



Nanohana - MIS Newsletter

Edition 318 – Friday 12 June 2020

From Mr. Trent Citrano, Head of School



I have the privilege of being able to walk through all of the classrooms and watch and hear all of the creative and engaging teaching and learning going on across the school. I also am lucky in that I get to go out on the playgrounds and field to play with the children and watch their joy as they connect with their friends while running around or simply relaxing and chatting with their water bottles under a shady tent.

This week we have made some changes to ensure our students' well being. First, we set up tents and separated the field so that children can social distance while playing on our newly renovated grass field (you can see it pictured below). This has allowed children so much more freedom of movement. We are also putting ice packs in the lunch boxes where students have their lunches delivered to ensure that they are safe to eat on these warm days. We, of course, continue to encourage children to drink lots of water and cool themselves off at play times by wetting their faces at the outdoor sinks or by getting an ice pack from the nurse. Classes have also started using Seesaw as an in-class learning tool, so if you haven't seen activities from your child's teacher on the 'Seesaw Family' app, be on the look out in the coming weeks.

Additionally, at the elementary level, we began having homework online using templates and activities created by the teachers and shared via Seesaw. Students can then complete these activities using the 'Seesaw Class' app after they have logged out then logged back in with their individual Seesaw Class Home Learning Code. As an elementary parent, you should have received your child's Seesaw Class Home Learning Code via a message from your child's teacher on the 'Seesaw Family' app. Should your child have issues logging in to the Seesaw Class app or completing their activity, please message the teacher via the 'Seesaw Family' app. Should you, as a parent, have issues using the 'Seesaw Family' app, please contact the school office.

We look forward to opening up After School Care (ASC) on a limited basis to kindergarten children and their siblings in order to provide this support for parents while ensuring proper social distancing and supervision. We apologize for the inconvenience of having had to temporarily close this, but we now feel confident that we have the systems in place to provide this service. Please complete and submit a Temporary After School Care Form to the office to reserve your child(ren)'s space.



Calendar

Per MIS's Return to School Operation Protocols, in order to prevent the risk of COVID-19, events are limited.

Friday 26 June

Reports Home

Friday 03 July

Last Day of Term



SALE

Face Mask Sale

Top of the Class school uniform supplier is making and selling cotton face masks at:

<http://www.schooluniform.jp/cotton-face-mask/>



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Kindergarten News

From Mrs. Laura McKeown, Kindergarten Coordinator



Children Thrive with Outdoor Play

This week the children have especially enjoyed the warmer weather that Japan provides (unlike in Scotland where it rains most days!). We are blessed with such an amazing outdoor space for the children to develop their gross motor skills by climbing, running and jumping. The children also have access to play equipment which further develops their fine motor skills by digging in the sand with spades and building with their hands.

Enjoying playing outside comes naturally for most children, but for those children who feel uncomfortable in the warmer weather we have provided them with a large covered area to seek shade. This month as the weather is becoming warmer and the UV rating can be higher, we ask that parents prepare for the sunny days by applying sun block to children in the morning before school and making sure their children come with their filled water bottle and a hat. Our staff will be keeping an extra careful eye on the children and ensuring that they drink plenty of water throughout the day.

The children are sure loving getting out and playing - without realizing that they are developing their minds and bodies!



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Out and About at MIS!





Grade 5 Students Challenged on Ability Course

This week, the Grade 5 students worked out on a rigorous agility course designed to test and improve their gross motor skills. After staying indoors for quite a while, many students are craving the opportunity to challenge themselves physically. This G5 agility course got easier for them as they repeated it and got their feet under them a bit. Well done, G5!



Grade 3 Emulate the Work of Artist Georgia O'Keeffe

In Art, Grade G3Y looked at an artist named Georgia O'Keeffe who liked to paint close ups of flowers in nature. The students went into the courtyard to do some close observational sketches and then carefully blended and applied water colors on top of their sketches back in class.





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Japan Times Recognizes MIS Top Speller!

Last January, MIS held its Annual Spelling Bee with students from every class competing in a rigorous competition - with some very tricky words to spell correctly. Through this immense pressure, one student landed on top. That student was then due to compete in the Japan Spelling Bee on March 7th. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the competition was cancelled. However, last week the Japan Times recognized all of the finalists who were to compete in the Japan Spelling Bee, including MIS's very own **Lucas Balita** (pictured below). Congratulations, Lucas for your hard work and dedication!

6 | The Japan Times | Tuesday, June 2, 2020



spelling bee

School bee winners honored

The Japan Times has been sending the best speller of Japan's English spelling contest to the United States to compete in the U.S. national finals every year since 2010.

But this year, the spread of the novel coronavirus forced the 11th Japan Spelling Bee, which was originally scheduled to be held in Tokyo on March 7, to be canceled. The Japan Spelling Bee, sponsored by the English daily, is the only spelling contest in the country officially endorsed by the Scripps National Spelling Bee in the U.S.

