



# Nanohana – MIS Newsletter

Edition 340 – Friday 29 January 2021

From Mr. Trent Citrano, Head of School



Over the past two weeks, we had the pleasure of watching our students perform in three separate MIS Spelling Bees. Children in Grade 1, Grade 2 & Grades 3-6 competed separately to see who would be their level's champion.

It was very clear from the very beginning of each spelling bee just how dedicated (and nervous because they cared) the young spellers were. They had clearly studied the US National Spelling Bee lists carefully. And take it from me - someone who served as a word pronouncer this year - these were not easy words.

I would like to congratulate all of the contestants for making it all the way through their class spelling bees to their respective leveled bees. A special congratulations to this year's MIS Spelling Bee Champions:

- Grade 1 MIS Spelling Bee Champion: Zhouxi Li
- Grade 2 MIS Spelling Bee Champion: Shize Zhang
- Grade 3-6 MIS Spelling Bee Champion: Juwon Song



## G1Y Measure Up!

In G1Y, the students are learning to measure distance in Maths. After learning how to use a trundle wheel to measure distances, they estimated and measured different lengths around the school. The children had great discussions about how to predict and if their estimates were close or not!



## Calendar

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

**Mon-Fri 01-05 February**  
Maths Challenges All Week!

**Monday 01 February**  
G1 & 2 Swimming - Day 5

**Wednesday 03 February**  
G1 & 2 Swimming - Day 6

**Friday 05 February**  
Global Citizenship Time  
During Creative Studies for  
Elementary Grades  
(G3-6 students should make sure that their GCA Journals are at school)

## Upcoming Student Council Sponsored Spirit Days

**Friday, February 12th - Non-Uniform Movie Time**

Dress up as a favorite movie character and enjoy popcorn & a movie!



**Friday, March 12th - Non-Uniform Play Day**

Bring a toy, game or craft to share with friends!



**Students & Staff pay 100yen to participate. All donations go to the Red Feather Campaign to support those in need.**



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From Mr. Anthony Hall, Deputy Head of School



MIS Art Exhibition Brings Students' Creativity to the Forefront

Greetings from MIS! If you are like me, you may worry that your child likes playing video games a little too much and you may also worry that this will have a negative effect on their education. As the video gaming industry is a relatively new phenomena, there is little academic research about the long-term impacts of gaming on a child's personal development. This lack of certainty can cause a sense of unease in parents and leads us to question: "How much is too much?", "What kinds of games are okay?" or "Should children be allowed to play games at all?"

Reassuringly, more studies are being completed on the impact of gaming, and recent research from Oxford University found that participants in the study noted improved mental health from regularly playing games such as Nintendo's Animal Crossing (<https://www.businessinsider.com/video-games-mental-health-gaming-wellbeing-oxford-study-research-2020-11>). One positive study is of course no justification for allowing children a free reign to play all hours of the day. However, it does show that gaming that is regulated can have positive outcomes in a person's life and therefore may lead to your child finding some benefits from playing games alone, with family or online with friends.

As with any of your children's interests, open and honest dialogue can lead to improved mutual understanding of one another's concerns or wishes. If you are concerned about your child's gaming habits, I would suggest proactive discussion about the issue. This will help you and your child to express your feelings about gaming and hopefully lead to an agreement about a happy middle ground where your child can gain the benefits that are becoming apparent from playing computer games, whilst respecting the limitations that you feel are best for your child's health and well-being.

Computer gaming popularity is not going away and the skills that can be gained from engaging with computer games positively make the effort of finding a balanced compromise worthwhile. If you would like more information about this issue, the following website may be useful: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-gaming/>



HOUSE POINT TOTALS

ROSSO GOES ABOVE 100 POINTS!



G4 Integrate Science & Technology!

Grade 4 had a collaborative time rehearsing their Science Week presentations this week. They are using their ever-increasing technological skills to create presentations which will be shared with the whole school on a Seesaw blog. They are excited for the Science Week in February, to share what they've created and to see what other grades have done. Well done G4 for adapting and thriving!



SALE School Photo Sale Sports Day photos are being sold until Feb 05 Order at: http://snapsnap.jp/ Passcodes sent home previously.



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# Kindergarten News

From Mrs. Laura McKeown, Kindergarten Coordinator



## Books, Reading and Technology

With the many enhancements to mobile devices, multimedia websites, e-books, interactive graphics, and social media, there's no question that the nature of reading has changed during the past decade. But, should an e-book or iPad replace the art of reading printed text? Will children learn the feel of a new book and to turn pages carefully when only reading on a device?

When learning to read, it is not just the words and letters on the page. It is important for children to feel a book, investigate its properties and learn how to turn pages with care and focus on a flat surface. It is also important that the printed text is in a font and size that children can easily identify.

Nevertheless, I think this year especially we have learned the value of e-books and how they can supplement a child's reading diet. Children should be exposed to technology of the future and learn how to use it. Technology is an integrated part of education, where children are learning new skills and ways to communicate and share their learning with peers, teachers and parents. Both approaches to reading have their merits; however, I would caution that we are careful to include both when learning to appreciate reading and books.

If you are interested in improving your home library, Mr. Citrano recently emailed parents with details on how to order books from Scholastic. Using scholastic not only do you have access to new English books but you are also supporting the school to supplement the school library too.





**K1:**  
Making Fluffy Rabbits during Expression Time!

**K2:**  
Experimenting with Air Expanding & Contracting in Balloons!

**K3:**  
Exploring 3-D Shapes by Making Towers!










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## It's Birthday Math in Grade 2!

This week in G2G, the students interviewed their peers and asked when their birthdays are. They then figured out how many weeks and days there are between their birthdays and converted this to days. What a fun and practical way to study about elapsed time. Wonder if we'll get more birthday presents now that our friends know the date!



**Maths!**

## Grade 4 Learn About Access for All

During their Kokugo lessons, the students in Grade 4 learned about what is convenient or not and how to give access to all people regardless of their differences. They have searched for barrier-free/universal design items and locations around them and then - using their great imaginations - designed and presented their designs for new barrier free creations to make their world a better place!



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