



HORIZON JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Spring Newsletter '07

News From the Principal

After a long year, we came to the end of this year. It was both a tiring and enjoyable year for the teachers and students. Our students did a great job with their studies and Year End performance.

The last term was full of different events, field trips, and international festivals. In April, we had our International Children's Festival. Students learned many things about food, dance and culture and sang different songs in different languages. We really appreciated parents for their valuable contribution to this event. They made it possible by preparing food from various countries.



Track and Field Day was another enjoyable event. All the students played different games with their teachers and parents. In addition, the sci-

ence and math fair was another exciting event for both parents and children. During the Science Fair, students did different kinds of experiments and tried to explain them. It was interesting and educational for the students. At the end of the Science Fair, the students made rockets and designed them. And

we chose the rockets which had the best design and went to the farthest point. During the Math Fair, the students tried to solve different logic and mathematical games like tan gram, sudoku, etc.

The students had fun and ate a lot of chocolates. During the Science and Math Fair we welcomed students and teachers from our new Shibuya Branch. It was a great opportunity for our students to meet their new friends from Shibuya. I wish you a great summer!

Mustafa Kara
Principal

2006-2007 Academic Year

April-June 2007

SPECIAL DAYS WE HAD

- *Earth Day*
- *International Children's Festival*
- *Track and Field Day*
- *Science and Math Fair*

Inside this issue:

<i>Preschool News</i>	2
<i>Elementary School News</i>	3
<i>News From Specialists</i>	6
<i>After School Programs</i>	8
<i>Special Days We had</i>	10

Preschool 3

This term, Preschool 3 accomplished so much! We explored many different animals and learned about where they live, what they eat and the way they act. We made a farm, a forest and an aquarium filled with some of our favorite animals! We also took a trip to the Shinagawa Aquarium where the children saw real sea creatures up close and even touched a starfish! Timid at first, the students opened up and faced their biggest fear- the shark!! But I think the biggest thrill of the day for the children was watching the dolphins leap up and dive back in the water.

The students also explored different occupations. They loved to pretend they were real astronauts and policemen.

They made brownies as bakers (our most delicious occupation yet!) and wrote letters to mommy



and daddy and delivered them just like the postman would! Whether they were cowboys, fire fighters or doctors, the students really enjoyed learning about the people in their community. When he grows up, Noa wants to be Spiderman, Hunter wants to be a policeman and Kohei wants to be an astro-

naut.

The students also learned to use their thinking caps to practice math and letter concepts. Each student is attempted to master recognition of all the letters of the alphabet and where they belong in relation to each other. They played many games, make crafts and do many worksheets to achieve this. The same for numbers 1-10, but sometimes we gave ourselves an extra challenge and extended our studies all the way to number 20.

Lastly, this spring we welcomed Kohei to our class with open arms. Kohei did extremely well and has become fast friends with the other students.

Great work all around!

Preschool 4 A

Preschool 4 has been very busy this term exploring a range of topics. We have learnt about animals from many different countries of the world, explored the ocean visiting the Shinagawa aquarium and learnt all about growing plants.



Children enjoyed making a class mural which included different coral, seaweed, ocean animals and even preschool 4 children as underwater ocean explorers. Preschool 4 enjoyed learning many new songs and were very good at remembering all the actions. We

have some very funky little dancers!! The children's favorite being The Wiggles song "We're going on a Bear Hunt". We even made our own bear masks and took in turns at being a scary bear.

Next we had the opportunity to do some planting over at the English Preschool to celebrate Earth Day. Students planted lots of beautiful flowers. We had



so much fun that we also decided to plant some seeds of our own. Children planted coriander, parsley and basil seeds. We watered our seeds everyday and after a week, watched the first shoots poke their way through the dirt. Each week we monitored their growth and when the

plants grew big enough, children chose to use their herbs to make some yummy creamy and tomato pasta. It was delicious!!

"Children enjoyed making a class mural which included different coral, seaweed, ocean animals and even preschool 4 children as underwater ocean explorers."

Teachers had a great time teaching everyone this year in Preschool 4 and wish everyone a great summer vacation.

Preschool 4B

The last term of the year has been full of excitement! We have been on a field trip to the Shinagawa Aquarium, enjoyed delicious food at the International Children's Festival, planted flowers for Earth Day, and had a beautiful, sunny Track and Field Day at the Kodomo Shizen Koen. At Track and Field Day, two of our very own EPS4 students ran their hardest and tied with 6 other students in the Running Contest!! We're so proud of them!

