

JIS Alumni Newsletter - Fall 2019



Message from the Head of School

Dear JIS Alumni,

I'm thrilled to be welcoming you to our first JIS Alumni Newsletter of the 2019/20 academic year, and indeed, the first after a brief hiatus. Many exciting changes are happening across our three campuses — Pondok Indah, Cilandak, and Pattimura — and the Alumni Team and I are looking forward to sharing these with you, along with updates on various JIS Alumni gatherings and all the amazing things our graduates have been up to.

September is a special time for the Dragon community, as this is when we take the entire month to celebrate the school's founding in 1951. I can't help but feel inspired by just how much we have grown since those days, with a handful of expatriate students barely filling up a makeshift classroom at the home of one of our founders.

Today, 68 years later, Jakarta Intercultural School offers a dynamic and immersive learning environment to more than 2,300 students representing over 70 nationalities. Our talented teachers have come from more than 30 countries to be part of our pioneering approach to international education and, of course, the unique experience of teaching and learning in Indonesia.

Last year, we proudly opened the doors to the JIS Early Years Center at Pondok Indah Elementary (PIE), an ecologically designed building that speaks to exploration, investigation, questioning and provides plenty of opportunities for creative and physical play, both indoors and outdoors.

The start of this academic year marks yet another significant milestone in our history, with the opening of the beautifully restored Middle School Library, new Jatayu Theater, and a new Middle School building dedicated to STEAM. Meanwhile, we expect to utilize our revamped High School Gym & Weight Room by December this year and construction of an innovative High School Library and collaboration center continues.

These remarkable changes form a fitting reflection of our school's continuous drive to grow, to innovate and inspire, and to ensure only the most enriching experience for our globally-minded students. But none of these developments would be possible without the unwavering passion and encouragement of our closely connected community: students, teachers, host country staff members, parents, Board of Trustees, and last but certainly not least, YOU, our alumni.

At JIS, the term "alumni" refers to every individual who has been part of our school in any shape or form, whether you were with us for a semester, a year, a decade, or more. This large, diverse group has since spread across the globe, but for so many, their hearts and minds return to the memories of their indelible experience as a Dragon.

I must thank you for the overwhelming support you've shown JIS and for proving that no matter where life may take us, no matter how far we may venture from Indonesia, our school motto rings true: Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon.

Warm regards,

Tarek Razik
Head of School

BTI & Dragon Alumni Scholarship Update



The JIS Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (BTI) Scholarship was established during the 2017/2018 school year to provide world-class educational opportunities for exceptional students from Indonesian state schools, regardless of their financial means.

The first cohort of two scholarship recipients entered JIS during the 2018-2019 school year, and the results have been fantastic!

"I can barely believe I have been in JIS for a full academic year! A new school year has begun and, consequently, many big changes have occurred in my life as well. It is now the start of my 11th grade year. For the next two years of High School, I have chosen to undergo the IB Diploma Programme. This was definitely a great decision. I have found that the IB Diploma Programme, despite being challenging, has given me much motivation and opportunity to improve and become the best version of myself. The year

has started very well for me for both curricular and extracurricular activities. While my curricular classes are science- and economics-centric, my extracurricular activities are in the performing arts. I have joined the Tri-M Honors Music Society and the High School Play. As always, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be at JIS and for allowing me to experience so many things I would have not been able to experience if I was not given this opportunity. I will continue to work hard and make the most of my time in JIS!" (11th grade male, now in 2nd year at JIS)

"My first year at JIS was a roller coaster ride, but through the ups and downs, I continue to be so grateful to be at JIS. This school, the teachers (shout out to Mr. Longbotham!), and my peers have all tremendously helped me grow over the year. There's so much more than academic life at JIS and I'm glad to say I've dived deep into what JIS has to offer. I'm still trying to balance my life between service and the all-too-rigorous IB program. I'm a leader in multiple service clubs, and since last year, I found a few new interests: in film and photography. I am currently in the process of paving my path to becoming an artist. I am beyond grateful for the BTI Scholarship. I hope in the future to be able to pass on your kind act to future BTI scholars too!" (11th grade female, now in 2nd year at JIS)

The 2019/2020 school year sees three new scholars entering JIS and we look forward to sharing their stories with you as the year progresses.

