

# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## October Newsletter



HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025 EDITION

### Highlights at Harbourfront International School

#### 🎃 Halloween Party Celebration 🎃

Dear Harbourfront Families and Team,

Thank you for making this year's Halloween Party such a fun and festive success! It was a joy to see our learners arrive in their creative costumes, full of excitement and smiles.

As a candidate IB PYP school, we value celebrations that promote international mindedness and cultural awareness. Events like Halloween help our learners explore traditions, express themselves, and celebrate the diversity that makes our community special.

With your support, we look forward to more joyful moments of learning, growing, and celebrating together!



#### 📖 Exciting News from the Library! 📖

*Library Update: 450 New Books & SmartReads Launch!*

We're excited to share that 450 new books have been added to our library! These new titles span various genres, levels, and languages to support every reader.

We're also launching our SmartReads Book Club this term! Parents will receive catalogues featuring children's books available for purchase—perfect for growing your home library.

📧 Watch out for the parent letters coming soon!

Thank you for supporting a strong reading culture at HFIS. Happy reading!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Ria, Gaku,  
June & Ichika



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### ✈️ K3 Study Abroad Trip (October 12-18, 2025) 🇸🇬

Our K3 learners had an unforgettable experience during their Study Trip to Singapore! The trip was filled with exploration, learning, and cultural discovery. The children spent a wonderful day at Superland Tanglin Preschool, where they made new friends and enjoyed classroom activities together. They also visited the Singapore Botanic Gardens, discovering the beauty of tropical plants and learning about the importance of nature and conservation.

As part of their cultural learning, the children explored Little India's Deepavali Market, where they saw colorful decorations, traditional sweets, and festive lights in celebration of Deepavali. They also enjoyed joining the Deepavali celebration at school, immersing themselves in songs, crafts, and cultural performances that highlighted unity and joy.

To wrap up their amazing adventure, the group visited Merlion Park, taking in the stunning views of Marina Bay, and ended the trip with a magical evening at the Singapore Night Safari, where they saw nocturnal animals up close and learned about wildlife in a fun, hands-on way.

It was truly a meaningful journey, one that strengthened friendships, sparked curiosity, and inspired our young learners to see the world with open hearts and minds. 🌍

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**Reflective**  
Nana practiced jumping without giving up.  
Gaku said "I'm sorry" to Remi after pushing her.

**Open-Minded**  
Gaku, Sena and Yuto leading dances for Seahorse and Starfish classes.

**Caring**  
Sena helped Mia put her name card on the board.  
Gaku cleaned the sand off of Mia's legs during sports day practice.  
Yuto helped Nana find her locker.

**Principled**  
Mia ate 100% of her lunch the first time.  
Sena and Nana clapping for their friends.  
We can sit nicely during the birthday party.

**Knowledgeable**  
Remi thought about which colors match.

**Inquirers**  
Ria explored how to connect different blocks.  
Yuto is learning about parts of trees and compare patterns of bark and stones.  
Mia was thinking about objects' relative size.

**Communicators**  
Remi can answer questions in class with confidence.

**Balanced**  
Ria could clean up the toys nicely.  
Remi could stand nicely for height and weight.  
Yuto washed his hands by himself.  
Gaku could open his tea bottle by himself.

**Thinkers**  
Sena tried different techniques for making a sand octopus.

**Risk-Takers**  
Mia could try new things.  
Ria played in new places.

### 🌟 Classroom Spotlight: Starfish Preschool 1 🌟

Our youngest learners are already demonstrating some of the IB Learner Profile traits! In the Starfish Class, children show they are Caring by helping friends, Inquirers by thinking and exploring during play, and Communicators by using gestures and expressions to share their ideas—even before using full language. It's wonderful to see these qualities developing so early!

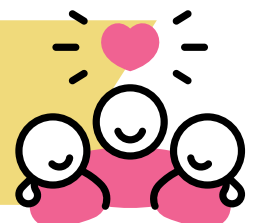
### November Events

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

- **5-** Sports Day 2025
- **10** - School Assembly (Birthday Celebrations)
- **12** - Emergency Drill (Fire Drill)
- **17-21** - Cooking Class Week



Learner Profile: Thinker & Risk-taker  
ATL Skills focus: **Communication Skills**



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October Newsletter



## STARFISH CLASS

### October's Theme - Teamwork

#### LEARNING

##### Theme Activity:

This month, we've been busy practicing for Sports Day! The children are preparing for two exciting races and a fun dance performance. We've been reminding everyone how important it is to watch carefully and listen to their teachers, friends, and parents so we can all enjoy the best Sports Day together!

