

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2023 | VOL 4

## HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

by Ms Kitty Ho

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Year of the Rabbit! The school has been full of excitement and energy as we celebrated Chinese New Year. In our Kowloon campus, a mini flower market was held while we invited families and children to take part in this fun event. Everyone had a wonderful time and I sincerely want to thank our teachers for the energy and effort they spent to organise such a memorable event for everyone to enjoy. In our Hong Kong campus, children celebrated this special occasion with their friends and the fond memories were recorded on video and sent to our families.

At PIPS, we encourage everyone to become lifelong learners, not least our teachers! All of our staff have recently taken part in a training about helping children to understand and regulate their emotions. The workshop was organised by Watchdog and it was very well received by our teachers. We look forward to putting some new strategies into practice.

We have a very busy month upcoming, with school outings and Spring activities coming up very soon. For the last few years family outings have been suspended due to COVID, so we are particularly exhilarated to resume them! We will be taking advantage of the recent nice weather and organising fun and engaging activities for the day. We look forward to seeing you all there!



## IMPORTANT DATES:

**3RD MARCH 2023**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY  
(NO CLASSES)

**9TH/10TH MARCH 2023**  
U2'S FAMILY OUTING

**10TH MARCH 2023**  
STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE  
(NO CLASS FOR PN, N, LK/UK)

**24TH MARCH 2023**  
PN-UK FAMILY OUTING

**27TH MARCH - 10 APRIL 2023**  
SPRING BREAK

## Units of Inquiry Update by Ms Indira

Our teachers and students have been busy with their unit learning and preparing for our first Student Led Conference since Covid. Through our unit learning, we have been exploring the essential elements of IB PYP, such as the IB Learner Profile Attributes and the Approaches to Learning (ATLs). From children under 2 up to kindergarten, students develop and enhance multiple lifelong skills within each unit. In the PYP, these skills are known as Approaches to Learning (ATLs), and they are:

- Thinking skills - we make sense of our learning and apply them daily.
- Self-management skills - we develop confidence in managing ourselves, our feelings, and our responsibilities.
- Communication skills - we find different ways to communicate and express our ideas, thoughts, and opinions.
- Social skills - we develop confidence in playing and learning with our peers.
- Research skills - we learn to find answers to our questions and questions from a variety of sources.



The Pre-Nursery level has been inquiring into the wonderful world of the Arts. Under the transdisciplinary theme of 'How We Express Ourselves', the students have been exploring different art forms. The focus is on creating and responding to the various art forms, from singing, dancing, and drama to painting. By the end of the unit, we hope children will be more open-minded and willing to try different activities.

The Nursery level has also been looking into the Arts, but this time from a cultural perspective. Under the transdisciplinary theme of 'How We Express Ourselves', nursery students have been inquiring into different forms of arts from various countries, such as Chinese cultural dance, and art techniques used in Aboriginal paintings. By the end of the unit, we hope children gain a greater appreciation and awareness of art from different cultures.



The LK/UK level has been inquiring into 'How We Organise Ourselves'. The level has been looking at currency and how it affects our lives. Students have set up shops in the dramatic-play area, where students can play customers and cashiers. Taking the lead from the interests of children, teachers plan meaningful learning engagements and help promote children's understanding of the unit.

For Under 2's programme, the focus has been on animals and insects. The teachers have set up the classroom with various animal provocations for students to explore. They have been exploring the common insects through sensory activities, stories, 'Show and Tell' and songs.



### **Student-Led Conference**

Lastly, we are excited to have our first Student Led Conference (SLC) in many years. During the SLC, parents will experience their child's learning in the classroom. Students can show their classroom and demonstrate their learning to their parents. See you there!

## Chinese New Year Flower Market 2023

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Chinese New Year flower market such a successful day. The children loved taking part in the wide variety of Chinese-themed games and activities.





## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS/ SCHOOL EVENTS**

### **Face Mask Mandates**

It's been lovely to see so many smiles around PIPS!

The school is adopting a flexible approach towards becoming mask-free. Children and teachers can choose to wear a mask or not on campus from now on. After the Easter holidays, teachers and students will no longer be wearing masks unless there are relevant medical concerns.

Please continue to place two spare masks in your child's bag. If anyone shows symptoms of an upper respiratory tract infection, the school will help to fit a mask on to lower the chance of spread of illness within the school. Daily RAT testing for students is still required until Wednesday 15th March, as mandated by the EDB. Please continue to measure your child's temperature before arriving at school.

### **Outing**

With the Covid situation stabilising and the city beginning to return to normal, we are very excited to be planning for our outing to Inspiration Lake! The teachers have been preparing a variety of activities to make it a fun occasion and we are sure you'll have a lovely day with your children, surrounded by sunshine and fresh air.

### **New Procedures for Pick-up Time**

Parents will be able to pick up children from outside the classrooms starting from **Monday 13th March**. Please see your class' Seesaw reminders for more details about the procedure.

We look forward to welcoming parents back into the campus!

### **Spring Festivities**

We will be celebrating Easter on **Thursday 23rd March** (and Friday 24th March for Monday, Wednesday and Friday U2's). In preparation for our Easter Parade, please work with your child to make an Easter bonnet at home, using recycled materials where possible. Your child will be able to wear their bonnet during our parade on the day!