

HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

August Newsletter



HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025 EDITION

Celebrating Our Home-School Partnership

Dear Harbourfront Families and Team,

One of the highlights of this month has been our Parent-Teacher Conferences—a time for meaningful conversations between teachers and families to reflect on each child's growth, learning experiences, and next steps. These individual meetings are a powerful part of our partnership, helping ensure that every child feels seen, supported, and celebrated.

A heartfelt thank you to all our parents for taking the time to join the conferences. Your involvement plays a vital role in your child's development and helps strengthen the connection between home and school. Your questions, stories, and reflections bring richness to our conversations and remind us that learning happens best when we work together.

We would also like to recognize and thank our dedicated teachers, who thoughtfully prepared documentation, observations, and learning samples for every child. Their care, professionalism, and commitment to our PYP philosophy were truly evident in every conversation.

What's Coming in September

As we begin a new month, we're continuing to grow as a learning community.

For K3 and Grade 1, we are beginning our next Unit of Inquiry, where students will continue developing their thinking and collaboration skills through meaningful, play-based exploration. Meanwhile, K1 and K2 will continue deepening their current learning experiences through stories, routines, and hands-on activities.

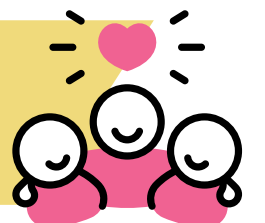
This September, our whole school will focus on the IB Learner Profiles of Communicator and Inquirer. We'll be encouraging children to express themselves confidently, listen to others, and ask thoughtful questions about the world around them.

Our Approaches to Learning (ATL) focus is on Social Skills—helping children learn how to take turns, cooperate, solve problems peacefully, and support each other in both structured and free play.



Learner Profile for Communicator & Inquirer

ATL Skills focus: Social Skills



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Lynn



Akihito



Miyabi



Welcome to Grade 1 - A New Chapter Begins!

With the new school year beginning in September, this milestone feels especially meaningful—we are proud to launch our very first Grade 1 class at Harbourfront! It marks an exciting step in our journey as an IB PYP Candidate School and opens a new chapter of growth for our older learners.

Our Grade 1 students are stepping into a more structured learning experience while still embracing the play-based, inquiry-rich approach that defines our school. They share their homeroom space with the K3 class, creating a collaborative environment where leadership and peer relationships naturally flourish.

To support their academic development, Grade 1 learners attend separate classes for both Math and Japanese, giving them the opportunity to engage with age-appropriate content in smaller, focused groups. These dedicated sessions allow for more targeted instruction while still connecting to the broader learning themes and transdisciplinary inquiries.

We are excited to witness the confidence, curiosity, and independence that will grow in our Grade 1 students this year. Here's to a joyful and inspiring start to their primary school journey!

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STARFISH CLASS

August - Me and My Friends

LEARNING

Theme Activity:

Our focus is Me and My Friends. We practiced our friends' names. During lessons, we told our friends what colour and what fruit we like.

English:

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

Japanese:

今月は夏についてお話をしたり、Summer festivalがあるということで、お祭りについてもお話をしました。歌では、「バナナのおやこ」と「おばけなんてないさ」を歌いました。体を揺らしながらリズムにのる姿や、ペープサートを指さす姿がとても可愛らしかったです。自分たちのお名前を自信満々な表情で答えてくれたり、色の名前を元気な声で教えてくれる様子もたくさん見られました。絵本を読んでいるときに、集中して見て、知っているものが見えると「あ!」とニコニコで教えてくれて、お友だちと嬉しそうに笑い合う姿がほほえましいです。

Centers:

We will use different kinds of play and toys to practice fine motor skills and build hand strength.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):

We will continue to practice playing nicely by sharing and taking turns.

WHAT'S ON

This month we learned about our friends. We now can remember our friends' names and are continuing to find out more about their likes and dislikes. Part of this includes respecting friends when they say no.

We had so much fun at the Summer Festival! Teams Tomato and Corn enjoyed dancing, fishing, making crafts and splitting a watermelon.

