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iSMILE

interdisciplinary School of multiple intelligences Learning & Enrichment

NEWS LETTER



ISMILE PERMATA HIJAU

EDITION:
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026

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Welcome to the *New Academic Year*

Dear Parents and Guardians,
A warm welcome to the new academic year at ISMILE Permata Hijau! We are happy to begin another year of learning, growing, and making wonderful memories together.

We are especially happy to welcome our new students and families to the ISMILE community. We hope you have enjoyed getting to know our school, teachers, and friends, and that you already feel at home in our school family. We also warmly welcome our new teachers and staff who have joined us this year.

The first term has been a busy and exciting one. Our children have had many opportunities to learn, explore, play, and try new things. It has been wonderful to see them settle into their classrooms, make new friends, and grow in confidence.





We would like to thank our teachers and staff for their care, patience, and hard work. We are also very thankful to our parents and guardians for your continued support and trust. Your support is an important part of our children's learning and growth.

As we look back on Term 1, we are proud of the progress our children have made. We look forward to more fun activities, new experiences, and opportunities for learning in the coming terms.

Thank you for being part of the ISMILE Permata Hijau family. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and seeing some of the special moments we have shared during our first term.

With warm regards,
Mr. Argel & Ms. Cindy
Center Coordinator & Vice Coordinator
ISMILE Permata Hijau.



NEW FACILITIES

By : Mr. Argel

We are excited to share one of the newest additions to ISMILE Permata Hijau, our new tree house! It gives our children a fun new place to play, explore, and spend time with their friends while enjoying outdoor activities. Through play, children can build their confidence, develop new skills, and use their imagination. We are happy to see how excited the children are to enjoy this new space, and we look forward to seeing them create many fun and happy memories in our new tree house.









Introducing Our Team & Teacher's Training

By: Ms. Cindy

Before starting the new academic year, ISMILE teachers came together for four days of Professional Development Training from July 6–9, 2026. Our training focused on how to become more resourceful and responsive teachers through training, discussions, and sharing ideas. Our first day of training was held at Jakarta Design Center Hall, where Ms. Marose Yuzon and Ms. April Macan from Miriam College led us in a session about Executive Function. We learned more about how children develop skills to manage their thoughts, emotions, behaviour, and learning.





The following day, we continued our training at Permata Hijau and focused more on Responsive and Reflective Teaching. We also had discussions about collaboration and school curriculum, where teachers worked together throughout the training, from lesson planning to demo teaching. We shared ideas, gave feedback, and supported one another in creating meaningful learning experiences for our children as they began their new school year.

In between our training, teachers completed their annual X-ray examinations as part of our preparation for the new school year.

We are grateful for the opportunity to prepare ourselves as a team and look forward to welcoming our children back for another year of learning and discovery.



A WARM WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

By: Ms. Ayana



On 11 July 2026, ISMILE warmly welcomed parents to our Parent Orientation Day at Limo Hall. The morning began with a formal welcome and opening remarks from our Director of Center Quality, Ms. Halim, followed by Mr. Argel, one of our Center Coordinators, who introduced the ISMILE framework and shared more about our approach to learning.



Parents then had the opportunity to meet the dedicated educators who will be guiding their children throughout the school year. Ms. Cindy, also one of our Center Coordinators, introduced the teaching teams from Infant-Toddler, Pre-Nursery, Nursery 1, Nursery 2, Kindergarten 1, Kindergarten 2, and the Mandarin team. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to put faces to the teachers who will be part of their children's learning journey.



The orientation continued by level, where parents learned more about their children's first-semester learning outcomes and met their respective level teachers. They then visited their children's classrooms, where they had the chance to connect with their class teachers and participate in the selection of their Class Mom. It was a meaningful start to the school year, bringing our school and parent community together in partnership for a year of learning, growth, and joyful discoveries.



FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

By: Ms. Sheena

The first week of school was a joyful beginning to the new school year, filled with excitement, new experiences, and warm welcomes. Our classrooms came alive as children explored their new learning environments, met their teachers and classmates, and began building friendships. While every child experienced the transition in their own way, it was wonderful to see their smiles, curiosity, and growing confidence as they became more comfortable in their new surroundings.



