



Welcome to NIS Kindergarten! Important Information from Ms Lisa

"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me."
Matthew 18:5

August 2016

Dear NIS Kindergarten Parents and Students,

Welcome to the new school year! We are excited to have you join us, and are looking forward to a year filled with many new fun activities, challenges, and learning opportunities. Kindergarten is a special time of development for your child, and you can expect to see many changes in your child as they learn to be more self confident, more independent, more aware and full of questions about the world around them. It is an exciting time of growth, and we are looking forward to being a part of it.

I would like to introduce our Kindergarten classroom teams and routine for the 2016-2017 school year:

- Classroom "A": **K1 am & K1 pm**: Ms Karina & Ms Bo (with Auntie Elsa)
- Classroom "B": **K2 am & K1 pm**: Ms Sonnet & Ms Ada (with Auntie Man)
- Classroom "C": **K2 am & K2 pm**: Ms Daphne & Stephanie (with Auntie Ha)
- Classroom "D": **Mandarin Class** everyday: Ms Lina "Zhong Laoshi"
- **Physical Education** every Thursday with Mr. Ben
- **Library Time** in our Kindergarten Library, regularly scheduled once per week
- **Praise Time** in the Kindergarten Praise Hall: 8:50-9:10 for AM sessions; and 12:40-1:00 for PM sessions; Parents are invited to Praise with us on Mondays!

Registration Day on Friday, August 19th - What time should you come?

K1 am class	9:30 - 10:30 am
K2 pm class	9:30 - 10:30 am
K2 am classes	10:30 am - 11:30 pm
K1 pm classes	11:30 - 12:30 pm

During your scheduled time, please come inside to the **Registration Table** and meet Ms. Suki, our Kindergarten Office Manager. She will guide you through the various details of registration (as outlined in the attached page) so you will be ready for the first day of school on Monday. Any inquiries about **Bus Service** should also be made directly to Ms. Suki, who will give you phone numbers for private bus service companies that have provided service to our school. On Registration Day, please make sure that your emergency contact information is updated and correct. Thank you for paying close attention to these details.

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Kindergarten Begins: Monday, August 22nd

FOR ALL K1 STUDENTS:

For K1 students ONLY: The first week of school for all K1 students will be on a special "Transition Week" schedule, as follows:

K1 am classes 22/8/2016 – 26/8/2016 9:30 – 11:00 am	K1 pm classes 22/8/2016 – 26/8/2016 12:00 – 1:30 pm
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Please note that the first week for all K1 students is only 1½ hour sessions. This is to give both you and your K1 child time to establish some good school patterns before the normal 3 hour sessions begin for K1 classes in the second week of school (Monday, August 29th).

FOR ALL K2 STUDENTS:

The start-of-school bell will ring at 8:45 (for AM classes) and at 12:30 (for PM classes), which is your signal to help your child line-up with their classmates at their **designated line-up spots** in the schoolyard. In the event of **rain**, please accompany your child directly to their home classroom and be sure to communicate the hand-off of your child's supervision directly to your child's teacher.

Dismissal will similarly be made from the schoolyard designated line-up spots, so please wait for your child after school in the schoolyard. **Go directly to your child's classroom to pick-up your child after school only in the event of rain.**

Other Important Announcements

Kindergarten Procedures for Severe Weather Warnings:

All kindergarten classes are cancelled in the event of **Typhoon 3** or **Red Rainstorm** warnings. However, if either of these warnings are posted *while school is already in session*, we will keep your child safe indoors, and will otherwise continue with lessons as usual. Please come to collect your child directly from their classroom when it is safe for you to do so.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. We look forward to giving your child a wonderful year of learning!

Sincerely,

Lisa Husmann
Assistant Principal

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Your First Week of Kindergarten: Tips from Ms Lisa

The first week of school is a period of adjustment, especially for the new students. We understand parents wanting to stay with their children, but would kindly ask that you allow your child to make the transition to independent school life as soon as possible. Please talk to your class teacher directly on Registration Day if you have any particular concerns about your child adapting to school life, or how best to deal with the separation issues that sometimes happen, especially for new K1 students.

If your child has difficulty saying goodbye to you, please accompany them to the classroom and help them settle-in. Trust that if your child is crying when you say goodbye, they will very likely stop shortly after you are no longer in view. If not, trust that your teacher will call you to let you know.

Your child's trust in you is equally important as their trust in their new environment. Here are a few guidelines for you to take into consideration, and if you have helpers or relatives helping you with the drop off and/or pick up time of your child. Please help them to also understand the importance of the following:

A positive attitude goes a long way:

Your child will feel your confidence in his/her ability to succeed and in your confidence in the schooling system and the teachers within it. Don't forget that they are influenced by the things you say and do, as well as the feelings you show. It's okay to share your love with your child, but telling or showing them how hard the separation is for you will only cause concerns in your child's mind. Be happy and excited about this 'new adventure' in their lives. Before the school year begins you could read stories together or share happy memories to help get them ready for school.

Choices are empowering:

Let your child make choices about the clothes they wear, the snack they bring to school, the school bag they use and even the water bottle they bring to school. This can help them to feel more confident and in control, as well as increase their independence skills.

Saying goodbye is much better than the 'disappearing act':

Your teachers understand that leaving your child on that first day is just as difficult for you (or more so!) as for your child. Studies show that a loving but firm goodbye is the best way to go. Comfort your child by letting them know the next time you will see each other (you may not be the person picking him/her up from school). Don't create a long drawn-out separation after telling your child you are leaving, as this will only increase their sensitivity. Do not say goodbye until you are sure you are leaving, and once you have said goodbye once, leave! If you walk away only to come back to comfort them, they will establish bad habits to get you to stay longer with them. Do not tell 'little white lies' to ease the immediate situation, it will only lead to long-term mistrust.

Don't forget the teachers are there to help, and we have done this many times before! If your child is clinging to you and you need assistance, please let us know. The clearer the transition, the easier it is for all of us—parents, teachers, and most importantly, your child!

Sincerely,
Ms. Lisa

Assistant Principal

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