



CFIS Newsletter

February &
March
2019

IPC THEME: FAMILY & FRIENDS

Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes

by Mr. Jesse

I've edited the David Bowie song Changes and I play it for the K3 kids just before home time. It's become a part of our home time routine. I read out the list of changes so the children know if there is something different going on in their day. It is an important time to listen. I've been listening to a few podcasts recently and the other day I heard that famous quote. "The only constant in life is change". In a few months' time, your children will be moving on up to new classes with new teachers and a new classroom. Our school's name will be changing and we will also be inheriting a new curriculum. Some things change, some stay the same (The Pretenders, Hymn to her). We have built the school on a mixture of traditional and progressive values. In the new year, they will not change.

Training is Key

During the last training session the teachers and I learned about Jolly Phonics. Next year we will be teaching the method in the classroom. It is such a clever way of teaching children how to read. Nothing about letter names is mentioned. The children in pre-school and K3 will be learning the sounds of certain letters first through stories, songs and then learning how to trace. Other classes like K4 and K5 are keen to inject the same kind of technique too. Just before we come back to school in the new year, the teachers and I will be attending the TAIP spring conference where the keynote speaker will be a lady by the name of Elana Leigh. She is a psychotherapist from Sydney, Australia and will speak about brain

function in relationships. Deep stuff but like walking into a candy store for us teachers. I look forward to relaying what we learn at that one.

Family and Friends until March

Until the end of the year, all classes at school will be immersing the children in the Family and Friends theme. Please stay close to your inbox for details on up and coming class events. Also, at the end of the year in the second week of March we will have the K5 graduation. We hope you can all make it out to bid the K5 kids a special farewell.

Jesse

Preschool

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

Dear Parents,

It was great to see the students return after Winter break. We started off the New Year by introducing tooth brushing and slowly weaning the children off nap time. In the second half of January, we focused on transportation with flashcards, by pretending we were on an airplane, driving a firetruck, counting and learning colors of buses, trains and cars. We have also been singing songs related to transportation such as The Wheels on the Bus, I See an Airplane in the Sky, Hurry, Hurry Drive the Firetruck, and Row, Row, Row Your Boat. To exit our IPC theme, we went to the Train and Bus Museum, where the children were able to drive trains to different stations using simulators, pretend to drive a bus, open and close the doors of the bus and look inside different trains. They all loved it!

With our last two months of the year, we will start a new IPC theme: Family and Friends. This theme

comes at a very important time in the student's emotional and social development. All year we have been promoting friendship between classmates and trying to show how to be nice to our friends. So in February we will be having a Friendship Valentine's Day party for students to show their love and appreciation for one another. Not only will we be having a party for Valentine's Day, we will be making some Valentine's Day craft as well.

As part of our new IPC theme, the students will be talking about their family and friends. We will ask your child to bring a family photo for show and tell during the month. The students will be learning vocabulary related to family such as mum, dad, brother, sister, grandma, grandpa and baby. We will also have family role playing where the students will be the mum or dad and will be washing the baby.



Just before the end of the school year, we will be having one last preschool party in March, the Pajama party, where we all will come to school in our pajamas and have fun activities.

UPCOMING PRESCHOOL EVENTS

- February 4th-7th – Open School
- February 14th – Friendship Valentine's Day party
- February 26th – 27th – Parent-Teacher conferences
- March 1st – Pajama party
- March 8th – Scarlett's birthday party
- March 15th – Graduation Ceremony

Some shots of last month in Preschool...

Show and Tell is one of our favorite activities!



Language Arts

Healthy habits: getting into the tooth brushing routine



LAST MONTH IN K3



Language Arts

Going through the alphabet with transportation!



