

UISZ Community Summary – Week 26



INTRO

This week has been another busy week for online learning at UISZ. Zoom has really bedded in as an effective live distance learning tool used now by every teacher at least twice a week. This has helped to maintain a high level of student engagement as whole class interactive discussions can take place while desktop screen content such as slide presentations and videos can be shared simultaneously.

The saying "the show must go on" is something our DP and MYP exam students are seeing this week. The Year 12 students have started their practice exams, and will be engaged in Mocks to get a taste of what the real examinations in May will look like, this will be ongoing for the next week.


This is similar to the journey the Year 10 MYP students will be embarking on next week. The students will be taking one Mock eAssessment each day for a week. This will allow them to see what the exams will be like when they take the real ones in mid-May. Teachers will be working with the students to use the data gathered from the exam to tailor fit revision plans for the students.

We are confident in the ability of not just the Year 12s and 10s to meet this challenge but all the UISZ Community to come together and facilitate our learning.




If you or your children require any support please don't hesitate to reach out to the curriculum coordinators, Mr. Peebles or Ms. de Gloppe.

In Mr Avdoo's Year 4 class students have recently started working on their new unit, 'Exploration'. Students were introduced to the Unit with an interactive Explain Everything lesson. Following this lesson, students created a KWHL chart showing what they Know, what they Want to know/How they will find out and what they learned. This led to an ICT Explorer Hunt, where students researched and recorded the discoveries and dates of several famous explorers from around the world. This brings us to 'Off-Screen Wednesday'. Every Wednesday, students are given a break from their devices and must complete each activity without the use of ICT. Therefore, students used their information gathered from the ICT Explorer Hunt, to create a Timeline of past explorers.

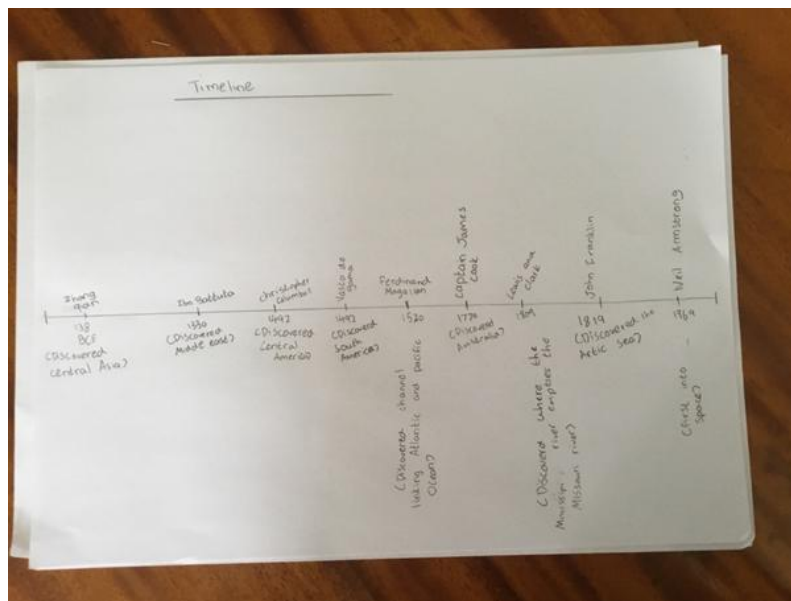
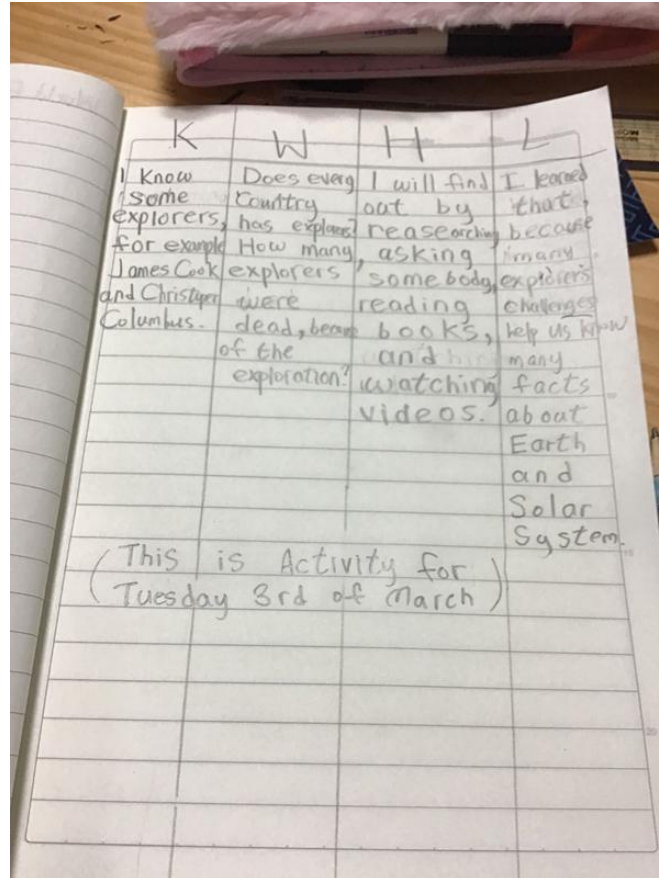