Sena's mommy visited Harbourfront for her open day. Starfish class loves having visitors and enjoys playing together. Good job everyone!



COMING UP

September - Animals

In September, we will focus on animals. We will learn not only the names of our animal friends, but what they look like, where they live and what sounds they make. We will explore the animals at Utsubo Park as the weather gets cooler.

In addition, we will connect this to our English lessons, by trying to find the first letter of different animals' names. As the seasons change, we will start to make fall-themed crafts. There will be a cooking lesson during the last week of the month.



REMINDERS

Sept 9th - Birthday Party
Sept 11th - Emergency Drill
Last Week of Sept - Cooking



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**AUGUST'S
THEME:**

**NATURE DISCOVERY
(SHARING THE PLANET)**

SEAHORSE CLASS

LEARNING

In August we enjoyed learning about many things that make summer special. We talked about the beach, ocean animals, festivals, and fireworks. The children were excited to share their own experiences and enjoyed learning new summer words.

We have also been trying our best to speak English every day. The children did very well with our "Speak to your partner" activity, where they practiced saying what they like and what they do not like. For example, "I like ice cream" or "I don't like bugs." They enjoyed sharing their ideas and listening to their partners in English.

It was a joyful month filled with summer fun and growing confidence in English.

Fine Motor Skill Stations & Physical Education:

At our fine motor skill stations, the children practiced grasping small objects, threading, cutting, and drawing straight and curved lines. We also focused on using crayons and colored pencils with the proper grip, helper hand, and good posture.

In P.E., the children had fun moving through obstacle courses by jumping, climbing, balancing, and crawling. They also practiced throwing, catching, rolling, and aiming balls, and enjoyed games like Monsters vs Superheroes and Grab the Tail.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):

We are encouraging the children to share kindly and speak politely with their friends.

They are also learning to support one another by giving gentle reminders, such as "Speak English please," "Walking please," or "Sit nicely please." This helps them practice good manners while learning that they can guide their friends in a positive way.

Japanese:

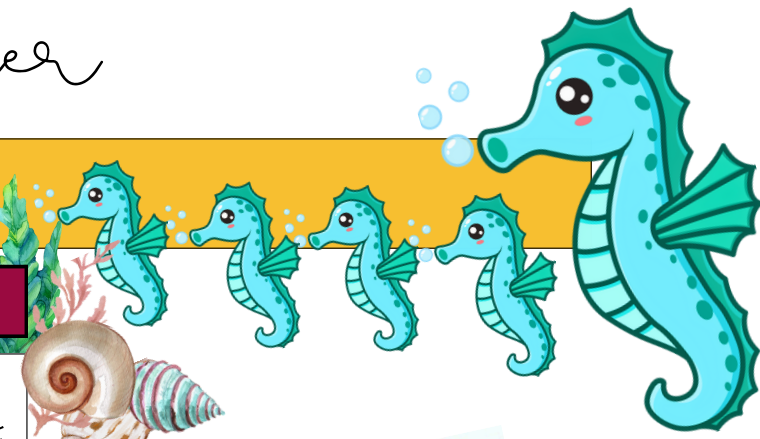
今月は夏ならではの食べ物や事柄について話をしました。子どもたちも大好きなかき氷やアイスクリームの話になると嬉しそうにする姿が見られました。

8月の歌、"バナナのおやこ"や"おばけなんてないさ"を楽しく歌っていました♪特に"バナナのおやこ"は振付をしながら「パパバナナ! ママバナナ! コバナナ! 」と大きな声で歌う姿が可愛かったです。絵本の時間を心待ちしている子どもたち。お話に頷いたり、なに? なんで? と質問しながら絵本の世界を楽しんでいます😊

This month we explored foods and traditions of summer. The children's faces lit up with excitement when we talked about shaved ice and ice cream, which are among their favorites.

They also enjoyed singing our August songs, "Banana no Oyako" and "Obake nante nai sa." "Banana no Oyako" was especially fun, as they sang out loudly, "Papa Banana! Mama Banana! Ko Banana!" while doing the actions. It was very cute to see.

