



CFIS Newsletter

June &
July
2018

IPC THEME: SAND AND WATER

Looking into the child's heart and mind

by Mr. Jesse

It makes all of us teachers happy to see children thrive at school. We all love that moment when things magically come together. When we behold something special, whether it is the look on a child's face as they run in the gym or a lesson being learned after a scuffle. I have a few phrases that sum both these up. There is the Golden moment and the Defining moment. The Golden moment does not have to be a big event or necessarily made a big deal of. It can be a very subtle occasion. It is a precious moment. The Defining moment can be when you see a situation being the child's teacher or when a situation has made a profound impact. Defining moments however are a more subjective thing whereas a Golden moment can be a shared experience when there is joy in the air or a sense of wonder that lingers. If a child has become emotionally vulnerable because of a classroom altercation it can be quite a powerful moment because the onus is mainly on the teacher to build that child's resolve back up again.

Our lives are full of these moments and working with children can be revealing because a lot of the time we have to question our own intentions and feelings. What do I want from this, what am I trying to impart, am I calm myself?

Because of our experience being with kids all the time and seeing them in all kinds of situations, I think we have become pretty clued in as to which incidents are worthy enough to yield a valuable lesson. With children, part of the key is repetition, but this can become very emotionally draining and in some cases redundant. If we are constantly trying to guide and effect children's behavior then we run ourselves ragged. We also risk sounding like ineffectual robots to the children. Part of what I enjoy about being a teacher at our school is the freedom to keep children guessing a bit as to what my reaction might be if I am called on. Our presence at school is always constant and predictable so we can be creative and unpredictable from time to

time when it comes to make an impact on the children's senses

On a lighter note, coming up in a bit we have our Family Fun Day. Our P.E. teacher Mr. Ryota has made a fun and age appropriate program for the kids at school. It will be another obstacle course for all classes with varying difficulty to make it challenging. The event will be held indoors at the gymnasium of Soyagi elementary school so perfect for either rain or shine. If it is sunny though, it may get quite hot so be sure to bring enough water with you. We'll run the event in two teams; Red team and Yellow team. There will be a winner although competition is a novelty for kindergarten children.

Have fun this theme with Sand and Water. I hope your children derive many more golden and defining moments in the months to come.

Jesse

Preschool

by Ms. Jam, Ms. Aya & Ms. Shoko

Dear Parents,

After a busy April and May settling into school and new routines, students are able to enjoy their time in Preschool without worrying about 'mummy'. We have been learning each other's names, class rules, how to play and share nicely, take turns, wait patiently and how to sit at the table during snack and lunch.

We have also started learning the alphabet, colors, counting, singing songs, enjoying art and crafts, science and special subjects. Our favorite thing to do is go to the playground or park and look for bugs and other insects.

We had a fantastic end to our Animal theme with a trip to the zoo to see animals and feed guinea pigs.

We would like to welcome you to our next IPC theme for June and July, Sand and Water. To enjoy this theme, we would like to bring our students' imagination into a place with

beautiful sand and water- Hawaii. We are planning on decorating the classroom with a Hawaiian theme, learn some simple words like Aloha and Mahalo, and we intend to learn Hawaiian songs and dance as well.

Apart from our Hawaiian theme, we will be engaging in sand and water play. We have sea creature toys for students to splash about in the basin and we will have treasure finding during sand play. We also plan to have a day camping where the students will spend the day digging dinosaurs in the sand box, wash them, and play with them. We can't wait to learn, enjoy and have fun with the Sand and Water theme.



UPCOMING PRESCHOOL EVENTS

- June 1st – Field trip to Asamizo Animal Plaza
- June 9th - Family Fun Day
- June 15th – Yurina and Maggie's birthday party
- June 27th – Day camping
- July 9th-13th – Open School
- July 20th – Sophia, Ann, Tate, Poppy, Harmony and Haruki's birthday party
- July 26th-27th – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- July 31st – Field trip to Sagami River Museum

Some shots of last month in Preschool...