In the classroom, we've been learning about



lots of new things! We have learned about different occupations and what they do (doctors, police officers, and nurses to name a few). We have also learned the names of all the months and the 4 seasons, and even made our own calendars. Before the school year is finished we will have learned about our 5 senses and Summer vocabulary.

Of course we will also be preparing for the Year End Performance. We want to put on a great show for our parents!

While we've been busy learning, we have been joined by two more new students! That brings our total up to eight!! It's great learning and playing with our new friends!

Once again we would like to thank our parents for all their help, especially on our field trip, at the Children's Festival, and at Track and Field Day. We couldn't have done all these without your help.

Kindergarten

As the year comes to a close, we are still working hard on reading, writing, and math. We started this semester with a look at spring. Students completed many art and writing projects around this theme. We thought about what spring looks, smells, and sounds like. We also went on a walk to a nearby park to look at spring. We were very excited to see flowers, cherry blossoms, lots of green leaves on trees, and bugs! To go along with the spring theme, kindergarteners also read the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. We rewrote the story and learned about the life cycle of a butterfly.

Kindergarteners also learned about the ocean and the animals that live there. We learned how wind makes waves by taking turns blowing water in a pan. As one student was blowing,

the others watched a drop of food coloring disperse in the water. This theme ended with a visit to the Shinagawa Aquarium. We all enjoyed the dolphin show and see-



ing our favorite ocean animals up close.

Along with the spring theme, students are learning about plants. We planted flowers and are anxious to see their seeds sprout into beautiful flowers. Because students are learning to become scientists, we are observing the changes in the plants and are re-

cording their findings in a Plant Journal. We are also conducting several experiments on what a seed needs to grow. Students also learned about the function of a stem by seeing how celery changes in blue water.

In math, students practiced measurement by measuring their shadows on a bright, sunny day. We were amazed at how their shadow changed at the end of the day. We also continued to work on addition and subtraction using various methods. We are practicing vertical and horizontal number sentences as well as number stories, geometry, measurement, and money.

We have had a great year. The kindergarteners have worked hard and are eager for the new challenges of first grade!

Grade 1

The end of the year is quickly approaching and with it many fun activities. The children are already discussing and excited about their coming summer family vacations. This is typical for first graders at this time of year – they just can't wait for summer and a long break. A reminder, that sleep and healthy snacks are an important part of getting through the last month. Just a few notes to keep you up to date on what has been happening in grade one...

Our field trip to the aquarium was a great success. The students were not only able to see but, also feel a number of sea animals. We observed all types of interesting underwater friends as we went on our journey. In topic exploration the highlight, of course, was studying and writing about sea life. We were able to read many wonderful stories and work on

variety of in class activities. Our aquarium field trip was the grand finale! Thanks to Ms Bambi for her help in making it a perfect day.

In math the children have few problems with the daily addition and subtraction assignments. We have touched on double digit



problems with relative success. The children have also learned to tell time by the hour and half-hour. Some review over the summer will help them maintain their skills.

"We were able to read many wonderful stories and work on variety of in class activities."

The boys and girls are currently

reading the last reader and are successfully completing the accompanying assignments. Please remember the importance of your child reading regularly. We are focusing on fluency as well as written and oral comprehension. This should be continued throughout the summer so your child will continue to be a successful reader. It has been wonderful working with your children this past year. They have grown so much academically, emotionally, and socially.

They are looking forward to sharing their First Grade Memory Book with you. They are proud of their achievements and are excited about 2nd grade. I want to thank you all for your support and help in making this year a great success for your children and me!

Have a wonderful summer!

Grade 2

We have had an eventful and fun Spring term. Some of the highlights of this term included a trip to the beach to look for clams and making our own aquariums, learning about maps and mapping skills, and taking a trip to Sea Paradise to see a variety of sea creatures in their natural environment.

In Language arts, we finished the theme Families and wrote about our own families and talked about the responsi-

bilities of being a big brother or sister. To finish this theme, we learned what biographies are, and wrote auto biographies about ourselves after asking our parents what we were like when we were very young.



In math, we learned about fractions and what equivalent fractions are by playing a card game and now we are studying measurement and have been measuring various perimeters around our room.

This has been a beautiful Spring. It has been an exciting and memorable year for the Grade 2 class and I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful summer before coming back to the 3rd grade.

