



ISMILE BANDUNG NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back to School!

ISSUE No.07/ISMILEBdg/S.Y. 24-25

Dear Parents,

Welcome to ISMILE, where we've been nurturing young minds and hearts for nearly 12 years. As the center coordinator, I am honored to have you join our community, which we truly see as an extension of our own family.

Our school is built on the foundation of love, care, and excellence in education. We are incredibly proud of our team of teachers, whose dedication and passion make all the difference.

They bring out the best in each child, creating a nurturing and stimulating environment where learning is a joyful adventure. Our teachers understand that each child is unique and tailor their approach to help every student thrive both academically and personally.

The curriculum at ISMILE is a harmonious blend of nature and academics, ensuring that our children receive a well-rounded education. We believe that learning should extend beyond the classroom, and our programs are designed to foster a deep connection with the world around us. This approach not only enriches their academic growth but also cultivates a sense of wonder and curiosity.

We take great pride in the achievements of our students. When they move on to primary school, they do so as confident, well-prepared, and outstanding individuals. It is our joy to see them succeed and shine in all that they do.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's early education. Together with our dedicated teachers, we are excited to support your child's growth and help them reach their fullest potential.

Warm regards,
Femia Ong Saynes, MD
Center Coordinator



*"Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart
from it."*

Proverbs 22:6

First Week Adventures

By: Ms. Abbie

As the sun rose on July 22, 2024, ISMILE Bandung was ready to welcome students back for the new school year. The school gates opened wide, and the staff, including helpers, teachers, and the school coordinator, stood with warm smiles to greet the students.

The school lobby and hallways buzzed with mixed emotions as students expressed excitement and a hint of nervousness after the long holiday break. Some children were happy to see their friends and return to school, while others held onto their parents, feeling a bit anxious after the long holiday. To ease the transition, teachers had thoughtfully prepared their classrooms with a variety of engaging provocations designed to captivate young learners from Infants to K2.



In the Infants and Toddlers classroom, the day began with sensory activities. Little hands explored ocean sensory bags and jelly sensory play, discovering new textures that sparked their curiosity and helped them develop sensory skills.



In the N1 classroom, students embarked on a colorful adventure with the Sensory Math module from Key-to-Learning. They learned to match and recognize colors in a fun, playful setting. The room was filled with excitement as they explored the world of colors.

The N2 students kicked off their week with a "Show and Tell" activity, sharing holiday pictures and stories. They also began learning phonics, starting their journey into the world of sounds and letters with their teachers' guidance.



In the K1 class, students eagerly joined indoor and outdoor activities, ready to interact and explore. The classroom was full of creativity and teamwork as they adapted to their surroundings and embraced new challenges.



The K2 class began their day with a visit to the school garden, a favorite spot for many. They found quiet places to sit and draw what they saw, like dragonflies, butterflies, and sunflowers.

Afterward, they returned to the classroom to color their drawings and shared their work in a "draw and tell" session.



Later that week, all students gathered for their first chapel service of the year, led by Ms. Sharon. The K2 class gave a lively dance performance, and teachers led a role-playing activity about "Attentiveness," teaching the students the value of paying attention. The service ended with reminders about the importance of being attentive in school and life.



With the new school year underway, ISMILE Bandung is full of excitement and potential. The school community is ready to support and inspire each student as they embark on a year filled with learning and new experiences.

FIRST PARENTS' ORIENTATION

By : Miss Maica

On July 26, 2024, we held our first Parent Orientation for the school year 2024-2025. We were delighted to welcome both new and returning parents to our community.

The orientation began with Ms. Fem introducing the new teachers to the parents by level, ensuring that everyone had the opportunity to meet and learn about the educators responsible for their children's growth and development. This introduction aimed to reassure parents that their children are in capable and caring hands.



