



Nanohana – MIS Newsletter

Edition 415 – January 31, 2025

From Mr. Trent Citrano, Head of School



Happy Belated New Year, MIS! I often think of how very fortunate our children are to have the wide variety of special events that will serve as lifelong memories. This past month has been full of these memorable opportunities! We started with Calligraphy Week where students showed off their pencil or paint brush skills in creating remarkable writing/art. The next time you come to the school, we hope that you'll take some time to admire the calligraphy in the school entry as well as outside of the Art Room. In addition, we had wonderful assemblies in both English and Japanese which taught us new things in entertaining ways.

Students continue to enjoy their swimming classes, clubs, and learning-related trips. Kindergarten students enjoyed mochitsuki and the bubble guy, while elementary students teamed up during the English Inter-House Word Quest and Maths Inter-House Challenge. We hosted students from Utase Elementary School for a fun exchange with our 5th graders. All of this on top of all of those events, our student are engaged in inquiry-based, collaborative learning experiences each and every day that support their academic, linguistic, and social-emotional development. We hope you will enjoying perusing all of these exciting learning opportunities in this month's Nanohana Newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Tues-Wed 04-05 February

ISA Tests - G3-5

Thursday 06 February

New Parents' Orientation & Uniform Fitting

Friday 07 February

G3G Assembly - 1:00pm

Mon-Fri 10-14 February

Science Week

Tuesday 11 February

National Holiday - No School

Tuesday 18 February

PTA Meeting - 12:15pm

Tues-Fri 18-21 February

G6 Snow Trip

Friday 21 February

G1G Assembly - 1:00pm

Monday 24 February

National Holiday - No School

Wednesday 26 February

G1 & 2 Swimming

Thursday 27 February

'Into the Woods, Jr.' Musical

Friday 28 February

PTA Staff Appreciation Lunch
Reports Home



Kindergarten Students of the Week

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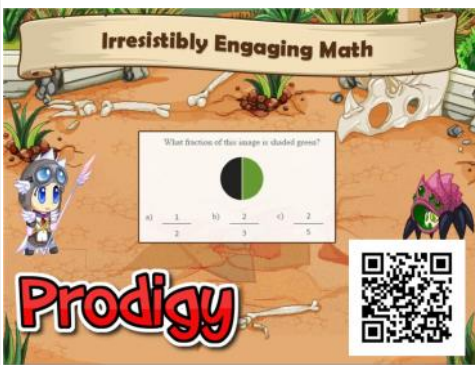
NANOHANA

From Mr. Anthony Hall, Deputy Head of School



Greetings from MIS. In this edition of Nanohana, I would like to share how we use gamification to make learning fun, particularly in maths. To help students utilise their mathematical knowledge and broaden their understanding we use gamification. Gamification means using game-like elements such as rewards, competition, and fun challenges to encourage learning. Several platforms help us bring maths to life in exciting ways such as Gimkit, Prodigy, and Times Tables Rock Stars.

Gimkit turns maths practice into an interactive quiz game where students earn virtual currency for correct answers. They can use their earnings to power up their game and compete with classmates, making learning feel like a fun adventure.




Prodigy combines maths practice with an epic role-playing game. Students explore a fantasy world, solve maths problems to win battles, and progress through levels that match their ability. It's a creative way to ensure every child learns at their own pace.



Times Tables Rock Stars focuses on building speed and accuracy in multiplication. Students create their own rock star avatars, play in exciting tournaments, and improve their times tables fluency while having fun.

These tools do more than make maths enjoyable. They help students master key concepts, apply their knowledge in real-life situations, and build confidence in their skills. We encourage parents to let their children use these platforms at home as a positive alternative to other games. Supporting your child's learning outside of school can make a big difference and with these games, they might not even realise how much they're learning! Let's work together to make maths an exciting journey for our students. Gamification is just one way we're helping them succeed.

HOUSE POINT TOTALS WITH WORD QUEST & MATHS CHALLENGES!

Innovative Bilingual Education for an Ever Changing World




Check out the latest efforts of the MIS PTA by visiting the MIS PTA Website at: www.mispta.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THIS MONTH'S INTER-HOUSE CHALLENGES!

ENGLISH WORD QUEST: MIDORI

MATHS CHALLENGE: ROSSO



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Kindergarten News



K1:
 Drawing their Favourite Gruffalo Character, Making Pizzas, and Enjoying Messy Play During Environment Time!



K2:
 Writing About Their Imaginary Pet Dinosaurs Using Osmo on their iPads to Make Tangram Designs, and Tie Dying T-Shirts!



K3:
 Enjoying their Trip to Kandu and Making Masks in Preparation for Setsubun!



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Grade 1 Create PowerPoint Presentations

In ICT, Grade 1 students have been learning how to use PowerPoint. They learnt how to insert slides into PowerPoint, how to insert pictures into PowerPoint, and how to add text to slides in PowerPoint. After that, they practiced saving and opening the files which we had learnt in the previous term. It was so fun using PowerPoint to create slides about dogs. Soon, Grade 1 will use their skills when they make a PowerPoint that links to their PSNS work!



