



CFIS Newsletter

April & May
2018

IPC THEME: ANIMALS

Welcome to the new school year

by Mr. Jesse

The teachers, staff and I want to say a big thanks for coming to our opening ceremony on Friday. It was great seeing all our kids and many new friends there.

All classes are underway and judging by teacher's feedback and the general atmosphere at school, we all feel that we are off to a fresh and bustling new start. As I write this during the first week of school, there are no children crying incessantly for their mums in the younger classes and when we go upstairs, K4 and K5 kids are calm, the rooms are quiet and children are going about their lessons productively and maturely, even for this age.

I'm sure however they are still capable of going bananas outside during park times.

Continuing on in 2018 our teaching staff has lots of good ideas on how to implement the IPC starting with the Early Years theme entitled Animals. We like to come together and pool our experience, personal approach and philosophical outlook to tailor lessons that are geared towards a spectrum of young learners. Please have fun getting to know your child's new teachers in the new year and stay close to your mail for updates and announcements.

Later on when things settle down a bit all classes will be starting expand on theme-related subject matter. For the first few weeks, many of the children in the younger classes will be still settling into new routines. Children in K4 and K5 should be settling down very quickly.

The first round of school birthdays are coming up shortly on the 20th and providing on the weather we will be going all the way to our evacuation area on the 27th for our fire drill. The next day will be the start of golden week so naturally teachers will be sending home inside shoes, toothbrushes and cups.

We trust that you are happy with your child's new class and we hope that the break coming up soon doesn't throw too much of a spanner into the works.

Until we see you back in June for our Family Fun Day event, have a great first two months of school and we look forward to seeing all the progress your children will be making this year with us at CFIS.

Jesse

Preschool

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

Dear Parents,

It was great to meet you all at orientation and the opening ceremony. There must have been a mixture of emotions you have been feeling knowing that your little ones are starting school.

The preschoolers have started their first week at CFIS well.

It's not easy to be away from parents or caregivers for the first time, adjust to a new environment and routine or meet so many new people at once. We are here to support and comfort your child during this adjustment period.

As students start to adjust, they will get to know the preschool routine. This week we introduced the students to morning play, circle time, snack time, potty time, special subjects such as art and gym, trips to the playground, lunch time, nap time and mommy time.

The theme for April and May is Animals. We will introduce the students to different kinds of animals- both land and sea animals- through flashcards, songs, art, stories, clips, and questions. We also plan to visit a zoo to pet and feed some animals like bunnies, goats and sheep. Also, we have planned additional activities such as experimenting with eggs, going on a day camp to find and excavate dinosaurs in the sand, and set up our class aquarium.

There are lots of things we would like to discover, so we would like to take advantage of Spring as it is a great time to go to the playground and parks to look and study bugs, insects and also flowers.



On top of that, we will start introducing the alphabet, numbers and colors as well.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead in Preschool

UPCOMING PRESCHOOL EVENTS

- April 13th – Easter egg hunt
- April 20th – Layla and Amelia's birthday party
- April 25th – Dinosaur Day
- April 30th-May 6th – Golden Week
- May 25th – Yuuri's birthday party
- June 1st – Field trip to Sagamihara Animal Plaza

Some shots of our first days in Preschool...

Making our own baskets for Friday's Easter egg hunt



First ballet class with Ms. Aya

Show and Tell



FIRST DAYS IN K3

**Getting creative**

We used paint to make some collective artwork

**Morning circle**

We start our day by checking who is in and counting ourselves

**Playground time**

We enjoyed playing outside in this beautiful weather!

UPCOMING K3 EVENTS

April 30th–May 6th – Golden Week

May 17th – School health check

May 25th – Sota, Kota and Isabel's birthday party

June 1st – Field trip to Sagamihara Animal Plaza

No birthday celebrants in K3 in April

K3

by Mr. Jesse & Ms. White

Welcome to the beginning of school year 2018-19 in K3. This time of the year can be a stressful but also rewarding one. Even though we have only just met the new K3 kids, they have started to show signs of feeling comfortable in class. During this month and next we still expect a certain amount of adjustment to take place. We are establishing class rules and we're running a shortened circle time during the morning session. I like to ham things up a bit while I conduct lessons, read books or perform an impromptu puppet show for the children. We are quickly grabbing their attention and making them laugh. Lunchtimes are also a new and integral part of their day. We are encouraging the children to try foods that they may not usually eat and stay seated until we are all finished.

Language Arts

As the children start to listen and focus during our circle times, we've been able to start building on their knowledge of animals. We have started to use cards, puzzles, our puppets and we are starting to play simple 'what's missing' games using the large white board and our picture cards. As we move throughout the day there are many conversations and chances to communicate with the children and we are enjoying getting to know each of them.

Math

Relating to math play and numeracy readiness we have already started to count ourselves in the morning. We try and establish which group of kids has more or less and we look over

our numeral slides on the class monitor. From now on, we will naturally count and match animals to numbers, compare the sizes of different animals and use lots of Total Physical Response in our approach. We are going to try and involve the kids in their own learning by taking more cues from them in the coming weeks.

