



Winter Newsletter '07

H O R I Z O N J A P A N I N T E R N A T I O N A L S C H O O L

SPECIAL DAYS WE HAD

- Japanese Cultural Day
- Valentine's Day
- Chinese New Year
- Family Fun Day
- Literacy Week
- Parents' Day
- St. Patrick's Day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Preschool News	2
Elementary School News	3
News From Specialties	5
PTA News	7
After School Programs	8
Special Days We Had	9
New Campus	10

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Horizon Family, It is great to meet you all again. After a busy but fruitful time, we have finally come to the end of the winter term.

This term we had a number of special events throughout the school program. They included Japanese Culture Day, Family Fun Day, Literacy Week and St. Patrick's Day.

Of these events, Family Fun Day was the best opportunity for us to come together as the great Horizon Family. I would like to thank the parents who were able to participate in the event. Of course, our teachers who prepared all the activities deserve special thanks as well. The Friday before the term ended, we combined Drizon Day with St. Patrick's Day. All the students and staff dressed in red/gray or green to celebrate the day. Both the students and the teachers enjoyed the day. Lastly, we held the

second Earthquake Drill on the 15th. It was a useful experience for our students.

I am also excited to introduce the new faces in our school. We



We held the 2nd Earthquake Drill in March.

recently had fresh blood in our staff and some new students. I would like the Horizon family to give a warm welcome to Ms. Bambi, Ms. Kerry, Ms. Yasemin, and all the new students.

I also want to announce that

through your support and trust, we are starting a new branch in Shibuya in May! We are becoming a grand family and we are proud of this accomplishment.

I would like to express my special thanks to the PTA Board, and all PTA members. I greatly appreciate their concern and willingness to help the school. Last but not least, I would like to let you know that our ECIS membership is still on track. We received our membership visit in the mid-March and the result of the visit is pending.

I wish you all a pleasant Spring break. The week will be a great time to relax and refresh ourselves for the next term.

Mustafa Kara

Mustafa KARA
Principal

NEW FACES AT HORIZON

Ms. Bambi is originally from New York and has been living in Japan for the past one and a half years. She also



had previous experience teaching in Seoul, Korea for one year. She is a graduate of Cornell University and has a Bachelors Degree. Ms. Pahl is very passionate about teaching and especially enjoys working with younger children. She likes painting, traveling and solving logic problems. She is working hard to improve her Japanese language skills too.

Ms. Kerry is from England. She came to Japan in 2002, and has been teaching since



then. The schools she taught at include a conversation school, a junior high school and a school for special education. She enjoys traveling, learning languages (Japanese, Sign Language, German and Spanish), dance and yoga.

Ms. Yasemin is the assistant teacher of the kindergarten. She is holding a BA in English. She had



worked for exam courses and also participated in the preparation of a bilingual dictionary. She took private classes on playing the a different version of Shukuhachi and it is one thing that she is really keen on. She is interested in literature and her hobbies are reading and music. She is very excited to teach the kindergartners this year.

P R E S C H O O L 3

This winter we studied a variety of topics, ranging from winter animals to Valentine's Day and food. The students not only have acquired new vocabulary, but have also worked on their fine motor skills. When it comes to their arts and crafts activities, the children have

begun taking pride in their work. This term we have learned some new games. The kids enjoy playing musical chairs, memory, and bingo. The children love to win, but also like to support and motivate their fellow classmates. Recently, we welcomed a new child to the class. We were happy to get

another student and play-mate. He has fit right in. Overall, we have had a nice winter, but we will be happy when spring arrives and the weather warms up.



Young learners love to win but like to support each other as well.

"We made some decorations like Dreidles, and decorated a Christmas tree!"

P R E S C H O O L 4 A

Hello again from the English Preschool 4 class! It's been an interesting couple of months since the Fall Newsletter. We spent most of December learning about different winter holidays. We even made some decorations like Dreidles,

and decorated a Christmas tree! Things got really exciting after the Winter Break! We had lots of fun celebrating Japanese Culture Day, Drizon Day, and Valentine's Day! And, we were joined by two new students!!