Explorations ICT HUNT



Find the explorer, discovery and the time that the exploration took place. This initial activity will help you with your next task – the timeline! Here are some names to start with and then you can find some of your own!!

| Name of explorer/s (It might be more than one person) | What the person/people discovered – or the journey they went on. | When this discovery occurred. (date) |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Captain James Cook | He was the first to achieve a recorded European contact with the eastern coastlines of Australia and Hawaii Islands. | 1768-1779 |
| Ferdinand Magellan | First man to travel the whole world. | 1499-1522 |
| Lewis and Clark | First American expedition to cross the western portion of the U.S. | 1804-1806 |
| Ibn Battuta | Explorer who widely travelled the medieval world. | 1325-1354 |
| Vasco da Gama | First explorer to travel by sea to India. | 1497-1499 |
| Christopher Columbus | First man to discover America. | 1492-1503 |
| John Franklin | Explorer of the Arctic. | 1819-1845 |
| Yuri Gagarin | First man into space. | 1961 April |
| Zhang Qian | first official diplomats to bring back valuable information from the west. | late second century BC |

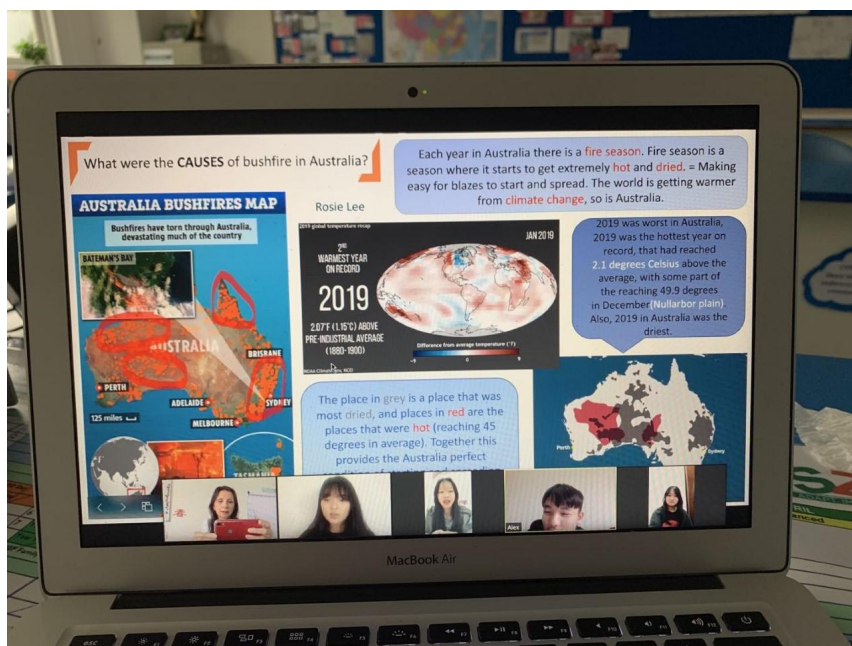


"We don't grow when things are easy;
 we grow when we face challenges"

