

Horizon Japan International School

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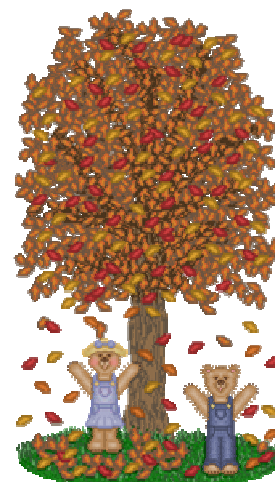
Upcoming Events

- ◆ Parent-Teacher Conference, December 9
- ◆ Winter Performance, December 21
- ◆ Winter Break December 22 - January 10
- ◆ Japanese Culture Day, January 13
- ◆ HJIS Drizon Day, January 27
- ◆ Chinese New Year, January 29
- ◆ Valentine's day, February 14
- ◆ Family Fun & Learning Day, February 19
- ◆ Professional development Day, February 24
- ◆ Literacy Week, February 27- March 3



WELCOME
Autumn

Fall 2005



Principal's News

Dear Parents and Students;

On behalf of the HJIS faculty members, I would like to welcome everyone as we start our third school year. We are so glad to see many new faces among the students and the school staff. Just recently a new member joined our faculty. I would like to say welcome to Mr. Tim Bennett. He comes from the UK and will be working as the Admissions Director at HJIS.

Education is going on with enthusiasm in all classes. Preschoolers are learning about school routines, manners, working in a group, sharing and building up their speaking & listening skills. Kindergarteners are getting ready for elementary school by doing exploration of some exciting topics. Grades 1&2 are improving their academic skills especially concentrating on their reading, writing and Math. Finally, upper graders are working on different projects where they can combine their knowledge and skills on various areas such as media, transportation, research and presentation. They have already been running a successful donation campaign for the Pakistan Earthquake Disaster and started publishing a weekly newspaper!

In this first semester we worked on a couple of safety issues inside the school. With all the students we practiced our emergency drills for a possible earthquake and fire. On the Professional Development Day, our full time faculty members got their basic first-aid training and CPR certificates.

I am sure most of the parents are wondering about the new building. Recently, we have signed a contract with a construction company. The renovations will start after the official process with the ward office finishes. The construction is scheduled to finish in April and we will move our elementary grades into this new campus when everything is ready. Our present building will be used for Preschool and Kindergarten. As we move along the renovation process, we will provide you with more information about the details.

Finally, our winter performance is around the corner and we are looking forward to see what surprises are waiting for us!

Suleyman Turhan

Preschool-3 News



*Happy Birthday
Preschoolers!*

Sayonara

We would like to wish a fond farewell to one of our students, who left school on November 31. We will miss your bright smile. We wish you the best of luck at your new school.



During this fall season, the children have been busy inside as well as outside the classroom exploring their environment through hands on projects and manipulation. We have emerged with interests ranging from building a class tree out of small pieces of branches towards making delicious pizzas. The children enjoy playing at the park, and like to maintain it clean by putting their trash in a plastic bag.



We are currently working on different words starting with letters A, B, and C. In addition, we are practicing to our tracing and cutting skills.



As the weather continues to change, we ask that you please dress your child appropriately and bring extra clothing in the event that he/she may need to change clothes. Thank you.

Halloween Party



Irish, Scots and other immigrants brought older versions of the tradition to North America in the 19th century. Most other Western countries have embraced Halloween as a part of American pop culture in the late 20th century. The staff and students at Horizon celebrated Halloween a little earlier this year. Our party was on October 21st and was filled with ghosts, goblins, princesses and even a few cowgirls. The day was a lot of fun and the children were so thrilled to show off their wonderful costumes.

Many thanks to all the parents for a great job in assisting with the party and the fantastic decorations.



Halloween is an event celebrated on the night of October 31, most notably by children dressing in costumes and going door-to-door collecting candy. It is celebrated in much of the Western world.



Preschool-4 News



We are carving one of our pumpkins.



During Center time students are free to choose activities such as art, alphabet, books, drama, math, blocks, and puzzles. We love to play in all the area of our class. Here are some photos of us playing in the drama area. Look at our photos! Our animals are sick and Mrs. Parmar seems to be ill. Recently we have added play dough to our art center. New activities are added to the areas to let us discover and learn more.



When the semester started students were adapting and getting to know the routines and the school setting. However, students quickly settled in and are comfortable with the classroom and are now chanting and singing "We're going on a bear hunt". The first semester is almost over and the students have looked at many topics such as: all about me, colors and shapes, fall, leaves, pumpkins, Halloween, and bears.