We made hand print animals with Ms. Cristina for our art class



We love music time!

Saying Hi to Molly the Poodle



LAST MONTH IN K₃**Animals up close**

We had a great time at the petting zoo!

**Fine motor skills**

Making animal houses with our lego blocks

**Healthy habits**

Tooth brushing is part of our daily routine

UPCOMING K₃ EVENTS

- June 1st – Field trip to Asamizo Animal Plaza
- June 9th – Family Fun Day
- June 15th – Shuma, Liam & Saoirse's birthday party
- July 9th-13th – Open School
- July 20th – Shiyori and Yuta's birthday party
- July 26th-27th – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- July 31st – Field trip to Sagami River Museum

K₃

by Mr. Jesse & Ms. White

Looking back on our animals theme as the first point of interest in class, we found that the subject matter was engaging and fun. I made the most of our circles and used my puppets to hone the children's attention. We used the puppets somewhat sparingly and before I brought them out, I always had a conversation with them, reassuring either one of them that our K₃ kids are good listeners, can sit calmly, and are gentle as well. We hope your children derived lots of rich experiences from the animals theme.

Moving onto the next theme, we are going to have the children play literally with buckets of sand and water in the class. We have planned a variety of age appropriate activities that will engage your children in critical thinking, creativity and literacy awareness. There are lots of fun songs to sing about water and we also intend to grow some flowers on the balcony. Later on in July we will cap this theme off with a visit to the Sagamihara Aquarium.

Table manners

We want to thank our K₃ parents always for helping their children at school; especially during the early years. This is a pivotal time in their lives where the stage is set to establish healthy eating habits. One thing that we highly value at school is table manners. Over the course of the rest of the year we encourage you to teach your children how to use utensils properly. We also encourage you to have your children try a variety of foods. Everything you teach your children at home, we are able to follow up and compliment at school.

Music

During the last few weeks in class, we started the K₃ class instruments to play along to music with. My bag of instruments is a set of children's percussions that we have been learning

how to use properly. Children just love to bang, tap, slap, slide and shake. We've been learning the names of these instruments and we've been practicing patience and choice before we start playing together.

Math

Looking ahead we plan to continue most of our circle related activities which naturally include counting one another around the circle. We count boys, girls and then everyone. We will include elements of the new theme and apply it to practical ways so that the children continue to learn how to count. We'll look at sea creatures, learn to recognize differences and similarities and play with numerals too. We also intend to play our play dough counting game too.

Language Arts

Since the beginning of the year during our circle time we have run a variety of games and activities to open up language pathways in the brain. Several of those are actions based. We'll start to run London Bridge from now and other partner, small group, large group games to enhance language acquisition. Another very affective game we played that I call 'animal match' was giving the children a card that is a small copy of the animals in the animal slideshow. As we flip through the slides, we land on someone's animal. That child must recognize the match and at that time say 'I got it!'

I tend to read a lot of stories to the children as well, and when I know the children are familiar with the story, I start to leave out passages that I know the children can say. Eventually, they are narrating large parts of the books that we read.

K4

by Ms. Kat & Ms. Aida

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our June and July newsletter! Finally, our class is getting settled. Most of our children have adjusted to the class routine and are happily enjoying all the activities. Over the next two months we will be exploring Sand and Water, a very interesting theme filled with educational activities and fun, hands-on learning for your children! We will turn our classroom into an Under the Sea landscape and learn many things about sea creatures and their lives.

Science

We have prepared so many things for the coming theme. Our children will investigate, observe and document the physical properties of water and sand. We will create bubble shapes (using glycerin, water, and dish washing liquid), aquariums, a jellyfish in a bottle and many more!

Language Arts

We will keep reviewing the letters of the alphabet in order not to forget what sounds they make and how to write them. At the same time we have also started learning some simple sight words, which the children will read, write and use in sentences. They also have mini sight word story books, where they can read many of the featured sight words of the month. Our kids are very proud to be able to recognize some words!

