

KANG CHIAO SPOTLIGHT

Issue 41



Planting a Seed to Empower Our Children



~ Kim Wang

Curriculum Coordinator, International Department

The ever-evolving world we live in presents us with a myriad of problems waiting to be solved. How do we nurture children to become caring citizens so that they may one day make a difference in their communities? In Kang Chiao's projects, students are tasked with taking action as a way to cultivate a sense of social responsibility. In this article, we'll take a look at some projects to demonstrate what students accomplished and learned as they took action.

Building a Model to Support the Community

Creating opportunities for young children to care about their surroundings can be as simple as taking a walk around campus. In our grade two School Safety Project, students were given a mission to keep their learning environment safe. They brainstormed possible measures to prevent accidents that might happen at that venue. Then, they took the role of school safety keepers to help hall monitoring teachers maintain children's safety using the tips they devised. Throughout the project, students not only developed problem-solving skills, but they were also highly motivated because they were able to personally carry out the safety tips they developed. Furthermore, they learned to see the issue of safety from an adult's perspective.



Becoming a Successful Leader in the Future

As students grow older, they reach out to explore the community. In the grade four KCIS Community Project, students delved into different jobs on campus. Students interviewed a school staff member, such as a security officer, janitor, etc., to discover the job requirements and how they complete every task to make students study in a safe environment. At the end of the project, students sent a thank-you card to the staff to show their heartfelt appreciation. In this project, students became much more aware of all the various occupations involved in operating our community. They were also encouraged to reflect on their interests and skills, giving them a glimpse of how they can contribute to the world. It also made them understand that learning is an investment in their own future.



Raising an Advocate for Creating a Better World

As for our sixth graders, they aimed for global issues. In Taiwan's Water Crisis Project, students were shocked to learn how little water people living in Taichung and Changhua had during water rationing. Students yearned to find out what caused water shortages in those cities and how people's lives were affected. Finally, they played the role of a journalist, pitching the idea of the importance of saving water in the news. The chance of news broadcasting paved the way for students to learn how to deliver a heartfelt speech with solid evidence. It also helped them cultivate compassion towards less fortunate people and appreciate the privileges they have.



By encouraging students to take action, we are conveying a message that one small step can have a great impact. We want to plant a seed inside their minds and hope the desire to take actions to make the world a better place will one day blossom.

From the Editor

Take Initiative and Overcome Challenges

國際處主任 賴國宜

Very often we hear from parents, "My child doesn't take initiative. How can I motivate him?" Like adults, children encounter challenges every single day, however rather than waiting for adults to come to the rescue, learning to take initiative helps them believe in themselves and develop problem solving skills. Our project-based learning connects the curriculum to authentic issues either in the school, local or global community. After exploring multiple aspects of the issue, students became motivated to showcase what they have learned by taking action to develop solutions or advocating solutions for problems. We believe that the ability to take initiative is nurtured through internal rewards which enhances positive attitudes in children's lives and towards the world around them.

當危機或困難發生時，您的孩子是哭、愣在原地等待大人救援，還是主動想辦法解決？父母無法一輩子跟在孩子身邊，也無法預測孩子可能面對的所有難題，事先傳授絕招，因此，培養孩子積極主動面對挑戰，運用創新思維解決問題的能力，成為當今教育最重要的課題。在我們設計英文主題課程時，特別強調結合真實生活中的問題，在每個主題探究的最後階段，鼓勵學生運用習得的知識與技能，提出解決問題的方案，或採取具體倡議行動喚起更多人的關注。我們相信這樣的課程模式，不僅培養解決問題的能力，日積月累更能內化正向的性格，讓孩子成長得更積極、自信與主動。歡迎您閱讀課研組長Ms. Kim的文章，了解更多英文主題課程，如何培養孩子更積極主動面對挑戰的實例。

美麗的植物能帶給我們愉快的心情，也能美化環境。您也喜歡栽種花草嗎？想了解更多照顧植物的小撇步嗎？推薦您閱讀二年級小朋友的植物栽種專題報告，從種子到發芽、長葉子、開花，孩子們不僅記錄植物的成長過程，還省思自己的照顧方式，經過一個多月的實際種植體驗，每位孩子都成為小小植物專家，無論開花與否，已在心中留下自己曾細心呵護的美好回憶！