For Language Arts we have been looking at the alphabet and looking at new vocabulary that is specific to the letter we are studying. We have also been

doing weekly journals in our special pink folders. For Mathematics students have been exploring numbers, sorting by size and color and shapes. Students have also been keeping track of the number of days we have had in school and are excited about our 100th day of school party. We had a chance to carve pumpkins for Halloween. Thanks to our pumpkin donations we had two large pumpkins, two small pumpkins and an Iranian pumpkin in our class. We also decorated our classroom by making spiders, jack-o-lanterns, and ghosts.

Art News



We are having a lot of fun in Art class this year! We spent the first term learning many new art techniques.

We have practiced sand painting, glue painting, and pointillism with fingers. With the little ones we enjoyed finger painting, vegetable painting and many fun art activities. Recently, we have been looking at examples of multicultural art. Elementary students tried Rangoli sand designs, the little ones made Ramadan lanterns and we made Chinese Kites for the Kite Festival. With the upper grades, recently we have been learning



cross-stitch. The Students love art and they are becoming skilled artists.

September 19th was the day of "Showing Respect to the Elderly". In honor of this day, we scheduled a fieldtrip for the grade 3/4/5/6 students to visit a home for the elderly. The students made beautiful yarn cards in art class, wrote letters in Japanese class, and learned new songs in music class

just for the elderly. All the students were very excited to meet the residents at the home. We had a great time with them. The students performed magic shows and two beautiful songs, one in English and one in Japanese. The residents joined us in singing the Japanese song. Then the students gave them the very special yarn cards. We were all very glad to meet each other.



Kindergarten News



Kindergarteners have been very busy this year. They seem to have gotten used to school routines, and everyone enjoys spending time with their friends. Here are some of the things we did this fall.

Kindergarteners have been working very hard on learning our sight words. Most of us are comfortable using our word wall to find words we've learned. We've shown a lot of writing progress already this year, and I'm sure we will continue to grow.

Kindergarteners also have some pen pals. We are writing to a class in Indiana, USA. We've written to them twice now, and we are always excited to receive news from them.

For math we explored measuring, number recognition, simple graphs, and symmetry. We took some fun symmetry pictures with our bodies. They are displayed in the classroom; if you haven't checked them out, ask a Kindergartener to show you!

Our first topic this year was our families. Everyone enjoyed sharing information about our family members. We are learning about transportation now, and we had a fun field trip on November 29.

We're getting ready to start preparing for the winter performance, and it's hard to believe first term passed by so quickly! Kindergarteners are always curious and excited to see what's going to happen next. We are looking forward to the new fun adventures that await us next term.



It's like looking into a mirror!

Visiting with our moms and dads on Parents' Day

Parents' Day



Both parents and students had a great day on November 8th. Parents had the opportunity to see the daily routines of what their child does. They also were able to interact with their own children as well. For the Preschool 3 class, students and parents worked on making a scarecrow. In Preschool 4 students

worked with parents on a bear and also several other things. In Kindergarten, students prepared the day before to read something to their parents. I am told the students took the assignment very seriously and did a great job reading with their parents! Parents and grade 1 students got the chance to do several activities together. One in particular was that students got to pick from their Readers and read a story with their parents. Grade 2 students had the chance to play with their moms a math card game called Name That Number, I think the students did most of the winning! In the upper grades students had the opportunity to

get together with their parents and play a paper game teaching one how to balance. Parents also got to see our students and their amazing ability to jump rope. It was a day to remember for all those who were able to attend. We will see all of you parents again in the spring!



Grade 1 News

Greetings from grade one. This year will prove to one of significant growth, not only for your child, but for parents, too. It is so important that we work together to support your child's success and nurture his/her love of learning early on. That's why I was so pleased to see so many of you here on Parents' Day. As you observed, first grade, and learning to read/write, set the foundation on which learning is built. We learn to read, so we



can read to learn! Children at this age are so wonderful; they are eager, enthusiastic, and ready to learn. You will be amazed at just

how much your child will grow this year. Most likely, your child has had the seeds of reading and writing planted, and during first grade, those seeds will grow, making your child an accomplished reader and writer! You will see changes in your child's thinking, as he/she becomes familiar with abstract concepts and symbols. The change will be dramatic as your child progresses through the year.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP

- Here are some ideas for things you can do as a parent to help educate your children at home, which will help them to successfully complete first grade.
- Read to your child every day and make it fun. Then ask them to read to you.
- Give writing assignments of short stories or personal letters to friends or relatives.
- Designate a specific area of your home for educational projects and activities. Keep lots of construction and coloring materials on hand for spontaneous projects to stimulate creativity.
- Make learning fun by using hands-on visual aids to teach counting, sorting, and colors. There are lots of math manipulative items available for this purpose or you can use common household items.



