



# Nanohana – MIS Newsletter

Edition 395 – February 2023

From Mr. Trent Citrano, Head of School



As we look back upon this month, we quickly realize that beyond all of the engaging learning that our students are involved in day-to-day (and that we can see on Seesaw), there are so many more experiences that MIS provides our children.

For instance, in Mr. Hall's article on the next page, you can read all about the amazing time the Grade 5 & Grade 6 students had on their overnight trips camping and playing in the snow respectively. These are memories that these students will never forget.

We also had the MIS Maths Challenge where students worked across grade levels to solve different problems posed to them at various stations set up around the school. This was a wonderful opportunity for younger and older students to collaborate together. So, beyond the obvious mathematical connections the students made, groups were awarded points based on their ability to work as a team.

Setsubun brought out a silly dancing oni to the Kindergarten playground where in true Japanese cultural fashion the children shouted "Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!" and threw beans to scare the bad spirits away. Luckily, the oni was so scared that we accidentally dropped his bag of treats for all of the children to share. Events like these are an important part of who we are multiculturally here at MIS as part of our aims to nurture in students international mindedness and model Japanese and world citizenship.

The Science Fair highlighted the many weeks of our students' scientific exploration and discovery. It was remarkable to see the great variety of questions, hypotheses, experiments and approaches that our students undertook. As is always the case, the students' presentation skills also stood out as a real strength. A truly impressive exhibition of high-quality learning!

This past week we have celebrated our entire staff with Staff Appreciation Week. The week started with a thankful assembly from me to the teachers, but the real highlight was the PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday. I have to say that I've never seen such an incredible outpouring of love from a school community. I'd like to thank all of the parents who donated food, the PTA who arranged it all as well as setting up the beautiful decorations and photo booth, and the students for all of the thank you notes that adorned the windows on the day. The teachers and staff all truly felt appreciated!

THANK YOU, MIS FACULTY AND STAFF FOR ALL YOU DO EACH AND EVERY DAY!



## Upcoming Events

**Monday 27 February**

G1 & 2 Swimming

**Wednesday 01 March**

G1 & 2 Swimming

**Friday 03 March**

Reports Home

**Tuesday 07 March**

PTA General Membership Meeting - 12:15pm

**Tues-Thurs 07-09 March**

Parents' Evenings

**Wednesday 08 March**

Transfer Day  
Year-End Awards Ceremony

**Friday 10 March**

Student-Council Sponsored  
Non-Uniform Play Day  
(¥100 Donation)

**Monday 13 March**

Board Meetings

**Friday 17 March**

K3 & G6 Graduations

**Sat-Mon 18 Mar - 03 Apr**

Spring Break

**Tuesday 04 April**

First Day of School



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## From Mr. Anthony Hall, Deputy Head of School



Greetings from MIS. This week I would like to celebrate the fantastic spirit displayed by our Grade 5 and Grade 6 students during the recent residential trips to the Chiba City Children's Nature Home and Tenjin Lodge and the Hodaigi Ski Resort.

The Grade 5 Residential Trip was one of many new challenges for students and I was impressed by the positive and energetic way they approached each and every one of them. Highlights included: hiking around Kasamori Kanon Temple; settling into their cabins at the Children's Nature Home; building fires in preparation for making their own chicken curry rice from scratch; and carving their own personalised soap stone necklaces. Throughout the time at the home, we were impressed with how well the students worked in teams. This helped them to bond together and make the most of the experiences that were provided for them. I'd like to personally thank not only the students, but also Mr. Suzuki for his wonderful organisation for the trip, as well as Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Smith for all of their hard work and positive attitudes – making this another great overnight trip for our students.

The Grade 6 Snow Trip took us into the frozen wonderland of Gunma Prefecture and we were treated to plenty of snow. We started the trip with a snow ball fight and high jinks in the snow in the lodge garden. In the evenings, students enjoyed hearty family-style meals and time to relax and have fun together. Each morning we ate filling breakfasts and headed out to the ski slopes. Students were grouped by experience and ability giving them an opportunity to connect with different students than they typically might. This led to some new-found friendships and lots of supportive talk amongst the students who quickly made progress with either their skiing or snowboarding. On the final day, we took a hike in the snow to enjoy the wonders of a wintery landscape and also found the time to sled and throw a few more snowballs.

The teaching team were impressed by the students because they all made the most of the activities, truly giving their all every step of the way. The Tenjin Lodge staff noted that our students were polite, responsible and very tidy. The students' ever-present smiles told the whole story. They really enjoyed themselves throughout the trip. The memories that our 6<sup>th</sup> Graders made together will last a lifetime. What a great group of children!

## HOUSE POINT TOTALS

**ROSSO BREAKS 100 POINTS!**



### Lost & Found

Please make sure you check the school's Lost & Found in the office before March 17th.

After that, items will be donated or disposed of.

## SALE

### School Photo & DVD Sales

Winter Performance photos, DVD's & Blu-ray discs are being sold until Feb 28, 2023.

Order photos at: <http://snapsnap.jp/> and discs at <https://g-shashin.co.jp/movie>  
Passcodes were sent home previously.