Throughout the week, the children enjoyed a variety of opportunities to play, explore, sing, dance, and connect with one another. They took part in classroom activities, movement experiences, creative play, and shared moments that helped them become familiar with the routines and community of the school. These first few days were not only about settling in, but also about creating a welcoming environment where every child feels safe, valued, and excited to come to school.



We are grateful to our children, families, and teachers for making the first week such a positive and memorable start to the school year. As we look ahead, we are excited to continue creating meaningful experiences, nurturing friendships, and making wonderful memories together. Welcome to a new school year of growing, discovering, and learning together!

Independence Day

By: Ms. Bina



Participating in the Independence Day Celebration was one way to introduce the children to their roots and the country they live in. Through the flag-raising ceremony, our little ones got to experience one of the special traditions of celebrating Indonesia's Independence Day.

The children also enjoyed watching a traditional martial arts performance, discovering a little more about Indonesian culture through movement, strength, and confidence.
And of course, the celebration wouldn't be complete without a variety and fun games! The children cheered, played, took turns, and simply enjoyed being together. More than winning, it was all about having fun, trying their best, and celebrating with friends.

It was a day full of smiles, laughter, and togetherness—a simple but meaningful way for us to celebrate our country's most important day.



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Independence Day

First Aid Training

By: Ms. Netty

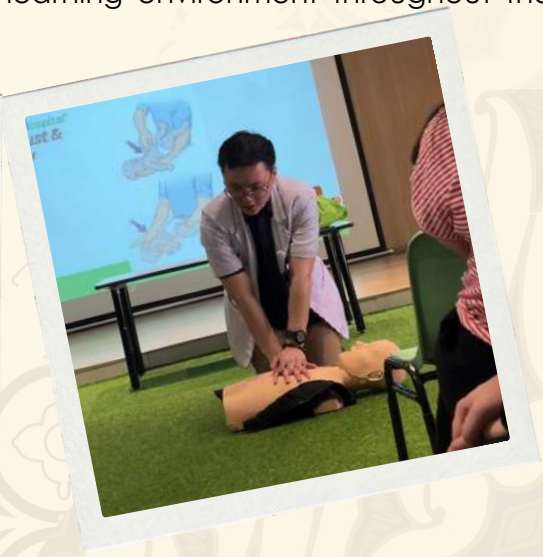


On Wednesday, 12 August 2026, the teachers of ISMILE Permata Hijau participated in a comprehensive First Aid Training led by Dr. Vincent from Medistra Hospital. The training focused on equipping teachers with essential emergency response skills for infants, young children, and adults, ensuring they are prepared to respond effectively in various situations. The session combined interactive theoretical learning with hands-on practice, allowing every teacher to apply first aid techniques through realistic emergency simulations using training mannequins.

This practical experience helped build confidence, improve decision-making, and strengthen emergency response skills in a safe learning environment. To evaluate participants' understanding and measure their progress, both pre-tests and post-tests were conducted. By the end of the training, teachers had gained valuable knowledge and practical skills to provide safe, timely, and effective first aid, contributing to a safer and more supportive learning environment throughout the school year.









OPEN HOUSE

By: Mr. Roby

A Wonderful Open House Day

Our Open House was a wonderful and positive day filled with excitement, exploration, and meaningful connections. We were delighted to welcome many families and guests to our school and share a glimpse into our learning environment. The children had the opportunity to explore a variety of engaging stations prepared especially for them, including sensory play, creative crafts, hands-on activities, and other interactive experiences designed to encourage curiosity, creativity, and discovery. While the children explored and played, parents had the chance to learn more about our school, discover our curriculum and approach to learning, meet our dedicated staff, and get a better understanding of what makes our school community special. It was a joyful day of learning, connection, and exploration, and we were so happy to welcome everyone into our school community. Thank you to all the families and staff who helped make the Open House such a memorable and wonderful day!