Grade 3

The weather quickly got warm in the third term and the year has also gone by fast. The last term is always exciting for the students because of Track and Field Day, Earth Day, as well as the End of Year Concert.

This term students in grade 3 had the opportunity to learn more about the earth and the environment. As a link to Earth Day students read Judy Moody Saves the World and tried to think of ways to save the world. Students learned about the Rain Forest, Reducing, Recycling, Re-using and Composting.

Another large event in our class was participating in TV turnoff week. The students kept track of the days that they did not watch television during this week. Students also thought and talked about other activities other than watching television at home.



In Language Arts we have been learning about different animals, biographies on famous people, taking trips as well as humor stories. Students are also excited to write the last Grade 3 newspaper of the year.

In Topic Exploration students have been learning about mapping skills such as symbols, key, latitude, longitude and compass. They created their own maps of the classroom, bedroom as well as their own imaginary land.

We have also been fortunate enough to take a trip to the Science Center. Students were able to see the planetarium and had the opportunity to take a closer look at space.

It has been a wonderful year. I hope you had some memorable times in Grade 3. Great job this year and all the best in your future studies.

“This term students in grade 3 had the opportunity to learn more about the earth and the environment.”

Grade 4

The end of the year is quickly approaching. Students enjoyed our last two field trips: The Yokohama Science Center where we did many hands-on experiments and Umi-no-Koen (Sea Park) where we went clam digging.



“The students have been so interested in conservation since we had Earth Day in April”

Our third and final field trip will be to the Tsurumi Recycle Center. The students have been so interested in conservation since we had Earth Day in April, that I thought they would enjoy seeing what is being done in the local community to reduce waste. Students are reading *Seven Alone*, a true story of a 13 year old boy who leads his six brothers through 1,600 km of American Wilderness to their homestead in Oregon in the middle of the 19th Century.

Upper Graders

The end of the 2007 school year is rapidly approaching. It has been a wonderful year for grade five, six and seven. They have been responsible for some wonderful work over the course of the school year, and have managed to achieve some wonderful results due to their hard work. We

have also been on some fun field trips like seeing Pirates of the Caribbean with Miss Kida followed by some tasty ice cream. We look forward to performing at this year's end of year concert. It should be a lot of fun. Thank you everyone for fun year.



Science

Hello again from science lab. In the third term our children have learned 'Earth Science'. In our first unit, 'Earth Systems', our classes have learned about the major features of the Earth's surface and how this surface changes over time. Students also have learned the structure of Earth, and what causes natural events like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Finally, we discussed Earth's resources: what they are and how we can use them most wisely. There is no doubt that conducting volcano experiment and the other scientific activities. What's up there in the sky? Every

child is curious about this question. In our second unit, 'The Atmosphere And Beyond', our science classes explored Earth's atmosphere, weather patterns, and climate. We also investigated what is beyond Earth's atmosphere. We studied Earth's relationship with



the Sun and Moon and looked at the planets in our solar system.

The special event in the spring term was Science Fair. We did lots of exciting experiments and prepared them for our science fair. Students showed them on the first of June. We hope you had as much fun as our students had. Have a nice holiday.

Art

This term art class had a really international environment. We made different kinds of art from all around the world for the multi-cultural art unit. Furthermore, we feel ourselves like real artists while mixing colors and trying to learn what warm-cold-neutral colors are. With preschool and Kindergarten we made cocoa abstract paintings. We had a great fun and actually it was very yummy! The other thing was straw-food coloring art which was really fun, too. Grade 2,3,4,5,6

and 7 went on a journey throughout the world while exploring multi-cultural arts. By working on



aboriginal handprints, we found ourselves wandering throughout the jungle searching for something

to use as paint. Hopefully we didn't get lost on the way while doing Turkish carpets, Mexican maracas, Egyptian stone art, Polish flower art, New Zealand sand art, Indian slippers, and Hawaiian egg designs. And in the end we turned back to Japan for Japanese Culture Day. We made origami crafts, Japanese dolls with kimono, Japanese "sunae" art. Had you seen our works at the International Children's Festival? Art is fun!

Japanese

Grade 1 learned basic reading skills such as finding the feelings and actions of characters. They discussed their favorite parts of stories. Students wrote a letter to a main character, and a response journal after reading. They also wrote a short report about what they found around school or their house.

Grade 2 played a story, Otegami(Letter), thinking of the feelings of each character. Students learned that there are many ways to read the same Kanji. They enjoyed sharing a poem they wrote in class.