The image shows a screenshot of a presentation slide on the left and a Zoom meeting interface on the right. The presentation slide is titled "School Framework" and has a subtitle "Mission and Vision Statement". The text on the slide reads: "At ISMILE, we partner with parents so that all children progress beyond expectations, develop holistically with positive character values and a deep love for learning, while acquiring the skills essential to thrive in the 21st century." The slide features a background image of a small green plant growing in a pot. The Zoom interface on the right shows a list of participants with their names and profile pictures. The participants listed are: Henry J, Isabelle, Jennifer Wong, jovita surjadi, Stephanie Vania Sum..., Larry Shanto, Adi Guna Surya, Morini, K1 april agatha, Jess, and Christine Oktavi... The Zoom interface also shows a small video thumbnail of a group of people.

Next, we shared our School Framework, outlining our beliefs, values, and the comprehensive programs we offer. Our curriculum was discussed in detail to give parents a clear understanding of the educational journey their children will embark on. It is essential for parents to be aware of our guiding principles and what makes our institution the right choice for their children's education.

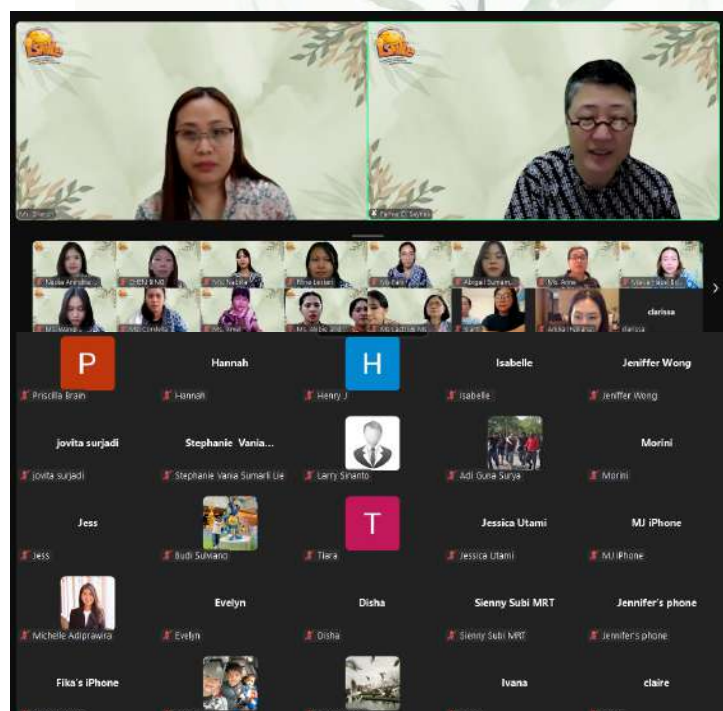
We also highlighted our afterschool programs, which provide additional opportunities for learning and enrichment beyond the regular school hours. Furthermore, we introduced Storypark, our documentation platform, where we share weekly updates and activities with parents. This platform allows parents to stay connected with their children's experiences and witness the fun and educational activities that take place each week.



Health and safety are paramount at our school. We introduced our stringent health and safety protocols designed to maintain a safe environment for all students. This includes our partnership with NAFAS to ensure optimal air quality within the school, underscoring our commitment to prioritizing the health of the children.

We are immensely grateful for the time and effort parents took to attend the orientation.

Their involvement and support are crucial to creating a thriving and supportive school community.





By: Miss Wangi

Supporting Early Development

Sensory Processing & RIE Approach for Infants and Toddlers

On July 31st and August 1st, ISMILE Preschool held a teachers' training session on 'Children's Eight Sensory Systems Through Play' and the 'RIE (Resources for Infant Educators) Approach.' Led by early childhood education expert Krista Endinda, the training aimed to equip educators with effective strategies to optimize learning for young learners.

We explored how sensory processing significantly impacts cognitive and affective processing, emphasizing the interconnectedness of these three processes. Recognizing that every child is unique and has varying sensory reactivities, it is crucial to accommodate their needs based on their arousal levels.