##### English:

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

##### Japanese:

今月は引き続き秋についての言葉にたくさん触れました。さつまいもやかぼちゃなど親しみのあるものからもみじやコスモスなど少し馴染みのない言葉まで幅広く学びましたが、コスモスもお花! という声も聞かれましたが、言い直すのではなくそうだね! 何色かな? など特徴を捉えられるような声かけを心がけました。少しずつ発話もはっきりしてきて、意思もしっかり伝えられるようになってきており〇〇が大好きです。とみんなの前で言えるようになってきました!

##### 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 working and playing together kindly and fairly.

#### WHAT'S ON

On October 6th, we celebrated our Moon Viewing Party (Otsukimi). The children had a wonderful time making otsukimi dango and creating a beautiful moon-themed craft to mark the occasion. After lunch, everyone enjoyed tasting the delicious dumplings they had prepared – it was a sweet and memorable experience for all!

As we get closer to Sports Day, the children have been eagerly practicing their races and dance routines. They absolutely love the song and often sing it joyfully throughout the day! During practice, they've been applying many of the movement skills we've learned this year – stepping over, crawling, balancing, and running. We can't wait to cheer them on during the big day!

We also celebrated Gaku's birthday on October 24th. He had a wonderful time at his birthday party, and we were delighted to welcome Gaku's mommy to our classroom. The children were so excited to have a visitor join the celebration, making it a joyful day for everyone.



#### COMING UP

#### November - Routines & Transitions

November begins with an exciting event – Sports Day on Wednesday, the 5th! The children are thrilled to show all the effort they've put into practicing their races and dance. Let's work together to make it a fun and rewarding day for everyone!

Throughout November, we'll also be learning about the flow of our daily routines. Together, we'll explore questions like: What is the order of our daily activities? How do we prepare for something new? The children will think about not only what we do each day, but also how and why we do it. This will naturally lead into an introduction to time and clocks, helping the children begin to understand sequencing and the passage of time.

To wrap up the month, we'll celebrate with our class birthday party and a fun cooking activity – two joyful highlights the children always look forward to!



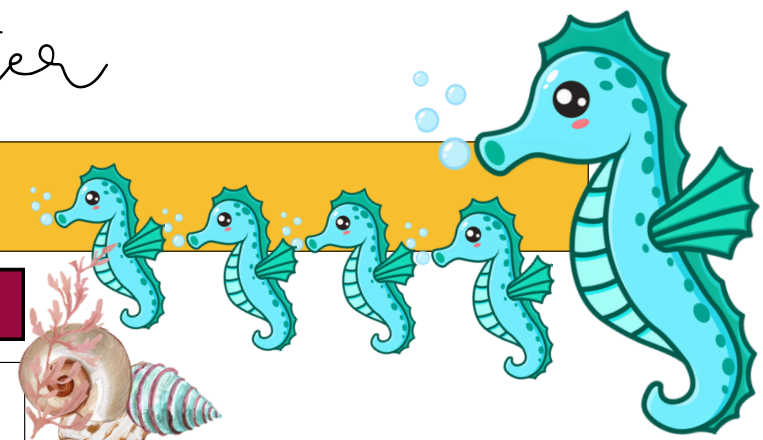
#### REMINDERS

- Nov 5<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day
- Nov 10<sup>th</sup> - Emergency Drill
- Nov 12<sup>th</sup> - Birthday Party
- Nov 26<sup>th</sup> - Cooking



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## October Newsletter



**OCTOBER'S  
THEME:**

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

**SEAHORSE CLASS**

**LEARNING**

In October, the Seahorses explored Halloween, space, and the change of season. The children had a wonderful time making Halloween crafts, especially creating their own trick-or-treat bags, which they used to collect stickers and candy during our classroom party. Everyone enjoyed showing off their costumes and seeing their friends and teachers dressed up, too!

We also learned exciting space vocabulary and had lots of fun singing and dancing to "On a Silver Rocket Ship." In English, the children continued practicing how to use articles (a, an, the) to speak in full sentences.

It was a fantastic month filled with fun, creativity, and excitement!