Grade 3 read Chiichan no Kageokuri and Sugata o kaeta Daizu using their reading skills. They learned about the food

products of soybeans. Then they researched on food, and wrote about what they found.

Grade 4 read Hitotsuno Hana, (a fiction). Students learned a structure of the story and figurative language. They also read a work in the text to learn how to write a report using pictures effectively.

Grade 5 and 6 enjoyed Yamanashi, found the structure of a story, and discussed author's view and figurative languages in the text. Students read Heiwa no Toride and discussed how we could make world peace. JP covered the topics of capability, interests, giving opinions, numbers, clothing, school subjects, and location. Kinder engaged in activities

that teach mutual respect, two way communication, simple math, categorizing things and reading skills and writing basic characters.



Music

All the students have been working extremely hard this past term in preparation for the end of year performance. I'm very proud of all the students at Horizon they have managed to achieve some wonderful results in music class. This year's end of year performance will be no exception with a Beatles tribute followed by a talent show. This current school year has been a very interesting year

for me at Horizon International School. The students have shown a wonderful energy for music and it has been my absolute pleasure teaching various music concepts and themes. I thank you all for a wonderful year and look forward to seeing you at the end of year concert. I would also like to thank the staff for all their help and support over the past year.



Computer Science

In spring term we continued learning about the basic skills about word, excel and power point. The students started to learn using these programs effectively to finish their tasks. We also made cards for father's and mother's day. This term we mostly focus on typing skills. They really liked it and worked very hard. Some of our students

practiced typing even at home. At the end of spring term, Grade 2/3/4/5/6/7 student made a travel brochure about Australia. They searched about famous places and buildings. They added pictures of animals and printed them out. In group, they made a travel brochure by using colorful papers. I think that computer became an indispensable part of each student in Horizon.



Physical Education

This term we continued playing different educational games to improve the student's cooperation, safety group work skills. At the same time they also improved their physical abilities.

In Grade 1 and 2 we played *Clean up your Room*, *E.T phone Home*, *Mine Field*, *Invent a Game*, *Cone Tag*, *Wombat Ball*, *Cooky Monster*, *Midnight*, *Apple*

Pie-Pumpkin pie, *Go and touch the Blue*, *Instigator*, *Chicken Impulse*. During these games they really had fun. In each game they also learn how to behave nicely to each other. More over, the students realized that losing game is also a part of it.

In Grade 3/4/5/6/7 we also practiced some sports like volleyball and basketball. They really improved their ball control and

dribbling skills in basketball. I hope the students had fun in P.E time.



Mathematics

Math and Science fair was the most exciting event in this term. Students prepared many math games to represent in the fair, like Sudoku, tangram, towers of Hanoi, probability circles. But the most challenging was reading minds of the guests. In third term, third graders learned how to measure length, weight and time. They used geometric shapes to build the highest tower. The rule

was to tell the name of the shape before you use it in the tower. Fourth graders finished the 1. Journal of everyday math and started with the second book. They are getting experts of ratios. For the fair they helped to design a giraffe to measure the heights of people.

Uppers figured out how to choose different teams by using permutation and combination. They talked about low probability and high probability which, now, makes sense for them. Nowadays they

are trying to find the last digit of pi number. But they think that it is better to use it as 3.14 while calculating circumference or area of a circle and volume of a cylinder.



After School Programs

American Football

It was a joy to see students continue to get more comfortable with the game of American football. Many chose to participate for all three school terms. I saw a big improvement in students' defensive play. Most only liked to play offense before, but as they started to understand the game more, they started to understand how defense is every bit as important. Students' continued to improve their running of pass routes. I was also happy to see students focus less on winning or losing and more of the enjoyment of recreation.

Book Club

Book Club! Book Club! Book Club! It is all the rage now and everyone wants to be a part of it! Well of course it is! It is the place where the students are the ones in charge. The students choose the books, the students present the books in an oral report and the students evaluate each other to win prizes! The students love to share their passion for books with each other. This club is on fire and literacy is definitely IN!

International Children Games

Every Wednesday we've been playing international children's games. The children have been enjoying these worldly events enormously. The children have been introduced to games from Australia, India, America, Spain, and Kenya. Their favorite game for this semester was called broom ball. This game is similar to hockey with its origins from northern Africa. I look forward to introducing more international games in the following weeks.

Jump Rope

Not only did we get a little exercise during Jump Rope, but we learned a short routine, a chant to jump to, and some new tricks! During our first class, a few students couldn't jump rope. Now, we can all jump at least 50 times!!