Parents and educators should support children through affective processes by offering thoughtful materials and activities, incorporating storytelling and movement, and responding with genuine enthusiasm to spark their curiosity.

On the second day, the focus was on the RIE (Resources for Infant Educarers) Approach—a respectful, peaceful, and mindful method that emphasizes fostering independence and allowing babies to develop naturally with minimal intervention.



This approach is guided by six key principles: respecting the infant's individuality, providing a safe and consistent environment, allowing time for self-initiated exploration, engaging in respectful communication, supporting natural rhythms, and fostering a trusting relationship through attentive caregiving.

With 'trust' as the core principle, the RIE Approach seeks to build secure attachments that support children's healthy brain and emotional development. By respecting children as active learners with their own preferences and giving them freedom and involvement, the approach fosters their abilities and intrinsic motivation of learning.

Through the lens of the RIE Approach, the environment should be safe, free from hazards, and equipped with age-appropriate toys and furniture. It's crucial to observe attentively, minimize interruptions, and allow children to explore. By tracking their development and responding thoughtfully to their cues, we can offer interactions and activities that effectively support their growth.

This training has provided us with valuable insights into optimizing our eclectic approach in ISMILE, reinforcing the importance of a well-prepared environment and responsive interactions to foster the best developmental outcomes for our students.



Teacher's Development Week: Enhancing Skills with Jolly Phonics Training

By: Miss Nadia

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The first day of our Teacher's Development Week was a remarkable experience for all the teachers from ISMILE Bandung and Jakarta. We had the privilege of receiving training on Jolly Phonics from Edwina Kwan, a certified trainer from Singapore.

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During the training, Ms. Edwina guided us on how to effectively deliver the Jolly Phonics material to our students. The session was highly interactive, allowing teachers to share their previous experiences and ideas about teaching Jolly Phonics. This collaborative environment helped us learn from each other and gain new perspectives on how to make phonics learning engaging and effective for the children.



Jolly Phonics is a comprehensive program that teaches children how to read and write using phonics. It is based on the synthetic phonics method, which emphasizes learning the sounds of letters and blending them to form words. The program covers several key components: learning the letter sounds, learning letter formation, blending sounds to read words, identifying sounds in words for spelling, and recognizing tricky words that do not follow regular phonetic rules.

One of the highlights of the training was the demonstration teaching session. Teachers had the chance to practice and showcase their newly acquired skills, receiving constructive feedback from Ms. Edwina. This hands-on experience deepened our understanding and provided concrete examples of how to implement Jolly Phonics in our classrooms.

The training was not only informative but also inspiring. It equipped us with practical tools and techniques to enhance our teaching methods, ensuring that our students receive the best phonics education. We are excited to bring these new strategies into our classrooms and look forward to seeing the positive impact on our students' literacy skills.

As we are starting the new Academic Year 2024-2025, we are grateful for these opportunities to grow professionally and to better serve our students. Stay tuned for more updates on our journey towards excellence in education!



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a Tune: Skip to My Lou

/a/-/a! Ants on my arm.
/a/-/a! Ants on my arm.
/a/-/a! Ants on my arm.
They're causing me alarm.

Action: Wiggle your fingers above the elbow, as if ants are crawling on you, and say a, a, a, a!



B b

b Tune: Crompton Races

Bring your bat and
bring your ball.
/b!/ /b!
Bring your bat and
bring your ball...
...to the park to play!



Action: Pretend to hit a ball with a bat, and say b, b, b, b.



ISMILE ISHINE ALAM ATELIER TRAINING-WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS

By: Miss Anne

Our founders and coordinators had brought together their vast experiences, insights, and innovative approaches to create a workshop that was both inspiring and practical. Their commitment to excellence in education is evident in the comprehensive program they have designed for us. We are privileged to have their guidance and expertise as we explore new strategies and methodologies to enhance our teaching skills.