While the scholarship is open to students throughout Indonesia, JIS has partnered with several state schools in the Jakarta area for the purpose of promoting the program to eligible scholars. This year, the BTI Scholarship Committee will visit ten schools to spread the word about this incredible opportunity. The visits have been highly successful over the past two years with year on year applications almost doubling in number.

The scholarship covers all expenses associated with attending JIS, from application fees, entrance exams, meals, bus transportation and tuition to school supplies like the big Texas Calculator. For more information on the BTI Scholarship please visit our [scholarships page](#).

In addition to providing life changing educational opportunities for deserving students, the BTI Scholarship gives JIS and the JIS community a means to give back to Indonesia and the Indonesian people. To make an immediate online contribution (tax deductible for U.S. taxpayers) to the scholarship fund please visit our [giving page](#).

For further inquiries on the BTI Scholarship, please email scholarships@jisedu.or.id.

Also, don't forget about our Dragon Alumni Scholarship! If you're an alumnus living in Jakarta and would like more information about how your children could benefit from the Dragon Alumni Scholarship please contact the head of admissions, Kathleen Ngkaion at kngkaion@jisedu.or.id for availability and eligibility requirements.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Head of School, Dr. Tarek Razik, will be hosting the following events in January, 2020. Please check or join the [JIS Alumni Facebook Group](#) for further details.



JIS ALUMNI



Save the date!

JIS Alumni events in January

January 18th

Los Angeles, California, USA

January 20th

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

January 22nd

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Stay tuned for more details

News Around the Campuses

While the JIS culture and community spirit remains as strong as ever, the march of progress continues in the form of new facilities. A new fitness center at Cilandak Campus and innovative Early Years Center at Pondok Indah Campus opened in the 2018/2019 school year and this year sees the new Middle School S Module opening up to students. The S Module primarily focuses on STEAM related course work and features new, state of the art labs and workshops. It also houses the new "black box" Jatayu Theater, which will be home to many incredible performances to come.

