

ELEMENTARY EXPRESS

Weekly News from the ES

Edition #16



December 15, 2021

Important Dates

14 & 15 Dec	Winter Concert & Art Show
17 Dec	Last day of 1st Semester
17 Dec	ES Class Christmas Parties
10 Jan	First day of 2nd Semester
18 Jan	ASA 2nd Block re-start
27 Jan	G3-G5 End of Unit Assembly
28 Jan	PK-G2 End of Unit Assembly
31 Jan-4 Feb	Lunar New Year Holidays
25 Feb	ASA 2nd Block Ends

COME TO ME...

Mr Mark Broom

Although we may be weary as we approach the holiday, we have much to be grateful for. It was such a wonderful sight this week to see parents enjoy the Winter Concert and Art Show in person and safely. You should be proud of your child(ren) in all they have achieved in this semester academically, socially, personally and spiritually. During this holiday, it will be a time of pausing for many, whether that will be being with family, being out of the daily work routine or just taking stock on all that has happened. If you are exhausted, please listen to the words of Jesus:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Jesus didn't say, "Come to me, all who are crushing it, living your best life, and I will give you rest." He said, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest." If you're discouraged, tired, or weary, don't worry. That's exactly how Jesus expected you to come to Him. (*LivingChristian.org*)

Verse of the Week



COME TO ME...

Mr. Mark Broom

May we be able to let go and surrender all of our burdens, worries, and exhaustion to Him and find him gentle and humble in heart. May we truly experience rest for our souls.

It's clear here that Jesus knows that as human beings, even as Christians, life can become overbearing where we take the weight of the world on our shoulders in our humanness, frailty and mortal bodies and even our sinfulness. Jesus is graciously offering an exchange to all those in that position, including I for one, to give us rest for our souls.

The rest the Lord promises is much more than the rest we might experience by merely ceasing from outward activity. Actually, we've probably all experienced going on vacation yet still being full of unrest about work, or in turmoil over a personal situation. But because the rest the Lord gives us is inward in nature, we can be in a very busy or difficult outward environment, yet enjoying inward rest the whole time. Whatever our situation, when we come to the Lord, we find a rest that's for our very souls. In fact, this rest is not merely something He gives us apart from Himself; He is actually our real rest. God is not interested in giving us *things*; instead, He gave us His Son, Jesus Christ, to be everything to us.

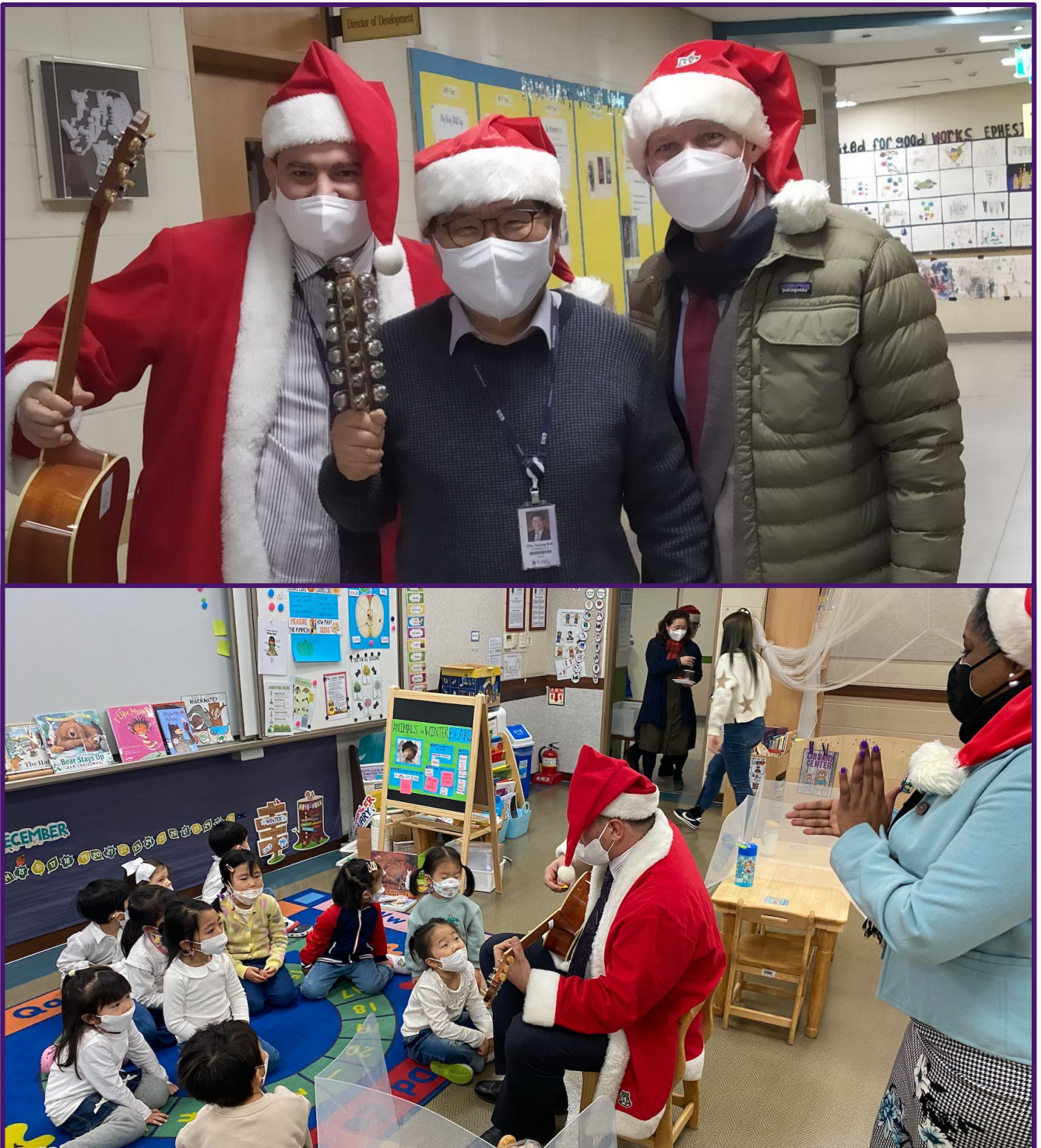
Let us pray as we enter the holiday:

Lord, as we enter this busy holiday season, we ask that you would help us find a rhythm that allows us to enjoy time to rest in your presence. Remove distractions from our view and give us the ability to fix our eyes on you. Give us wisdom so we are able to create rituals, traditions, and celebrations that remind us of the gift of Jesus this Christmas. As we go through the motions of baking, buying, and more would you be with us through it all. Tune our ears to hear your still small voice that reminds me of who you are. Renew a sense of joy in our hearts that will infuse new life into these weary bones this Christmas. Help us to take time each day to rest in the truth of your scripture and to embrace the comfort that comes when we lay our burdens at your feet through prayer. Let us set aside all the expectations that come with the holidays and instead seek to please you with the ways that we spend our time and money this year. We thank you for the gift of your Son and the peace he brought to us and made available to all who believe. Amen.

SPREADING JOY!

Mr. Mark Broom

On Wednesday, the school's administration went around to all staff and students spreading joy with singing festive songs whilst handing out candy canes to all the children and other treats for the staff - a pleasant surprise for all!



THANK YOU!

Mr. Mark Broom

Many thanks to the J&J catering team for feeding the GSIS community this semester! Since joining the school, I have been impressed by the service, quality and variety of food that J&J provide. Please follow them on [Instagram](#) to keep updated visually as well as [here](#).



WINTER CONCERT & ART SHOW PHOTOS

Ms. Ashley Jackson
Ms. Miriam Lee

Thank you all for your support of the Winter Concert and Art Show. Thank you for listening to the songs, practicing lines, and preparing the uniforms for your children. It was so wonderful to have the students perform for an audience in person! If you were unable to attend, please enjoy watching either day with the attached link.

We hope you were able to spend time looking at the student artwork as well. The students are proud of their artworks. Please enjoy looking at photos from both days.



[Winter Concert and Art Show Photos](#)



[Winter Concert Livestream Recording](#)

Please be reminded not to use these photos in a public space or on social media.



WINTER CONCERT & ART SHOW

ES Office



WINTER CONCERT & ART SHOW

ES Office



ONLINE LEARNING: 10 - 14 JANUARY 2022

Mr Lush

With the steady increases in new daily Covid cases and the fears of the latest variant, the government stated this week that they will be reinstating more restrictive social distancing guidelines and have extended its mandatory 10-day quarantine for all those traveling outside of Korea until January 6.

