



ABC International School News January 2017



Welcome Back!

Dear ABC Families,

We are glad to have welcomed back almost all our families from their Winter Vacation. Term 2 is happily underway and although it has been a chilly start to the year ABC children have continued to enjoy lots of outside time in the park and garden, so thank you for sending them in their warm coats, hats and scarves.

This month the theme (as I am sure you all know!) has been Dinosaurs, which is an all time favourite for the ABC children! It is wonderful to see how each learning group approaches the topic in different ways and have been enjoying exploring everything from cleaning dinosaur teeth to weighing, measuring and comparing dinosaur size to exploding volcanoes!

We have a huge array of dinosaur story books, puzzles and hands on materials and the teacher's have incorporated the learning into all curriculum areas and dinosaurs have been used in counting activities, weighing and measuring, art projects and for sensory play.

Many of our students can name and describe a wide variety of dinosaurs and the pre K classes are even learning about classifying them into herbivores and carnivores. They have created habitats for their dinosaurs as well as having discussions about what happened to them. One possibility was that they were destroyed after a volcanic explosion!

The theme for next month is going to be Art and Sculpture :)



February dates for your Diary

Feb 3rd (Fri)

Setsubun "Bean Throwing" Special Event

Feb 14th (Tues)

Valentines Day
(Parents are invited for goodbye circle times)



Friendly Reminder

At ABC we encourage children to be independent, which means that they often put away their own belongings. Occasionally this can lead to items going astray and it is so helpful when their belongings are clearly labeled, this includes hats, gloves, scarves, socks and any toys they bring with them. Thank you for your cooperation!

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Nonohana No Ie and Cosmos House Update

We have just received an update and thank you cards from the children, families and staff at the Nonohana no Ie Children's Home and Cosmos House. ABC families raised 150,000 yen and the orphanage spent the donation on gifts of Lego, boardgames, a DVD player and DVD's for the children. A portion of the funds was also put towards a Christmas party for the families in the shelter, which they used for food, drink and prizes. The thank you notes are displayed in the lobby for you to take a look at. Thank you all again for your generosity, it makes such a difference to these children and families.



What is Setsubun?

For those families who are new to Japan, each year we celebrate the traditional Japanese festival of setsubun. It is celebrated every year on February 3rd as part of the Spring Festival. There is a special ritual performed each year called mamemaki or bean-throwing in order to cast out the evil from the former year and bring in good luck for the year ahead.

Whilst throwing the beans people chant 'oni wa soto! fuku wa uchi!' which means (demons go out! good fortune come in!)

The roasted soya beans are thrown at the Oni (or demon) who would traditionally be a male member of the family wearing a mask. At ABC we enjoy celebrating this event with mamemaki in the the park with a slightly more friendly 'Oni'!

Other traditions involve eating same number of beans as your age (plus one) for good luck and in some areas also eating uncut makizushi called ehomaki in silence whilst facing that year's lucky compass direction.



We Make Learning Fun!