Infant & Toddler Corner

By: Ms. Judith

Our "Beautiful Indonesia" theme invited our infants and toddlers to discover the richness of Indonesia through their senses. From exploring natural textures and colourful materials to investigating Indonesian foods and traditional-inspired experiences, each activity encouraged children to touch, taste, smell, observe, and wonder. These simple moments of exploration helped them build connections between their everyday experiences and the world around them. Most importantly, the children experienced the beauty of Indonesia through joyful, hands-on discovery, curiosity, and shared moments together.









CliftonStrengths Leaders Training

By: Ms. Ana



On August 24–25, our ISMILE leaders had a meaningful CliftonStrengths workshop with Dr. Jacqueline Chung, a Gallup Strengths Coach. The workshop gave us an opportunity to discover and better understand the unique strengths that each person brings to the team. We were reminded that everyone has their own special talents and abilities. However, recognizing these strengths also requires us to have a positive and open mindset. One thought that really stood out was Dr. Clifton's question, "What will happen when we think about what is right with people rather than fixating on what is wrong with them?" This encouraged us to look at others with more appreciation and understanding.

As educators, we see every day that children learn and grow in different ways, and the same is true for us as adults. When we recognize and appreciate each other's strengths, we can work together more harmoniously. The workshop also reminded us that our differences can become our strengths when we learn how to support one another. Most importantly, we learned that building positive relationships starts with recognizing, acknowledging, and celebrating the strengths of every person.

BAZGYM

By: Coach Octa



Our Coach Exchange Program at BazGym Singapore was a wonderful and inspiring learning experience. During our visits to the Jurong, Punggol, and Zhongshan branches, we had the opportunity to observe different gymnastics programs and learn from their coaching approaches. We were especially impressed by their well-organized lessons, clear instructions, creative use of equipment, and strong teamwork.

The programs also highlighted the importance of developing children's strength, coordination, confidence, independence, and overall well-being. The carnival was another great example of teamwork and smooth organization. We are excited to bring these valuable ideas and experiences back to Indonesia and apply them to our own gymnastics programs.

COACH EXCHANGE PROGRAM





GROWING EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

Building the focus, flexibility, and self-control behind every other skill — from 6 months to 6 years

By: Ms Trisha

What Is Executive Function, and Why Does It Matter?

The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University describes executive function (EF) skills as the brain's "air traffic control system" — the mental processes that let a person manage information, make decisions, and plan ahead. Three core skills sit underneath EF: working memory, inhibitory control, and cognitive flexibility.

Working Memory	**Inhibitory Control**	**Cognitive Flexibility**
Holding information in mind and using it	Resisting impulses; staying on task	Adjusting to change; seeing new solutions

Children are not born with these skills — Harvard's research is clear that EF is built gradually, through practice and through supportive relationships with adults, starting in the earliest years of life. Because EF underlies focus, emotional regulation, and the ability to learn almost anything else, the early childhood years are one of the most important windows for building it.

How We Build EF at ISMILE: 6 Months to 6 Years

Executive Function is one of ISMILE's own formal learning-outcome domains, tracked across four strands from Infant through K2: Attention & Focus, Problem Solving & Flexible Thinking, Self-Regulation & Persistence, and Planning & Organisation. Children don't take a separate "EF class" — these skills are built inside everyday classroom moments: circle time, transitions, turn-taking games, and play. Below is a snapshot of how the same four strands grow in sophistication from Infant to K2.

Skill Area	Infant / Toddler (6mo–2yr)	Nursery (N1–N2, ~2–4yr)	K1 (4-5yr)	K2 (5-6yr)
Attention & Focus	Responds to own name; focuses on an activity for up to 5 minutes	Carries out simple instructions; stays focused for a reasonable time	Sustains focus for 5–8 minutes; filters out classroom distractions	Sustains attention through multi-step tasks; rereads & self-corrects
Problem Solving & Flexible Thinking	Finds hidden objects; tries different strategies to reach a goal	Reasons through simple problems; plays make-believe	Finds more than one solution; plans steps before starting a task	Evaluates options before choosing an approach; generates creative solutions
Self-Regulation & Persistence	Looks to an adult for help when frustrated; takes turns with guidance	Shows persistence with tasks; waits for a turn with a reminder	Waits for a turn without disrupting others; manages transitions calmly	Delays gratification in unstructured settings; recovers from frustration and re-engages
Planning & Organisation	Foundational skills (attention, self-control) build first	Follows the daily routine with minimal prompting; sequences a 3-part task	Plans an approach before starting; organises materials without prompting	Sets a goal and identifies steps to reach it; manages own organisation across the day

Source (age bands & outcomes): ISMILE Learning Outcomes Progression Grid, Executive Function domain, AY2026-2027.

