



新年快樂

Happy Chinese New Year



SJIIM Weekly Update, 19th February 2021

"When in doubt go to the library."... An update from the library ...

"Is the library still open?" "Can I please borrow more books?" "Are there any new books?" "Do you have the new Harry Potter book?" "Where can I find books about Anne Frank?" "I know it's not my day, but can I please come to the library?"

These are some of the questions we get nearly everyday at the SJIIM Library. The library seems to be the most favourite place in school for the students. There are about 600 to 700 students who visit the library every week to check out books and use the library as a quiet reading space.

The library is the treasure house of books. It stores the knowledge of every aspect of our life, under the books, magazines & newspapers. Libraries have come to play a significant role in the present-day educational system. They are an integral part of the modern school setup. Education today is much more than mere textbook education. It calls for wider understanding, and requires much more reference.

A good library encourages students to seek knowledge on their own and it's an important source of knowledge to young minds in schools. A library also develops the important habit of reading among the students.



Since 2016, when we first started, we have been working hard to update the collection in the library by ensuring that we have the most up to date collection.

In an Elementary School Library, it is essential to encourage children to love reading. A good idea is to divide primary school stock into skill levels: books for beginners (Picture Books), books for children who are just starting to read on their own (Early Chapter Books), and books for independent readers (Advanced Level books). We have nearly 16,000 books, comprising both fiction and non-fiction in the Elementary School Library.

There is a wide range of collections kept in different sections which includes: Chapter Books, Picture Books, and Non-Fiction for Junior and Intermediate levels. There is also a good collection of Mandarin & Bahasa books selected by the teachers. Students are allowed to borrow all these books & change them weekly or whenever they have read them.

In a High School Library, it is important to build on the interest in books and reading developed at elementary school. It is essential to provide information books, which support students' studies, as well as continuing to develop students' reading skills for life, and endorsing desirable study habits in students. A library is truly integral to the teaching and learning processes. It stimulates interest in subjects and widens the horizon.



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In the SJIIM High School Library, we have nearly 10,000 books. Each student may check out three to five books at a time. Books are shelved at different sections: Fiction, Non Fiction & Languages. The High School library is designed to be “open access,” meaning that students can visit the library whenever they are free. It’s all about creating a space where students can read, explore information and work with each other.

We as librarians contribute invaluable sources of support to classroom teachers, whereby we help teachers gather a range of texts to meet diverse student needs in their teaching and learning process. We also work with teachers to spark students’ interest in reading, and support students as they evaluate content they encounter in their research.



Library support during Covid 19

In the Elementary School, at lower elementary, the school has provided **Bug Club**. It’s an independent reading programme that encourages students to read at home, whereby teachers assign colour-banded online books weekly. This gives students a wide range of titles for them to access during virtual learning and keeps the reading programme going.

In the High School, the school has introduced [Wheeler’s E-Platform](#). We have emailed all HS students on how to access the site which includes the [step-by step](#) instructions.

Wheeler’s E-Platform is incredibly simple to use. E-books can be easily borrowed and are returned automatically. They can be read on a computer, on laptops or on mobile devices. They also have a range of Mandarin books to choose from.

Recently, we have also subscribed to a range of Research Databases. We currently have [Britannica](#), [Gale](#) and [JSTOR](#). Students are encouraged to use these databases for their research and home learning, as they are authoritative, reliable and updated regularly. Information in research databases are evaluated for accuracy and reliability by teams of subject experts and publishers. These databases will be especially useful for students now during their virtual lessons. Login access has been emailed to all students.

A good library is an important learning hub. It widens a student's mind, improves their knowledge, clears their doubts and instills in them the habit of reading. Libraries help to make learning a self-discovery. Evidence shows that “students who engaged in reading self-selected literature for pleasure would average higher grades in English, mathematics, science, and history than their non-reading peers. The authors concluded that students who read for pleasure averaged higher scores than their non-reading counterparts in the subject areas measured.” (Whitten et al., 2016)*. It’s great to see students in SJIIM really enthusiastic about reading & enjoy using the library as a learning space. We are eagerly looking forward to seeing all students back in the library soon!

Ms Prema, Mr Abang & Mr Don

**The full article by Whitten, et al (2016) can be found [here](#).*



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Yearbook 2020-2021

We are very excited to have started work on the yearbook for 2020-2021 and what a seismic year it has been; Complex, challenging but also enlightening, it has proven to be an unforgettable year for students, parents and teachers. As a wise sage once said, 'We bend like a tree in the wind', and in the spirit of that quote we would like to update you on some exciting changes to the format of our yearbook, as this year will see it published as a digital document.

Why have we made this choice?

Environmentally conscious and at a time when mobile technology is the way forward for our students and families, we wanted to maximise the creativity and flexibility a digital yearbook can offer, as well as a product which is easier to share more widely with family and friends. In these most disconnected of times we felt that a yearbook which could be shared quickly and easily with 10, 20 or 100 loved ones was fitting, as well as being a timeless document that will not age in the way a bound version would.

