



Nanohana—MIS Newsletter

Edition 423 — November 28, 2025

From Mr. Trent Citrano, Head of School



This issue of Nanohana once again highlights the many events, activities, and exceptional learning opportunities our students have on a day-to-day basis. Last month ended with the Grade 4 Science Sleepover where students participated in a variety of science-based activities and spent the night right here in the MIS Multi-Purpose Hall. This was followed by the Black Stripe Theater's performance of *Hound of the Baskervilles* which was hilariously and brilliantly adapted for our young students. Please enjoy the photos below of their show.

I also want to thank the more than 95 parents that attended our MAP Growth Parent Coffee Morning where we were able to explain the benefits of this new standardized assessment and how we use the results to inform how we support all learners as well as to share with parents how they can support their children. You can find the presentation on our website at: https://www.mis.ed.jp/topics_en/map-growth-assessment-presentation-highlights-mis-students-strong-results/

Our MIS Dragons football teams demonstrated their sportsmanship and talents on the pitch in friendly matches against both Tokyo International School and Tokyo YMCA International School – with our first all-girls team playing for the first time ever! A milestone for our school. Additionally, our Glee Club gave a heart-warming performance of songs and dances at a local retirement home – where the elderly residents were delighted, many of them singing along. It was a special experience for everyone involved!

Black Stripe Theater – Hound of the Baskervilles



Upcoming Events

03, 08, 10, 17 December
G1 & 2 Swimming – 1pm

Friday 05 December
G5Y Class Assembly
Term 2 Clubs End

Tuesday 09 December
G3 MIS - Utase Elem Exchange

Thursday 11 December
Board Meeting 3-6pm

Tuesday 16 December
PTA Mtg. – 12:15pm

Thursday 18 December
Kinder Winter Performance
Gates Open: 9:25am
Show Starts: 9:45am

Friday 19 December
Green Elementary
Winter Performance
Gates Open: 10:00am
Show Starts: 10:20am

Yellow Elementary
Winter Performance
Gates Open: 1:10pm
Show Starts: 1:30pm

Last Day of Term 2

Lost & Found

Please make sure you check the school's Lost & Found in the office before Dec 19th as after that items will be donated or disposed of.



From Mr. Anthony Hall, Deputy Head of School



Greetings from MIS. I am thrilled to share a significant and exciting development for the students and staff at MIS. Starting in January 2026, Mr Bersalona will become our full-time specialist STEAM Teacher. He will be co-teaching with class teachers from K3 to G6 during ICT lessons, providing expert instruction and new methodologies. He will also work with all staff to integrate STEAM-based learning across all subjects over the coming years. This strategic move underscores MIS's commitment to continuous innovation and ensures our educational offering remains at the forefront of global best practices, preparing our students for the future.

The term STEAM is an abbreviation for five interconnected areas: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Students can use ideas from all five areas to solve problems and learn in innovative ways. This way of learning is very important for children today. We call them 21st-Century Learning Skills. Both now and in the future, your children will need to be good at skills like:

- Critical Thinking: Asking why and finding the best solution
- Collaboration: Working well with others in a team
- Creativity: Having new ideas
- Communication: Clearly sharing their thoughts

STEAM helps students practise these skills in a fun and practical way. This focus completely supports the MIS goal: "Innovative bilingual education for an ever-changing world." We are helping your children become innovative, creative thinkers who can use both language and technology to succeed anywhere in the world.

Looking ahead, we anticipate the focused teaching of STEAM to greatly support our students in developing 21st-century learning skills. By engaging in hands-on, project-based STEAM activities, students will build resilience and learn to iterate on designs, turning failures into learning opportunities. Furthermore, this emphasis will cultivate improved digital literacy, an entrepreneurial mindset, and a deeper understanding of how their learning connects to real-world applications and societal challenges. We are confident that this investment in a full-time STEAM specialist will empower our students to become the innovative, globally-minded leaders and problem-solvers of tomorrow.



HOUSE POINT TOTALS

NIILA ON TOP!



SALE

Sports Day and Music Recital photos will be on sale until Dec 31, 2025.

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



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Kindergarten News



K1:
Exploring
Empty
vs.
Full!



K2:
Studying
Pointillism with
Aboriginal
Art, Adding
Numbers
Together, and
Learning
about Part to
Whole!



K3:
Learning
About
Magnets
Through
Exploration
and
Enjoying
Library
Time!