Middle School S Module View From Field 1

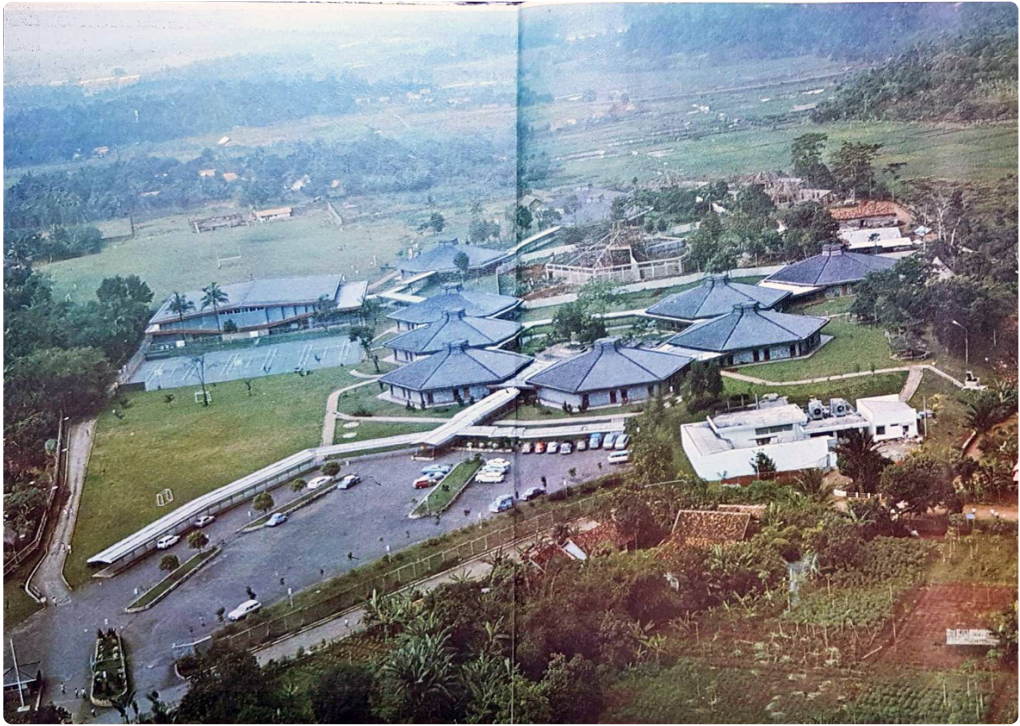


Jatayu Theater



New construction projects that began during the summer of 2019 include additional upgrades to the Fitness Center and High School gym area as well as an all new High School Library, which will serve as a central hub for furthering students' academic endeavors. Sadly, the much loved Super Module, which previously housed the High School Library and High School Administration offices, has had to make way for this exciting new facility.

High School Super Module Under Construction



Making Way For the New



Architect's Rendering of the New High School Library



JIS Athletics Update

Another year brings more exciting action from our JIS athletics programs. In preparation for the IASAS events throughout the school year, JIS recently hosted an IASAS Exchange for soccer and participated in volleyball at ISKL. Notable performances included JIS girls winning the Consolation Championship in volleyball and JIS boys defeating SAS in both soccer and volleyball. Our student athletes continue to work hard both in and out of the classroom.

JIS will be participating in a number of IASAS events this year. For a calendar of events and links to livestreams of IASAS athletics, visit the [IASAS web site](#).

JIS Boys Take On SAS



Over the summer break, former and current JIS students participated in the 2019 Gothia Cup (World Youth Cup) soccer tournament in Sweden along with some 1,700 teams from 80 countries. The Gothia Cup was first held in 1975 and is the world's largest and most international youth football tournament.



JIS AquaDragons and our Community Sports program provided some excitement in August. For three days some 60 participants had the unique opportunity to learn directly from Olympian and former world record holder Liam Tancock. The camp also included classroom sessions where Tancock spoke about his swimming journey so far, which he said was bolstered by motivation, communication, and resilience. Parents and students alike walked away with a new understanding of the aquatic sport and the importance of balancing life in and outside the pool.



In September we were excited to have Dr. Greg Dale, Director of Duke Athletics' Sports Psychology and Leadership Program at Duke University, conduct separate workshops with JIS parents, coaches, and student athletes. Parents learned of the various ways to support their child in sports while allowing for the development of emotional intelligence. Coaches discussed methods of coaching mental toughness in sports and ideas for incorporating it in training. They also spoke about ways to establish and maintain credibility with athletes. And finally, our student athletes learned how to distinguish

themselves, build a healthy team culture, and develop mental training skills for sports and life. Thanks go out to the JIS Booster Hut for bringing Dr. Dale to JIS.



Last But Not Least

At JIS we value community and the shared adventures that bring all JIS Alumni together. For nearly 70 years the students, faculty, staff and parents at JIS have collaborated in building a unique educational and life experience that will connect us for a lifetime.

In order to better serve the Alumni community, JIS is creating a new alumni portal which, when launched, will enable you to engage with other alumni, see current news from our campuses, a calendar of events and manage your newsletter subscriptions. You'll be able to post information on alumni events, internships, alumni owned businesses and more. This feature is being developed as an integrated part of our new website and community portal system (JISNet), so students, teachers and parents will be able to share content and events with you when appropriate. We felt it was important to finally bring our entire community under one umbrella and are very excited to see the results.

Stay tuned for updates via our newsletters and social media. In the meantime, our private [JIS Alumni Facebook Group](#) is very active and has over 6,400 members. We're ramping up activity on our [Alumni Instagram](#) as well.

For general inquiries, requests for alumni event support, campus visits or alumni ID information you can always email the alumni office at alumni@jisedu.or.id.

Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon

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