P R E S C H O O L 4 B

This year Preschool 4 have been very busy learning all about different occupations. We learnt all about the role of a police man, fire man, astronaut, vet, nurse doctor, pilot, post man, construction worker and the children's favorite, the chef. We built our very own train, wrote letters to our family and sent them using our very

own hand made letter box, opened a restaurant and made chef hats which we all wore while cooking gourmet French toast with sautéed strawberries. Preschool 4 were lucky to have a very special visit from Oni during Sutsibun, (Japanese celebration for the coming of Spring) where the children were all very successful in

removing Oni (evil spirits) from our classroom by throwing mumemaki. We had a number of parents join our class to read a story for Literacy week and celebrated two birthdays. turned 5. We were sad to say goodbye to one of our friends this February who returned to India and look forward to her return in the next school year.



(Above) Sutsibun activities
(Below) Students cooking French toast with sautéed strawberries

KINDERGARTEN



The kindergarteners have been busy this term.

The kindergarteners have been busy this winter. We are finishing up a winter theme that started with snowmen. Students also conducted science experiments on ice. They made pre-

dictions on whether an ice cube would melt faster in a bare hand or a hand with a mitten on. Then we conducted the experiment and made some interesting discoveries. They also experimented how light, shade, and salt affects ice.

In Language Arts, students are progressing in their reading and writing. There is a new high frequency word wall up in the classroom so that students can begin to learn to spell those trickier words. We are also continuing to practice blending and separating C-V-C words and also some consonant blends like 'fl'. We have also made two class books that have been

added to our library. Students completed the sentence stems "I see..." and "I like to...". In Math, students have been learning simple addition and subtraction, shapes, measurement, money, and skip counting. Kindergarteners have been practicing skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. They are also eagerly awaiting the opening of a grocery store in our classroom.



and butterflies

adorn our

classroom,

beckoning

spring."

GRADE ONE

Grade one has had a great time these past few months with many interesting school activities. First on February 14th we celebrated the joy of friendship with St. Valentines Day. Together with our friends in grade three we baked delicious heart cookies. Then on the morning of the 18th we all enjoyed ourselves during Family Fun Day. There were so many interesting activities for all to choose from. Thanks to all of those families who participated. In early March we took part in literacy week and enjoyed reading and discussing many wonderful new stories. Friday, March 2nd was Dr. Seuss's birthday and during the week the children enjoyed looking at many of the wonderful works of this world famous author. In addition we were fortunate enough to have some guest readers come into our class to share their time with the students. Finally, on March 16th there was St. Patrick's Day with the Wearing of the Green. Also, this past term we were fortunate to have two

new students join our class. We would like to take this time to welcome our two new friends and their family who moved here from Michigan. At this time flower blossoms, and butterflies adorn our classroom, beckoning spring. Students will be involved in many upcoming activities and projects centered on the season. Reading proficiency continues to improve steadily and it is such a joy to listen to the children read as they share stories each day. We are currently reading our level 1.4 readers, so your continued review of Dolch sight vocabulary words at home has been beneficial. Also, two-digit addition and subtraction has been mastered by most of the children, and we continue to review counting by twos to one hundred.

Now within our final term of grade one, I again cannot stress enough the importance of continuing to expose your children to reading and to books. The first and foremost step to creating a young

reader is to ensure that children have access to all kinds of reading material. Try to offer books as an alternative to television watching. You may be surprised by how receptive your children may be to the idea of reading. Incorporate writing into your story times. Let your children write books of their own. Help you children express themselves by putting their thoughts and feelings down on paper. Allow them to illustrate their book. The more personal you can make it the better. Make a title page with their name in big, bold print for them to see and admire as their own creation. Take the time to enjoy yourself with your children over the next few months and have a great spring!

