

# YMCA Global Kindergarten Newsletter FEBRUARY 2021



Hello, YGK friends.

It's February but the winter cold is still continuing. Unfortunately, we are still facing the COVID situations. However, due to our regular and thorough routine of our washing hands, not many people have gotten the flu this winter. As the state of emergency is still valid, we might not be able to spend time as usual, but let's be nice to our friends and families, stay healthy and enjoy our time.

This month, I would like to talk about the word "shalom". I have written about this topic before so you might have heard of this word already. This word is used many times in the bible to represent "peace". "Shalom" is a Hebrew word and it means "peace". It has many other meanings such as "hello", "good bye", "how are you", etc. and is used often in their daily lives. They say "shalom" when they talk to their families, friends, teachers, animals, plants or even God. When they say "shalom", they are saying that they want to relate with them. Our relationship will start from trusting in others. We can build relationships with others from a friendly, casual talk, not a difficult discussion. Just like they say "shalom" to each other, we can build peace by greeting each other. We would like to make peace in and around YGK by greeting each other and building trust relationships with many people.

Dear parents,

We apologize to you for our sudden school closure on January 15th and appreciate your cooperation during our online lessons. The state of emergency has been reissued in January and that makes our day quite difficult. We would like to do our best to create an appropriate environment for everyone so that they can learn and have fun more actively. We shall continue paying close attention to their safety and health. We would like to show our deepest appreciation for all your understanding and support.

YGKのみなさん、こんにちは。まだまだ寒い冬が続いていますね。残念ながら、COVID19の状況は良くなっていません。でも、皆さんが手洗い、消毒をしっかりしているので、風邪やインフルエンザの人はあまりいません。緊急事態宣言が出ていますので、いつもと同じことはなかなか難しいですが、いつものお友だち、家族を大切に生活を楽しみましょう。そして、健康な状態で毎日を過ごしましょう。

前にもニュースレターで書いたことがありますが、今回も「シャローム」というあいさつを紹介します。聖書の中の「平和」という言葉が何度か出てきますが、シャロームという言葉で表されます。ヘブライ語で「平和」という意味です。ヘブライ語が話されているイスラエルの地域では、「こんにちは」や「さようなら」、「元気ですか」など・・・たくさん意味で使われています。毎日の挨拶にも使います。家族、お友だち、先生、YGK、たくさんの人、動物や植物から神様まで使える「シャローム」という言葉です。「シャローム」というあいさつをするとき、相手を信じ、相手と関わりたいという気持ちを持って話しかけます。難しい話し合いではなく、相手を信頼して話しかける、呼び掛けることから始まります。「シャローム」と話しかけるように、あいさつから「平和」を作ることは始まります。このようにたくさんの人たちと、あいさつから信頼関係のある平和を創り出していきたいと思います。

保護者の皆様。1月15日の臨時休館では、急遽オンラインレッスンへの変更とさせていただきます、申し訳ありません。ご対応いただき感謝申し上げます。1月からの再度の緊急事態宣言が発令され、いつもと違う状況にご不便をおかけしております。感染対策を行いながら、皆さんがいきいきと学び、楽しめる環境を整えていけるよう取り組みを続けてまいります。安全と健康に留意し、様々な活動を行っていきたく考えております。今後も様々なご理解をいただきながらYGKの運営を行ってまいります。

教職員一同、どうぞよろしく願いいたします。

Happy are the peacemakers: for they will be named sons of God (Matthew 5:9)

平和を実現する人々は、幸いである、その人たちは神の子と呼ばれる。(マタイによる福音書 5章 9節)

YMCA Global Kindergarten  
Hidehiko Otsuka  
Principal

## PUPPY CLASS

The students of the puppy class look happy to be back to school and see their friends after the holidays. We have 'Winter' for our theme this month and we are learning more about the season through our story books, arts and exploring outside during park time. We started new lesson this month, 'Alphabet hunt in nature', where we are learning to write the name of the things we can find on our way to school. As for music class, we started practicing new songs for our mini concert in February. Since only a few months are left before they go to the kitten class, we started going to the park without holding the rope. We are also trying to match our schedule with the Kitten and Cub classes. So, we will have our morning meeting at 9.40 AM starting from February. We, therefore, request the parents of the puppy students to arrive at the school in time.

冬休みを終えて、教室に戻ってきたパピーのお友だちは、皆にあえてとても嬉しそうでした。今月は「冬」をテーマに過ごしました。絵本やアート、お外での探求、自然の中のアルファベット探しでは園までの道のりで見つけた自然物を持ち寄り、その名前を書いてみたり、様々な活動を通したりして、この季節を満喫しました。音楽の時間には、ミニコンサートに向けて新しい歌の練習を始めました。あと数か月でキテングラスに進級を控えていますので、ロープを使わずにお散歩に出かける練習を始めました。また、進級準備の一環として、キテングラスの一日の生活にリズムを合わせていこうと思います。そのため、2月からモーニングミーティングを9時40分に始めます。9時30分の登園時刻にあわせての登園をお願いいたします。

## KITTEN CLASS

Hello everyone! Let's welcome Year 2021 with blissful activities and projects of our students at YGK Kitten Class!

Yes, this is our update for our dear Parents that they be inspired and be proud of their kids entrusted to us. Again, our issues here included are important dates to keep in mind like the incoming Online Parents - Teachers' Conference, the students' mini concert on the 25th of February and we will upload class videos regarding class activities as a replacement of the class visit on the 10th of February. Oh, all these are awesome engagements of the students, teachers and parents that we must not miss!

This January when we resumed classes after the holidays, the students were very enthusiastic in their activity involvement maybe all because they were excited to see again their classmates and friends to work together in their lessons for the day. They just can't stop talking to their friends on the first day. On the 2nd day, students and teachers were having fun doing the Japanese's New Years' Eve traditional sticky rice pounding.

In Phonics, the children learned and enjoyed sorting pictures of objects with the same beginning sound. They also enjoyed singing and reciting newly introduced nursery rhymes.

From the ORT Book, the class studied about the "The Swing Ball."

During Choice Time, students experienced more enjoyable times as they worked on recycled crafts, do some pretend play in the house area, experimenting about mixing colors like doing the full spectrum, gradation, making shadows of a robot/dinosaur using any objects they found in the classroom, artificial snow making, etc. We also had Concentric circles which they will form objects or Bear for example using circles of different colors and sizes and many more in Math. For Art, we made a polar bear's face by mixing glue and shaving foam to make its fur.

Then in February, everybody will be so busy as this is popularly known as the Love Month. Our activities then will be making some Valentine's Day craft/art. We will read books during story time on what Valentine's Day is about. Yes, the children will have fun by engaging on some small group activities related to nature, science, seasonal art and choice time.

There will be constant practices also for their parachute performance and songs on their mini concert. This is one among their favorite tasks - to be able to display their talent in performance and songs!

In closing, let us all be reminded about the health protocols laid down to us for observance during this Pandemic time and also during the Winter season. Good luck, good health everyone!

皆様こんにちは。キテングラスでは、今年も様々なアクティビティやプロジェクトを楽しんでいます。

今月は、オンライン個人面談、ミニコンサートを予定しております。また、今学期は授業参観の代わりにクラスの様子を動画でお見せすることとさせていただきます。子どもたちの成長をぜひご覧ください。



