

HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

January Newsletter



HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025 EDITION

Highlights at Harbourfront International School

Dear Harbourfront Families,

Happy New Year and welcome back! It has been wonderful to see our learners return refreshed and ready to begin a new chapter of learning together. January brings renewed routines, fresh goals, and exciting inquiry opportunities across all age groups.

Thank You for Joining Our Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who took the time to attend our Term 2 Parent-Teacher Conferences. Your presence, thoughtful questions, and open communication make a meaningful difference in your child's learning journey.

These conversations allow us to celebrate each child's growth, discuss areas for development, and strengthen the partnership between home and school. When families and teachers work together, students feel supported, confident, and motivated to do their best.

We truly appreciate your continued trust, collaboration, and commitment to your child's development. Thank you for being active partners in our Harbourfront community.

Learner Profile: Knowledgeable & Balanced

ATL Skills focus: **Thinking Skills**

Performance Day Preparations

Across the school, children have been busy preparing for their general rehearsal for Performance Day. From practicing lines and choreography to building confidence on stage, students are showing teamwork, responsibility, and perseverance. It has been inspiring to see their growth in communication, cooperation, and stage presence as they work together toward this exciting event.

HAPPY
Birthday

Nana,
Hiina,
Yuine



February Events

This month also brings some fun and meaningful school-wide events:

- **3-** Setsubun Festival
- **5-** Dr. Praying Mantis (Guest Speaker)
- **5** - School Assembly (Birthday Celebrations)
- **12** - Safety Drill: Intruder Drill
- **19** - Safety Drill: Earthquake Drill
- **27** - Performance Day

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STARFISH CLASS

January's Theme - Communication

LEARNING

Theme Activity:

This month, we focused on communication and conversation.

English:

We continue to learn useful English vocabulary and phrases through play and song.

Japanese:

1月はお正月や冬の言葉を学びました。冬休みにお家で見たものがたくさん出てきて、お家の方との思い出をたくさんお話ししてくれていました。月終わりには節分の歌を歌いました。子どもたちも大好きになり季節の歌を楽しんで歌っていました。

Centers:

We used different types of play and toys to practice fine motor skills and build hand strength.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):

We practiced how to ask questions and listen to the answers.

WHAT'S ON

This month we enjoyed the New Year traditions of shrine visiting and kite flying. On January 9th, we took our first excursion to the Goryo Shrine! The children were excited to see all of the new sights, but were also respectful when praying. We also made kites with New Year decorations and played with them at the park throughout the month.

Our focus in January was communication. We practiced expressing our needs and questions. The children are growing more confident, but can also ask for help from teachers when they need it. They are practicing telling their friends their feelings. We can now ask what things are ("What's this?") and where are our friends ("Where's ____?"). Finally, we began our practice for the Performance Day. Good job, Starfish Class!

Nana had her Open Day this month. Starfish loves to have visitors and were very happy to meet and play with Nana's mommy.



COMING UP

February - Weather & Temperature

This month, we will be thinking about the weather and making connections to other parts of our lives: clothing, temperature, outside play, seasons and nature. We will discuss what we can see during different times of year, games we can play in different kinds of weather and what clothes are appropriate depending on the temperature.

February will be a time of practice for our Performance Day at the end of the month. The children know their parts, are perfecting their dancing, singing and playing bells. We will also have a Setsubun Party and make Valentine's Day art.

Starfish is preparing to become Seahorse in two months, so they are doing many things for themselves and are very proud of their achievements. We are cheering for you!



REMINDERS

- Feb 3rd - Setsubun Party
- Feb 5th - Birthday Party
- Feb 12th - Emergency Drill
- Feb 19th - Cooking
- Feb 27th - Performance Day



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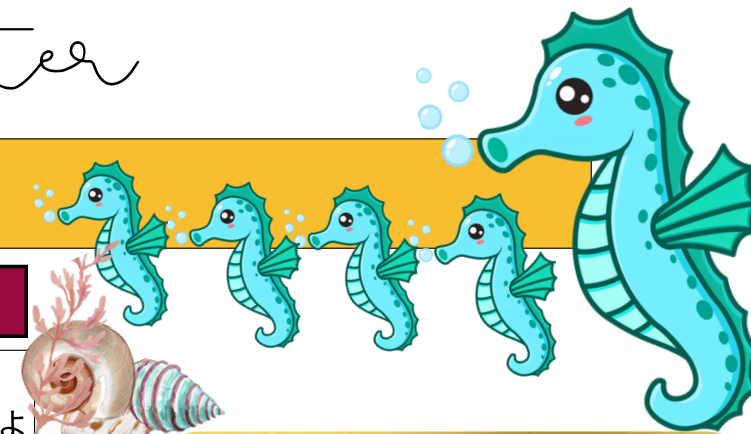


**JANUARY'S
THEME:**

**WHO WE ARE:
HELPING FRIENDS/
CELEBRATING ME**

SEAHORSE CLASS

LEARNING



Happy New Year! We wish you all the very best for 2026. It was wonderful to welcome the children back after the winter holiday and hear about all the fun experiences they enjoyed during the break. We talked about what the new year brings and shared our resolutions for 2026, which encouraged thoughtful discussions and self-expression.

