



Nanohana – MIS Newsletter

Edition 354 – Friday 04 June 2021

From Mr. Trent Citrano, Head of School



It's hard to believe that it has been a year ago this week that students and staff returned to on-campus learning. While Seesaw and Zoom proved to be successful distance learning tools, there is nothing like having students in and out of the classroom here at school.

I remember - after not having students on campus for approximately two months in April and May, 2020 - how wonderful it was to greet their smiling faces as they arrived that first morning back on June 1st. I also recall listening to the sounds of their laughing, singing, and playing from my office windows.

Our students and staff have been remarkably resilient over this past year in providing high quality learning opportunities under very different circumstances such as social distanced seating and limited mixing of grade levels or materials, to name just a couple.

I've also been proud of how we have been able to redesign special events such as the Book Week Parade, Music Recitals, Science Week/Fair, Assemblies, etc. and have recently begun going on educational trips once again. We will **continue** to look at ways to provide more and more opportunities for our students while continuing to look after their safety and well-being.

I want to thank our parents in particular for being so supportive of their children and the school. We sincerely could not do this without your understanding and daily contributions to make the lives and learning of our students shine. Thank you!



The MIS Online Café via Zoom hosted by the MIS PTA
Thursday, June 17, 2021. 13:00-14:00 @ anywhere you are!

This is an opportunity for every MIS family who wants to ask questions about a MIS child's typical school life, what parenting life is like at MIS, or even where to buy a pair of white shoes for PE, etc. We have asked some experienced MIS parents to join in order for them to give you their advice and share their opinions. The meeting is open to all MIS families who are willing to participate. During the 1-hour session, it is free to come and go, and also you can choose to just send questions via Live Chat (text) without actively showing yourself. Please note that the PTA is not in the position to discuss certain school-related issues, such as requests for policy changes or independent concerns.

Please sign up using the QR code above or this link: <https://forms.gle/8vosAZLgR6iq8Ynd9>



Calendar

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

Wednesday 09 June

G5 & 6 Swimming - Day 8

Thursday 10 June

K2, G1 & G5 ENT

K1-K3 & G1

Individual Student Photos
 (K1-K3 & G1 students should wear tie & blazer)

Friday 11 June

G2-6

Individual Student Photos
 (G2-G6 students should wear tie & blazer)

K3G Class Assembly

G6Y Class Assembly

Global Citizenship Time in
 Elem Creative Studies

(G3-6 students should make sure that their GCA Journals are at school)



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 Education for an
 Ever-Changing World*



From Mr. Anthony Hall, Deputy Head of School



Greetings from MIS. In this week's edition of Nanohana, I would like to share some of the success stories that I have seen from our use of Seesaw over the past year. I am sure you will agree that the use of Seesaw at MIS has been an overwhelmingly positive change in many ways. While acknowledging that there are occasional challenges with its use at home and in school, it seems that our children, teachers and parents just get better and better at using it as a learning and communication tool.

On a weekly basis, across the school, Seesaw is effectively used by teachers and parents to communicate and I'm sure nobody misses the blue communication books we used to use. The translation feature helps to bring about simpler and clearer conversations, which is an added benefit. The teachers enjoy posting pictures and examples of the students' work and the feedback and likes all help to make the children feel good about their learning. In Upper Elementary, the children enjoy using Seesaw to reflect upon their progress in class and share what they feel is their best work with parents. The shift from mostly paper-based homework to Seesaw based homework also seems to be a success and is certainly better for saving paper.

Here are some interesting facts about our use of Seesaw over the past year. In total, there have been 105,542 posts to date. That's roughly 285 posts per student in a year. There have been 103,513 comments on the posts giving praise and points for development. There have also been plenty of likes with a total of 144,913 thumbs up bringing smiles to faces when seen by the children. Finally, we are so pleased to see 63,887 family visits to Seesaw with a weekly average of about 1000 visits or three per family. We thank you for this level of support and engagement.

As ever, we continually wish to improve our service to you and welcome ideas for how we can develop our use of Seesaw to better serve you and your children's learning journey with us. Also, if you do have technical difficulties or any issues with Seesaw that you would like help with, please contact myself or your class teacher and we will be happy to help as best we can.



HOUSE POINT TOTALS

MIDORI ARE THIS WEEK'S BIG WINNERS!



SALE

School Photo Sale

Music Recital photos are being sold until July 05

Order at:
<http://snapsnap.jp/>
Passcodes were sent home previously.



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Kindergarten News

From Mrs. Laura McKeown, Kindergarten Coordinator



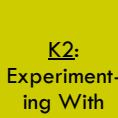
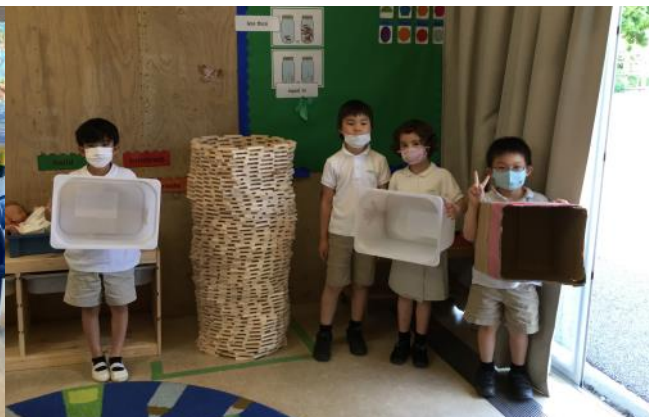
Curriculum Overviews and Supporting your Children at Home

This week, Mr. Hall shared the new Kindergarten Curriculum Overviews for the second half of Term 1 both by email and uploaded them to the school website's Kindergarten Curriculum page here: <https://www.mis.ed.jp/learning/kindergarten/>.