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

This month, the children practiced picking up small objects, threading, and cutting both straight and curved lines. They also focused on using crayons and colored pencils with the correct grip, using their helper hand, and maintaining good posture while working. The children have begun tracing dotted lines and curves, showing growing control, coordination, and confidence in their fine motor skills.

In P.E., the children enjoyed a variety of obstacle courses that involved jumping, climbing, balancing, and crawling. They also practiced their Sports Day dance, game, and relay race, preparing enthusiastically for our big day at the arena!

**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 such as "Be nice, please" or "Sit down and drink, please." These small but thoughtful actions show how caring and considerate they've become. The children are getting along beautifully, helping one another, and creating a warm and positive classroom atmosphere every day.

**Japanese:**

ようやく秋を感じる気候になりました。日本語クラスでは、「大きな栗の木の下で」や「おべんとバス」を歌ったり、季節の言葉を学びました。反対言葉も少しずつ覚えていて、カードを見せながら、「開けるの反対は?」と聞くと「閉める!」と答えてくれるようになりました。今月はHalloween Party🎃がありました。日本語クラスでは「グーチョキパーでパンプキン」を楽しく踊りました。

As the weather gets cooler, we can truly feel that autumn has arrived! In Japanese class, we sang seasonal songs such as "Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree" and "Obento Bus," while learning new autumn vocabulary. The children also practiced opposite words and now understand their meanings well. Everyone had lots of fun dancing to "Rock-Paper-Scissors Pumpkin," a lively song perfect for the season!

**WHAT'S ON**

**Vocabulary:**

Seasonal Vocab: fall/autumn, harvest, thanksgiving, turkey, leaves, pie, jacket, acorn, pine cone

Occupations: cashier, postman, driver, waiter/waitress, musician, artist, \_\_\_ player

- 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.
- 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.

**NOVEMBER'S THEME:  
SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS / AUTUMN  
HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES**

In November, we will focus on seasons and celebrations, the beauty of autumn, and our new Unit of Inquiry theme, "How We Express Ourselves." The children will enjoy making autumn-themed crafts, including one that involves collecting leaves from the park. We will also learn about the months of each season and the special days we celebrate throughout the year.

We will continue exploring places and occupations, learning the names of different places around town and the people who work there. The children will also discover how we can express ourselves through art, music, and communication. In addition, we will learn about the Japanese tradition of Shichi-Go-San, exploring its meaning and importance as part of our cultural understanding.

As the weather grows colder, we look forward to noticing more signs of winter and preparing for one of our favorite times of the year – Christmas!

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## October Newsletter



### K1 HARBOUR CLASS



#### WE ARE LEARNING...

October was a month of exploration, teamwork, and discovery! The Harbours became young scientists – collecting leaves, touching sand, and learning the difference between living and non-living things. We took a trip to Utsubo Park to see what nature looks like in the real world, and back at school, we planted our own cat grass and acorns. Our sensory centers transformed into nature labs filled with textures, colors, and curiosity.

The children have started expressing their observations, proudly saying:

“The leaf is soft!” 🌿 “The rock is hard!” 🪨 “My plant is growing!” 🌱

October was a month of exploration, teamwork, and discovery! The Harbours became young scientists – collecting leaves, touching sand and learning the difference between living and non-living things.

#### OCTOBER'S THEME:

#### SHARING THE PLANET (FORM)

### OCTOBER KODAK moments



#### WHAT'S GOING ON

##### Japanese

10月は『ピクニック』『虫の声』『森のくまさん』などの季節のお歌を歌いました。中でもピクニックの歌詞に出てくる"ララララ〜"のところでお友達と手を繋ぎながら歌うところで盛り上がり、楽しそうにしている子ども達の姿が見られます。

製作活動では、折り紙でいが栗を作ったり、色鉛筆を使ってきのこを作りました。本物の栗を触って"チクチクしてる〜"と秋を感じました。  
ひらがなの読み書きでは、一つ一つの文字を見て発声したり、その単語が読めるように練習しています。書きでは自分の名前が書けるようになってきました!

#### 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: Our new unit – Sharing the Planet



# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



## October Newsletter

### K2 OCEAN CLASS

#### LEARNING ...

UOI THEME : HOW THE WORLD WORKS  
CHANGES THAT CAN BE OBSERVED IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

October was a month of change and adaptation for Ocean Class. The children warmly welcomed a new homeroom teacher and began an exciting new Unit of Inquiry. With a continued focus on developing self-regulation and social skills, learners have been encouraged to be open-minded, caring, and principled in their daily interactions. It has been wonderful to see steady growth in each child – both as an individual and as a valued member of our learning community.