Grade 1 students made Valentine cakes with the 3rd Graders



GRADE TWO

We have had an eventful and fun winter term. Some of the highlights of this term included a Valentine's Day party where we made cookies, working with the 3rd grade on a research project about animals, and taking a trip to the National Disaster Center where we had the chance to experience an earthquake, a smoke filled room, and try on gear that fire fighters wear when fighting fires. In the beginning of our term

we welcomed two new students to our class who have both done a great job adapting to our classroom environment and have been a lot of fun for everyone to get to know.

In Language arts, we finished the theme Communities by reading about what a firehouse in America is like before visiting one in Yokohama, and we are now in the theme Amazing Animals. We just finished learning about the amazing world of ants.

In math, we learned about regrouping

and borrowing and now we are studying geometry and learning about different kinds of shapes.

This has been a very nice mild winter, and we all look forward to a beautiful spring.



Second Graders are on a field trip at Disaster Prevention Center

GRADE THREE

"On Valentine's Day, we made cookies with the grade 1 class and took some home for our parents."

Grade 3 started the New Year with a new schedule and wrote their own resolutions for the year. They are excited to be able to learn with the other students. For physical education, music, and art they are with the upper grader. For topic exploration they have been exploring and researching habitats, and characteristics of animals with grade 2.

In Language Arts grade 3 has started a new literature circle book titled Frindle and we are currently as a class reading The lion, the witch and the wardrobe. Students have finished learning the lower-

case letters of cursive and are now learning the uppercase letters. They will soon be able to write all the letters in cursive. The students have been showing their creative side by writing trickster tales, and rewriting and reinventing old tales.

The students were also very excited about Valentine's Day and made their own mailboxes and received cards from everyone in the classroom. On Valentine's Day we made cookies with the grade 1 class and took some home for our parents.

We have been fortunate to have a new student in our

class. All the students were very excited and are happy to have a new friend in the class. Spring is almost here with the nice, warmer weather around the corner. I hope we can make the last term a success!



GRADE FOUR

Greetings from the 4th grade. We have focused on writing a great deal this quarter. Students have done an excellent job of writing everything from poems, to persuasive essays, to biographical reports. Before students thought of poetry

simply as having rhyme. They have learned to add sensory details, create visuals, and to use similes and metaphors. We are still having some difficulty editing our own work, but luckily it isn't so hard to edit each other's work, so we are exchanging papers. I have seen a big improvement in the quality of the work I am

receiving. Students are also learning to be clearer in their explanations when writing persuasive essays. They are providing more evidence from their texts when they write their opinions on what they have read.



4th graders are working on a hot topic in an LA class.

U P P E R G R A D E S



Upper graders are at the Computer Lab

W

elcome to the grade five six and seven home room. Since the start of this term, we have been working on puzzles in our morning

meetings, which is helping to develop our vocabulary and giving us an interesting insight into various occupations and country's. We have recently just started a daily journal which we will be writing in on a daily basis.

M A T H E M A T I C S

Winter term was a real success story. The 3rd graders have learned multi-digit multiplications and tried 7 digits as a record; surprisingly they were successful. While they were learning division, they dreamed of sharing hundreds of apples, chocolate bars and



toys. Currently, after sharing things equally they always get a remainder. The 4th graders have studied calculations with decimal numbers and meanwhile they also learned how to keep a bank balance. They measured lengths using metric units as small as millimeters. After exploring open sentences,

they began to learn how to use fractions and percents so that they can plan use of their pocket money better. Grade 5 and 6 started using protractor effectively while copying triangles. Studying use of formulas and graphs made for them possible to predict future values of data. After a long study of equations with two unknowns, Grade 7 started drawing pictures of things proportionally.



"Students began to learn how to use fractions and percents so that they can plan how to use their pocket money better"

S C I E N C E

In the second term, according to our curriculum goals, we aimed to develop students' knowledge and skills when they have fun. In the second term our science class studied 'Physical Science'. We started with the unit about Matter. Students investigated matter and its properties. They learned how

to measure matter and discovered its physical and chemical properties. We have enjoyed several experiments and hands-on activities. Our next unit was about 'Energy, Motion and Machines'. Students studied the different forms that energy can take and how forms of energy can behave. Students also explored that how magnetism and electricity work

together and produce energy of motion. It was really fun for the students to make experiments in our science lab. What's more, we are getting ready for the incredibly fun Science Fair on 1 June!