Throughout the course of the training - workshop for teachers, we had the chance to engage with the very individuals who have shaped the philosophy and direction of our educational initiatives. Their hands-on involvement in this workshop underscores the importance they place on supporting and empowering teachers like us. They believe, as we all do, that investing in teacher development is key to fostering a vibrant and effective learning environment for our students. The insights and techniques we gain will not only benefit us professional growth but also have a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

Thank you for your dedication to education and for joining us in this journey of continuous improvement. Let's embrace this chance to learn from the best and make a significant difference in our classrooms and beyond.

Day 1: 16 July 2024

The training team and the founders/directors from ISMILE, ISHine, and Alam Atelier Schools in Jakarta, Bandung, and Bali were introduced during the opening ceremony. Ms. Mei and Ms. Pipi extended their welcome to the new teachers and the other teachers from different branches. Lodging for Bandung and Bali centers, meals and snacks were provided by the school for the teachers during the entire day of training. Ms. Halim discussed the Vision and Mission Statement of the School. These statements communicate core educational values, speak to the culture of the institution, and provide faculty, staff, students, and parents with ideals to reach for in participation with the school.



IT, K2 and Mandarin Coordinators - The coordinators for each level had a discussion with the teachers about the curriculum, lesson planning, and documentation.

Day 2: 17 July 2024

The session was resumed by the coordinators of each level to discuss English, Math, and Mandarin subjects. They clarified the benchmarks and explained the weekly teaching schedule for each subject. The afternoon session was conducted by Ms. Halim to talk about the KTL or Key To Learning, a unique, developmental cognitive curriculum proven to bring quantum leaps in children's learning abilities, resulting in exceptional academic success.



Day 3: 18 July 2024

On the third or final day of the teachers' training workshops, a meeting was held to clarify the responsibilities of the lead and assistant teachers.

The Reggio Emilia Approach was conducted by Ms. Fem, the coordinator of ISMILE Bandung. The Reggio Emilia Approach is an educational philosophy based on the image of a child with strong potential for development and a subject with rights. Ms. Fem stresses out that the five fundamental principles of the Reggio philosophy are centered upon the image of the child, the hundred languages of children, the role of the teacher, reciprocal relationships, pedagogy of listening, and the environment as third teacher.

The teachers training - workshop concluded with a group photo taken with the training team and the founders/directors.



We would like to extend our gratitude to Ms. Mei, Ms. Pipi, Center Coordinators Ms. Fem, and Ms. Halim and the rest of the training team for the fruitful Training - Workshop for Teachers 2024 - 2025.

OPEN House

By : Ms. Agatha

ISMILE Bandung continues to demonstrate its commitment to providing comprehensive, high-quality education.

On Saturday, August 3, 2024, ISMILE Bandung hosted an open house from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The teachers warmly welcomed visitors, offering a variety of engaging activities in the playground and garden.



One of our parent visitors was so impressed by the beautiful provocations and our nature-based setup that they decided to sign up on the spot. It's a testament to the welcoming and inspiring environment we've created here.

CLEAN AIR ZONE BY NAFAS

To promote a healthy learning environment, the school has installed the Clean Air Zone by Nafas in every classroom. This system maintains consistently healthy air quality throughout class hours.



STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE

On Monday, July 29, 2024, ISMILE Bandung began using personal QR codes to manage student attendance more efficiently and securely, enhancing the safety of each student.



3 EVENTS

August

- 3 Open House
- 16 Indonesia Independence Day Celebration

September

- 5 Birthday of The Prophet Muhammad
- 20 Open House
- 26 Field Trip
- 29 Term break

BIRTHDAY



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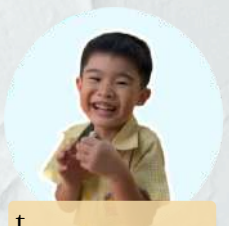


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