#### Inquiry

In our Inquiry lessons, we built on the children's prior knowledge to explore natural cycles and changes in our environment, such as day and night and the changing seasons. Following the children's curiosity, we also embarked on a learning journey about plants – discovering how they grow, what they need to live, and how they transform across the seasons.

#### Mathematics

In Mathematics, we focused on strengthening foundational number skills. The children practiced writing numbers neatly and accurately, recognizing numbers and their values, and working with simple addition within 10. These activities are helping build a solid understanding of number concepts and growing confidence in mathematical thinking.

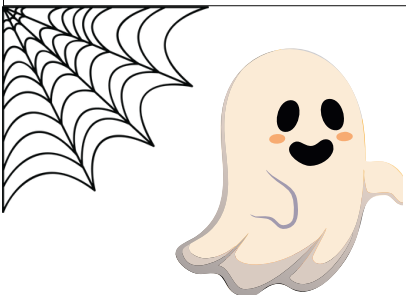
#### Literacy

In Literacy, our focus has been on communication and language development. The children practiced expressing their feelings through words, sharing ideas clearly, and listening carefully to others. They also worked on asking meaningful questions to encourage respectful and effective communication.

For Phonics, Reading, and Writing, we continued to strengthen foundational skills – recognizing letter sounds accurately, identifying specific sounds within blended words, and improving handwriting to ensure letters are formed neatly and correctly. We will keep building on these skills in the coming month so that every learner feels confident and secure in their understanding.

#### JAPANESE ...

今月は、先月の秋の歌に加え、「山の音楽家」を歌いました。いろいろな楽器の名前を知ったり、どんな風に弾くかを真似したりしました。他には日本語のゲームでわらべ歌「なべなべそこぬけ」や、「もうじゅう狩り」のゲームをして遊びました。お友だちとの触れ合いを楽しみながら、いろんな言葉に親しみましたよ♪製作では、みのむしを作りました。コーヒーフィルターに色が染みていくのを楽しそうに眺める姿が見られました。



#### COMING UP ...

UOI THEME : HOW THE WORLD WORKS  
PATTERNS AND CYCLES THAT AFFECT LIVING THINGS

This month, our learners will continue their inquiry into living things, exploring how different creatures live, grow, and change, and making connections to their own growth and development. Through transdisciplinary learning experiences, they will also investigate natural cycles in the environment and how these cycles relate to themselves and the world around them.

The children will inquire into what supports growth, including where our food comes from and how it reaches our plates. Through these hands-on experiences, we aim to nurture a deeper appreciation for food, encourage curiosity about healthy choices, and help learners understand the important connections between living things, growth, and well-being.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day  
Nov 10<sup>th</sup> - Birthday Party  
Nov 12<sup>th</sup> - Emergency Drill  
Nov 19<sup>th</sup> - Cooking Class  
Nov 28<sup>th</sup> - Aquarium Trip

#### 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.
- **Show & Tell** runs throughout November – please send your photos to Ms. Adi via ClassDojo.

#### WHAT'S ON

##### **Wrapping Up Our UOI:** Transportation and Transformation

October began with the final lessons from our “Transportation and Transformation” unit, where students explored how the movement of people and goods affects communities and the environment.

This inquiry grew into something truly creative as students began imagining and designing their own transforming vehicles – inspired by real-life innovations and their visit on the Osaka Duck Tour (a bus that becomes a boat!).

##### **Our New UOI: How the World Works - Materials**

Midway through October, we began tuning in to our new Unit of Inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme “How the World Works.” Our focus is on Materials – discovering how they look, feel, and change!

Students have already started exploring in our new “Material Discovery Lab,” where they touch, test, and sort mystery objects by their textures and properties. This inquiry will help students to:

- Explore different types of materials (soft, hard, shiny, rough).
- Investigate how materials change when they are bent, mixed, or heated.
- Understand cause and effect through simple experiments.

The classroom is now filled with curiosity, excitement, and a few fun, messy experiments too!

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm – we can’t wait to see what new discoveries November brings as we continue our journey with materials!

#### COMING UP: HOW THE WORLD WORKS

This October, we began our new inquiry exploring how materials behave and change! The children are learning to be curious scientists as they investigate and discover through hands-on experiments and play.

