

UISZ Community Summary – Week 18



INTRO

Happy New year to all parents and returning students – we hope you had a restful festive break and are ready to ‘rev up your motors’ to continue the exciting learning journey at UISZ where we EXPLORE, ADAPT and IMPACT on a daily basis to expand students’ minds and hearts. The road will be long, twisted and steep in places - but with fortitude, enthusiasm and ingenuity we will prevail in reaching each student’s full potential. This week sees MYP students working collaboratively on inter-disciplinary units (IDUs) and the start of the Model United Nations (MUN) inter-school conference on Thursday (this will be covered in next week’s Community Summary).

First Let’s quickly rewind the clock to the last day of the Christmas term to update you on the Secondary Award Assembly for the months of November and December 2019, organised by Ms Chunping:

Congratulations went out to Merit achievers Kari, Jeff, Chan and Antonia! They received the highest amount of merits in their respective Houses.





November and December's Sports Award went to Hailey for her excellent performance in the sports season.



The previous two months' Service Awards went to Pachatana for CAS and Peiying for AFS - for their continuous contribution and effort in the service project.



For the Art award, William was the winner for visual art.



Pei Ying was the winner for film.



and Cowen was the winner for Music.



The IB learner trait winners were William & Pei Ying in MYP and Danny & Hailey in DP. Congratulations to the winners!





In the assembly, our ESOL teachers announced some students that are moving to a higher English level phase, and here is the list: Kenneth, Dan, Jerry, Ivan, Jason, Hans Leo Wang. At the same time, a group of students received an achievement award for Achieve 3000, they are Chan, Jerry, Jonny, Samantha, Kari, Tommy, Mary, Max, Cheng Cheng, Peter, Jenny and Amy. Congratulations to these students for their progress, we are looking forward to another successful semester.



Let's take a look now at what's been happening on campus during this first week back:

PRIMARY

In Miss Jo Ann's Year 3 class vocabulary was being front loaded for the new UOI on: How the World Works. Using the 4 corners graphic organizer, students explained prior knowledge of natural disasters.





MYP

This week MYP kicked off with IDUs (Interdisciplinary Units) for each year group to encourage students to apply knowledge gained from one field such as science to another field such as humanities - to gain an understanding that learning should be engaged with holistically. We can apply our new found knowledge across all the disciplines to come up with innovative solutions to pressing global problems. The first day back for MYP students kicked-off with an all years briefing by teaching staff on what the IDU two week project encompasses.





YEAR 7/8

The Year 7s and 8s have two very unusual weeks ahead of them with their IDU says Mr Alfonso. After we welcomed the New Year we kicked off with some provocative activities to trigger our conceptual thinking. Students explored what an inter-disciplinary unit is and pondered over the underpinning value of its significance. They demonstrated that a single topic could be seen through different disciplinary perspectives and shared that they feel ready to embark on this adventure. In the next days, we will inquire about natural hazards from a scientific and humanistic perspective. We feel confident that this special endeavour will serve them well in the future.





Year 9 IDU Project

The Year 9 students - explained Mr Greg - are working in their Science and Language A class to complete their IDU over these two weeks. They are reading the classic Frankenstein in Language A and learning about the “Science of Science Fiction” in Science class. The students will take the knowledge from these two subject and put together an interdisciplinary presentation. The IDU is a requirement of the MYP but is also a great way for the students to use their skills across multiple subjects.





YEAR 10

Y10 students were looking at the evolution of maps as part of this week's IDU project. Mr Sheraz explained that the the topic brings together Geography, History and Maths to explore how mapping begins, its adaption, and different ways they are created today. Students will also consider how maps are being used in everyday life as well looking at scientific and technical innovation of exploration.





DP

Classes continued as usual this week for DP students not involved in MUN. In the Year 11 mandatory TOK (Theory of Knowledge) class Miss Martina explains that students don't necessarily focus on specific content but rather develop critical thinking skills and develop the skills to analyse knowledge claims made around us in daily life. **How do we know what we claim to know?** Through different areas of knowledge and different ways of knowing students analyse self-chosen daily claims they extract from a variety of information sources as newspapers, the internet, film and many more. During this first class after the break students gave presentations as preparation to 1



out of the 2 exam requirements. Students will give their final presentations by the end of year 11 and write an essay of the course of year 12.



BOARDING

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From the Heart of Dragon House

‘Be careful not to laugh at a live dragon.’ -- JRR Tolkien

Welcome back to semester two and what promises to be a very busy time in the lead up to the Chinese New Year. Our boarders have slipped back seamlessly into the routines and program in Dragon House and this augurs well.





This is a particularly significant time for our year twelve boarders as they step up their preparations for their mock exams shortly. Moreover, the INSPIREd program has clicked back into gear as our junior secondary and, for our primary boarders, it is business as (un)usual. We also extend a warm Dragon House welcome to a number of new 5-day and 7-day boarders: Michael, Lokyi, Tommy, Alvin, Rosie and Circle. We trust that their time here will be fruitful, happy and (dare I say it?) inspiring.

Hic sunt dracones

The Dragon House Community



OUTRO

Although it's only a short two weeks back at campus before the Chinese New Year holiday it is none-the-less action packed - as you can see - with stimulating classes and activities such as the IDUs and the MUN inter-school conference taking place. There is a buzz of excitement in the air that has brought a smile to everyone's face! Until next week's edition of the Community Summary we wish all parents and students a relaxing weekend.

Warmest wishes,
UISZ School & Boarding Community