Story time is another highlight of the day. The children listen with great interest, nodding along, and eagerly ask questions like "What?" and "Why?" as they dive into the world of picture books. 😊



WHAT'S ON

Vocabulary:

farm/ocean/zoo animals, adjectives, verbs, colors, shapes, occupations, summer words

Songs:

Baby Shark, Stroll, Everyday's a Beautiful Day, Rock-a-bye Your Bear, The Wheels on the Bus, If You're Happy, Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes

REMINDERS

Note to Families:

1. Please regularly check both Lookmee and Class Dojo for important updates to help ensure a smooth school experience for your child.
2. Kindly check all of your child's belongings and make sure each item is clearly labeled with their name, as we still continue to notice unnamed items mixing up

SEPTEMBER'S THEME:

**CREATIVE EXPRESSION
(HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES)**

COMING UP

In September, our theme is 'Who Are We?' with a focus on 'Celebrating Me'. We will learn about ourselves and what makes us unique. We will explore the Mid-Autumn Festival by talking about the moon, harvesting, and enjoying mooncakes. We will also celebrate Respect for the Aged Day by thinking about our families and learning about how important it is to respect our elders.

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K1 HARBOUR CLASS



LEARNING

AUGUST'S THEME:

HOW THE WORLD WORKS (PERSPECTIVE)

Hello Harbour Class families!

August was a month full of building, teamwork, and new ideas as we continued our Unit of Inquiry, How the World Works: Construction Zone. The children explored how different parts work together (Function) and how we can all have different ideas when we design and build (Perspective). We became engineers, architects, and creators—working with blocks, recycled materials, and lots of imagination!

English & Communication

- Practiced using sentences like: "Can you help me build?" and "I have an idea."
- Continued blending sounds (s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d) and practiced tracing and writing our names.
- Shared our building ideas with friends, learning to explain choices and listen to different perspectives.

Math Fun

- Compared towers by height (tall/short) and width (wide/narrow).
- Practiced quick counting skills by counting blocks and materials in our structures.
- Explored sorting by type, size, and color while planning our creations.

Art Highlights

This month, the Harbours explored creativity through construction-inspired projects:

- Origami Dragonflies - folding paper into new forms.
- Popsicle Stick Harmonicas - discovering sound through materials.
- Recycled Panda - transforming everyday boxes and tubes into playful pets.

Japanese:

8月は、「ばなのおやこ」「スイカの名産地」「手のひらを太陽に」など季節のお歌を歌いました。製作活動では、屋台の食べ物を作ったり、ハサミを使って丸の形に切り、9月からエントランスに貼る予定のぶどうを作りました。丸の形に切るのが難しく苦戦している子どもたちの姿がありました。一生懸命に取り組んでいました。ひらがなでは、なぞり書きの練習をしたり、フラッシュカードを使った読みの練習をしました。数字カードを使って真剣最弱にも挑戦しています。

SEL (Social and Emotional Learning)

- Practiced teamwork and sharing ideas during group building.
- Focused on listening to friends' perspectives and respecting different choices.
- Learned how to solve problems together when designs didn't work the first time.

Centers

- Building Center: Towers, bridges, and homes with recycled materials.
- Dramatic Play: Builders' vests, tools, and teamwork.
- Art & Design: Loose parts for creating instruments and animals.
- Sorting Center: Exploring how materials can be grouped in different ways.



WHAT'S GOING ON

- Practicing teamwork and sharing ideas.
- Exploring how different materials can be used to build.
- Designing homes for figurines and sharing perspectives.
- Creating art from recycled goods.
- Preparing to explore Change in September—the final part of Construction Zone!

REMINDERS:

- Please send in any shoe boxes or big boxes for building center!
- Don't forget to check ClassDojo for daily updates and photos!

SEPTEMBER'S THEME:

HOW THE WORLD WORKS (CHANGE)

JUL 17 COMING UP

- Exploring how materials can change when we fold, bend, or build.
- Testing strength of different materials.
- Combining ideas to build stronger, taller, and more creative structures.