More than ever, innovation has been at the forefront of your child's learning this year and we see this new format as one that will allow for a more progressive and contemporary tone, and allow us to better visually demonstrate the work of our school community.

Carefully curated by our Yearbook leaders in conjunction with our teachers, we hope that you will cherish the memories our digital yearbook contains and see how this new style matches the unique contents that record a landmark year across the globe.

SJIIM Weekly Update

19th February 2021



Catholic Corner

Our Lenten Journey Begins...

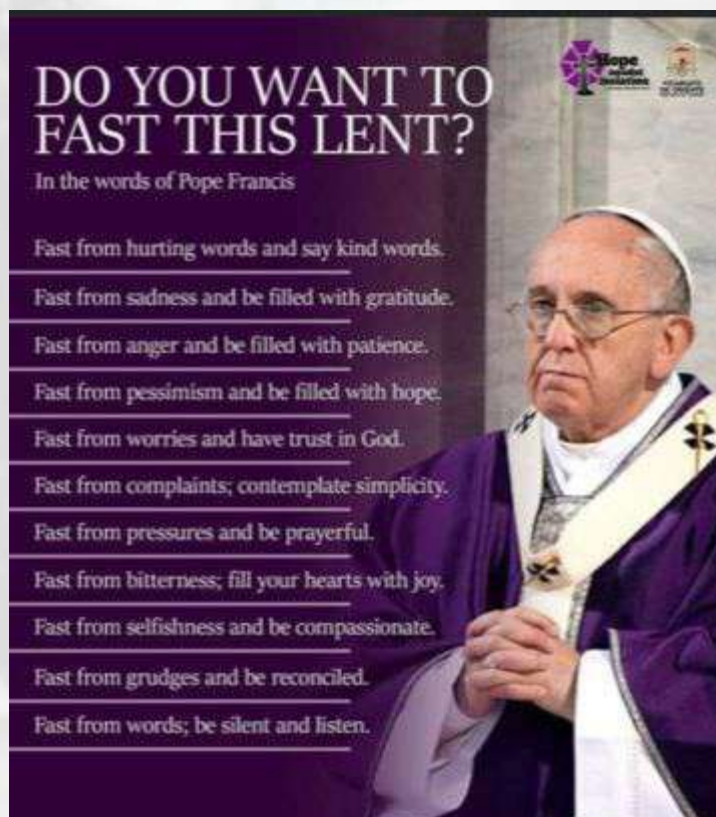
Faith Love Hope: A Message from Pope Francis

Pope Francis focuses on the three theological virtues in his Lenten message for 2021, inviting the faithful to “renew our faith, draw from the living waters of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God.” Grounding his reflection on the Paschal Mystery, the Pope says, “This Lenten journey... is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Jesus.” The journey of conversion, through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, “makes it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope, and effective charity.”

Pope Francis reminds us “every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping, and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.”

The First Week of Lent: The Gift of Fasting

Please take the time to watch a [prayer for fasting meditation](#)



A Family Prayer for Lent

Lord, please show me what I should give up
for Lent
And when I've given it up
Remind me to pray to You instead
To thank You
To love You
To hear from You
Each and every day in Lent.

Amen

High School Lent Student Mission

This Lent, High School Christian students are invited to journey together through, fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Every Tuesday at 3.30pm students will meet to participate in an interactive session. Students can find out more and sign-up for these sessions via the Lasallian Education Google Classroom.

Elementary Weekly Update



A big thank you!

We would like to extend a very big thank you to our wonderful team of Mandarin teachers for showing the virtues of diligence, joyfulness and excellence in our Chinese New Year celebration assembly. It is even more challenging than usual bringing together so many children to perform together, and it was wonderful. Thank you also to the parents for supporting at home with photos and videos.

Support for virtual learning

We recognise that it is a challenge for some children to maintain motivation and attention in virtual school. A more specific concern is the temptation some children face in becoming distracted by other online activities (such as gaming) during lessons.

Our teachers have pulled together some suggestions to support parents in helping monitor and control their child's behaviour and attention during lessons and ways to reduce the potential for this kind of distraction:

- Where possible, work in the same room as your child, so you can glance at their screen every so-often
- If your child works in a different room, position your child so you can see the screen as you look into or go into a room
- Some children are good at switching between screens if they see an adult coming so do spot checks at random times
- Use headphones so children can participate in lessons without being disturbed by the noise in the room
- Speak to your child about the issue of gaming during lesson time, emphasising the virtues of trust and honesty
- 'Film' their screen with another device as a check or deterrent this could even be suggested as a possibility to raise awareness that it is a possibility

There are also parental controls on all computers and devices that allow the blocking of specific websites and allow parents to set screen time usage and limits. Please have a look at this blog piece for more guidance on this as well as recommended options for specific monitoring apps that allow parents to know and control when and what children can do and see on their devices. <https://amp.commonsense.org/blog/3b1ccbae-cec5-4228-a52f-a5a45927dd6e>





High School Weekly Update

Parents-IGCSE briefing

The above-mentioned briefing will take place **Tuesday, 23rd February at 5pm**. The purpose of this online meeting is to help Year 11 parents to understand some important updates to the logistics of the upcoming exams (especially adjustments made by CIE in response to the pandemic) and to provide some general guidance on exam preparation and revision techniques.