Beyond the Book

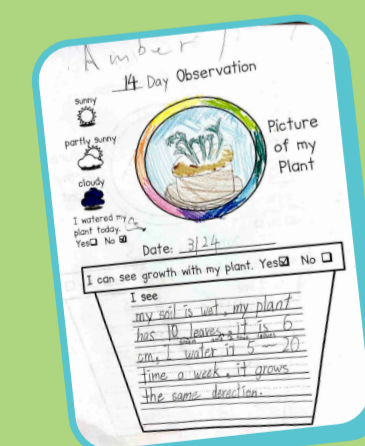


From Seeds to Flowers

This project connected research with hands-on, active lessons. After reading the expository text "Life Cycle of a Pumpkin" in English class, students identified the growth stages of a pumpkin: seed, seedling, vines, flowers, and fruit. Students were surprised to learn that huge pumpkins start off as tiny seeds. The right amount of sunlight and water lets the seeds flourish. During research, students also learned vocabulary about the parts of the plant: roots, stems, leaves, and petals. Students were fascinated to learn how plants work. They would demonstrate their knowledge later, in the writing stage, where their scientific diagrams show how roots suck up water, stems support the whole plant, and so on.

In order to give students hands-on experience and motivate them to learn, we provided every student with a plant kit. These kits included a pot, tray, seeds, and soil in which students grew their very own cosmos flowers. But before the actual planting, students created a plan. In that plan, they researched the proper amount of water and sunlight cosmos plants need, then they planted the seeds.

For the next few weeks after that, they observed and took notes about the changes in the plants. Some plants grew very well, and colorful flowers blossomed. Others had problems. But failure to grow didn't mean failure in the project. Students wrote about the reasons why their flowers didn't grow, then they made a new plan and started over. They learned to keep going after a setback, and not get frustrated.



Quiz Contest

Read our "Muggles News" on Page 4. Which sports did Mr. Smith play when he was a child.
(A) When Mr. Smith was a child, he played baseball.
(B) When Mr. Smith was a child, he did triathlons.
(C) When Mr. Smith was a child, he played rugby.
Use the QR Code to submit your answer before 6/15 (Wed.)



Planting Seeds, Blossoming Knowledge!

~ Vicky Tsai

English Teacher, International Department

Ah, the sweet smell of spring. It's the season where we see new beginnings and new lives. The perfect time to start planting a garden at KCIS! This spring, our 2nd graders have become gardeners who planted their very own flowers. Let's take a look at what these young gardeners have been up to.

Changes in Nature

The big theme this semester for grade 2 is "changes". Changes happen constantly in life, and young students are especially sensitive to them. Some changes are good, and others bad. We wanted to teach students to understand and accept changes.

In grade 1, we guided students to look at changes in themselves and in animals. Now, in this project, we focused on noticing changes that occur throughout the world. We did this by learning about plant life cycles. Students came to understand the life cycles of plants, as well as the things plants need to grow well. Finally, we grew our own little garden in order to teach responsibility and observation skills.



Changing and Blooming

This project was a great way to teach the value of patience and persistence. Researching how plants grow and what their different parts do was just the beginning. The hands-on experience of planting and caring for flowers over several weeks was how students really came to understand the scientific parts of the project. Watering and checking on their flowers taught them to be patient and caring. Also, students were able to adjust their plans if they noticed that their soil was dry or there were other problems. This taught them to be observant and flexible.

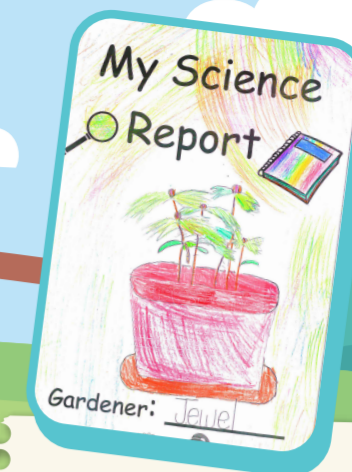
At the end, everyone was rewarded with a beautiful blooming cosmos. It was the prize for being so caring, patient, and responsible. On the next page, you can see some of the scientific reports students wrote as they took care of their flowers. Let's take a look at their work!

What's New?

★ Do you know when Children's Day started? During the International Week, you will find out the origin of Children's Day and learn more about how other countries celebrate this holiday.

