

# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

September Newsletter



**HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION**

## Highlights at Harbourfront International School

### Dear Harbourfront Families and Team,

As we move into October and transition into the beautiful autumn season, the Harbourfront learning community continues to grow and thrive with meaningful experiences and joyful moments across all age groups.

The weather becomes cooler and routines get busier, we kindly ask all families to help take care of your child's health and well-being. Ensuring they come to school well-rested, dressed warmly, and feeling their best allows them to fully enjoy each day of learning, play, and discovery.

### Preschool Welcomes New Friends

In the Starfish class, we warmly welcomed Ria, Mia, and Augustus (from the Seahorse class) into our Harbourfront family. It's been heartwarming to see them settle in with curiosity and joy, quickly becoming part of our daily life.

As cooler weather arrives, we wrapped up our summer water play and are now enjoying more outdoor adventures, like nature walks and playground time—great opportunities for building independence and social skills.



### Kindergarten: Wrapping Up Inquiry

Our Kindergarten learners (K1 and K2) are completing their 2<sup>nd</sup> Inquiry theme. It's been a time of active exploration, storytelling, and collaboration. Next week, we'll begin a brand-new inquiry theme that brings fresh provocations and opportunities to wonder and learn together.

**K1** How the World Works ( Construction)

**K2** How We Express Ourselves (Imagination)

**K3** and **G1** How We Organize Ourselves  
(Transportation)

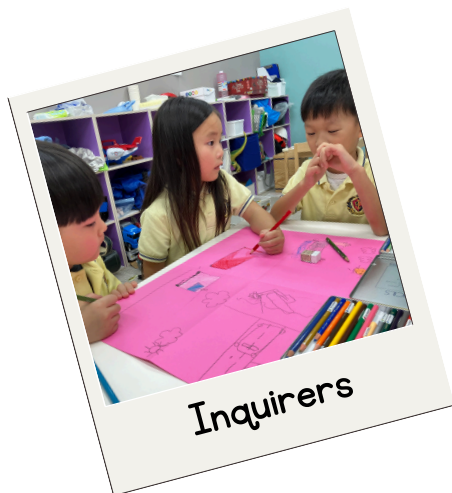


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Tsukasa, Zen, Hirotsugu, Kotoa, Haruse  
Tony

### K3 & Grade 1: Off to Singapore!

Excitement is building for our Study Abroad Program! From October 12-18, our K3 and Grade 1 students will travel to Singapore to experience a new learning environment, explore different perspectives, and immerse themselves in Singaporean culture and education. This international experience supports our IB PYP goal of developing globally-minded learners.

### Whole-School: Sports Day Prep

Across all classes, children are preparing for our Sports Day coming up in November. Whether it's practicing relay races, obstacle courses, or cheering each other on during group games, the energy and teamwork in the air are incredible!

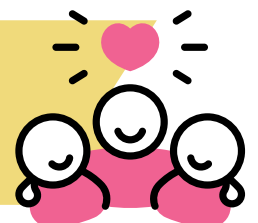
### October Events

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

- **1** – School Assembly (Birthday Celebrations)
- **6** – Moon Viewing Celebration/ Otsukimi
- **10** – Emergency Drill (Inside Intruder)
- **14-17** – Study Abroad Program/K3 Break (No School)
- **31** – Halloween Party



Learner Profile for Inquirer & Communicator  
ATL Skills focus: **Social Skills**



# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



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### STARFISH CLASS

## September's Theme - Animals

### LEARNING

#### Theme Activity:

We talked about animals. What are their names? What do they look like? What do they sound like?

#### English:

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

#### Japanese:

日本語のレッスンでは秋の果物をカードを使って覚えたり、みんなにどれが好きか前で伝える練習をしました。まだ日本語も明瞭に発音できない子もいる中、好きなカードをとって一生懸命伝えようとする姿はとても可愛らしかったです。10月はお月見やハロウィンなど行事が盛りだくさんのため、行事を通して様々なことを学んでほしいと思います。

#### 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 practice helping our friends and share our toys.

### WHAT'S ON

This month, we were happy to welcome two new students to Starfish Class: Mia and Ria. Their arrival gave our class a wonderful opportunity to practice setting a good example and showing what we've learned so far this year. We are excited to see our class family grow!

Using a variety of materials—such as flashcards, songs, sounds, and short videos—we explored the world of animals. The children not only learned the names of different animals, but also discovered how they look, their size, how they move, and the sounds they make.

Another highlight of the month was digging for sweet potatoes right in our classroom! We later used these potatoes in our cooking lesson, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was a fun and delicious way to connect learning with hands-on experience.