Grade 2 Create Beautiful Sculptures

In Grade 2, students have been diving into the exciting world of sculpture during Art lessons. They have been learning about different types of sculptures and the materials used to create them. Using everyday materials, they've transformed them into amazing sculptural pieces. So far, they've created colorful paper sculptures and crafted soft, textured wool sculptures, exploring how to bring ideas to life with our hands. By shaping, cutting, twisting, and gluing, they will continue to discover the endless possibilities of sculpture!



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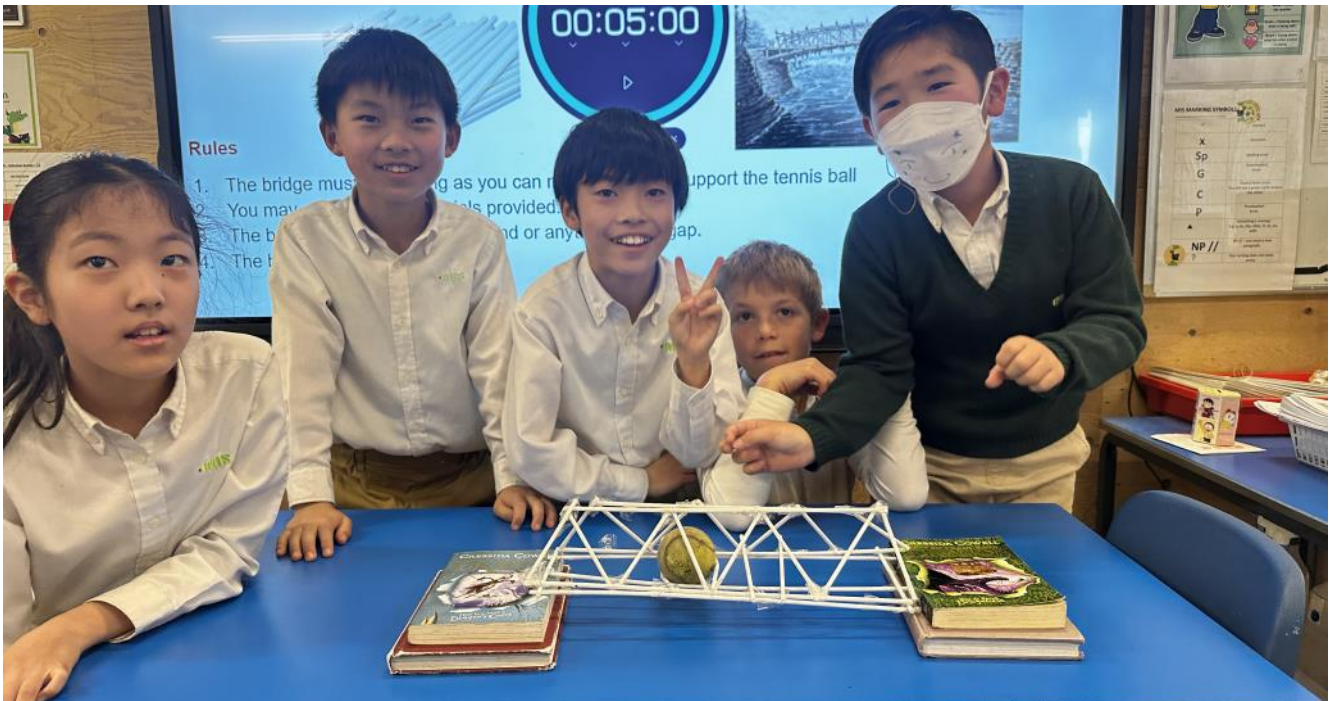
Grade 3 Bring Textures, Patterns & Nature Together in their Art

The student in G3 have been learning about creating different textures and patterns using different techniques. They created these beautiful night pictures using watercolors and silhouettes showing a winter scene of a forest.



For Grade 4 Experiment with a 'Skele-TON' of Learning

As part of their science unit, Grade 4 students explored how the skeleton provides structure and support by designing and building bridges using only art straws and tape. Through hands-on engineering, they discovered how bones work like beams - learning about stability, strength, and the importance of a strong framework.



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Grade 5 Create Pendulums and Art Pieces Integrating Science and Art

In Grade 5, students have been exploring the science behind pendulums. In Art class, they applied this knowledge by crafting their own pendulums and using them to create unique abstract artwork.



Grade 6 Get Magnetic and Balanced

In Science, G6 students explored electromagnetism by creating their own electromagnets using copper wire, batteries, and conductors. Through hands-on experiments, they discovered how electric currents generate magnetic fields and investigated ways to strengthen or weaken their electromagnets such as changing to conductor, the tightness of the coil or adding/removing batteries. By testing different variables, they observed the practical applications of electromagnetism and gained a deeper understanding of its role in everyday technology. Students also worked on improving their balance skills this week in PE. Students worked in pairs or in 3's to create sequences in which they had to rely on each other. It was a fun, but also a surprisingly challenging lesson.



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Calligraphy Week Highlights Students Japanese Talents

At the beginning of the third semester, the highlight event of the Japanese language program, "Kakizome" was held. All of the students did their best in the pencil writing division for the lower grades and the brush writing division for the upper grades. Three winners from each class were selected for the best writing award by the Japanese Department.



Amazing Students of the Week & Assemblies!



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More Amazing Students of the Week & Assemblies!



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餅つきタイム!



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The Bubble Guy Entrances Kindergarten!



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Maths & English Word Quest Inter-House Challenges!



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