Show and Tell, Show and Share

During their time in K3, children will have the chance to speak a lot about the things they bring in to school during show and tell. We will run a call and response format again this year and give the children suggestions on how to respond. We do however look forward to hearing the children speak freely and uninterrupted. It's funny though how much children speak when they are NOT put on the spot. So is the intention behind our show and tell; to give the children a tiny platform to speak publicly.

The other part of our show and tell session is where the children share each other's belongings. It may sound like a simple exercise but it is usually the hardest thing for kids to do at this age. Some children naturally don't mind sharing their things but others don't like it at all. Think about it from an adults perspective; would you unconditionally lend your belongings to a friend?

Stay tuned for photos and a weekly class update for the rest of the year!

K4

by Ms. Kat & Ms. Aida

Dear Parents,

Welcome to K4! We were very happy to see so many of you joining our Orientation Day and the Opening Ceremony. We are very excited about the coming school year and have already planned a lot of thrilling activities.

We would like to start our class with activities that make children comfortable and happy. In the first week we will have a Welcome Back to School Party with lots of games, dance, songs and delicious snacks. At the end of April, if the weather is fine, we will hopefully be able to have a class picnic.

Take a look at the other things we have planned for our K4 kids:

Language Arts

At the beginning, we will make sure all children can hold and use pencils properly. We will also check how well they can trace straight and curved lines. From there we will take it to tracing letters. We will also spend some time practicing writing the children's own names starting with given names. We will check the children's knowledge of the alphabet and phonics and start reviewing letters and their sounds.

Math

We will start reviewing numbers from 1 to 10. We will check if the children can write them correctly and teach them to write number words, i.e. 'one', 'two', 'three', etc.

Art

Children will start getting used to using a variety of paints (water paints, oil paints, glass paints etc) and will learn different painting techniques. Based on observing nature we will make our own cherry blossom (sakura) painting with fude-pen and tissue paper. In May we are planning to make My Favorite Animals Book.

Science

Following our IPC theme Animals we will learn about different habitats. For April and May we will mainly focus on the African savanna with its huge variety of animals. We will be also talking about food chains. In the middle of May we are planning to visit Zoorasia and see all of the animals we have been studying about.

Music

We will have a set of rhythm games and activities. Children will slowly learn about musical notes and their values. They will learn new songs and season chants.

Japanese

Ms. Mizuho will start her lessons with teaching children how to introduce themselves in Japanese. Children will learn the names of the months and days of the week as well as describing weather in Japanese. They will also learn some Japanese stories and do simple origami crafts.

FIRST DAYS IN K4



Welcome Party

We had a Welcome to K4 party today – here's our first picture as a class!



Little artists

We had fun painting mirrors with everything spring related



Language Arts

We started reviewing the alphabet

UPCOMING K4 EVENTS

- April 13th – Back to School party
- April 20th – Nina, Yua and Oliver's birthday party
- April 30th-May 6th – Golden Week
- May 10th – School health check
- May 17th – Field trip to Zoorasia
- May 25th – Mahiro, Yuki, Lilly Ann and Seoyun's birthday party

FIRST DAYS IN K5

**This is us!**

Everyone, welcome to K5!

**A new friend**

We were excited to see everyone back and welcome a new friend as well

**First Show and Tell**

We took turns asking questions to our friends about the toy they brought in for Show and Tell

UPCOMING K5 EVENTS

April 18th – Back to School party
 April 30th - May 6th – Golden Week
 May 17th – Field trip to Zoorasia
 May 24th – School health check
 May 25th – Noah's birthday party

No April birthday celebrants in K5

K5

by Ms. Norah & Ms. Mizuho

It is hard to believe that it is another fresh school year again. It was just a few weeks back when we had our closing and graduation ceremony. We are excited to welcome all of you and cannot wait to have a fun, interactive year of teaching and learning with your children. We are looking forward to our partnership which will give us confidence to ensure that your children achieve their highest potential. We believe that a child's success in school is based on a cooperative parent/teacher relationship.

As teachers, our priorities are your child's safety; to provide them with quality education as well as nurture their well-being in a friendly environment that is conducive to learning. We will work methodically to see that each child receives the attention that they need. We want all the children to learn to the best of their own ability.

What's New in Kindergarten

We all have the same goal for your child i.e., for them to be happy, comfortable and feel secure at school. CFIS has standards. Before leaving kindergarten, each child should be able to read simple short stories, spell 5 or more letter words, write simple phrases and sentences, count numbers 150 and beyond, add and subtract single and multiple numbers and more. CFIS will also help children learn "how to think" and not "what to think". There is no need to spend hours at night drilling

skills. Have fun... read books daily, play word games, review letters/sounds, numbers etc. Please do not worry if your child needs help. We will be there to help your child feel independent.

Math and Reading Assessment

We started the school year by assessing the students on their math, reading comprehension and on their writing skills. The assessment's learning objectives are as follows: recognize the letters of the alphabet, identify upper and lower case letters, identify beginning and ending sounds, name pictures and match them with the correct words, write numbers 1-20 and even 1-50, add and subtract numbers.

Character Goal

The first character goal we will be focusing on is responsibility. Students will be learning about the importance of being dependable, getting things done and letting people know that they can be counted on.

Science

Animals are a great topic to study. We will be exploring and learning about how animals are adapted to different kinds of environment, how animals are different from each other, what they need and what they do to survive.