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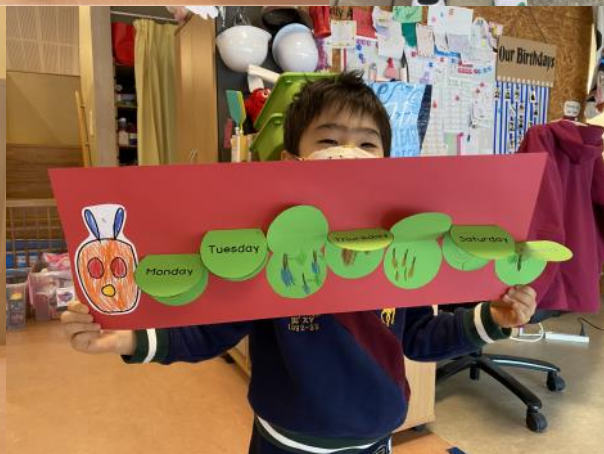
## Kindergarten News



**K1:**  
Learning  
about Growth  
& Changes  
with Plants  
and The Very  
Hungry  
Caterpillar!



**K2:**  
Showing Off  
their  
Beautiful  
Tie Dye  
Artwork!



**K3:**  
Exploring  
Different  
Types of  
Transporta-  
tion!



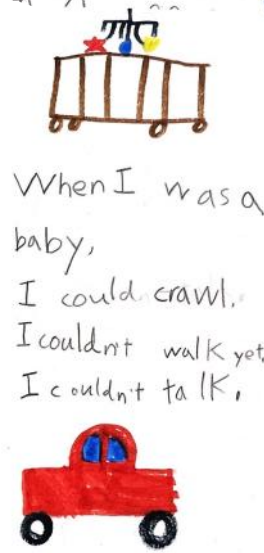
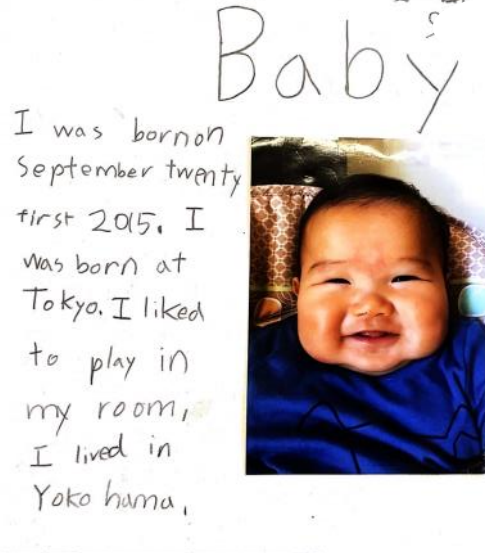
**MIS MIS MIS MIS**





## Grade 1 Explore Growth & Development!

This month, Grade 1 have been learning about growth and development in their PSNS lessons. They brought pictures of themselves from different developmental stages and spoke about what they could do, could not do yet, and what they definitely could not do. They also thought about what they might be like as adults and as an elderly person. It was fun to try on the "senior-pose" kit and get a small taste of life as an elderly person.



## Grade 2 Gain Empathy and Understanding of the Differently Abled!

Grade 2 have also been learning about the differently abled in their communities. They played goalball, a sport played at the Paralympic games by blind athletes. They also experienced what it was like to be elderly by wearing braces that limited their movement and headphones which dulled their hearing. They even experienced colour blindness by wearing special sunglasses!



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## Grade 3 Light Up the World with their Circuits!

Recently, Grade 3 students did an exploration of electricity and circuits. Students worked in pairs to create circuits using batteries, wires, and lightbulbs. When done, they worked with their group to see if they could create circuits that worked with multiple light bulbs.



## Grade 4 Give Presentations Worthy of a President!

G4G had a visit from a famous US billionaire. As part of their Social Studies learning about the industries of Chiba, they prepared presentations on what Chiba Prefecture has to offer the world. Did you know that Chiba Prefecture is the number one producer of peanut products? Their visitor was impressed with their knowledge and commented favorably on their presentations.



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## Grade 5 Organize a 'Yen War' to Support the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Relief Fund!

For their Grade 5 Global Citizenship Project, Grade 5 Green raised money for a charity through an event called a "Yen War" that involved students and staff across all grades from K3-G6. All money collected went directly to charity. Through their efforts, the total amount raised was 148,412 yen! The grade with the highest points collected was Grade 1! All money raised will be used to help those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Thank you to everyone who participated.



## Grade 6 Visit JFSA in Preparation for their Upcoming Clothing Drive!

On Tuesday, February 7, both G6 classes visited the JFSA (Japan Fiber-recycling Solidarity Association) warehouse and store in Chiba City. There the students met Mr. Ichikawa, the director of the charity. He told them about how the JFSA supports several elementary schools in Pakistan by collecting and then selling used-clothing donations and giving the funds to the schools. MIS students and parents have been supporting this charity for several years now and the current G6 students will soon start the 2023 clothing drive!



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## In Kokugo, Grade 1 Present All About Setsubun!

G1 proudly presented their first Kokugo assembly. The topic was "Setsubun" 「節分」. They explained what you do on Setsubun Day and what the purposes of those activities are. They even interviewed an Oni (ogre) from Oni-ga-shima (the island of Oni)! We hope you all had a good Setsubun Day.



## MIS Science Fair



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## MIS Maths Challenge



## PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon



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## Grade 5 & 6 Overnight Trips



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## Kindergarten Setsubun



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