They will learn:

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

Through these engaging experiences, the children are observing, testing, and discovering how the world works – one fun experiment at a time!

#### REMINDERS

iPads are charged and brought to school.



# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

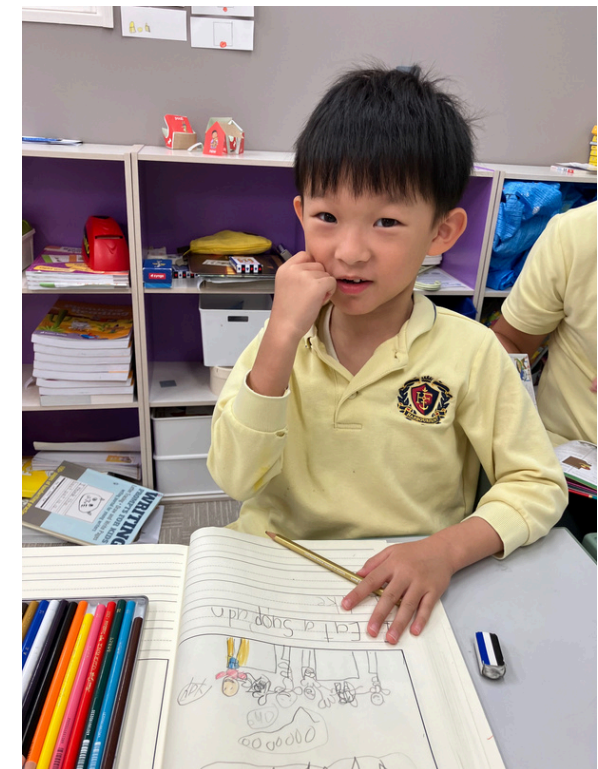


October Newsletter

K3 SKY CLASS AND GRADE 1

K3/G1 UNIT OF INQUIRY

HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES



# HARBOURFRONT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

October Newsletter



## OUR LEARNING JOURNEY: GRADE 1

### GRADE 1

#### Mathematics

Our Grade 1 learners have successfully completed Chapter 1: Numbers 1-10, where they strengthened their understanding of number recognition, counting, sequencing, and comparing quantities. The children can now confidently read, write, and represent numbers using objects, pictures, and symbols.

We are now moving on to Chapter 2: Addition and Subtraction within 10, where students will learn to solve real-world problems using these operations. Through hands-on activities, stories, and visual models, learners will explore how numbers work together in everyday situations – such as sharing snacks, combining groups, and finding differences. This chapter will help them build strong problem-solving skills and deepen their confidence in mathematical thinking.

#### Looking Ahead:

Next, the children will begin learning about fact families – discovering how addition and subtraction are connected and how number relationships can help them solve problems more efficiently.

#### Enrichment Class

Grade 1 students have Enrichment Class every afternoon, where they focus on independent learning in Mathematics and Literacy. During this time, children work at their own pace, apply what they've learned, and engage in activities that strengthen their problem-solving, reading, and writing skills.

#### Japanese

10月は、「くじらぐも」や、「じどう車くらべ」の文章を読みました。「くじらぐも」では、情景や登場人物の気持ちを思い浮かべながら読みました。実際に手をつないで「天まで届け一、二、三!」とジャンプ!すると「くじらぐもに乗ったら楽しいんだと思う!」「空は気持ちいなぁと思ってると思う!」と、それぞれ想像しながら続きを読み進めていました。「じどう車くらべ」では、「乗ったことある!」と乗り物の話で盛り上がりました。文章を読み取りながらつくりがどうなっているのを知り、のりもの図鑑を持ってきて、さらにじっくり調べている子もいましたよ! 学習のまとめとして「みんなのお気に入りの乗り物はどんなしごとをしているかな?」をテーマに、それぞれ調べて書いてもらいたいと思います。

漢字は、繰り返し書いたり  
読んだりすることで記憶に定着して  
いきます。レッスンの中でもプリントや  
ノートを使って練習しています!  
ご家庭でも、ぜひ復習してみてください  
くださいね。

★筆箱 (削った鉛筆と消しやすい消しゴム・赤鉛筆)・下敷きは毎日持たせていただくよう、お願いいたします。



#### ★これまで習った漢字★

木・大・小・一・二・三・四・五・六・七・八・  
九・十・子・女・手・天・青・見・学・校・山・  
水・雨・上・上・下・日・火・田・河・竹・月