G2 Student Work

My Science Report



Chloe Tsai 蔡筱珊 204

I planted cosmos seeds on March 4th to learn how a seed grows. I planted 10 seeds in a pot of soil that was full. First, I put soil in the pot. Then, I put seeds in the soil. Last, I watered my seeds. I planned to water my plants with 7 sprays on Mondays and Fridays, and 6 sprays on Wednesdays.

On day 8, I saw 10 sprouts. Only one didn't open. My seedlings were light green and a little bit dark green. The stems were a little bit red. My tallest sprouts were 5 cm tall. I added some soil and 5 seeds.

On day 28, I saw 12 sprouts. My longest true leaves were 10cm long. My leaves were light green. My stems were a little bit dark red. Eleven of my stems had hair. My roots touched the bottom of the pot. Two of my stems died.

My plant grew from seeds to seedlings in about one month. I think my plants are growing badly because my stems are bent and leaning. I learned that you can't spray on the plant, you need to spray on the soil. Next time, I will not spray on the plant.

Cyrus Lin 林佑銘 203

In week 3, we planted cosmos. We used fertilized soil, cosmos seeds, a pot and a tray. First, I put some fertilized soil in it. Then, I put 5 seeds in the pot. Next, I put more soil in. Last, I sprayed ten squirts of water. I hoped my plant would grow beautifully.

On the 8th day, the weather was partly sunny. I saw no growth with my plant. I saw nothing yet. I needed more water. From then on, I gave 18 squirts of water because a video showed me that plants need lots and lots of water. On the 20th day, the weather was partly sunny. I saw growth with my plant. I saw a tall seedling. The stem was thin. The stem was 5cm tall. The leaves were smooth. The soil was very dry. I added 39 squirts of water.

My plant didn't grow well because I didn't add enough water. But I learned how to water my plants and need to give the right amount. I will try again some time.

Chloe Li 李妍曦 206

I planted cosmos seeds on March 4th to learn what a plant needs to grow. I planted six seeds in a pot of soil that was full. First, I put soil in the pot. Then, I put seeds in the soil. Last, I watered my soil. I planned to water my plants 8 sprays on Wednesdays and Fridays.

On day 8, I saw 5 seeds had sprouted and one almost sprouted. I planted 2 more because it had more space, and I added more soil because I planted more seeds. The leaves were curled and green. The stems were a little red near the soil. My tallest plant was 3.5 cm tall.

On day 28, I saw 9 sprouts. Two of my plants almost grew true leaves. My plants that had true leaves had seed leaves that were falling. One of my plants was leaning down. My plants had some fur on the stem, and some of my plants with true leaves grew another leaf in the middle. My tallest plant was 15cm.

My plants grew seedlings in about one month. I saw one of my plants hasn't grown true leaves, but the seed leaves are falling. I think the bugs ate my seed leaves, so I learned that bugs will damage seed leaves. I need to keep bugs away from seed leaves. Next time, I'll put a net around my seed leaves.

Annabelle Kao 高慈菡 202

I planted cosmos on Friday March 4th. The seeds were thin and pointy. The materials I had were a pot, saucer, and a spray bottle. I put five of them into my pot. First, I put soil in half the pot. Then, I put five seeds into the pot. Last, I sprayed it six times with water. Ms. Saccomano put the pots outside so they could have more sunlight.

On the eighth day the stems were five centimeters tall and the soil was moist. There were also four seedlings, and also small leaves that were green. On the twenty-first day the stems were seven centimeters tall. I saw four young plants. The soil was very moist. My plants had six leaves and the leaves were green and pointy.

At the end, four young plants grew taller with six leaves each. One plant didn't grow. I learned soil was very important for plants, and if the plants don't have soil they would die. If someone asks me how to grow cosmos. I would say, "First, you need to add a lot of soil. Then, put one seed into the pot. Last, you water it and put it outside and wait for it grow."

Victoria Chang 張錦芮 201

I planted cosmos seeds on March 4. I used a pot, water, a tray, soil and a bottle of water. I prepared 14 seeds. I filled 80% of my pot with soil. I sprayed it with water three days a week.

On the fifth day, I saw the soil was moist and the plant had 8 shoots and 14 young and green leaves. Some stems were long and some were short. I gave my plant water 3 times every week. The first two times I sprayed 10 sprays, and the last day I sprayed 30 times. I let my plant be moist and healthy.