Our school has a number of families and faculty members who will be traveling outside Korea that will be impacted by this extension of the mandatory quarantine for all travelers. Because of this, **GSIS will have online classes January 10-14**. Although we plan to resume with 100% face-to-face classes on Monday, January 17, we as a school need to be prepared to be online longer or possibly go to a hybrid model depending how the situation develops.

In addition, we will not be able to provide emergency childcare for elementary-aged children. We know how challenging this can be for families and will provide this if possible if online classes or hybrid classes are extended past January 14.

We will continue to monitor the situation over the break. We know this is not the news we want to hear. It is our hope and prayer that the current Covid situation will improve soon. We pray for everyone over the break; whether you and your families are staying and traveling in Korea or overseas.

In addition, we will be asking all school employees to have a negative PCR test prior to returning to campus on the 17th.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this complicated and ever-changing situation. If you have a question or concern regarding online classes please use this [form](#).

IPAD CHECK OUT FORM

ES Office

We endeavor to support your child's online learning. Therefore, if you need to loan a device during the period of remote learning, please fill out the [iPad checkout form](#) by **20th December**. The confirmation and pick up guidelines will be sent out following the sign up deadline. Pick up will be on **Friday 7 January, 2022** only.

MAP ASSESSMENT RESULTS: GRADE 2 - 5

Ms. Gillian Png

Recently, Grade 2 - 5 took the MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) assessments. With this, we would like to provide the opportunity to share your child's results with you which have been handed to your child in a sealed envelope today for your information.

Please note the following:

Grade	Assessments	Notes
Grade 2	Math and Reading	As this is the first time Grade 2 is taking the MAP test, there is no comparative data from previous years.
Grade 3, 4, 5	Math, Reading and Language Usage	As this is the first time Grade 3 is taking the language usage portion of the MAP test, there is no comparative data from previous years.

All new students will have their results presented in a bar graph. Some of our EAL students only wrote the math portion of the MAP test, and did not access the reading or language usage portion due to the fact that they are still learning the English language.

To help you better understand how to read your child's MAP report, please watch the video at bit.ly/gsismap2021 or scan the QR code below. Following watching the video and looking through your child's report, if you have any questions, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.



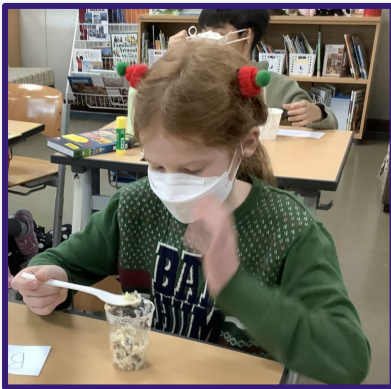
GRADE 2: ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Ms Mayer & Ms Little

We have had the privilege of flying on “GSIS Airlines” for the past few weeks as students inquire into *How We Organize Ourselves*. Second graders are researching different lifestyles, cultures, and environments. So far, our very own classroom airplane has taken 2nd graders across the world, all the way to Egypt and Russia. We’ve been graced with some expert resource speakers along the way. Students have grown knowledge about the world through books, websites, and virtual field trips, but the most memorable and most authentic learning has taken place when our resource speakers come and share!



Thanks to our resource speakers: Mrs. Broom as well as Mr. & Mrs. Courliss! We have been risk takers, trying new foods, including Russian pancakes and Egyptian rice pudding. We have been learning new languages, cultural dances, and have brought back some amazing souvenirs from our class travels. We are learning to appreciate and value our differences.



Briella Courliss was born in **Egypt**, and she loves the taste of rice pudding! Thanks for sharing.



Our very own Daniel Broom was born in **Moscow, Russia**. He approves of his mom’s Russian pancakes!

WELCOME TO THE ADVENT ADVENTURE

FOR ADULTS



FOR KIDS & YOUNG FAMILIES



Come back here every day December 1st - 25th to join in the Advent Adventure...

...and beyond Christmas, would you like to continue the adventure?
Click below to stay connected with us & to discover more about Jesus.

