



Tran Ngoc Dien Talk

Chuc Mung Nam Moi !

We hope that the Year of the Snake brings you all much good health and happiness!

The children greatly enjoyed the lead up to Tet learning about the significance of certain cultural foods, traditions and stories, as well as enthusiastically practicing their own dragon dancing and singing in anticipation of the Dragon Dance troupe visit.

'Exploring Our World'

There has been wonderful growth and exploration amongst the children as they have engaged this term in exploring the theme: 'Us and Our World' and shared about their own countries of origin. This has also encompassed an excursion and cyclo ride at our Street 10 location, a visit from Santa Claus before Christmas, obstacles courses around "the world", and exploring the natural environment around them at SmartKids.

The remainder of the term looks to be filled with many more enjoyable activities as the children continue to explore other aspects of their countries, and share together in an International Day festival.

Changes

There have been a number of welcomes and farewells at Tran Ngoc Dien since the last newsletter. We have welcomed Ms Ulrikka as teacher in the Green group and Ms Jasmin has returned after a period of leave. We have farewelled Ms Phuung.

Ms Nhien and Ms Thuy from our Thao Dien location started as assistants in the Yellow group. Ms Thuy left just before the Tet break.

Ms Kasia has commenced as teacher with the Blue Group and we have seen Pranav, Sebastian, Khang and Bastian move up from the Green group.

We were excited to hear of the safe arrival of daughter Lilliana to Ms Milette. We also welcome Ms Milette back to SmartKids.

By Jaom Fisher
Location Manager TND

Issue 5 March 2013

Smartkids dates:

- * Last day of Term 2:
March 29th 2013
- * First day of Term 3:
April 8th 2013
- * Hung Kings Memorial holiday:
April 19th 2013
- * Reunification Day & Labor Day holidays:
April 30th & May 1st 2013
- * Non-children Day:
May 17th 2013
- * Last day of Term 3:
June 20th 2013



Parent/Child Group

Our Parent/Child Group for 1-3 year olds, held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at our Street 10 location, is a good introduction for both children and parents to understand the SmartKids philosophy where children learn through play.

The children who have attended the Parent Child Group prior to commencing in the SmartKids program have transitioned smoothly into the kiddies classes. The cost is 100,000 VND per session. There is no need to register.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Week of 18th—22nd March 2013

The teachers will soon plan a schedule on their doors to arrange a time for a private meeting with each child's parents.

This is an opportunity for the teachers to share observations of your child and how they are settling in to SmartKids. It is also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have concerning our child. Children are not involved in these meetings.

Language Development

New words have been emerging amongst the children's vocabulary recently and they have been communicating well with one another to express their interests and desires, or share their emotions. 'I don't like that'.

Young children acquire language through interaction in their immediate environment, and through responding to sounds, sentences and experiences expressed by their parents, family and other carers. They begin by absorbing, listening and then imitating and practicing. As their responses are reinforced by these significant others, gradually they learn to reproduce sounds and words and establish an understanding of how language works. Each new experience extends language skills and vocabulary and children gain an understanding about their own language and culture, but also knowledge and comprehension of the world around them. It may sound as though they are getting things wrong sometimes, but listen carefully to see how children are interpreting what is going on around them.

Support Your Toddler's Language Development

Whether your child is a late talker or an early one, you can help build his/her language skills and toddler vocabulary with simple language of your own.

A few tips:

- * Avoid baby talk. Speak clearly and simply, using real words and complete sentences.
- * As you go about your day with your child, talk about what he/she and you are doing: "I'm going to cut up this apple so we can share it for lunch."
- * Repeat your child's words and expand on them. If he/she replies "App-uh!" to your remark about slicing one, answer "Yes, this is an apple! We're going to eat this shiny red apple for lunch." Add those adjectives!
- * Spend lots of time reading to your toddler. Books with rhyming words are ideal for a toddler's language development, because rhymes help young children distinguish individual sounds and parts of words. (Songs - classic, modern, or made-up by Mum - are wonderful as well.)
- * Two-sided conversations are a good way to boost language development, because they help toddlers practice their new skills. So pose questions that require more than a yes or no answer so your toddler can use his/her vocabulary (but avoid pressuring your tot for a reply if he's/she's not ready or able to give one).

(Adapted from <http://www.whattoexpect.com/toddler-development>)

Recommended Reading

A Bus Called Heaven

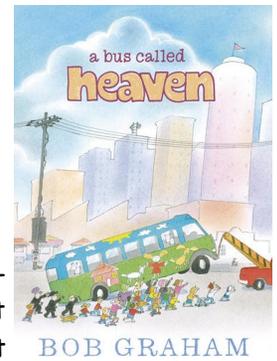
by Bob Graham

A broken, old bus appears one morning, sad as a whale on a beach, right outside Stella's house. On the front of it, held up with packing tape, is a hand painted sign... "Heaven".

For Stella, this decrepit old vehicle is special -this bus is "ours" - a place for everyone to be together: hold meetings, play games and share stories. But one day, the bus is towed away and Stella must fight to save not just the bus, but everything the community has worked so hard to create.

A wonderful book about community and working together.

(Published by Macmillan Children's books, 2007)



After School Activities

After school activities continue each week at the three locations (Tuesdays at TD, Wednesdays at TND, & Thursdays at St 10). In Term 3, SmartKids children are eligible for a special fee of \$15 per session to attend the ASAs. Copies of the term program are available at reception.

