



# Nanohana – MIS Newsletter

Edition 416 – February 28, 2025

From Mr. Trent Citrano, Head of School



This past month, beyond being engaged in their daily learning, our students have been actively involved in so many enriching assemblies, events, trips, and activities.

We were incredibly impressed by class and grade-level assemblies where students shared their learning and taught us about how we can be better citizens of our planet. These assemblies also serve as an opportunity to celebrate our Students of the Week. So many wonderful stories of student success! Speaking of celebrating student success... Do you all remember the Japanese essay and book review competitions that were held during the summer vacation? Minato Hachiga, an MIS sixth grader, received an prestigious award for his essay titled 'A Future That Won't Be Defeated by AI.' Congratulations, Minato!



In Kindergarten, the children ward off the evil Oni on Setsubun and got some precious rewards when he dropped his bag full of treasure! Students throughout the school went on educational trips to a number of places, and Grade 6 got their long-earned reward of going on their fun-filled Snow Trip to Nagano. During Science Week, not only did we have our Science Fair, but also students in Grade 4 were able to collaborate to program robots to complete complex tasks. Our MIS Dragons Football Team played friendly matches with the student-athletes from Tokyo YMCA Intl School. This month culminated with the MIS Musical production of 'Into the Woods Jr'. Our student-actors were sensational in portraying their roles and singing beautifully to make a truly magical musical!

Throughout this edition of Nanohana you can see some wonderful photos of these memorable events.

## Grade 3 Show Off Their Best Japanese Presentation Skills

G3 students researched Japanese festivals and annual events that they were interested in, using books and the internet. They summarized the origins, traditional dishes, and other details in a way that would be easy for their friends to understand - writing scripts, and giving presentations. Since it was the last presentation of the G3, they were able to give their best based on everything they had learned so far about how to present.



## Upcoming Events

**Monday 03 March**

Transfer Day

**Tuesday 04 March**

PTA Gen Memb Mtg - 12:15pm

**Wednesday 05 March**

G1 & 2 Swimming

**Tues-Thurs 04-06 March**

Parents' Evenings

**Friday 07 March**

End-of-Year Awards Ceremony

**Friday 14 March**

K3 & G6 Graduations  
Last Day of Year

**15 March - 01 April**

Spring Break  
No School

**Wednesday 02 April**

2025-2026 School Year Begins  
Opening Ceremonies

**Wednesday 09 April**

G5 & 6 Swimming

**Thursday 03 April**

Meet the Kinder Teachers  
5:30pm-6:30pm

**Thursday 10 April**

Meet the Elem Teachers  
5:30pm-6:30pm

Makuhari International School  
3-2-9 Wakaba,  
Mihama-ku  
Chiba City  
Chiba 261-0014

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[www.mis.ed.jp](http://www.mis.ed.jp)



*Innovative Bilingual  
Education for an  
Ever-Changing World*



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



Greetings from MIS. This week, I want to highlight the incredible enthusiasm and positive attitude shown by our Grade 6 students during their recent residential trip to the Rising Sun Hotel in Kurohime.

The Grade 6 Snow Trip was an unforgettable adventure in the winter wonderland of Nagano Prefecture, where we were fortunate to experience an abundance of fresh, deep snow. We kicked off the trip with a lively snowball fight, sledding, and plenty of laughter on the training slopes. Evenings were spent enjoying delicious, family-style meals, unwinding, and sharing fun moments together.

Mr. Irish took the lead in entertainment on the first night, with a quiz and a fun dance off. On the other nights, the children enjoyed ping-pong, an exciting movie night, and roasting marshmallows around the campfire.

Mornings started with hearty breakfasts before heading out to the ski slopes. Students were grouped according to their experience level, allowing them to connect with peers they might not usually interact with. This led to the formation of new friendships and a wonderfully supportive atmosphere as everyone worked hard to improve their skiing or snowboarding skills. On the final day, we brought out the sleds for one last exhilarating run down the slopes. The clear skies and freshly pressed slope made for much excitement as students embraced every moment of their sled-ding time.

The teaching staff were incredibly proud of the students, who put in their best effort in every activity and fully embraced the experience. The Rising Sun Hotel staff also complimented our students on their politeness, responsibility, and tidiness. Most importantly, their beaming smiles throughout the trip told the story of just how much fun they had. The memories they created together will stay with them for years to come. What a wonderful group of students!

## **HOUSE POINT TOTALS !**



## **Amazing Students of the Week**



### **Lost & Found**

Please make sure you check the school's Lost & Found in the office before March 14th as after that items will be donated or disposed of.



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## Kindergarten News



**K1:**  
Exploring the  
Story of the  
Very Hungry  
Caterpillar  
through  
a Variety of  
Activities!

**K2:**  
During  
Science  
Week,  
being young  
Scientists by  
Learning  
About  
Magnetism  
and  
Using  
Different  
Substances to  
Clean Coins!