During our craft lessons, the children had fun making origami mittens and especially enjoyed writing うま in our calligraphy activity, as this is the Year of the Horse. We also enjoyed a mini field trip to a local shrine to welcome the new year, where the children learned about traditional customs such as cleansing their hands, offering coins, ringing the bell, and praying. It was quite a long walk, but everyone did their best without any complaints and enjoyed exploring familiar sights in our town.

January was a wonderful way to start the year, and we are looking forward to many more fun and meaningful learning experiences in the coming months.

Fine Motor Skill Stations & Physical Education:

The children continued practicing grasping small objects, threading, and cutting both straight and curved lines. We have also been practicing tracing capital letters following the correct stroke order.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):

We have been encouraging the children to continue sharing kindly and speaking politely with their friends. It's wonderful to see how much progress they've made – often using gentle reminders

Japanese:

出来事や思い出などを上手にお話できるようになってきた子どもたち。冬休みをどんなふうに過ごしたのか、お正月にはおせちを食べたことなど嬉しそうにお話してくれました。戸外で門松を見つけると教えてくれる場面もあり、英語のレッスンだけではなく日本語のレッスンで聞いたことをよく覚えています。今月は書き初めや凧の制作を通して日本ならではのお正月の遊びに触れました。

Children have become able to talk about events and memories well. They happily told teachers how they spent their winter vacation and food they ate on New Year's Day such as Osechi. When we found Kadomatsu outdoors, children taught us what it was. They remember what they heard not only in English lessons but also in Japanese lessons. This month, we touched on New Year's play that is unique to Japan through calligraphy and kite production.



WHAT'S ON

Vocabulary:

Seasonal Words: heart, love, hug, kiss, friend, card, red, pink, demon, beans, pants, horns, strong, evil, brave

Winter: cold, snow, ice, winter, coat, mittens, hat, boots, scarf, earmuffs,

REMINDERS

Note to Families:*(PLEASE READ)*

- Please regularly check both **Lookmee** and **Class Dojo** for important updates to help ensure a smooth school experience for your child.
- We kindly ask that you bring your child to school **before 9:15**, as that is when we begin our Circle Time lesson. Arriving on time helps your child start the day smoothly and join in all the fun and learning with friends.

FEBRUARY'S THEME: SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS / AUTUMN

HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES

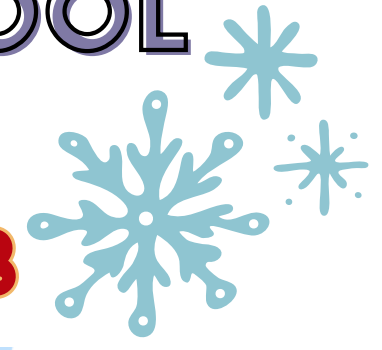
In February, we are looking forward to a fun and exciting month filled with seasonal activities. The children will enjoy making Valentine's Day crafts as we talk about friendship, kindness, and caring for others. We will also celebrate Setsubun by preparing for the demon visit and practicing being brave as we work together to chase the oni away. We will continue focusing on building independence and preparing for the challenges of Harbour Class next school year, including following routines and taking responsibility in the classroom. We are also very excited to welcome a new friend to the Seahorse Class. The children are looking forward to becoming friends, helping him learn our routines and class rules, and making him feel welcome. We look forward to another wonderful month of learning and growth together.

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K1 HARBOUR CLASS



WE ARE LEARNING...

HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES: FUNCTION & CAUSATION

This month, students are exploring how people express ideas and emotions in different ways as part of our unit, People use different ways of expression as they connect and make sense of the world.

In preparation for our Inside Out-inspired Performance Day, students are practicing how to communicate emotions through voice, movement, facial expressions, and simple lines. Through role play and drawing activities such as "I feel ___ when ___," they are developing confidence and emotional awareness.

In English, students are building vocabulary related to places and emotions. They are practicing spelling, labeling, and writing simple sentences to express their ideas clearly.

In Math, students are strengthening number sense and problem-solving skills through hands-on activities. They are learning to think conceptually, explain their strategies, and apply math in meaningful contexts.

Overall, students are growing as communicators, thinkers, and confident learners.