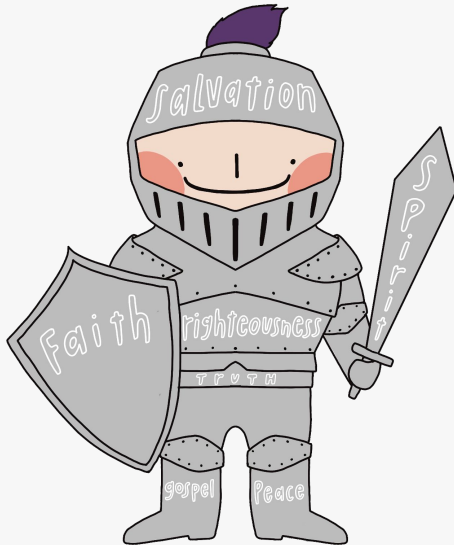


ADVENT ADVENTURE





21/22SY ES SEW PHOTOS



Thank you to Mrs. Wenji Lin for taking the photos of the SEW outside games. Thank you to all parents for cooperating to share the photos as informed in the previous Express. Please be reminded not to use these photos on a public space or on social media.

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE!



UPDATE: ARE YOU PLANNING ON GOING ABROAD?

Nurse Kil

The Korean government announced on the 14th that it would extend the control measures for overseas imports, which had been in place for two weeks from the 3rd to the 16th, for another three weeks to block the inflow of the Corona 19 Omicron variant. Until January 6, next year, all overseas arrivals, including Koreans, must be quarantined for 10 days, regardless of nationality or vaccination status.

COVID-19 Home Screening Survey
Date: _____
Name: _____
Grade: _____ or N/A: _____
I confirm that, as of this morning:
1. My/my child's temperature is below 37.5° C without the use of a fever reducer, and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 including sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and loss of smell and taste.
2. No one in my household, including myself or my child, is under quarantine or suspected of having COVID-19.
3. No one in my household, including myself or my child, has been in another country within the past 14 days.
Signature of parent (student) or self (faculty/staff): _____

A pack of Home Surveys will be sent home with your child today for semester 2.

MADAGASCAR PRODUCTION

Ms. Risa Kim

Madagascar Musical Set Painting ASA began three weeks ago and I am seeing some great progress with the effort the students are putting in for the upcoming spring musical.

I set high expectation for the students to be engaged in not only the fun part but also in the hard part such as cleaning up after ourselves. I also communicated about the need to show respect and follow instructions given from 4 upper secondary student leaders facilitating the activities in small groups (grade 11 - Amy Noh, Minjoo Kim, Joshua Kang and Yuna Song) as well. The set painting students have so far been A-M-A-Z-I-N-G in meeting my expectations and I am very proud of their work and thankful for their attitudes. The students have worked on making palm trees, meat and the central park zoo wall in the last 2 sessions. Spread out on the floor at the auditorium lobby with large brushes, there has been great teamwork, although at times the kids unconsciously put paint on themselves or on the floor.

Yet, the students continued to display maturity in handling problems and great responsibility in organizing themselves. I am very thankful for the generous understanding of the parents for the clothes and shoes that went home with some new colors on as well. However, for the set painting ASA participants, it would be good if they choose to wear the least favorite clothes on Wednesdays until the set painting gets completed.

I look forward to seeing the stage in a full set after the winter break, and hope to see you all there at the musical in March.



The Chapel Team is offering a club called “Frontline Jr,” which is a team of Grade 4-5 students to promote elementary spiritual growth during Chapel.

Who is right for Frontline Jr?

- Someone who loves God.
- Someone who wants to spread the “Good News of Jesus Christ.”
- Someone who wants to encourage the spiritual growth of our community.
- Someone who wants to be a spiritual role model for others.
- Someone who can meet on Tuesday during lunch recess.

What does Frontline Jr do?

- During Tuesday meetings: Helps plan chapel activities.
- During Chapels: Assists teachers and students in learning about the Bible.

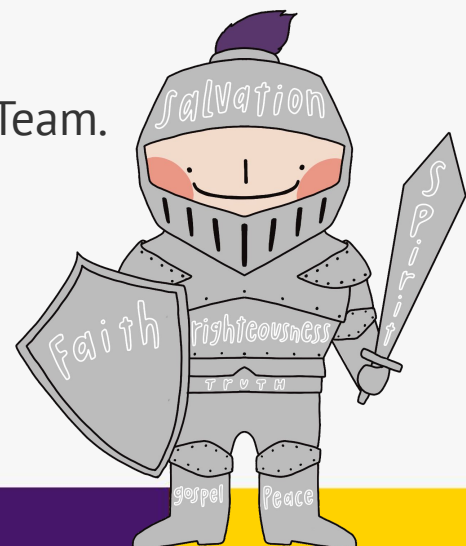
Please make a copy of the [Application for Frontline Jr.](#) and email it to Whites@gsis.sc.kr. The due date for the application is Wed., Jan., 13, 2022.