Grade 4 students are working on magnetism.

MUSIC

Since we've been back from winter holidays the upper levels have all been involved in learning and understanding musical theory that has incorporated the listening and studying of various styles of music from classical to blues. Grades five, six, and year seven have started working on their original compositions which are sounding great. We will soon be starting

work on the end of year concert which will involve some wonderful music and performances; I look forward to seeing you all there.

Kindergarten and pre-school have all been working hard since their return from winter holidays. We have continued to focus on music appreciation with a strong emphasis on rhythm and melody. We have also been working on dance and listening to some new instruments

from around the world.

I would also like to take the time to thank all the students' teachers, the P.T.A and Horizon administration for their help in delivering a wonderful winter concert. I really enjoyed watching all the kids' performances, I was very proud of them all; I thought they did a fantastic job.



Music is fun especially for young learners.

JAPANESE

"1st graders performed in front of 2nd graders, reading a Japanese folk tale, Omusubi Kororin"

As Japanese class activities, the 4th graders issued their first paper. It is posted in our Japanese classroom. Please visit our classroom to take a look at it. The 1st graders performed in front of the 2nd graders, reading a Japanese folk tale, Omusubi Kororin, and they also sang a song. The 1st graders were nervous in the beginning but did a great job. Both the 1st and the 2nd graders enjoyed it.



ARTS



We made pictures using shapes.

There is nothing like the time when the students enter the art room with big smiles, eager to create and ready for new art projects!

Every grade have 90-minute-art classes once a week full of exciting activities at their level.

We started the winter term by making winter decorations, snowmen, and trees, mittens, and snowflakes! We worked on our Bulletin Board too.

Students enjoyed the seasonal crafts, as well as the opportunity to create something new. With the spring's coming, art room is in bloom. Right now we are working on Cherry Blossom Trees with the uppers. We are going to decorate our school with beautiful, colorful flowers.

In April, we are going to celebrate International Children's Festival. We need to plan the decorations in art class. This gives the students a big opportunity to learn about art all around the world. We are looking forward for a spring full of fun!



Do we look scary?!

COMPUTER SCIENCE

At the beginning of the winter term, we talked about winter activities with the students. They were very excited and almost each student talked about them. Later the students started the term by drawing a picture about their winter holiday. All the grades really did a great job. To improve their internet skills, the students searched about the first trip to the Moon. They tried to find the answers by using search engines. I think they learned more about the Moon and the space shuttles. During the activity they also improved their typing skills while writing the answers in the Word document. In February, students made a table in MS Word to explain the Japanese instru-

ments. They identified and classified Western instruments and Traditional Japanese instruments by using search engines. By identifying the following terms: string instruments, wind instruments, and percussion instruments; they gave a brief information about each category with a picture of the instrument and made a table. To improve their alphabetic keys we played a game called *musical chair*. Each student or pair of students continued writing on their computer until the music stopped. Students then moved to the next computer. Later they read and then added to the started story on that computer. They really wrote very original stories which belong to nobody but everybody in the class.



Students are indeed motivated by IT assisted instruction.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During the winter term we were lucky. Since it did not rain so much, we had great chance to do outdoor activities. Throughout the each grade, we learned various educational activities and sports. we played Hit the wall ball, Color Tag, Parachute Game, Crows and Cranes, True or False, Over the River, Hot

Potato, Shuttle Relay, Kangaroo Jump Relay, Catch the Flag... During each game the students learnt how to play cooperatively. In each game we focused on team work, friendship and communication. At the same time they improved their motor skills which will be a core for the future individual and group sports. They really had fun during the games. As a sport, the students prac-

ticed soccer and basketball. They mostly focused on bouncing, dribbling without looking, passing, catching and zone defense in basketball. Some of our students might be a really good basketball player in the future. In soccer, the students performed various drills working on dribbling and passing, throwing the ball in, and kicking. They started to do good team work better day by day.