Japanese

1月は、『やぎさんゆうびん』『北風小僧の寒太郎』の季節の歌を歌ったり、発表会に向けて「たのしいね」というお歌を練習しています

製作活動では、書き初めで"うま"を書いたり、節分イベントの豆を入れる箱を作ったりして過ごしましたが!はじめて使う墨や筆に力加減や持ち方がわからず戸惑っていましたが、上手に文字を書くことができましたよ。また、節分の製作では、豆の箱を紙をちぎったり、糊で貼ったりして個性豊かな箱が出来上がりました。

読み書きでは、文字を見ながら真似して書くことがスムーズにできるようになってきました。少しずつ画数が増えて難しいひらがなにも挑戦しています。



REMINDERS:

- Please check ClassDojo for daily photos and updates
- As the weather gets colder, please send jackets, hats, and spare warm clothes labeled with your child's name
- **Feb 27: Performance Day**

Mochi Pounding Festival



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K2 OCEAN CLASS



LEARNING ...

UOI THEME : WHO WE ARE
EXPLORING WHY AND HOW PEOPLE CELEBRATE

Thank you to all the families who met with us during Parent-Teacher Conferences. We hope you were pleased to see the progress your child has made, both academically and personally. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you for the remainder of the academic year. We understand that parenting can be challenging, so please feel free to reach out with any questions, we are always happy to support.

Inquiry

We began the month by reflecting on our previous Unit of Inquiry before starting our new unit under the theme of Celebrations. Learners explored what celebrations are and what makes them meaningful. They discovered that different countries celebrate in unique ways and began learning about cultural traditions, languages, festivals, and traditional clothing..

Mathematics

Students continued strengthening their counting skills (1-100 in 2s, 5s, and 10s), number recognition, and addition. They also developed their understanding of positional language, including prepositions such as in, on, and under.

Literacy

As learners grow more confident in recognising letters, sounds, and words, they are improving in gathering information from texts and answering questions. In communication, students have been practising speaking in front of others, supporting both language development and confidence. In writing, we are focusing on pencil grip, handwriting, and correct letter formation.

JAPANESE ...

1月は、干支の歌やお正月遊びを楽しみました♪また、外遊びのときに見つけた「門松」や「しめ縄」など、お正月シーズンならではの言葉も習いました。みんなで作ったけん玉は、なかなかコツがつかめず苦戦している子もいましたが、カップに玉が入ると嬉しそうな笑顔が見られました。また、折り紙で獅子舞を作り、スクールでもお正月気分を満喫した子どもたちです。文字の学習では、カタカナの学習もそろそろ終わりに近づいています。一文字ずつで読んだり、つなげて言葉として読んだりして、これまで習ったカタカナの復習も行っています。



COMING UP

UOI THEME : WHO WE ARE
HOW THROUGH EXPLORING CELEBRATIONS WE BUILD UNDERSTANDING OF BELIEFS AND VALUES

February brings our big performance day, a way for us to thank all the guardians for all they do and to show case the students' talents and growth over the past year in this. we will be focusing more on our preparations for this upcoming event which is perfect as we have chosen a performance topic which is in line with our UOI theme of celebration. This month we are planning to learn more about the concept of traditions and values. As we explore different celebrations from around the world we will also look into what some of the traditions are in those countries and do a comparison of what things may be same and what is different. Hopefully This will bring an educational opportunity to learn about being open minded a step in becoming a kinder and a more global minded individual. we are aiming to follow the children's interest while exploring different countries so we are too excited to see where in the world this learning journey would take us .

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 3rd - Setsubun Party
(No swimming)
Feb 5th - Birthday Party
Feb 5th - Dr. Praying Mantis
Feb 12th - Emergency Drill
Feb 18th - Cooking
Feb 19th - Earthquake Drill
Feb 27th - Performance Day



REMINDERS

- Please **check ClassDojo every day** for updates, messages, and reminders from the Ocean Class teachers, as well as important school notices.
- Please **continue practicing reading** at home to support your child's learning.
- **For performance day**, please be sure to carefully review all information sent by the school so that both you and your child can enjoy the best experience.

WHAT'S ON

Wrapping Up Our UOI: Where We Are in Place and Time - Places

This month, students explored Places by examining the spaces around them and how people use and share them. Through hands-on activities, role-play, and discussion, children learned about different types of spaces, such as classrooms, parks, and shared areas, and why rules help these spaces work well for everyone.

Students enjoyed creating maps, designing signs, and exploring ideas of busy and quiet spaces, safety, and fairness. As the inquiry developed, they began to think more deeply about responsibility – how our actions affect others when we share spaces. This unit encouraged thoughtful conversations, collaboration, and growing independence as students connected their learning to everyday experiences.