Art

We are planning to use sand as a tool to create interesting things. We will make a sand castle picture and sand art with craft glue and shaving cream (always so much fun for kids!). We will also use water paints to create a variety of pictures.

Math

We will review numbers 1-10, writing the symbol along with the corresponding number word (1-one, 2- two etc.). Although we incorporate math in all our subjects through counting, we want the children to be able to read and write their numbers properly.

Social Studies

We will learn names of sea animals from A to Z, together with a poem called What Do You See in the Sea? by Meish Goldish. The sea is a treasure we need to take care of so we will learn the importance of keeping it clean. We will also learn some basic safety rules when playing around water.

Japanese

It's the best time to learn about the rainy season and all of the things related to it such as "katatsumuri" (snails). The children will fold snail origami and learn the snail song. Ms Mizuho is also planning to talk about Tanabata, the Japanese star festival. The class will also learn the Hiragana characters Ka, Ki, Ku, Ke and Ko.

LAST MONTH IN K4



A special visitor

We loved meeting Molly the poodle!



Getting creative

We used watercolor, stickers and crayons to make our original artwork about animals we like



Math

Matching numbers 1-10 with the correct amount of stickers

UPCOMING K4 EVENTS

- June 9th – Family Fun Day
- June 15th – Evan's birthday party
- July 9th-13th – Open School
- July 20th – Kosei and Cherleen's birthday party
- July 24th – Field trip to Enoshima Aquarium
- July 26th-27th – Parent-Teacher Conferences

LAST MONTH IN K5

**Zoorasia**

We had a great time looking at different animals at Zoorasia!

**All about Eggs**

We talked about animals that come from eggs and experimented with eggs as well

**Morning Circle**

We start our days going over what day is today, the weather and what we will be doing

UPCOMING K5 EVENTS

- June 9th – Family Fun Day
- June 15th – Kouki and Mio's birthday party
- July 9th-13th – Open School
- July 20th – Mao and Shun's birthday party
- July 25th-26th – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- July 30th – Day camping

K5

by Ms. Norah & Ms. Mizuho

Dear Parents,

Just two months passed since the beginning of the new school year and very soon we are going to be in the hot summer. The students have now adapted to the new classroom routines and we are happy to see them growing physically, mentally and academically day by day. Our new IPC theme for June and July is Sand and Water, and we are planning to have lots of fun and educational activities connected to it.

Science

We will let each student plant his or her own bean sprout. The students will take care of it every day by watering it and learning about plant life. How much water should we give to the sprouts? Giving too much water will result in letting them grow strong? How about sunshine? Connected to this, we will also emphasize the importance of water to all living things.

We will be experimenting with iron sand as well. We will first talk about iron's properties and things that are made of it, then teach the students how to make their own iron sand.

Art

A big project is coming up! The students will be making a papier mache globe using newspapers, bond glue and paint. Before starting this art project, we will talk about how the surface of the earth is covered by water and land, and how

we divide these into 7 continents and 5 oceans. Also, we will discuss about life in the desert and will make colorful sand art.

Social Studies

We will talk about tropical countries and their cultures, concluding the topic with a Hawaiian Party. On the day, K5 class will turn into Hawaii! We will dance Hula, eat seasonal tropical fruits, and play lots of fun games related to sand and water. This will be a great chance for the students to experience real Hawaiian culture inside their classroom!

Math

Our objective for the coming two months is to master numbers 1-20 and 20 to 50, not only writing them with the proper strokes but also recognizing number words through naming, writing and sequencing. We will be using interactive games to review lesson contents to ensure that all students are meeting our learning goals.

Swimming

Mr. Mozza is challenging the children with swimming drills such as kicking out to float, holding their breath while swimming through a ring underwater, jumping from the side of the pool, and swimming short distances without the coach's assistance.