GROWING EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

Building the focus, flexibility, and self-control behind every other skill — from 6 months to 6 years

By: Ms Trisha

Supporting Our Teachers, So They Can Support Your Child

Harvard's guide is direct on this point: children build EF through their interactions with the adults around them, so an adult's own capacity for patience, planning, and self-regulation shapes how well a child develops these skills. That is why we invest as deliberately in our teachers' practice as we do in the children's.

- Learning Coordinators provide ongoing, year-round coaching on lesson planning and teaching strategy — not a one-time training, but continuous support throughout the year.
- Each classroom is observed twice per semester by two independent evaluators — a General Classroom Observation and a Pedagogy & Curriculum Observation — each followed by a real conversation with the teacher, not just a score.
- Every teacher completes a reflection after each observation: what went well, what to improve, and what support they need.
- General training runs every term for all teaching staff, with additional ad-hoc pedagogy training identified by Centre Coordinators and Directors.
- Assessment is designed to be developmental, not punitive — its purpose is to grow each teacher's practice, which is what lets them model and scaffold EF for children day to day.

What Parents Can Do at Home — and Why It Matters

EF doesn't stop building at school pickup. Harvard's Activities Guide recommends simple, playful, age-appropriate games — many of which families already know — as some of the most effective ways to keep strengthening these skills at home.

Age	Try This	Builds
6–18 months	Hiding games (hide a toy under a cloth, peekaboo); fingerplays (Eensy Weensy Spider, Where Is Thumbkin?); copying games (stacking blocks, copying gestures)	Working memory, attention, early self-control
18–36 months	Follow the Leader; Freeze Dance (Musical Statues); turn-taking sorting games by size, shape, or colour; pretend play with household items, letting your child lead	Inhibitory control, working memory, self-regulation
3–5 years	"Play plans" — draw or describe what you intend to play before playing; movement games with changing rules (freeze dance with directional pictures); cooking together, following steps in order	Planning, cognitive flexibility, working memory
5–7 years (K1–K2)	Simon Says and its variants; card and board games (Go Fish, Uno, Checkers); 20 Questions / Guess My Rule	Working memory, cognitive flexibility, inhibitory control

Why the Early Years Matter So Much

Harvard's Center on the Developing Child frames EF as foundational — skills that are "essential at every stage of life" but that take shape earliest through everyday practice and caring adult relationships. The games and routines in this newsletter are not extra homework: for a 6-month-old to a 6-year-old, play like this is the work of building a brain that can focus, adapt, and manage itself — the foundation everything else in school and life is built on.

Field Trip to Jakarta Aquarium

By Ms. Thia

On September 18, our N1, N2, K1, and K2 students went on an exciting field trip to Jakarta Aquarium!

The children had so much fun exploring the underwater world and discovering many amazing sea creatures and land animals, including sharks, stingrays, clownfish, lemur, fox, otter, iguana and many more! They were excited to see the animals up close and enjoyed learning interesting facts about life under the sea.

It was a wonderful day filled with smiles, excitement, discovery, and lots of fun! Our little explorers went home with happy hearts and wonderful memories from their underwater adventure.



CLEAN OUR OCEAN TODAY!

FIELD-TRIP HOME ACTIVITY EXTENSION FOR HOLIDAY

By: Ms. Abi

The purpose of this activity is to help children understand the current conditions that sea animals face today, which may be different from what we see in the aquarium. Caring for nature can start at an early age and we can help children understand this big concept using this simple activity of cleaning the sea animals' habitat! Along the way, don't be afraid when questions arise. Questions are proof that the children are attentively listening and intrigued. Stay calm and answer with simple words they can understand.