I think my plants grew well because I gave them enough water, soil, and sun. I saw if the stems were too long, they would fall down. I learned that growing plants is kind of hard. If I grow too many seeds, the seeds will be too squishy.

Jewel Tu 杜曉擘 206

We planted our cosmos seeds on February 18th. I used a pot, a spray bottle, and a plate. I filled my pot with soil. I put in five seeds and gave it lots of water. I planned on watering three times a week. Each time, I gave it 5 squirts. We set our plants out in the sun to help them grow.

On the 20th day of growing, my plant was six cm tall and had twenty leaves. On the 27th day of growing, my plant was ten cm tall and had thirty-eight leaves. The soil was moist all the time, and there were always five stems. There was a brown leaf. My stems were green. The stems were thick and strong. My plan was working.

I planted my cosmos fifty-two days ago. I don't have any flowers yet, but I have six buds, which will soon be flowers. I think my flowers will be vivid and tiny. The best part of planting my flowers was watering. I learned not to plant too many seeds at the same time, or else they will eat each other. The next time I plant something, I will use a bigger pot.



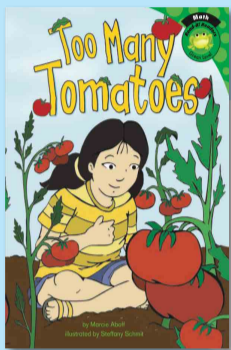
May

~ Roland Claassen

Assistant Director, International Department

This month we have two popular book recommendations for our May Quick Picks. To read the books, simply log in to myON and search for books by title, author, or other book information. Then don't forget to take the AR quiz at school for some extra points. Happy reading!

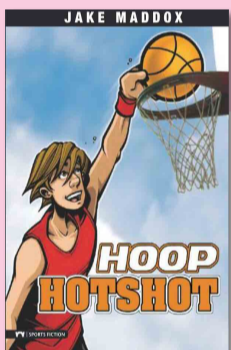
Too Many Tomatoes



AR Quiz: 120280
AR Points: 0.5
Lexile: 450L

Rachel wants to make a difference in Mr. Thomas' life and in his garden. When she helps Mr. Thomas with his tomato crop, they end up with way too many. Will Rachel find a way to help Mr. Thomas?

Hoop Hotshot



AR Quiz: 127520
AR Points: 1
Lexile: 560L

Joe thinks of himself as a hotshot basketball player who knows the coolest moves. The other members of his team aren't as impressed. Will Joe learn the importance of playing as a team?



Wave Machine

~ Amber Chen

Teaching Coordinator, International Department

Waves are everywhere, from oceans to sound to earthquakes. Our first graders are learning about sound waves in KCFS class. Let's "see" how waves move with this wave machine!

You will need:

- 20 wooden skewers
- a bag of gummy bears
- a roll of duct tape
- two chairs



What to do?

1. Place two chairs about 100cm apart.
2. Stretch the duct tape (sticky side up) between the chairs and wrap the ends around them.



3. Push gummy bears onto both ends of each skewer.



4. Stick the skewers across the tape evenly (5cm apart) so the gummy bears balance.



5. Tap a skewer on one end of the tape and see what happens!

What happens?

The gummy bears repeat their back and forth motion over and over, making waves.

Why?

When the wave reaches the end of the tape, it bounces back and comes to the other end. This is because when waves hit something fixed and solid that they can't move through, they reflect in the opposite direction!



Muggles News is organized by a group of KCIS students from the Reporter Club. We provide the latest and most exclusive reports on what is happening at KCIS.



Shining Fireflies

By: Anson Wu, Alan Wei, Brian Teng

Have you ever wondered what it's like to walk through the dark and find fireflies? There are five kinds of fireflies you can see in our Nature Study Area. The 4th graders encountered fireflies and learned about their life cycle and facts in late April! The nature teacher, Mr. Kai said, "We saw more fireflies than last time!" Thanks to the fireflies for giving our fourth graders a wonderful time. They had a blast!

Sporty Teacher

By: Brian Teng, Eason Chang

Mr. Smith is a sports fan. He played rugby when he was a child. He loves triathlons, even though triathlons need hard work, Mr. Smith still enjoys them! "I like being a PE teacher more than an FET because I can stay outside and have a bigger classroom!" However, he added, "Being a PE teacher is challenging because you need to have a lot of energy and you need to take care of students' safety."