Video Review

In Video Review, we had fun writing about, watching, and discussing different kinds of movies. We were able to watch a drama about a whale, a comedy, and we are now watching and discussing an exciting Disney movie. I was pleased and surprised by the insightful opinions about videos from the kids.

Movement and Dance

The Movement and dance students have been having fun learning to move their bodies to the beat. I encourage the students to enjoy dance and creating their own movements. We have been practicing different animal movements and stretches, as well as dancing to various songs. The Kindergarten and preschool children's favorite dance is the "Time Warp". The students have now mastered the moves to this song.



Arts and Crafts

In the Arts and Crafts ASP, students enjoyed making a few interesting things. A Mother's Day card, frog puppet, and an ocean scene are some of the things we made. The class was eager to hide their cards until Mother's Day! It was a fun time for everyone!



Children's Songs and Finger Plays

Preschool and Kindergarten children had a great time learning lots of new songs such as Animal Actions, Where is Thumbkin, 5 Little Ocean Animals, Under the Sea, Freeze and This Old Man. We made gorgeous little finger puppets and the children were very good at acting out their plays.



Story Telling

The boys and girls have been busy listening to stories from a variety of wonderful authors. We have read books by Leo Lionni, Diana Hendry, Eric Carle and Margret and H.A. Rey. Along with working on good listening skills the class has created some fantastic drawings that have all related to the written works.

Spanish

Hola!! Como Estas? In Spanish ASP, we not only learn some practical and simple Spanish, we also have fun! The children play games, color, talk with each other in Spanish and get prizes.... So far, we've covered numbers, feelings, greetings, colors and body parts.... We even learned how to dance the Macarena!

Children's Cooperative Games

During Children's games student learned how to play cooperative games. Some games we played included frozen tag, octopus, and poison ball. Students also learned some circle games such as follow the leader, and quiet ball. Lastly, we sang songs with actions and movement. We had lots of fun!





HORIZON JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Special Days on Calendar

Earth Day

WE ARE NOT LITTER BUGS! On April 20th it was EARTH DAY! Everyone in Horizon went to the park and picked the garbage to keep our earth clean. The park was a little dirty. Zehra liked cleaning, Rio liked to clean and also Hiromu liked to clean too!! I think the earth is happier if we clean up. I wonder are other planets clean? Are Aliens cleaning the other planets? I want to know when the next Earth Day is and if the Earth will be clean.



Track and Field Day

On the 20th of May it was Trick and Fold day! Get it? Track and Field Day? We played many games for example, skipping, obstacle races, egg on a spoon etc. We had a BBQ, Henrique helped grill chicken, hamburgers, and sausages. The food was great. I interviewed some students to ask about the running race. Henrique said that he was tired. Haruka said she does not how she felt. Ravindu said yes of course he was tired! And finally Kensuke said that he won the race! I wish for everyone to have the best of luck next year to win the race.

Science and Math Fair

This year our new science teacher Mr. Doymaz and Mr. Becerik organized science and math fair for the first time. Grade 3/4/5/6/7 students showed different experiments. In the playground they also did a rocket show. In math fair, the students tried to solve different logic and mathematic questions. They won a lot of chocolates and great fun.

International Children's Festival

Lots of laughter, dancing, singing and eating filled the air of Horizon Japan International School on April 22nd. Horizon celebrated International Children's Festival by having students dress in traditional clothing from their home countries. Children performed songs and dances. Some guests and teachers taught the children some traditional chants and dances. After all the festivities we were all very hungry. Fortunately families prepared foods from all over the world for us to try. There were appetizers, main dishes, and desserts. Thank you for all the children and parents that participated in the festival. It was a great success.



Horizon Japan International School Summer School Programs 2007

The Horizon Japan International School summer school program is designed to provide an opportunity for students to enrich their language skills, socialize with new friends enjoying various activities. The students keep learning in an academic, relaxed environment which contributes to the improvement of positive attitude of students towards to the school. It will also make the return to the school less stressful. Summer school primarily focus on varied schedule of outdoor activities, language art games, art, drama, group games etc.

The programs will be offered for four weeks, with each week being a different term. Students from age 3 through grade 6 can apply. Come and enjoy the summer with us!

1-38-27 Higashi Terao Tsurumi-ku 230-0077 YOKOHAMA/JAPAN
Phone: 045-584-1945
Fax: 045-584-1946
E-mail: hjis@horizon.ac.jp