### COMING UP

### October - Teamwork

October will be an exciting month as we prepare for Sports Day! The children will practice two races as well as a dance, which we will perform together with Seahorse Class. As the weather gets cooler, we will also resume our daily trips to the park. With our class size growing, some children will now begin walking to and from the park—an exciting step as they get bigger and more independent. We have several seasonal celebrations to look forward to as well. We will hold our Moon Viewing Party, make a special craft, and cook Otsukimi Dango together. At the end of the month, we will celebrate with our Halloween Party—we can't wait to see the costumes and enjoy the festivities!



### REMINDERS

- Oct 1<sup>st</sup> - Birthday Party
- Oct 6<sup>th</sup> - Moon Viewing Party
- Oct 10<sup>th</sup> - Emergency Drill
- Oct 31<sup>st</sup> - Halloween Party



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SEPTEMBER'S  
THEME:

WHO WE ARE:  
HELPING FRIENDS/  
CELEBRATING ME

## SEAHORSE CLASS

### LEARNING

In September, the Seahorses noticed the change of season as water play ended and we spent more time at the park. During circle time, we learned about places and occupations, and the children were excited to recognize these in real life. They also enjoyed our "Talk to Your Partner" activity, sharing where they want to go and what they'd like to be in the future. It was a wonderful month of growth, connections, and learning!

#### **Fine Motor Skill Stations & Physical Education:**

At our fine motor skill stations, the children practiced picking up small objects, threading, cutting, and drawing straight and curved lines. They also worked on using crayons and colored pencils with the correct grip, helper hand, and good posture. In P.E., the children enjoyed obstacle courses—jumping, climbing, balancing, and crawling—and began preparing for Sports Day with the hamburger relay, group games, and dance practice.

#### **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):**

We continue to encourage the children to share kindly and speak politely with friends. They are learning to help one another with gentle reminders like "Speak English, please," or "Sit nicely, please." It's wonderful to see their progress as they practice good manners and guide each other in positive ways.

#### **Japanese:**

今月は季節の移変わりに目を向けたり、秋の食べ物やイベントのお話をしたりと楽しみました。ダンスでは、『どどちゃちゃフラミンゴ』を踊りました。ダンスのところで、肩足立ちでバランスを取ろうとする姿がとても可愛らしかったです。ひらがなのお勉強をしている際に、自分の名前の文字を認識している子どもが増えてきており、成長を感じます。

We were talking about season changes and fall's events and fruits this month. And we practiced dancing "Do Do Cha Cha Flamingo" together. They tried standing on one leg. They are so adorable! Lately, they tried saying their name and age in Japanese!!



### WHAT'S ON

#### **Vocabulary:**

Seasonal Vocab: Space, satellite, comet, solar system, asteroid, star, Sun, planets

Occupations: student, teacher, police officer, fire fighter, doctor, dentist, nurse, farmer, pilot,

- I like ... - It/this/that is ...

- I want a/to be a... - ... Please

- May I ...? Yes, you may/No, you may not

### REMINDERS

#### **Note to Families:**

- Please regularly check both Lookmee and Class Dojo for important updates to help ensure a smooth school experience for your child.
- 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.

### OCTOBER'S THEME: SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS / AUTUMN

HOW THE WORLD WORKS

In October, we will focus our studies on space, fall, and Halloween. The children will enjoy making festive Halloween crafts, including their very own trick-or-treat baskets. We will also begin learning about space, exploring the planets, stars, and the moon. We are especially excited to introduce lots of Halloween vocabulary and share the traditions of this fun holiday. The children are already looking forward to our Halloween party—we can't wait to see everyone's costumes and enjoy the celebration together! This is such a wonderful time of year, and we are excited to continue learning, creating, and having fun together throughout October.

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### K1 HARBOUR CLASS



#### WE ARE LEARNING...

#### SEPTEMBER'S THEME:

#### HOW THE WORLD WORKS (CHANGE)

#### Hello Harbour Class families!

September has been full of curiosity and creativity as we wrapped up our unit How the World Works: Construction. The Harbours worked together to explore how materials can be changed and used to build something new. Our biggest highlight has been starting our very own Harbour City using recycled goods. The children shared ideas, sorted materials, and began building roads, cars, and buildings for our city.

#### English & Communication

- Practiced sharing ideas and explaining choices during building projects.
- Learned and used new vocabulary: road, building, bridge, tall, strong, change, sort, label.
- Played communication games like "What's in the Box?" to practice describing objects with clues.

#### Math Fun

- Explored shapes and stability while stacking and building towers.
- Sorted and counted materials by type, color, and size.
- Compared tall vs. short and wide vs. narrow when testing our structures.
- Began using simple charts (reversible vs. irreversible changes) to record science observations.

