

September Newsletter



October 4th

Mid Autumn Festival

October 9th - 13th

Autumn Break. School is closed.

October 23rd

Fee Payment Term 2 is due.

October 31st Character Day

September has been a busy month at Morningstar. We celebrated Vietnamese National Day and we are planning for Mid Autumn Festival, both great opportunities for our International students and staff to learn about Vietnamese traditions and culture, and also to share with us a little of their own heritage with their wonderful display of national costumes.

It was good to greet so many parents at Back to School Night. Morningstar teachers were very glad to present their programmes for 2017-2018 and speak to parents about their teaching philosophy and their plans for the year ahead. Many thanks for your support and the positive feedback we have so far received.

After School Activities also began in September. There are however places available on some courses. After School activities are offered to students of

Morningstar and other children in the locality. Please call to the office if you would like to register.



Exercising our bodies & exercising our minds.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday from October 9th to 13th. We can look forward, on our return to the preparations and the celebration of Character Day on October 31st.

Please like us on Facebook to see many more photos and videos

[Fanpage: fb.com/msis.hanoi](https://www.facebook.com/msis.hanoi)

Class News

Grade 1

This month, Grade 1 has really settled into school and our schedule. I am very pleased to say every one is working much harder and respecting one another much more. It is a big change from Kindergarten; they are working much more and have textbooks for the first time. Our Social Science project this month has been "Home", so we have been talking about Family, House, Neighbourhood and Personal Experiences. Reading has improved across the class, as they are taking their reading logs home nightly and reading more in class.

In Maths we have been studying addition and subtraction, going over numbers 1-20 to review and make sure we are all on the same page.



In English Class, Grade 1 are starting to learn about Parts of Speech (verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives...). This is something they will cover throughout the year, so don't worry too much if they don't totally understand right now. This will help their grammar and understanding of English much better. Writing is also very important and they are now writing in

their journals every day, about the content they are learning, an event coming up or just how they are feeling.



We also had Back to School Night this month, which most of you managed to attend. I really enjoyed meeting with you all and showing you around Grade 1. It's very important for you all to know what we'll be doing this year and what our daily work load is like for the kids. I appreciate your support, helping your kids with homework and communicating with me on Class Dojo so much. I think we will have a wonderful year together.

We currently have 9 kids in Grade 1, with Nonoka joining us from Japan in November.



Things to look forward to...

Next month we will have our half term break and after that, we will have Character Day! We will also be celebrating

Grade 2

Dear parents

This term has just flown by with hard work and many laughs. I am very proud of my Grade 2 class for working extremely hard and giving their very best every day. They are always eager to learn and their participation in the classroom is fantastic.

English

The grade 2 class did their first oral, which was a huge success. They had to tell about their special day with their family.

They have been working a lot on reading, comprehension, parts of speech, spelling test and introducing new vocabulary words. They do a lot of writing, which I am very pleased about. They have improved so much in their vocabulary and spelling.

Math

Math has been challenging and very rewarding since the beginning of the school year. They have made excellent progress in skip counting and practicing their times table. Over the past few weeks, we have covered all the basic methods and terms for math. They have been doing a lot of addition and subtraction.

Dai Thanh's birthday on the 8th of October.

Warm regards,
Miss Catherine



Science/Social studies

We absolutely love science and social studies. We have covered the following units:

- Properties of matter
- Solid, liquid and gasses
- Ways that matter can change
- How can water change
- Combine materials
- What is the role of the government
- Responsibilities of a citizen
- Core democratic values affect our community

Thank you to all the parents who came to the back to school night, I appreciate your input from home and for all the support.

The grade 2 class have made such a big impression on me and I would like to give a big thank you for all your hard for. I am looking forward to a great year.

Kind regards
Ms. Melissa

Grade 3

Dear Parents and Families,

The month of September has been busy for the Grade Three class! The students have been working hard this month on all of their assignments and showing improvement each day. We also celebrated two birthdays this month; for Nhat Minh and for Duc Giang. We wish you both a joy-filled year!