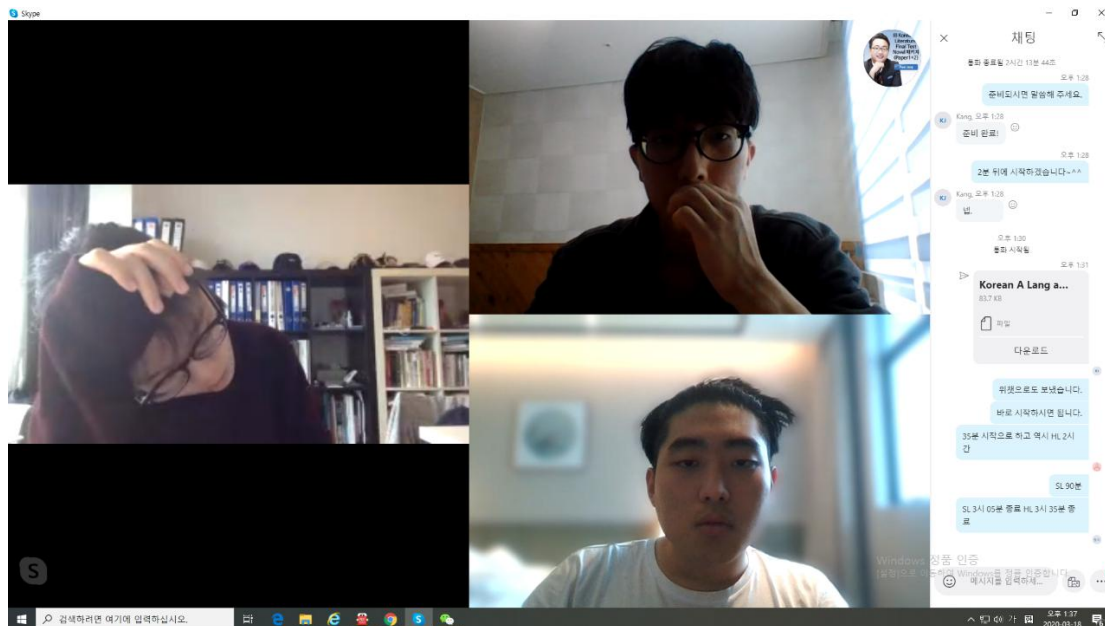
In Ms Cheryl's Year 9 Humanities class students this week are using the quote above as inspiration to discuss how societies have used science and technology to mitigate the effects of national disasters and crises. At the beginning of online learning, they were given a selection of topics and were asked to pick the one they felt was the most important. They were then asked to write a persuasive short paragraph to convince their peers of the topic's relevance.

They overwhelmingly voted on this one. After investigating various crises, they gained experience at presenting their findings on slides "sitting behind their computer" in a Zoom meeting as opposed to "standing in front of their peers" in a classroom. To make their information more interesting and understandable, they used drawing tools and effective imagery to explain their findings to their classmates. After completing this piece about **societies**, they will take this theme down to an **individuals** level when they wrap up the unit by completing a reflective writing piece discussing a **challenging time** in their personal lives out of which they have **grown and matured**.





This week in Mr Paul's Y12 Korean class students have sat a mock exam. To prepare for this, students had previously taken the Paper 1 and Paper 2 tests several times and had received appropriate feedback and comments from their teacher. This Wednesday, Korean A L&L student's successfully conducted the Paper 1 & 2 mock exam to prepare for the final exam in May 2020 making good use of the online platform to complete the work. The teacher supervised the exam by video and the students took the test honestly in their current situation from home. Students will soon receive helpful feedback comments on the test results to help them improve on their weakness areas and prepare them for the final exam.



Message from Mr Jeremy, Head of Boarding:

The Guangzhou Education Bureau has advised that all international schools remain closed until further notice. At present, the school and the boarding house at UISZ remain closed on this advice given the spike in the coronavirus pandemic globally. Rest assured that our main objective at this time is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of the community and to prepare thoroughly for its return to UISZ. Once all the relevant permissions are granted, all school and boarding return-to-school procedures and protocols will be communicated to all parties.

In the meantime, I offer some thoughts from the Stoics as reflection. We can take comfort in differentiating between what we can change and what we can't, what we have influence over and what we do not. 'The chief task in life,' says Epictetus in his Discourses, 'is simply this: *to identify and separate matters so that I can say clearly to myself which are externals not under my control, and which have to do with the choices I actually control.*'

What better opportunity to practice this 'chief task in life' than the one we're currently facing? No amount of angst and rage against the vagaries of life will change this external. What we can control, as always, is how we respond. What matters is not what other people are doing or have done, but what we do. No one individual can accomplish this by themselves, but each of us, acting rightly, collectively, can make a big difference to the whole

community. As Zeno famously noted, 'Well-being is realized in small steps, but it is no small thing.' We can practise well-being by the choices we make right now, in these moments that present themselves to us.

At times like this we are called to inspire those around us. We are all individually the answer, in the choices we make. But we are also stronger in the collective. *What we need now is to bring this individual intent to the communal, by reinforcing what we've always intuitively known.* Courage. Self-discipline. Justice. Wisdom.

As the global situation remains unstable due to the continuing spread of the Coronavirus outside China - the UISZ community remains committed to providing a stimulating and comprehensive online teaching programme at all levels - until such time as the government mandates that students can return to campus. We wish all parents and students a restful weekend.

Warmest wishes,

UISZ School & Boarding Community