If you have any questions, please email the Chapel Team.

Ms. White: whites@gsis.sc.kr

Mrs. Ashley Jackson: jacksona@gsis.sc.kr

Ms. Miriam Lee: leem@gsis.sc.kr




“Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.”


CHECK OUT YOUR WINTER VACATION READ TODAY!

Use Sora for ebooks & audiobooks

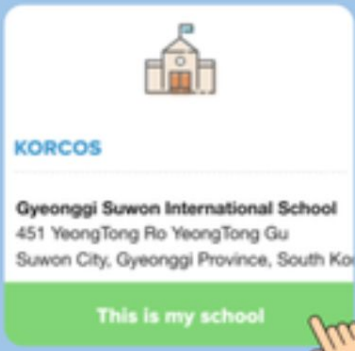
1 Install the Sora app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or go to soraapp.com



2 Click on **Find my school**



3 Look for this



4 Select **Gyeonggi Suwon International School**



5 Check your **Student ID Card** for your username (6 digit student ID)



6 Click **Sign in**



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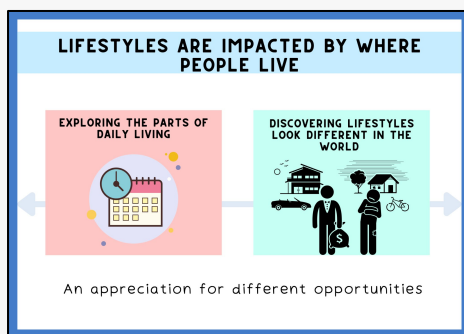
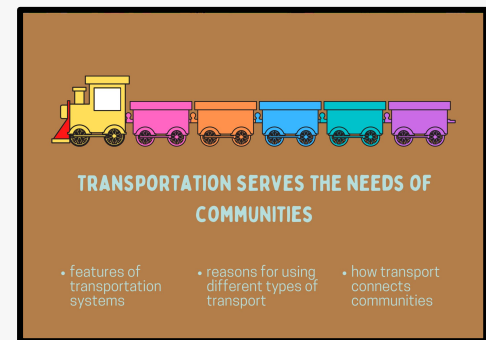
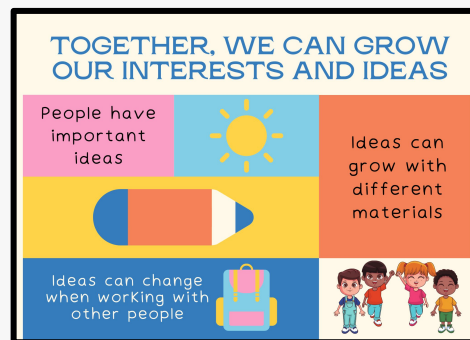
UNIT OF INQUIRY UPDATE

Ms. Jabbie Rosario

Before Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW), some classes have started investigating into their next Unit of Inquiry.

We've been grateful to our parent community for sharing your expertise and passion!

We need you once again for our next unit! If you are passionate about these units or you know someone who could be of help, kindly click the link and fill out the form.



Resource Speaker
Click here to sign up!



Want to keep your child engaged during the winter break?



