

# May

Greenwich Japanese School | English Newsletter



Spotlight on...

1<sup>st</sup> Grade

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, GJS welcomed 23 new first graders! They are eager to learn and challenge themselves in a new and exciting learning environment.

1A English class is starting the year with a focus on foundational reading and writing. Right now, the students are working on mastering neat letter formation as well as phonics concepts such as beginning, middle and ending sounds and short vowels. They are also practicing spelling commonly used words such as *the*, *they*, *were*, *goes*, etc.

In addition to foundational literacy skills, 1A is also working on critical thinking skills. As a class, we read *Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun* by Maria Dismondy, which is about the effects of bullying and how we should always do the right thing by being kind to others. We discussed why bullying usually happens and what we should do in situations like the ones that appear in the book. The next step is to make a comprehension book, in which students answer comprehension and critical thinking questions in a fun and age-appropriate way!



Working hard on foundational skills!

Here students are using their phonics books.



*Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun: Having the Courage to be Who You Are*

(Left) After our Read-Aloud

(Right) Comprehension Book Activity