Each overview will introduce you to the themes of learning being taught this term in each grade: K1 will focus on 'People Who Help Us', K2 will focus on 'Transport', and K3 will focus on 'To The Rescue'. Home school links are valuable as the more the children talk about what they are learning the more the learning will be reinforced. The Curriculum Overviews provide a valuable insight into what your child will learn in class and may help support your conversations at home as to what your child is learning about each day. By following what your child is learning this term you can look for ways to support their development each day at home. If you have any questions as to how you can support your child at home further, please feel free to message your child's teacher(s) via Seesaw and they can then answer your questions directly.



K1:
Helping Rex
&
Learning
About
People
Who Help
Us!



K2:
Experimenting
With
Hot & Cold
Using
Balloons!



K3:
Constructing
a Block
Tower &
Practicing
Phonics!





Grade 5 Trip Provides Wonderful Outdoor Experiences!

This week, Grade 5 visited the Oyama Rice Paddy Fields in Kamogawa. They had fun learning about the creatures that inhabit the rice paddies and then looking for those creatures using a net and a bug box. They held grass snakes, stroked turtles and looked at the skeletons of animals. It was a fun day out and one to remember.



Grade 3 Inspired by Artist Haruki Marukami

Grade 3 have been working hard on their artwork. They were inspired by some bright and imaginative pictures by Haruki Murakami. They then went on to experiment with hot and cold colours and oil pastel techniques of blending. We created an imaginative, dream like landscape picture.



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Grade 2 Trip Leads to Beautiful Learning!

As part of their PSNS studies of flowers and parts of plants, the students in Grade 2 went on a field trip this week to the Chiba City Museum of Flower Art. The students enjoyed the many different varieties of flowers, especially the hydrangeas as well as a number of fruits and vegetables. With this off-campus opportunity, they were able to identify the parts of the flowers first hand. They also enjoyed seeing the many pollinators such as bees and butterflies.



Wow! Grade 3 Discover Minibeasts!

Grade 3 Green has been learning about minibeasts and their habitats in their science lessons recently. This week, they searched for vertebrates and invertebrates around campus. They were able to find such organisms as butterflies, stink bugs, ants, worms, birds, fish, and spiders.



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Online Café

With Interpreter
通訳付き！

~ To know more about MIS Life as parents~

MIS PTA hosts the 1st **Online Café** for all MIS families.

This an opportunity for those parents who want ask questions about MIS children's school life, what parenting life is like at MIS, etc to experienced MIS Parents !

The meeting is widely open to any MIS parents for one hour. It is free to come and go, and send questions via Chat (text) or ask verbally.

1

Better understand
MIS

2

Reduce anxiety
about MIS

3

Meet other MIS
Parents

13:00 ~ 14:00 pm
Thursday 17 June 2021

Click Here to Sign Up

<https://forms.gle/8vosAZLgR6iq8Ynd9>



How to join the ZOOM meeting :

- ① Sign up
- ② Receive email
(a day before the event)
- ③ Click the ULR link
- ④ Once you log on, you may want to
put Video on/off - your preference

Why now ?

If you are new to the school, or if still in lower elementary or in kindergarten, you may want to know how your children are doing during the day... and possibly what to expect in coming years... We all know how you feel!!!

Although it is difficult to meet with other parents due to the pandemic, we can still help ease your anxiety!



Let's just have a fun time!!!!

If you have any questions or have comments, please email the MIS PTA Event Planning Committee at misptaevent@gmail.com

Agenda

13:00 ~ 14:00 pm
Thursday 17 June 2021

13:00~ Opening

13:05~ Greeting from Mr. Citrano (Head of School)
Introduction of Annual School Events

13:15~ Ask Experienced Parents

There will be 3~4 parents to answer questions you may have regarding your children's MIS school life.

During the discussion, participants can send questions/messages by "Chat" or by raising their hand (depending on the number of participants)

**Open discussion with smaller groups if time allows*

13:50~ Introduction of PTA Activities

13:55~ Closing

Click Here to Sign Up

<https://forms.gle/8vosAZLgR6iq8Ynd9>



FAQs

- **What do I need to join ?**

You need PC or mobile device (such as smart phone or tablet) and internet connection

- **Do I need to install Zoom ?**

You don't need to download Zoom and can access through a web-browser; however, if you download the Zoom app on your PC, you may have full access to all the functions and can view more faces on the screen. (Apps on mobile devices also have limited functionality on Zoom)

You can download the Zoom app from <https://zoom.us/>

- **Can I join and ask question as "Anonymous" ?**

Yes, you can join and ask questions anonymously, if you would like. With Zoom, you can change your display name and there is an option to ask question by Chat anonymously.

Please note that the PTA is not in the position to discuss certain school-related issues, such as requests for policy changes or independent concerns.

PTAでは学校の方針に関連する案件を取扱う立場ではございませんのであらかじめご了承ください