The unfortunate decision follows the announcement by Scripps to cancel the national finals in Maryland. This year marks the first time since World War II that it has canceled the national finals since the program's inception in 1925.

The event has been a popular educational program in the U.S., but it has grown bigger over the past decades and countries such as Japan, China, South Korea, Jamaica and Can-

ada are now holding spelling bees to select representatives to compete in the U.S.

Under spelling bee rules, each speller must spell their word out loud, and they can request the definition, the language of origin and an alternate pronunciation, as well as hearing the word used in a sentence. Spellers cannot go back and change the order of their spelling once they have spoken a letter out loud.

Every year, hundreds of young spellers take part in the heated competitions. 2019 Japan Spelling Bee champion Aniya Narayanasamy outlasted 39 other students at last year's contest in Tokyo. Then a student at the India International School's Tokyo campus, he earned his ticket to go to the U.S. finals after battling through more than two dozen intensive spelling rounds without making a single mistake. His final winning word was "forbearance."

Though he could not be among the top 50

spellers at the U.S. finals, Narayanasamy said the whole experience in the spelling competition created new relationships and made him appreciate the art, science and competition of spelling.

"What I liked the most were the experiences, like making new friends and being on stage. This opens a new area of opportunity. Spelling has helped me a lot," he said.

A total of 40 students from Japanese, international and American schools across Japan were scheduled to participate in the 2020 Japan Spelling Bee.

Through each school winner was not able to compete in Tokyo this year, The Japan Times, along with the co-sponsors of the event, would like to recognize these students' hard work and efforts to win their school bees and introduce them in this section of the newspaper.

The Japan Times hopes to see many schools in the Japan Spelling Bee next year.



Kshiti Kumar from Kakegawa International Christian School spells a word during the 10th Japan Times Bee on March 10, 2019. SATORE TAKEMEN

Profiles of the 2020 Japan Spelling Bee contestants

* Winner ages as of June 2, 2020

1. Bechtel Elementary School



Elijah Folahan
Age: 11

2. Canadian International Elementary School Tokyo



Talki Terada
Age: 9

3. Columbia International School



Ludmila Kovaleva
Age: 12

4. Fukuoka International School



Coco Longstaff
Age: 10

5. Global Indian International School, Nishi Kasai



Ariav Karikalan
Age: 9

6. Global Indian International School, Tokyo



Ariya Narayanasamy
Age: 13

7. Gyosei International Junior High School



Sakura Taki
Age: 14

8. Gyosei International Primary School



Ayaan Sali
Age: 11

9. Hiroo Gakuen Junior and Senior High School



Noe Toyoda
Age: 14

10. India International School in Japan (Tokyo Campus)



Lucshana Sundar
Age: 12

11. India International School in Japan (Yokohama Campus)



Kabilan Baskaran
Age: 13

12. Iwakuni Elementary School



Riaya Warshaw
Age: 10

13. Jack N. Darby Elementary School



Kimberly Miranda
Age: 12

14. K. International School Tokyo



Ashmita Paul
Age: 12

15. Kadena Elementary School



Julissa Arango
Age: 11

16. KAISE Elementary & Middle School



Aleksandra Minaeva
Age: 11

17. Kakegawa International Christian School



Kshiti Kumar
Age: 10

18. Kansai International Academy



Risato Uchida
Age: 10

19. Katoh Gakuen Gyoshu Elementary School



Karen Sato
Age: 12

20. Katoh Gakuen Gyoshu Junior and Senior High School



Tomoki Koh
Age: 13

21. Kaiyo Academy



Naoya Hasegawa
Age: 13

22. Kyoto International University Academy



Natasha Duffy
Age: 11

23. Laurus International School of Science



Thareq Aqbar Khalifa
Age: 9

24. Linden Hall Elementary School



Taikishibashi
Age: 11

25. Okinawa Amicus International



Yuma Tsushima
Age: 13

26. Makuhari International School



Lucas Balita
Age: 12

27. Shirley Latham Elementary School



Hailey Manning
Age: 10

28. Sollars Elementary School



James Balolong
Age: 10

29. Tamagawa Academy Middle Division



Lavia Estey
Age: 13

30. The Montessori School of Tokyo



Noah Moon
Age: 11

31. The Montessori School of Tokyo, Middle School



Anju Aoi
Age: 12

32. Tathva International School - Primary



Aviral Agarwal
Age: 10

33. Tathva International School - Secondary



Abhay Nair
Age: 14

34. Tokyo Bay International School



Vardaan Matpathi
Age: 10

35. Tokyo YMCA International School - Elementary



Haru Morioka
Age: 11

36. Tokyo YMCA International School - Middle



Gyuwon Shin
Age: 12

37. Waseda International Christian School



Reni Shimizu
Age: 14

38. Willpower Learning Institute



Zayna Humaira
Age: 13

39. Yokohama Christian School



Nakshatra Pandian
Age: 10

40. Yokota West Elementary School



Katie Petty
Age: 9



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