“Each game we played during PE focused on team work, friendship and communication.”

PTA NEWS

Thank you for your ongoing support for PTA activities. During the second term, we've made a great progress towards our annual goal. We greatly appreciate your kind cooperation on our activities. Here are a couple of big achievements during the 2nd term of the school year: We cast the 1st actual ballot on donation to the school. In result, majority of voters chose a monkey bar and books for the library. We're planning to purchase those items in the

next term. We held the PTA-driven event called “PTA Recycling Fair” on March 23rd. Although it was our first time planning and organizing such a big event, we could lead it to a great success with the help of many volunteer parents. Lots of participants enjoyed shopping in the bazaar booth and variety of foods at the refreshment booth. Children had a big fun at games and activities booth. They could also watch a movie called “Spirited Away”

on a big screen. We also invited a group of professional Hula dancers for a great entertainment. We greatly appreciate your hard work and continuous support for us. We will continue our effort to make HJIS a more enjoyable place for our children to learn.



Students also helped the PTA in their activities

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

American Football

We had 13 students sign up for American Football this term. That is double the number from last quarter. I was very happy to see we also had a few girls sign up. The kids focused on basic skills and I saw some improvement in their ability to run routes on offense and to defend as well.

Children's Songs

During the winter term, Monday was the day for Children's Songs. With 15 students, we sang some of the popular songs that children sing all around the world, sometimes blended them with drama and some times with visual arts. The songs included Row Your Boat, Mary Had a Little Lamb, London Bridge is Falling Down, and so forth. It was a lovely time for both the teacher and the preschool and kindergarten students. We all loved the songs!



Students prepared art works of the popular song "Baa Black Sheep"

Ballet

The ballet class has been working very hard this term! We've progressed from the basic five positions and plies that we learned during the Fall term, to some new simple turns and jumps!! This term we also started learning a short ballet dance that combines some of what we learned last term, and some of what we have learned this term. Two very exciting things occurred during the term. One, we moved to the English Preschool where we have more space, and proper ballet bars to help us practice our plies! Two, we have happily welcomed three boys into the class!! Hopefully the excitement and fun will continue!!!

*{ In the winter term, Horizon offered
24 After School Programs to its Students }*

Turkish

In Turkish Class students had lots of fun! First, the beginner learners learned how to say "Merhaba" in Turkish, which means "Hello", then the numbers and then fruits. They also learned a fruits song and had "a fruit party"! Learning fruit names was really yummy.

Piano

In piano, we had fun learning the basics of note reading and how to find notes as well as fingering on the piano. I was impressed with the students' ability to quickly learn simple songs.

Drawing

Our budding Da Vincis have spent the past term working on the foundations of drawing. Most class work has involved paper and pencil activities and some seasonal crafts. Our cherry blossom trees were popular with all the parents. Keep up the good work!

Yoga

For the winter term, the yoga class has changed a bit. I have introduced new stretches and routines, as well as incorporated some simple aerobics. The children enjoy the new stretches, and have fun burning off energy while doing aerobics.



A student is working on stretching.



Learning fruit names was really yummy.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts ASP has been making lots of fun things. We made Valentine's Day decorations from tissue paper. We also made various animals from plates and paper. The class is enjoying the different things that we are making each week!

Origami

The students in origami learned how to do basic folds. They made a dog, cat, frog, penguin, whale, donkey, hina ningyo and tulips. We were also very lucky to have two special helpers from grade 2 in our classroom. Good job to all the preschool and kindergarten students.

Kanji Club

Kanji Club students enjoy learning new kanji every week. There are three groups based on their progress. We sometimes play Kanji Karuta (cards). We are looking forward to adding more cards in the game.