**K3:**  
Telling Time  
to the Hour  
and  
Half-Hour  
and  
Working with  
Numbers up  
to 100!



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## Grade 1 Collaborate to Write Fantasy Stories

Grade 1 have recently started work on fantasy stories. The students were given a choice between different characters and settings and voted to decide which should be used in their story. Once they had chosen the characters and settings, the class worked together to write the beginning of the story. Afterwards, they worked in pairs to write the rest of their story together.



## Grade 2 Explore Boso's Ancient Past

The Grade 2 students recently enjoyed a trip to Chiba's Natural History Museum, where they explored a variety of topics including animals, plant life, geography, and the history of the Boso region. The students were particularly excited to discover invasive and endangered species, which tied in with their PSNS studies. It was an engaging and educational experience for all!



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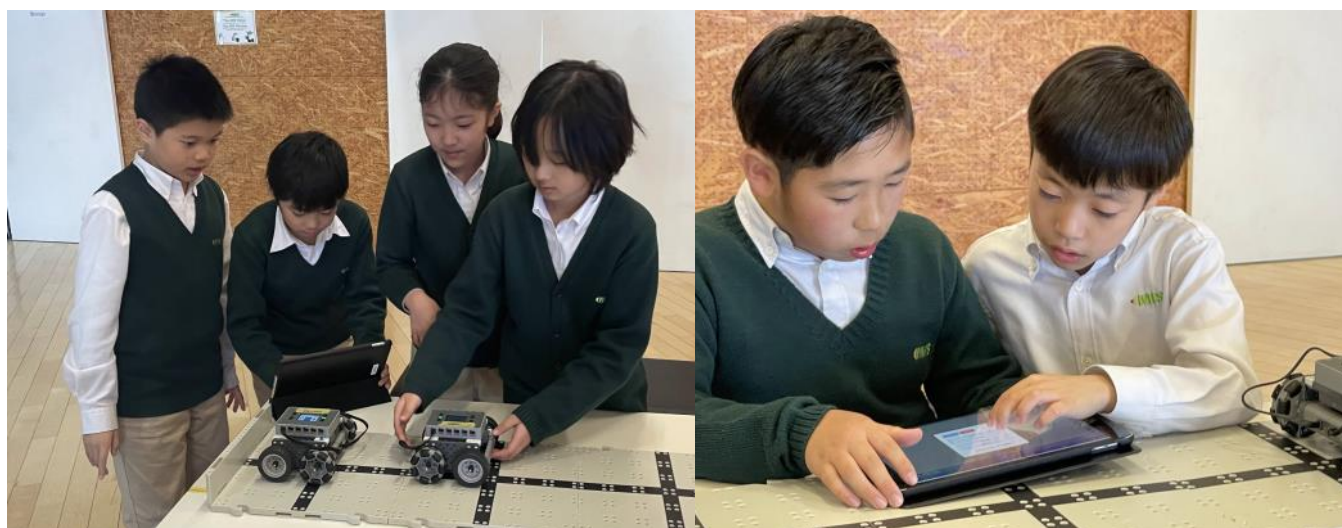
## Grade 3 Connect with Natural Energy and Art

Grade 3 recently visited Kurkku Fields where they had the chance to see how greenhouses are used in farming, observe solar panels up close, and experience the connection between art and nature. It was an exciting and hands-on trip! Students especially enjoyed seeing how what we've been learning in science, art, and social studies all come together in real life. What a fun and inspiring day!



## Grade 4 Go to the Moon and Back with Robots

On February 10th, the students in Grades 4 & 5 had robotics sessions with STEAM Curriculum Team Leader Mr. Bersalona and visiting teachers from VEX Robotics. Students learned through experimentation and trying out different permutations to code the robots so that they proceeded up a track a specific distance (to the moon), turned around, returned half-way and turned, went forward (to the International Space Station), returned to the original track and finally landed back on Earth. During this lesson, STEAM lesson students collaborated with one another, used mathematical language and thinking, and were incredibly engaged in their learning. Afterward several students shared, "We loved it!"



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## Grade 5 Connect with Local Schoolmates

On January 29th, MIS was visited by about 110 Grade 5 students from our neighboring Utase Elementary School. Grade 5 met the Utase students in our school gym, spent some time getting to know each other, and then read English books together. All the children then played in a massive championship of janken. It was pandemonium but lots of fun! Grade 5 had a great time playing with and getting to know their new friends.



## Grade 6 Promotes JFSA Clothing Drive

G6 have been supporting the Japan Fabrics Solidarity Association (JFSA) Charity which aims to collect fibers from people within Japan. They then sell some back to customers in Japan or send them to Pakistan, where the clothing and money is used to support the educational needs of students. Grade 6 students visited JFSA to learn about what they do then presented about JFSA and the clothing drive to each of the other classes. The students presented, adjusting it to their audience and encouraging people to donate. Grade 6 will continue collecting donations until March 7th. Please donate!



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## Amazing Students of the Week & Assemblies



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## More Amazing Students of the Week & Assemblies



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## Setsubun Fun



**Oni wa sotto! Fuku wa uchi!**

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## Science Fair



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## MIS Dragon vs Tokyo YMCA Football Friendly



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## Grade 6 Snow Trip



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## MIS Into the Woods Jr. Musical



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