Horse racing

The kids love ending the day with a horse race in the gym



Morning circle

We have been using our colorful scarves during morning circle

UPCOMING K3 EVENTS

- February 4th-7th – Open School
- February 14th – Valentine's Day party
- February 15th – Viviana's birthday party
- February 26th – 27th – PTC
- March 1st – Pajama party
- March 8th – Leo, Henry, Alyssa and Luna's birthday party
- March 15th – Graduation Ceremony

K3

by Mr. Jesse & Ms. White

Transport comes to an end

For the last two months we have been immersing the children in transport. Ms. White and I were very pleased to see how most of the children in the class took to the theme and all of the activities we ran. Our impression was that the children loved imaginative story telling. I recall how the children's eyes lit up in wonder as they visualized the stories we told coming to life. It reminded me again of how plastic a child's mind is. There are literally no rules or boundaries for children's imaginations. There is a justifiable link to everything and through storytelling we were able to connect most of the transport facts to some narrative that actually involved the children. A story could start by one of the children asking their daddy if they could have a new car; an open top Jaguar please. Then because it was hot, they would go to the water and get on a boat. When they were hungry they would get lunch and then because it was their birthday, they could go for a trip into space on the X-15. We spun narratives like this and at some point or another involved every child in the class. Our puppets also gave the children the chance to speak in the circle by answering specific questions. In order to speak you must learn to listen first though.

We learned a lot of relevant things during this theme through songs as well. For your child's ongoing enjoyment feel free to keep playing songs like, the Wiggles Big Red Car, Big Red Boat. Also Fly Through the Sky. The song that we used to focus our onomatopoeia was called We All Go Travelling By.

Family and Friends

This is a great time of the year to learn about our friends and family. Throughout the year our K3 classmates have been learning how to get along with one another. At 3-4 years old

exist for 'my' benefit or to suit 'my' needs. By being at school and in a class with 23 other four year olds though the kiddos are quickly forced to learn certain norms about acceptable interactions with other people. Young children can be brutally honest and in many cases aggressive too. In the real world we learn how to curtail both of these behaviors; the latter one being the more undesirable of the two.

During the course of this theme we will teach the children the names of family members they know and try to elicit simple ideas from them. We will tell stories about different kinds of families and also talk some about pets. They are a big part of our family. We will try and talk about the things we do with our families as well like where we go together and what we can do. On the friends' front, we will continue to clarify and bring into focus certain things that are okay and not okay to do with/to friends and classmates. Our goal for this class is to continue to point them in the right direction when it comes to 'saying something nice to your classmates', 'helping them when we can', and 'asking before you take'. In our estimation, it's better to keep things at the children's practical level of understanding. We will run paired activities and have the children comment on something that they like about one another. We'll also try and give the children cooperative challenges by having them work in small groups, then larger then finally working as a whole class. Our craft activities will reflect this approach too. We will try and run art/craft projects by table row and through language and praise build up and recognize how well each individual works together in order to achieve a shared result.

K4

by Ms. Cristina & Ms. Aida

Welcome to the last newsletter of school year 2018-2019! It has been a privilege to be the teachers of your wonderful children and we have enjoyed guiding them towards this year's academic goals. They have definitely improved their handwriting and have worked hard on their math skills, not to mention how much they have enjoyed the various science experiments and hands-on activities with Ms. Kat.

Family and Friends

Our last IPC theme for this school year is Family and Friends and we will be integrating it in all our subjects. We will talk about our families and of the importance of spending quality time together and we will also talk about friendship and about how to keep old friends while making new friends. This is an appropriate theme at this time of the year, as the children will be experiencing change of classes and teachers very soon.

Language Arts

For Language Arts we will work on alphabet and letter sound recognition. We have introduced Jolly Phonics to help us out with the letter sounds and we are learning a new song for every letter sound along with gestures to help us remember the sounds when needed. We will also work on beginning and ending sounds.

Story Time

Have you ever heard the phrase "Slow and steady wins the race"? We will learn more about it through an interactive online version of the story The Tortoise and the Hare. After learning about the story we will give our students the opportunity to solve problems while developing the critical

skill of properly identifying and retelling the sequence of a story. After gathering up fallen pages from the Tortoise and Hare story, they can help the teacher to click and drag each page to re-arrange the storyline back into its proper order. We are sure the children will enjoy this interactive story.