Our Third Grade Class

We have completed the first unit in our *Reading Street* literature series entitled, "Living and Learning." The students learned about skills that help us make our way in the world, while practicing common writing conventions. We read narrative poems, tall tales, fables, and works of non-fiction. The students are becoming stronger readers and improving on identifying an author's purpose for writing.



Nhat Minh and Ha Phuong in science

In science, we have been studying different forms of energy. We are approaching more complex vocabulary and concepts than from years before, but having fun while we do so! The students made paper cup phones to learn about sound waves and vibration, and marble coasters to learn about potential and kinetic energy. Our next chapter is about plants, and I am looking forward to working with our avid gardeners.

We have been working on rounding and estimation in mathematics. This is a difficult concept for the students because they are all determined to find the exact answer! We have also started to explore algebra and solving for unknown numbers. The students work on their math with great focus and take pride in their accomplishments.



Busy bees!

With the first full month of school completed, I am looking forward to taking on the year with this spirited group of students. We will be starting new projects in math and social studies, and we have a variety of school functions to look forward to as we transition into Autumn.

Warm regards,
Ms. Emily

Grade 4

Dear Parents,

It's only September and the Grade 4s have already got into the swing of things. Everyone has been doing a really good job at working hard and staying on top of their classwork and homework. We have built up daily and weekly routines that the Grade 4s are beginning to use independently to structure their school days, which is great to see.

In English class we have read the stories *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *Lewis and Clark and Me*, *On the Banks of Plum Creek*, *The Horned Toad Prince* and *Letters Home from Yosemite*. The Grade 4s have produced very interesting written stories in the genres of realistic fiction, expository composition, parody, friendly letter, and personal narrative. In grammar we have been focusing on building our comprehension skills, vocabulary, simple present tense, and simple past tense.



Fun with words

In Math class we have completed the topics of multiplication and division and generating and analyzing patterns. We

have recently started revising and expanding on place value. The class has started off really well with a current class average of 87% on class assignments and tests!

In Social Studies we have been working on geography and map skills. We have learnt about continents and oceans, latitude and longitude, the parts of a map, the map creation process, and how maps change over time.

In Science we have been learning about different types of energy. Thus far we have focused on sound, light and heat energy. We have learnt about how different forms of energy travel and how energy affects things around it. reading levelled readers daily, taking responsibility for ourselves, and enjoying creative arts and educational games before class starts in the mornings.

In October we look forward to reading, writing and discussing more stories in English; learning more about place value in Math; beginning to learn about time periods in Social Studies; and learning about Motion in Social Studies. We do also have our October break coming up, which I'm sure will be an enjoyable, well-deserved rest for all the Grade 4s!

Thanks again to all the parents who attended Back to School Night, it was a pleasure having you here. As mentioned in the meeting, you can find our weekly schedules, daily homework updates, and general updates on ClassDojo. And as always, please feel free to contact me via ClassDojo or via email (nathaliavonwitt.msis@gmail.com).

Well done to all the Grade 4s on a Super September!

Kind regards,
Ms Nathalia

Grade 5



Morning Meeting

Dear parents,

The school year is now in full swing as we complete our second month. I am very proud of how well the students have adjusted to our new schedule and curriculum. In September, the students were immersed in learning about a variety of interesting topics. In English, they completed their unit on challenges and began the unit on honesty. In addition to the readings from the literature anthologies, the students have also been completing daily writing activities to get their creative juices flowing. In mathematics, they finished the unit on adding and subtracting decimals and began learning about multiplying whole numbers. Science class has been filled with investigations of matter. The students were able to do some experiments demonstrating how temperature affects chemical and physical changes. In social studies, the students

created their own totem of an animal they felt best represented their personality.



Playing Games

Overall, the students have been doing an awesome job thus far. Even in just the short time since school began, I have seen wonderful changes in the children. They are becoming more motivated, independent, and accountable individuals with a greater desire to challenge themselves. Finally, a big thank you to all the parents who made it to back to school night. It was wonderful meeting you all and discussing the year ahead. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy fall, and I hope you and your families enjoy the (hopefully) cooler weather. Ms Ashley

Morning Meeting

