



# Nanohana – MIS Newsletter

Edition 377 – Friday 21 January 2022

From Mr. Trent Citrano, Head of School



At MIS this week, we held two Spelling Bees - one for Grades 1 & 2 and one for Grades 3-6. As a lead up to these Spelling Bees, students across the school were given lengthy lists of spelling words to practice. Students then participated in class competitions and the top speller from each class went on to either the G1 & 2 or G3-6 Spelling Bees.

It was incredibly impressive to see students, both in their class competitions as well as the larger competitions, focus so hard on ensuring that they spelled some very difficult words correctly - following some very specific rules for these Spelling Bees.

Typically, the winner of the MIS G3-6 Spelling Bee would go onto the Japan Times Spelling Bee, but unfortunately this year, due to the prevention of COVID, this event has been cancelled. Nonetheless, our students should be proud of their work in developing themselves as proficient spellers.

Congratulations to all of the students who gave it their best in these important events, especially the finalists who made it to the larger Spelling Bees. The winners will be announced in classes soon and the recipients will receive some nice awards and prizes!



## Calendar

**Monday 24 January**  
G1&2 Swimming - Day 4

**Wednesday 26 January**  
G1&2 Swimming - Day 5

**Friday 28 January**  
G1 Japanese  
Setsubun Assembly  
K2 What Have We Been  
Learning About Assembly



## School Photo Sale

School Life and Class Photos & Winter Performance Photos/DVD/Blu-Ray discs are being sold until January 31st.

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



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# NANOHANA

From Mr. Anthony Hall, Deputy Head of School



Greetings from MIS. In this week's edition of Nanohana, I would like to highlight some ongoing initiatives that have been fruitful in our reading program. As I am sure you will agree, reading is a foundational skill that children strive to develop during their early years and then utilise to their benefit throughout the remainder of their lives. At MIS, we aim to foster a love of reading in all students for this reason.

In recent years, we have been placing a great deal of emphasis on the K1 to G2 students' reading ability through the development of our phonics curriculum. This has led to outstanding improvements in the children's ability to decode the words in the texts they encounter. This is proven by the fact that this year the K3, G1 and G2 teachers needed to buy additional sets of higher-level reading books to meet their children's needs. Needless to say, we were happy to make that investment to meet our young students' growing reading abilities.

Another area of recent development has been the introduction of online reading materials. Mr. Mills has helped the school to utilise Bug Club and Read Theory. These online reading platforms have proven to be very popular with our children and they allow for them to experience a wide range of texts on a web-based platform. These has proven to be excellent supplements to our take home reading books, and many children have greatly improved the volume and quality of their reading. We hope that you are able to enjoy reading at home with your children and find the time to enjoy books or online texts together be they stories or non-fiction books. Happy reading, everyone!



**HOUSE POINT  
TOTALS  
MIDORI IS THIS  
WEEK'S  
WINNER!**



### K3 Celebrates the New Year with Mochitsuki!

This week the students in K3 had the opportunity to pick up the giant wooden mallet and participate in the tradition of Mochitsuki (Mochi Pounding). Even though we chose not to have the students eat the mochi this year, they sure had fun getting their hands in the sticky slimy mochi they made!



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# Kindergarten News

From Mrs. Laura McKeown, Kindergarten Coordinator



## Final Term - Evaluating Our Progress So Far

Now that we are in our final term, we are not only celebrating the children's progress this year through reports and parents' meetings, we are also celebrating the progress we've made as a team. At the beginning of each academic year we create an action plan of all the improvements we want to make in Kindergarten. We set the bar high this year and selected five areas for our plan: developing how we deliver phonics lessons, developing our math lessons, introducing new and improved 'themes' for learning, improving our Kindergarten environment and developing our library spaces to make them more inviting. I hope that you have also noticed these improvements especially in how quickly and easily your children have learned new skills and progressed throughout the year. If you have any feedback or thoughts for next year, please do not hesitate to share this through Seesaw or during parents' meetings.





**K1:**  
Planting Early Seeds as They Learn About Spring!



**K2:**  
Developing their Phonics & Designing their own Kites!

**K3:**  
Creating with 3D Shapes!








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**It's All About Bones in Grade 4!**

Grade 4 have begun their unit of study on the human body and our skeleton. They had great fun working in groups to arrange the bones of the human skeleton, as well as label all the parts on their individual diagrams.



**Grade 3 Get Their Hearts Racing!**

The students in G3Y predicted and measured their heart rates for different activities with a stop watch. They thought about and noticed the changes with their resting and active bodies.



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**Grade 3 Explore Traditional Japanese Events!**

There are many traditional annual events to celebrate different things in Japan. G3 children are working in groups to look into the origin, special food, special decoration, etc. of those events. Students will enjoy discovering different aspects of each event. There are many surprising origins and activities to discover. At the end of this unit, students will present their findings to each other.



**MIS Student-Athlete Wins Gold!**

We are so proud to announce that G4G student-athlete, Chelsea Kuronuma won the first place gold medal at the 2021 Global Vision Cup Online International Open Taekwondo Championships!

This is a remarkable accomplishment and is due to Chelsea's many hours of training and dedication to developing herself.

Moreover, we can share that Chelsea is an excellent student who give the same level of dedication to her learning at MIS.

Chelsea,  
You should be very proud of your accomplishments!



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