:

- 1) Mrs Maureen Fitzgerald for any information with regards to the IBDP at mfitzgerald@sji-international.edu.my
- 2) Ms Kwa Jin Nee for any information with regards to the flow-through discount at jinneekwa@sji-international.edu.my

FINAL UPDATE

Mutien

1st

1420

Miguel

2nd

1261

Jaime

3rd

947

Benilde

4th

839

"LET'S GET ACTIVE"

- ★ Strava Running kilometers
- ★ Participation for both fitness challenges and strava members
- ★ Combined points from Week 1-3

FINAL POSITIONS AND POINTS:

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WATCH THIS FOR AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

[CLICK HERE](#) (insert video)

SPECIAL MENTIONS (Final Week):

Benilde

- ★ Choi Family 110+ km
- ★ Kiun Cho 39+ km

Jaime

- ★ Yoke Chin Yap - 30+ km
- ★ Jeff Hisham - 24 + km

Miguel

- ★ Rahim Yahya - 59 + km
- ★ Eva W - 45 + km
- ★ Joyce Lim 44 + km
- ★ Top 10 runners - all 16+ km each

Mutien

- ★ 576km final week!
- ★ Jo Lim - 73+ km
- ★ Ven Chellam - 66+ km
- ★ Jenshen Ng (Y9) 55 +km

IT'S NOT OVER...JUST YET!

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](#)



[Term 2 AY 20/21 meal charges](#)
[ES Menu Jan 2021](#)
[HS Menu Jan 2021](#)



[Catholic Corner](#)



[PSG Update](#)



[Music Website](#)



[Sports Website](#)



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



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



[CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)



If you need support, please email sjiim@tekgroup.my or call 0125537202

[School Bookshop](#)