

Shining Achievers

Getting Creative With English

Greeting from Grade 1! We can't believe that quarter one is almost finished! The kids have been excited to learn many subjects in both Japanese and English. Two subjects they love to have fun in and be creative are Art and Crafts and Music.

This June, as we finished earlier than expected the contents scheduled in the syllabus for Art, we decided to give the kids a little challenge. We're currently working on a very simple Stop Motion project. First, the students had to design a protagonist for their videos. We decided to use paper so it would be easier to draw and colour details, and we added pipe cleaners to give some volume and flexibility. The original plan was to have one lesson to design the character, the second lesson to take the pictures (we need several pictures for a short video) and a third lesson to learn how to use those pictures to make a video. However, as our students are way faster than the teachers expected, they have already explained about the video editing. Some students even finished already! This said, for next week the art teachers might end up changing a little bit their planning, and we might use the time of the lesson for a Special Video Festival! Basically, their idea is that all students will have the opportunity to show their video on the TV.

Having the chance to teach this kind of advanced content to so such young children is not common at all (usually people learn this at high school if they're lucky, often way later). The teachers consider themselves very lucky to be honest. They wouldn't even had considered this if it wasn't for the excellent behavior of our G1 students. The students are doing a REALLY great job!

In Music, Grade1 students are exploring more about percussion instruments. Last month, they went outside to listen and discuss what kind of sounds they could hear. This month, they will use percussion instruments (xylophone, maraca, tambourine, and etc.) to imitate the sounds of fireworks. It was their first time to work as a group to create something and perform to the class. Some kids were very shy to perform at first but overall they did such a great job! Also, they started learning the school song which is "Shining Future" and kids love to sing the song! I'm looking forward to seeing them grow their interest in music and instruments!