Year 11 and Year 13 Parent Teacher Meetings

These PTMs will take place on Wednesday, **24th February from 3.25pm to 6.05pm** on Meet the Teacher. Further details with reminders about how to sign up for these meetings on that platform have been sent to all Year 11 and Year 13 parents. The Meet the Teacher platform will be open for appointment bookings from 4pm today. Year 11 and Year 13 students are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings with their parents. These meetings will enable discussions about students' work in the recent mock exams, and suggestions on how they can best prepare themselves for the final exams in light of the results of those mock exams.

Year 13 IB Exam Information Session

This important session will take place on **Thursday, 24th February at 4pm** and will include information about the IB's plans for this exam session in relation to the pandemic, as well as guidance for students and parents about preparing and revising for the exams.

IGCSE and IB Options Information Session

This information session will be held on Zoom on Wednesday, 1st March to support students and parents in making decisions about subject options for IGCSE and IB. There will be an overall presentation for both IGCSE and for IB, followed by sessions for each subject being offered. A full schedule and further details will be sent to parents of Year 9 and Year 11 by email.

Applications for House Captains

Despite the disruption to our school year, our House Competitions have continued to run as a means to ensure our school spirit stays strong. For example, today was the deadline for our House Performing Arts Competition and, next week, students will get to watch the entries in tutor time. Over a series of weeks, students will get to see the best entries from Benilde, Jaime, Mutien and Miguel.

Whether in physical school or virtual school, we have plenty more opportunities to take part and represent your house.

Leading your house is an incredible honour and a great way to develop a host of skills including leadership, self management, public spirit and communicating a vision. We are currently accepting applications from students in the HS for the positions of House Captain (Year 12), Senior Vice Captain (Year 11 and Year 10) and Junior Vice Captain (Years 7 - 9). Students have been sent a Google Form to submit their applications.

Have courage, step forward and lead your House!



High School Weekly Update



Year 11 and Year 13 Additional Lessons

These additional lessons will continue for the next two weeks from 3.30pm to 4.30pm each day according to the schedule below. However, they will not run on Wednesday, 24 February, due to the Year 11 and Year 13 Parent Teacher Meetings, nor on Wednesday, 1 March due to our teachers involvement in the IGCSE and IB Options Information Session. In order to help teachers prepare the sessions, each student will be asked to complete a Google form informing us whether they plan to attend a session.

Year 11 Additional Lessons

	Mon, 22 Feb.	Tues, 23 Feb.	Wed, 24 Feb.	Thur, 25 Feb.	Friday, 26 Feb
Week 1	Physics/ Coordinated Science	English	n/a	Languages	Biology
	Mon, 1 March	Tues, 2 March	Wed, 3 March	Thurs, 4 March	Friday, 5 March
Week 2	History (24, 2 blocks)	Econ (32, 2 blocks)	n/a	Art / Music / Computer Science / PE	Chemistry

Year 13 Additional Lessons

	Mon, 22 Feb.	Tues, 23 Feb.	Wed, 24 Feb.	Thur, 25 Feb.	Friday, 26 Feb
Week 1	none	Humanities	n/a	Economics	English
	Mon, 1 March	Tues, 2 March	Wed, 3 March	Thurs, 4 March	Friday, 5 March
Week 2	none	Languages	n/a	Maths	none

STRAVA RUNNING UPDATE (DURING CNY)

**This week's top 3 Biggest Climbers
(the runners who love the hills):**

Miguel

1. Rahim Yahya
2. Ben Sim
3. Eva W

Mutien

1. Cindy
2. Jenshen Ng (Student)
3. Teik Hin Ng

Benilde

1. Kwangho Choi
2. Kiun Cho
3. Joe Taylor (Teacher)

Jaime

1. Grace Chadwick (Teacher)
2. Jeff Hashim
3. Jeremy Sim

Mutien

4179

Miguel

3971

Jaime

2483

Benilde

2154

"LET'S GET ACTIVE"

- ★ We're now into *week 11* of our Strava Running Challenge.
- ★ Each Sunday the kilometers ran from the previous week are added to the running total
- ★ I'll be showcasing over the next couple weeks, the "Biggest Climbers" - those who ran with the most hills.
- ★ Also, "Longest Time" - who ran for the longest time, not distance, just time spend on the roads!

I hope you all had lovely CNY celebrations!?

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](#)



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



University & Careers
Counsellor (TBA)



[CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)



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[School Bookshop](#)