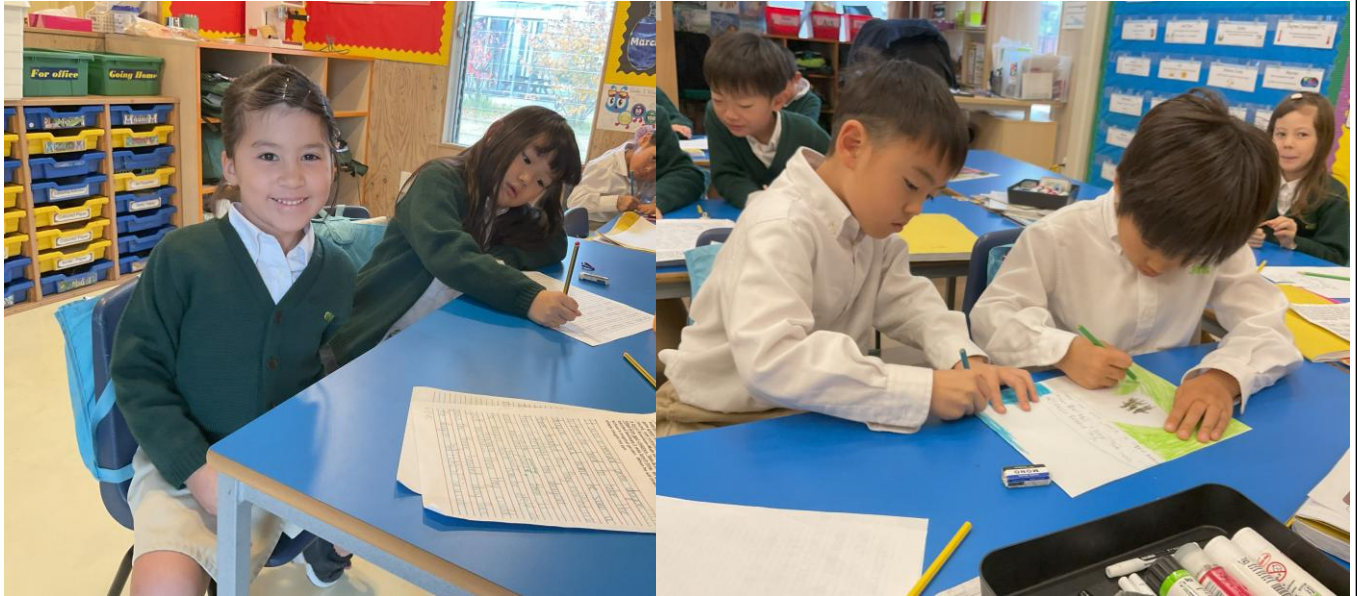
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Grade 1 Create Fantasy Tales in Writing

For the second half of this term, Grade 1 have been focusing on writing narratives with the focus being fantasy tales. As a class, Grade 1 voted to choose the main characters and settings of the story. Grade 1 then wrote the start of the story as a class. Students then broke into pairs to finish their own version of the story. The students wrote some descriptive and interesting stories.



Grade 2 Measure Up in Maths

Grade 2 have started their new unit on measurement. Recently, we have been exploring mass using grams (g) and kilograms (kg). Students began by estimating the mass of different objects and then measuring them to check their predictions. They are also learning to identify which items are typically measured in grams and kilograms.





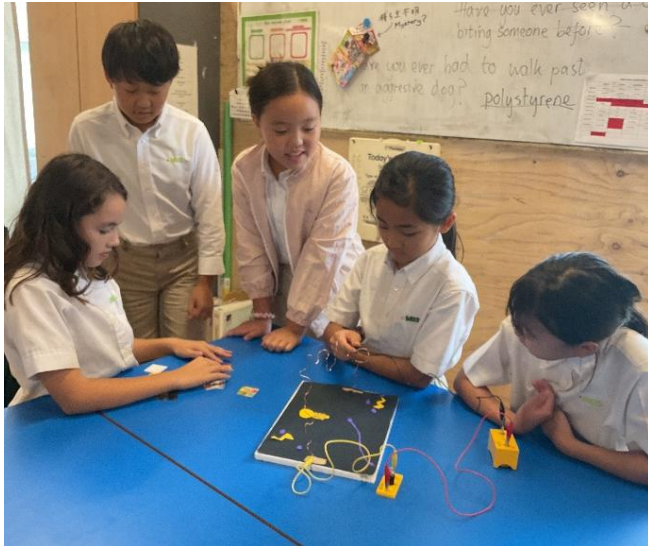
G3 Explore Sounds Waves in a Fun Way

Recently, Grade 3 students explored how sound travels through vibrations. To put their learning into action, they built their own paper cup telephones. Students tested how well sound could move along the string and discovered that when the string was pulled tight, the vibrations and the sound travelled much more clearly. When the string was loose, the sound was much harder to hear. It was a fun and hands-on way to learn about science in action!



Grade 4 Create a Buzz with Electric Circuits

Grade 4 scientists put their electrical knowledge to the test in our exciting buzzer game challenge. Students designed and built complete circuits, experimented with conductors and insulators, and tested different materials to improve their designs. The highlight was navigating a metal maze without setting off the buzzer - an activity that required patience, steady hands, and teamwork. It was a brilliant mix of problem-solving, creativity, and hands-on learning that the whole class loved.





Grade 5 Take a Trip to Glicopia

On 06 November, Grade 5 went on an excursion to Glicopia in Chiba. The students were able to explore the Glico factory, learn about the production process and see famous Papico ice cream being made. They even got to visit the gift shop to sample some delicious products and were treated to an ice cream. It was a fun and educational day!



Grade 6 Learn About Plate Tectonics at the Museum

Both G6 classes went on a field trip to the Chiba Natural History Museum Institute on Thurs, Nov 27. This trip was linked to your science lessons about the structure of the earth and plate tectonics. It was great for the students to interact with all the different exhibits, many directly related to how Chiba peninsula was formed over millions of years. A great day of learning and fun!





Preparation in Full Motion for the Japanese Winter Performance

Preparations for the Japanese Winter Performance has started. The upper elementary students are taking the lead while the younger ones are doing their best to follow along, creating a warm and lively atmosphere. We are all looking forward to the day of the performance!



Wonderful Assemblies!



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Wonderful Assemblies & Students of the Week!





Wonderful Assemblies & Students of the Week!





Wonderful Assemblies & Students of the Week!





Fun-Filled Grade 4 Science Sleepover!



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Brilliant Glee Club Performance at a Retirement Home!



MIS Dragons Football Teams vs Tokyo IS & YMCA!



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