Japanese News



The fall semester started with the upper grades reviewing kanji characters from previous years. For the past several weeks, they've been tackling more than five new characters a week, and they are learning these at a steady pace.

They're having fun with 'Karuta', Japanese playing cards during class. I'm planning to introduce 'Hyakunin-Isshu', a card game of one hundred famous poems, in the near future.

Grade 2 did a great job in the beginning of this semester in role-playing a story called 'Kujiragumo' (Whale Cloud). Their reading improved very much through this work. All Grade 1 students have studied hiragana, though they sometimes still make mistakes. Reading comprehension of the first short story in their textbook is ongoing. G1 JSL and kindergarten really enjoy

listening to stories, especially 'kamishibai' or picture-card shows. JSL students are even inspired to read Japanese books on their own!



Grade Two News

Grade 2 has had an exciting fall semester! We have had the chance to: celebrate and study international festivals, take a close look at why the earth works the way it does, begin a new math program, combine with grade 3 for a Topic Exploration about computers and



our weather system as well as study the wonderful work of famed children author Roald Dahl. It has been a semester to remember. Children have worked hard in core subject matter while also finding time to step out and see "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" on the big screen. We also have the addition of a new student! Everyone has done their best to make her feel welcome. One semester is ending, but we still have two more to go. The fun, excitement and learning will continue to power grade 2 through the rest of the school year!



Grade 2 and Mr. Howland celebrate his Ferret.



Computer Class News

Our approach to computer education at HJIS is unique. In all of our classes, we encourage hands-on learning using state-of-the-art software that is user-friendly and fun for the students. There are now hundreds of options on the market today that are both pedagogically sound and enjoyable.

In addition to personal screens, students can see images projected onto a big screen, and this facilitates learning because their individual questions can be answered immediately, and the entire class can benefit from the explanations.

The kindergartners are very disciplined and have mastered the use of the mouse and icon selections. Grade 1 is very open to learning the vocabulary of computers, and the students have acquired many new terms as tools



in their computer study. What interests me is how they often make correct choices even if they don't know a particular vocabulary word or its spelling when they are working independently.

The greatest satisfaction, however, is seeing that HJIS students refuse to give up on problems. Even if their faces show signs of defeat, they often jump out of their chairs and ask

me for help. At moments like this, I am very happy to be able to call myself their mentor.

Grade 2 students love web designing, and they enjoy putting puzzles on the web. They have a good basic knowledge of web design, so I always encourage the exploration of this skill. They have really developed their own tastes in web design.

The ultimate fun in our classes is ASP, a computer quiz game that requires quick answers, sometimes in as little as 10 seconds. I ask the questions, and competing teams try to answer them. Some teams can answer within the allotted 10 seconds and secure 10 points for their correct response. It is really amazing. At the end of the game, only the winning team gets a prize, but all the students leave with the unforgettable sensation of having strengthened their minds.



Upper Elementary News

It's hard to believe that 14 weeks have gone by already! We have been busy in the upper elementary class. I think our biggest news to report is the Weekly Dribune! Everyone has done a fantastic job writing stories, editing, translating, doing investigative reporting and interviewing people to make it happen.

In our first Topic Exploration we studied birds. We learned some amazing things about our feathered friends and designed our own nests. Next we studied "me and the media", and learned about all the messages around us. We learned about how it can trick us, but also how we can use it for good. We



created some really great ads to help us raise ¥77,390 for the people of Pakistan. Thank you to everyone who contributed! We will look at transportation next. We are going to turn the work we do for this unit into a book.

Our Literature groups have read some great books so far including

the Newbery Medal winner "Bridge to Terabithia" by Katherine Patterson, and "The Ink Drinker" by Eric Sanvoisin. One of the groups is currently reading "the twits", by Roald Dahl, and working on turning it into a play-stay tuned!



Music "Notes"

The music program got off to a great start this year with the performance of some songs at our first Drizon Day. The students really enjoyed showing their friends in other classes what they are learning during music time on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week. The upper grade students carried this enthusiasm with them when we went to visit a nearby nursing home in honor of Respect for the Elderly Day. At the nursing home, we presented a program that included songs in English and Japanese.

Throughout the fall all the students anticipated Halloween



and sharing Halloween theme songs at our party, which turned out to be a very musical event. Now that our Halloween Party performance is over, everyone is looking forward to the Winter Concert on December 21, 2005. Please mark your

calendars so that you can join us for the fun.

There are many other things to learn about music this year, and hopefully your child will enjoy all the musical experiences at school. Current research in education shows that music and the arts are important to a child's development, not only to enhance quality of life but also to stimulate creativity and learning. Let's work together to create the optimal learning environment for everyone!

-David Howland, your music teacher