QUESTIONS THAT MAY POP UP FROM THE CHILDREN:

Why is there a lot of rubbish in the ocean?

Sometimes people forget to clean up their rubbish and the wind carries it away to the ocean.

What will happen to the sea animals if there is a lot of rubbish in the ocean?

Some sea animals get stuck in plastic, but there are kind superheroes that help save them! You could be that superhero too!

What can we do to help?

We can help pick up trash when we see it around and put them in the trash bin. We can also help tell other people to throw plastic in the right bin, and help save the sea animals!

Materials:

- Clear tray or bowl
- Blue food coloring
- Clean plastic rubbish
- Sea animals

Steps:

1. Fill a clear tray or a big clear bowl with water and add blue food coloring to mimic the color of the ocean.

2. Place the sea animals in the water and explain to the children that the water is the sea animals' home and they like it if it is clean.

3. Add the plastic rubbish to the water and ask the children whether the sea animals are happy when their home is full of rubbish.

4. What can we do to help? Let the children discuss the solution and practice cleaning up the rubbish on their own. Don't forget to have another tray or bowl ready to collect the rubbish.



BIRTH days

July - September 2026

July

Date	Student's Name	Class
01	Ghala Saverin Sitompul	K2B
06	Wyatt James Suherman	K1B
08	Janice Belicia Gunawan	K2B
14	Jeremiah Mustopo	K2B
17	Mark Anderson L	Pre-N
17	Ashlyn Mireille Andrea	K2A
17	Landon Micah Hidajat	K2C
18	Brianna Avery Guan	K2B
20	Hilaryon Nathanael Harvey	K2A
23	Gale Garyson Ongko	Pre-N
25	Anya Julianne Halim	Infant A
25	Mason Rowe Muljohardjo	Infant A
27	Ahava Binara Mulyarahardja	K1A
28	Faellyn Lyzandra	K2C
31	Joanna Elora Satria	N2B
31	Allison Joy Setiawan	K2B

August

Date	Student's Name	Class
01	Eldon Kesumawidjaja	N1B
02	Arthur Liu	N1B
02	Roseanne Liu	N1B
02	Yujin Ellery Wu	K1B
02	Denzel Theodore Wijaya	K1B
04	Joah Yuwono	K2A
05	Iman Sofia Adhihusada	K2B
06	Royce Christon Chan	N2C
08	Alicia Lim	N2C
08	Alessa Rocha Gyandra	Pre-N
16	Oliver Leeansyah	Pre-N
21	Alana Vangeline Susanto	N1B
21	Jill Belva Sentosa	K2B
25	Wang Yuechen	K2A
28	Peyton Widjaja	Pre-N
28	Richard Ryan Josi	Pre-N

September

Date	Student's Name	Class
01	Boaz Torinaga	N2C
03	Louis Raphael Hayden	K1B
05	Abigail Aurea Lee	Infant B
09	Milie Josephine Sadikin	K1A
10	Seraphina Isla Sutrisno	Infant B
10	Isaac Torinaga	K2B
11	Jose Makaio	Toddler
21	Giorgio Li Rajagukguk	N2B
21	George Christopher Kertowidjojo	K1B
22	Eleanor Hambali	K1B
23	Aiden Reid Muldjohardjo	N2B
24	Bara Isa Winata	Infant
26	Gavriel Azariah Sentana	Infant
28	Dianna Alafia Somawihardja	Toddler
28	Jared Christopher Tanaga	N2C

Dates to Remember

TERM 1

July

11	POD
13	Term 1 Begins
18	Open House

August

08	Open House
14	Indonesia's Independence Day Celebration
17	Independence Day (Holiday)
25	Birthday of Prophet Mohammad (Holiday)

September

18	Field Trip
21 - 25	Term Break

TERM 2

September

28	Term 2 Begins

October

10	Open House
19 - 23	Children's Week and UN Day

November

14	Open House
27	Christmas Concert

December

04	PTC
07 - 18	Holiday Program

December 05 - January 10

Christmas Holiday


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