#### Art Highlights

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

- Making a Pan Flute - discovering how materials can make sound.
- Creating Cars - using loose parts to create a vehicle.
- Creating House - using what we learned to put things together to make a home.
- Origami Jack-o-lanterns - Folding and putting together a spooky pumpkin

#### SEL (Social and Emotional Learning)

- Practiced teamwork while building together in groups.
- Learned how to solve "tricky problems" with persistence during problem-solving stations.
- Reflected on how different ideas (perspectives) make our city stronger and more creative.
- Celebrated successes and encouraged each other during presentations of their builds.

#### Centers

1. Building & Rebuilding Center Activity: Build a tower or house → knock it down → rebuild it differently.
2. Road Building Center Activity: Making roads for the toy cars to drive on.
3. Sensory Change Center Activity: Flatten playdough → roll into a ball → cut into shapes.

#### Japanese:

9月は、「おばけなんてないさ」「きききのこ」「松ぼっくりがあったとき」「焼き芋グーチャーパー」など季節のお歌を歌いました。

じゃんけんの面白さが少しわかってきたHarbourの子どもたち。おトイレの待ち時間などにお友達とじゃんけんをして遊んでいる姿が見られます。

製作活動では、秋の果物を折り紙を使っておったり、作った果物を入れるバスケットを作りましたよ！また遠足の振り返りでは、思い出を絵に描いて楽しかったことの共有をしました。ひらがなでは、引き続き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、記憶力を養うWhat's missing gameをしたりして楽しんでいます。



#### WHAT'S GOING ON

- Building Harbour City together using recycled materials
- Sorting and labeling recyclables for city parts (roads, cars, buildings, bridges)
- Practicing teamwork, problem-solving, and sharing ideas
- Exploring Change: how materials transform (cutting, folding, gluing, combining)
- Using new vocabulary: road, bridge, building, strong, tall, change
- Preparing to wrap up our unit How the World Works

#### REMINDERS:

- Check ClassDojo for daily photos and updates on our building progress
- As the weather cools, please send jackets labeled with your child's name
- Don't forget: October begins our new unit – Sharing the Planet 🌍

#### OCTOBER'S THEME:

#### SHARING THE PLANET (FORM)

**17** COMING UP

- Exploring What is Nature? Where do we find it?
- Nature walks and scavenger hunts.
- Creating art with natural materials.
- Comparing how people see and use nature differently.

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## K2 OCEAN CLASS

### WE ARE LEARNING...

#### English

This month in English, we focused on building confidence in phonics and speaking. The children practiced communicating in English as much as possible, asking questions like "May I play with this?", "Can I try?", and "Can I get a tissue, please?" By using English in everyday situations, they became more comfortable speaking naturally in class. We also worked on handwriting and reading. The children practiced writing more neatly and started with simple phonics books, gradually moving on to more challenging ones as their reading skills improved.

#### Math

In Math, the children practiced addition and subtraction, and even tried solving more complex equations, such as  $3 + 5 - 4 = ?$ . These activities encouraged them to think carefully, build problem-solving strategies, and strengthen their mathematical reasoning.

#### Inquiry

Our Inquiry unit wrapped up with an exciting project! Each child presented their very own space story to the class. They proudly shared the aliens, planets, and city designs they had created. To deepen their learning, we visited Legoland, where the children explored how cities are built. They were so inspired that many went back and improved their original designs after the trip. It was wonderful to see their creativity and imagination come to life!

#### Japanese

だんだん涼しくなり過ごしやすい季節になってきました。9月は秋の食べ物や生き物、植物について話したり、「虫の声」「まっかな秋」などの歌を歌ったりしました。「昨日スーパーで柿みたよ!」「さつまいも大好き!」「夜に鈴虫の音が聞こえた!」と、子どもたちなりにいろいろな秋を感じているようです。文字の学習では、カタカナを書く練習を始めました。ひらがなと形が似ているものは覚えやすいので、得意げに書いて見せてくれます。また、少し難しい形の読み方も覚え始めました! 楕円、台形、五角形など・・・身の回りにあるかなあ? と興味深そうに探していました。



### COMING UP: HOW THE WORLD WORKS

On October 1st, Ocean Class began a new Unit of Inquiry: "Changes in the environment affect everyday life." This unit, which will run until December, invites students to explore natural patterns and cycles, their effects on living things, and ways we can care for both the environment and the people around us.

Through hands-on activities and discussions, students will continue developing their thinking, research, and self-management skills, while also strengthening their foundations in math, reading, writing, and phonics. Another important focus will be on emotional regulation—encouraging students to reflect on their actions and consider the impact they have on themselves and others. We are looking forward to a meaningful term of discovery, reflection, and growth together!