Our New UOI: Sharing the Planet - Habitats

We are now beginning a new Unit of Inquiry under the theme Sharing the Planet, focusing on Habitats. In this unit, children will explore how people interact with and value local environments, such as parks, gardens, and natural spaces in our community.

Students will investigate both natural and human-made elements of environments, consider how these spaces meet people's needs, and reflect on why it is important to care for and protect them. Through observation, research, and discussion, children will be encouraged to think from different perspectives and develop a sense of responsibility toward the world around them.

END OF YEAR ROUNDUP

English (reading, writing, phonics)

Reading: is improving daily through the Raz-Kids application. Books are chosen that link to the current UOI or topic, helping the student to retain more information and use new words right away.

Phonics and writing: The students are becoming more confident in spelling unknown or new words by themselves before asking the teacher, sounding out each syllable.

Mathematics - Subtractions

Last month we worked through chapter 8 - Subtractions. Here they learned how to subtract through stories and pictures within 5 and 10. They worked very hard and scored well in their Performance task. This month they will move on to numbers to 100!



REMINDERS

iPads are charged and brought to school.



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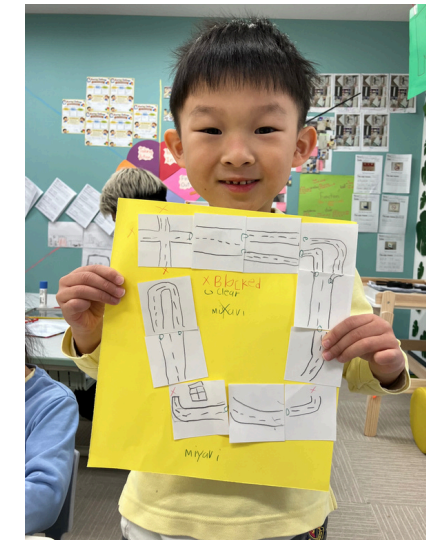
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K3 SKY CLASS AND GRADE 1

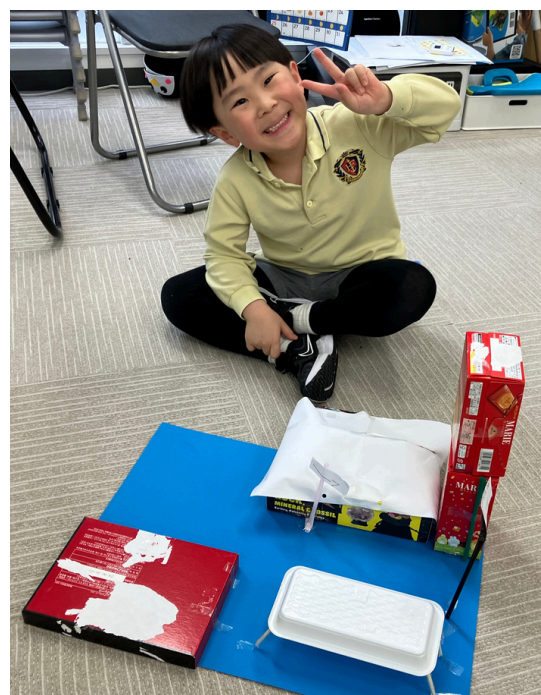
K3/G1 UNIT OF INQUIRY

WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME - PLACES

We are architects!



Learning....



Having fun!



GRADE 1

Mathematics

We are now beginning Chapter 3: 2D and 3D Shapes. Students are exploring the properties of flat and solid shapes, learning to identify, name, and describe them using mathematical vocabulary. Through hands-on activities, building tasks, and real-life connections, they are discovering how shapes are used in the world around them.

This unit supports important ATL skills, including thinking skills as students compare and classify shapes, communication skills as they explain their reasoning, and research skills as they observe and investigate shapes in their environment. By exploring shapes conceptually, students are beginning to understand not just what shapes are called, but how their attributes help us build and design in everyday life.

Japanese

1月は「どうぶつの赤ちゃん」のお話を読みました。ライオンの赤ちゃんとしまうまの赤ちゃんについて読み比べて、違いについてまとめました。さらにカンガルーや自分が赤ちゃんのときのことも調べました。実際の赤ちゃんの大きさや、成長の速さに驚いている様子が見られました!

また、「ものの名前」の学習では、お店屋さんごっこをしました。ものには『野菜』などのまとめてつけた名前と『トマト』『きゅうり』などのひとつひとつの名前があることを学び、「花屋さん」「乗り物屋さん」「くだもの屋さん」の品物を考えました。他のクラスの先生たちにも来てもらい、「いらっしゃいませ!」「〇〇円です」「おすすめはありますか」など、お店の人とのやりとりも練習しました。