Math

We will keep on working on one digit addition and we will introduce more subtractions. At this point the children are still a bit confused on when to put together or when to take away. For this we will prepare worksheets with both addition and subtraction in order for them to become more familiar with deciding whether to add or subtract. It all takes practice and we will make sure the children have enough chances to do that. We take advantage of any brief openings in our schedule to review our numbers in a playful competitive way.

Social Studies / Science

In connection with our IPC theme the children will be making their own pouches, which they can decide to give to a friend or family member if they want to. We will also need family pictures for a science project involving an Eskimo family. And if time allows we will be making our family tree as well. As a hands-on science project we will prepare something in connection with the water cycle after learning about the evaporation, condensation and precipitation. Many things to look forward to!

LAST MONTH IN K4



Driving test

K4 thoroughly enjoyed their driving test and are all more safety conscious now!!



Gym

We may have small hands but we can still carry around the exercise balls and even run with them!



Social Studies

We took our time to become familiar with road signs

UPCOMING K4 EVENTS

- February 4th -7th – Open School
- February 15th – Haruka, Ryuichi and Suzunosuke's birthday party
- February 20th – Friendship party
- February 26th – 27th – PTC
- March 1st – Pajama party
- March 8th – Rentaro's birthday party
- March 15th – Graduation Ceremony

LAST MONTH IN K5

**Driving test**

The children loved the driving practice ground we made inside the IPC room!

**Literacy**

The children are brushing up their reading and writing skills

**Fire station visit**

The children had the chance to visit the fire station and learn more about a firefighter's job, as well as wearing the firefighters' uniform and riding the fire engine

UPCOMING K5 EVENTS

- February 4th-7th – Open School
- February 13th – Friend's Day party
- February 15th – Sayaka's birthday party
- February 26th – 27th – PTC
- March 1st – Pajama party
- March 8th – Goodbye field trip
- March 15th – Graduation Ceremony

K5

by Ms. Norah & Ms. Lisa

The end of the school year is fast approaching. Time does fly like an arrow, and its passing is unstoppable. Your children have also grown so fast! It has been our greatest joy to see them learn, laugh and grow since the beginning of the school year. We can never thank you enough for all the support you have given our class, and we are very grateful for the work you are doing at home in helping your child.

IPC Theme: Family and Friends

Over the next two months, we will be reviewing everything the children have been learning during the school year to ensure they all reach their academic goals.

In addition to that, however, we will still have many fun activities and events in February and March along the new IPC theme of Family and Friends. This will be a chance for the students to get to know more about themselves, the origin of their family, and their friends. When discussing about family, the students will be encouraged to think about the differences between their own family and the others', and to discover from which countries their families come from. This is a good time to talk about friends too, considering the social changes the children will be experiencing in the near future: soon it will be the time for them to say goodbye to their kindergarten friends and strive to make new friends in elementary school.

The students will have the chance to get to know more about each other through interviews, portrait paintings, or playing many fun games together. Just before the exit point of the theme in the middle of February, we will have a Friendship Day where the children

will have fun with their classmates and friends.

Social Studies

The Puppet Show has been part of our Social Studies lessons since November. From now, we will be giving the children more chances to run their puppet show independently and make their own stories along the Family and Friends theme. This activity fosters the students' leadership and performance skills, and sometimes even the courage to stand in front of their classmates. It also encourages social interaction between the students, imagination, storytelling, and the ability to listen to others. We will invite younger students to our classroom to show them our puppet show as well.

Japanese

Mr. Ryota will be teaching the children about Setsubun, a fun traditional holiday known in English as the Bean Throwing Festival. He is planning to read a story related to Setsubun and then have the students make special masks to play with. On the day, the children will also be eating as many beans as the years of their age. Apart from celebrating Setsubun, the class will review the whole Hiragana alphabet.

Music

Music lessons for these months will be focusing on music theory and on playing the piano. Ms. Lisa is explaining further musical note values using exercises on the pentagram. The notes values are also being reviewed through a card game to let the children enjoy music theory. During music lesson the children are learning the song that will be used for their graduation and are exercising their singing and pronunciation skills.