OTHER ASPS

Other ASPs that are not displayed here:

- Story Time
- Children Games
- Soccer
- Karate
- Creative Dance
- Math Tutoring
- Table Tennis

- English Tutoring 1
- English Tutoring 2
- English Tutoring 3
- Basketball
- Spanish
- Photography
- Volleyball



SPECIAL DAYS ON CALENDAR

Japanese Culture Day

We had a Japanese Culture Day on January 18. Students had a great time, making sushi (hand roll sushi), playing Japanese traditional games and toys (Fukuwarai, Sugoroku, Ken-dama, and Hanetsuki), and listening to Japanese folk tales (Kamishibai).

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a day to show someone special that you care about them. In schools, students usually exchange Valentine's Day cards and sometimes candy. In kindergarten class, students brought lots of treats like chocolate and candy to share with the class. We also made decorations with pink, white, and red hearts to hang around the room. Students also made a heart, woven bag to take their Valentine's Day goodies home in. The class enjoyed giving and receiving treats on this special day.

Parents' Day

HJIS Parents Day held on February 28 was again fun. The Students and the Parents attended to the school lessons together. The students were really excited to show their Parents how they learn at the School. In some Classes parents took part in teaching by playing games like treasure hunting. They had to fulfill some duties and answer some math questions to get the award. While playing, our parents became partners in their children's learning and learned more about school structures and how they can support, monitor and advocate for their children's educational success.

Family Fun Day

18th of February was a big day at Horizon. It was Family Fun Day. The students and Families of HJIS had lots of fun doing the activities all of which were offered by HJIS teachers. There were a variety of activities to do! At the entrance the yummiest booth was waiting for them. Families and students made delicious pancakes with our teachers. They played table tennis with, made beautiful necklaces, played balloon volleyball with, and bowling with. Photos were taken, faces were painted. Everybody left the school with a big smile on their face and also a few butterflies, flowers, kites and characters.



Parents played UNO at Family Fun Day activities



Students enjoyed playing Japanese games for the first time in their life.

Literacy Week

This year Literacy Week took place from February 26th to March 2nd. Many classrooms had activities to promote reading, writing, speaking and listening. Parent volunteers came into the classroom to read to the students. Students were fortunate enough to hear parents read in different languages as well. Some classes celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, had reading buddies, and wrote about their favorite authors and books. Keep reading and writing Horizon students!

Chinese New Year

This year Horizon celebrated Chinese New Years by creating colorful banners and dragons that can protect our school. The 2nd grade class went on assignment to find out exactly what happened for Chinese New Years. Here is what they found. The Preschool 4 class talked about the Chinese Zodiac. The Kindergartners talked about Chinese New Years and shared information. The 1st graders made a Chinese book, a dragon mask, and even looked at a wild pig. The 3rd graders made a Chinese dragon. The 4th graders got the opportunity to have lunch with their teachers. The 2nd grade class wrote reports about Chinese New Year and found out that this holiday is 15 days long and features colorful dragon dances. Red is an important color for this holiday and people clean their houses to get rid of bad luck.

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated worldwide by Irish people and increasingly by many of non-Irish descent. Celebrations are generally themed around all things green and Irish. A number of people, regardless of ethnic background, wear green-colored clothing and items. Traditionally, those who are caught not wearing green are pinched. At Horizon we enjoyed the day by celebrating it together with Drizon Day. A number of events took place throughout the day. We had scavenger hunts, looked for gold and even spotted a few Leprechauns. Classes also held activities within each room to further acknowledge the day...



Everybody dressed in green, red or gray on Drizon/St. Patrick's Day.

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HJIS IS OPENING ITS NEW BRANCH IN MAY!

Established in 2003, Horizon Japan International School is proud to announce that it will be opening its new branch in Shibuya in May 2007.

We will be accepting applications for Preschool (3 and 4-year-olds), Kindergarten (5-year-olds) and the 1st Grade of Elementary School for 2007-2008 Academic Year.

For any questions regarding admissions and our programs or for enrollment to upper grades, please do not hesitate to contact our admissions office at "admissions@horizon.ac.jp" or by calling directly 045-584-1945.

Also, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the trust that has been developed by our school, which made this rapid growth possible.

The school you are happy at!