Winter Holiday Activity Pack

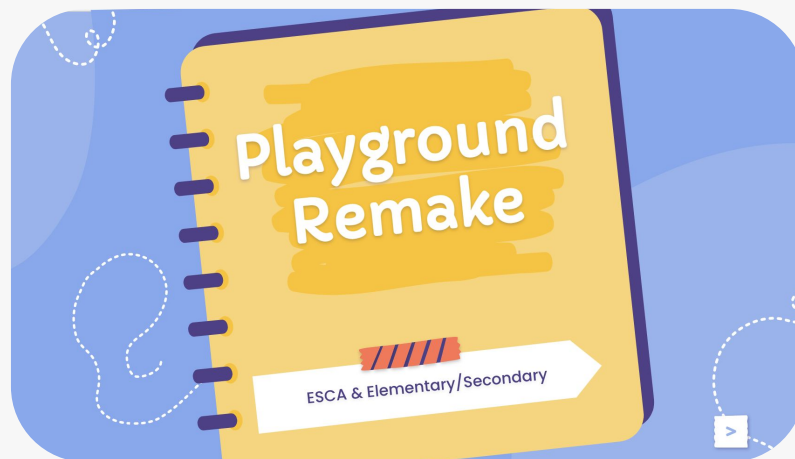


NEW PLAYGROUND PROPOSAL

Cathy Oh, G5

Have you ever noticed that our playground is very old and cruddy? Many students have requested that our playground must be changed. ESCA, representing and reflecting all voices of the elementary and the secondary students, proposed an idea to re-create our playground to the Board of Trustees, Head of School, Principals, PTA, Mr. Cho, and the Head of the building department, Mr Yoo. They talked about the benefits of play. For example, play help kids gain skills and grow creativity, imagination, literacy, and more. Also, they showed our current playground. There were pictures of chipped paint, ruined and rotten wood, rusted metal, and broken playground equipment. Lastly, they requested new things after collecting ideas from the rest of elementary school. They asked for ziplines, trampolines, new amphitheatre flooring, and better swings and slides. We are happy to report that they have succeeded in convincing them. You can look forward to seeing a brand-new playground soon!

NEW PLAYGROUND PROPOSAL



✓ [Click here to view the presentation!](#)

BEFORE COMING SCHOOL:

- Avoid high-risk areas and activities (Hagwons, busy cafes, public transportation, etc.)
- Report any signs of sickness or possible contact or *any housemate under quarantine* to the school nurse immediately!
- Check for compliance with “COVID19 Home Survey form” at home each morning

COVID-19 Home Screening Survey

Date: _____

Name: _____

Grade: _____ or N/A: _____

I confirm that, as of this morning:

1. My/my child's temperature is below 37.5° C without the use of a fever reducer, and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 including sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and loss of smell and taste.
2. No one in my household, including myself or my child, is under quarantine or suspected of having COVID-19.
3. No one in my household, including myself or my child, has been in another country within the past 14 days.

Signature of parent (student) or self (faculty/staff):

- Fever check required to enter the bus for bus riders
- Fever check for walkin and drop off students at the front door

WHILE AT SCHOOL:

- Keep face masks over their mouths and noses at all times (“No Mask, No Talk”)
- Maintain social distancing
- Regularly wash and sanitize hands
- Use the stairs in the correct direction
- Check temperature of all students before lunch
- Do not eat any food with others outside of the cafeteria including snack time (No talking while makes are off!)
- And again, report any signs of sickness to Nurse Ann immediately!

ADDITIONAL MEASURES:

You may be curious if we have done anything else to prevent COVID considering the current situation in Korea. In addition to the above strategies in preventing COVID, we have also just recently added these precautions:

- 400 more shields were ordered and installed.
- Require KF 80 or KF94 masks (bring extra mask each day)
- Adjusted the direction of foot traffic in hallways, cafeteria, and stairwells
- Adjusted lunch schedule to reduce the density of students in the cafeteria
- Our youngest students (PK-Gr.1) eat lunch in their classrooms with shields (The tray cover is used to keep food safe, not to be exposed to the air.)
- Snack time with a shield
- Regular reminders to follow GSIS Covid Protocols (e.g HOS's morning announcement)
- Make sure of hand washing and disinfecting regularly, supervised by Nurse Kil
- Prepare an additional mask for swimming class in case of wet or missing
- Using individual water bottles (No direct drinking from the water fountains)
- Specific plan for removal of student with symptoms during school day to specific isolation room
- **Parents and visitors are not permitted in the building,** unless previous permission/arrangements have been made with the principal

STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO SHOULD STAY HOME:

- If they receive a self-quarantine notice from the health authorities.
- If anyone in the same household receives a self-quarantine notice:
must not come to school until the quarantine finishes.
However, if the student wishes to come to school, it may be permitted if a negative covid test result (Test needs to be performed within 2 days from EACH desired date of school attendance) is submitted EACH day before coming to school or the student immediately separated residence, without any contact, from the person in self-quarantine after receiving the quarantine notice
- If a family member of a student or staff member had a covid-19 test, they should stay home until the result comes out. (But preemptive tests for work such as hospital and aviation personnel, participation in competitions, etc are exceptions.)

IMPORTANT LINKS

[School Calendar](#)

[Elementary Family Handbook](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Elementary Letters](#)

[Elementary Express](#)

[Parent Information Videos](#)

[G3-5 Chapel Worship Videos](#)

[PK - G2 Chapel Worship Videos](#)

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." **Proverbs 3:5-6***