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K2 OCEAN CLASS

LEARNING

Hello everyone. We hope everyone's August was as eventful and interesting as we did. We are more than halfway through our unit, How we express ourselves. We have been slowly moving toward our final goals and seeing all the interesting ideas and things the kids have done and made in pursuit of getting to the goal.

English class: In English class we have been focusing on the basic phonic phrases (at, it, an, etc) We have also been working on having the kids be able to read all the letters in the alphabet especially the lower case ones.

Math class: This month in math class we have focused on getting our addition and subtraction to a higher level than before. We have also worked on shapes and what shapes can be put together to make a bigger different shape.

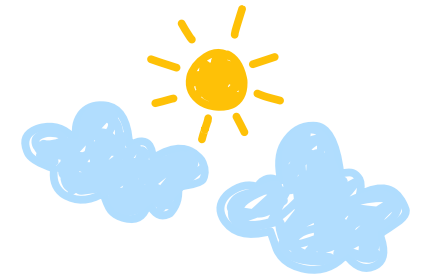
Center: In center time the kids have been either building different things for space and making a restaurant. The kids in the restaurant center have been learning how to operate a restaurant.

Inquiry (How we express ourselves): The kids have been doing really well during this cycle. Their imaginations have run wild and have shown us unique ideas and thoughts. We are starting to focus a lot on the theme of space, where the kids have been doing multiple things around space as its focus.

Japanese:

8月は、「世界中のこどもたちが」の歌を歌いました。少し長い歌ですが、みんなニコニコしながら楽しそうに歌う姿が見られます。また、夏祭りに向けて盆踊りも覚えました。「右～左～」 「ぱっぱっぱ！」 手や腕を動かしながら上手に踊っていますよ。

言葉あそびの活動では、マジカルバナナのゲームを楽しみました。「バナナと言ったら黄色」「黄色と言ったら・・・ユニフォーム!」「ユニフォームと言ったら・・・着るもの!」「着るものと言ったら・・・」子どもたちなりに考えながら、イメージを膨らませていくのがとっても楽しいゲームです。



WHAT'S NEXT: SEPTEMBER

September 4: Special Reader

September 12: Birthday Party

September 11: Emergency Drill

September 15: Holiday

September 23: Holiday



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K3 SKY CLASS AND GRADE 1

K3/G1 UNIT OF

HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES

WHAT'S ON *WRITTEN BY THE STUDENTS



Rui:

We learned how to make a story using settings, characters and plot. We made our own character and used it to make our own story. I made a story about a hungry frog trying to get home.

Lynn:

We made our own characters and used them to make our story. As a team, we made a news casting station. We made a camera, microphone, computer, boom stick and a weather board.

Amu:

We made ice-cream for the summer festival. First we drew the shapes, then we cut them out and finally we decorated them with cute patterns. We made puppets and tried to do our own puppet show.

Kotoko:

We made our own picture books. Everyone made nice stories. I made a story about a girl and a god on a treasure hunt. My favorite story was Miyabi's pirate story. It's so funny.

Miyabi:

We learned about stories and how to sequence. We learned how to express ourselves. We practiced doing a news show at BK Plaza. We talked about emergencies, did interviews and did a weather report.

Akihito:

We went to NHK BK Plaza. It was fun, we did the news on a real camera. When we came back, we did a reflection and wrote a report on what we did and our favorite part.

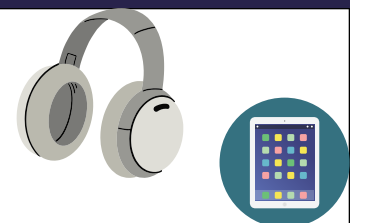
COMING UP

Coming Up Next in September:

Our New Unit of Inquiry - Transportation. Next month, we'll begin an exciting new Unit of Inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme How the World Works, exploring the concept of Transportation. Through hands-on activities, stories, and real world connections, students will investigate how people and goods move from place to place, why transportation systems exist, and how they impact our daily lives. Get ready for some travel themed learning adventures both real and imaginative!

REMINDERS

iPads are charged and brought to school.



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OUR LEARNING JOURNEY: K3 SKY CLASS & GRADE 1