### NOTICE

- 1- Please **send a baby picture** of your child as we will be using this to show their growth as part of our UOI and inquiry. You can send this via the ClassDojo messaging. Please send this **by October 20th**.
- 2- Please continue **practicing reading** at home to support the students' learning.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Oct 1st - School Assembly
- Oct 6th - Moon Viewing Festival (Cooking)
- Oct 10th - Emergency Drill: Intruder Drill
- Oct 31st - Halloween Party

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**K3 SKY CLASS AND GRADE 1**

**K3/G1 UNIT OF INQUIRY**

**HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES**

## WHAT'S ON

Big Idea: Transportation

Central Idea: The movement of people and goods affects communities and the environment.

This September, our K3 students zoomed into the exciting world of transportation! Through active exploration, play, and real-life experiences, we learned why people move, how they get to places, and what helps a community work.

So far, students have enjoyed:

- Sorting vehicles by land, air, and water
- Acting out how people move from one place to another
- Discovering the difference between moving people and goods

We also explored special vehicles like ambulances, fire trucks, and garbage trucks—and even imagined our own “super vehicles” to solve big problems! Creativity really took off as students created blueprints and designed transforming vehicles, such as boats with robot arms, flying fire trucks, and shape-shifting police cars. With these blueprints, they connected materials and built their designs in art class.

To bring our learning to life, we went on a special field trip to the Osaka Duck Tour, where we saw a real bus that turns into a boat!

This unit helped children think about the environment, problem-solving, and how communities stay connected.

English

The students have shown wonderful growth in their English abilities this month. Many are becoming more confident in both reading and writing, with noticeable improvements in forming simple sentences and recognizing sight words. Spelling is also progressing as students begin to apply phonics knowledge more consistently, especially through journal writing.

Math

In Math, we've moved into the exciting world of 2D and 3D shapes. Students are doing a fantastic job identifying, naming, and describing shapes in their environment.

## COMING UP: HOW THE WORLD WORKS

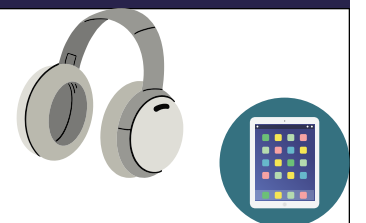
This October will begin our new inquiry, we will be exploring how materials behave and change! Children will learn:

- What different materials are like (solid, liquid, gas)
- How some changes can be reversed or not
- What happens when we mix or combine materials

Through fun experiments and play, kids will experience to be curious scientists who observe, test, and discover!

## REMINDERS

iPads are charged and brought to school.



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## OUR LEARNING JOURNEY: K3 SKY CLASS & GRADE 1

### GRADE 1

#### Math

This month, Grade 1 students completed their first Math assessment, showing what they've learned so far about numbers and how we represent them in different ways. Using tools like 5-frames and 10-frames, the children have practiced building number sense, identifying patterns, and understanding how numbers can be grouped and broken apart.

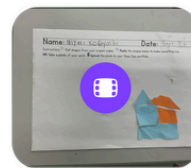
Now, we're moving into an exciting new unit on 2D and 3D shapes! The children are learning to recognize and name shapes like circles, triangles, cubes, and spheres. Through hands-on activities and collaborative building tasks, they're not only identifying these shapes but also creating new ones—a great way to apply their creativity and spatial reasoning.



#### All portfolio posts

+ Add post

Today



Miyavi Koreyoshi just now



Akihito Iguchi just now

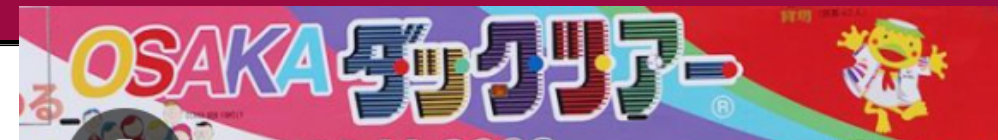


Akihito Iguchi just now

#### Independent Learning in Grade 1

During Enrichment Classes, our Grade 1 students continue to build their literacy and numeracy skills at their own pace. These sessions help them recognize their strengths and areas for growth while working independently on targeted tasks.

They have also started using the Portfolio function on ClassDojo to upload their work. Parents can now view and celebrate their child's progress by checking the ClassDojo portal regularly!



#### Japanese

9月になり国語の授業も少しずつ難しくなってきました。「うみのかくれんぼ」という簡単な説明文を読んだり、漢字で数字を書く練習をしたりしています。また、「〇ひき」「〇ほん」「〇だい」など、ものによって数え方が変わることを知り、教室のいろんなものを数えました。おうちでも、習った漢字や物の数え方についてぜひ聞いてみてください♪