



CKS COLLEGE SOUTHMONT

is an IB candidate
school implementing
the Primary Years
Programme.

LEARNER PROFILE SPOTLIGHT

In the IB, *inquirers* nurture their curiosity, develop research skills, and learn how to investigate independently and with others. They learn with enthusiasm and build a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

During Unit 4 under the transdisciplinary theme How the World Works, students truly demonstrated this attribute. This theme explores the natural world and human-made systems through patterns, cycles, and innovation. Throughout the unit, students asked thoughtful questions, observed patterns in nature, explored systems in everyday life, and examined how design and discovery impact our world.

Rather than simply receiving information, students actively investigated, discussed ideas, and reflected on their learning. By encouraging curiosity and critical thinking, we empower our learners to better understand the world around them and see themselves as capable, lifelong learners.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu–Fri, March 5–6

Open House

Sat, March 14

Community Fun Run

March 30–April 3

Holy Week Break

WHAT'S INSIDE

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When you teach a child
something, you take away
forever his chance of
discovering it for himself.

– Jean Piaget

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents and Students,

Warm greetings to our learning community as we welcome a vibrant Year of the Horse, a year that symbolizes energy, confidence, and forward momentum.

This term, our students engaged deeply in the unit Patterns and Cycles in Nature, exploring how the world works through investigations of energy and life cycles. Their inquiries led to meaningful connections, thoughtful questions, and a growing sense of wonder about the natural world.

The unit concluded with a strong sense of fulfillment as students shared their learning and celebrated amazing discoveries. We are proud of their curiosity, enthusiasm, and joy in exploration.

Wishing everyone a year filled with growth, discovery, and purposeful learning.

Warm regards,
Luzviminda Sim

Unit 4

How The World Works

Grade 1 - Patterns and Cycles

In this unit, students explored how patterns and cycles help us understand the world around us. They inquired into how patterns repeat, change, and function in both natural and human-made systems. Through hands-on activities, observations, experiments, and creative tasks, students identified patterns, made predictions, and connected their learning to real-life situations.

By the end of the unit, students applied their learning by creating a project or presentation that showcased a pattern or cycle they studied. They explained how it works, why it happens, and how recognizing it can make a difference in daily life.

What We Learned in UOI

At the beginning of the unit, students went on a field trip to Mind Sparks, which sparked their curiosity about how things work in the world around them. Back in school, students:

- Planted and took care of their own monggo seeds, observing the plant's life cycle day by day
- Created mind maps to sort out their ideas about patterns and cycles in nature
- Explored the school garden to look for caterpillars to observe their life cycle

Although we were initially unable to find caterpillars, students continued observing patterns and cycles in the environment. Luckily, two Grade 1 students brought caterpillars they found at home, allowing the class to observe and discuss the life cycle firsthand.



CENTRAL IDEA

Recognizing and interpreting patterns and cycles creates a difference in our daily lives.

LINES OF INQUIRY

- How patterns and cycles work
- Different patterns and cycles around us
- Effects of understanding patterns and cycles

SPECIFIED CONCEPTS

- Form
- Function
- Responsibility

TRANSDISCIPLINARY SKILLS

- Research skills
- Communication skills
- Thinking Skills

Unit 4

How The World Works

Grade 1 – Patterns and Cycles

Language Connections

In Language Arts, students learned about modals and how they are used for different purposes such as expressing ability, possibility, and rules. They also explored verb patterns, understanding that verbs change depending on how they are used, including the base form, to + verb, or verb-ing. Through these lessons, students recognized patterns in language and applied their learning when speaking and writing more accurately and confidently.

In Filipino, students explored *salitang kilos* (verbs), focusing on how they are used in the present tense and how their spelling changes when expressed in the past tense. They discovered that verbs can transform depending on when the action happens, which helped them better understand sentence meaning. Naturally curious, students began asking how these verbs would appear in the future tense, extending their learning through inquiry. They were especially interested in Filipino prefixes and noticed how different affixes are used depending on context and tense. This exploration deepened their appreciation of the structure and richness of the Filipino language.

In LA Chinese, students learned how to connect their daily routines with time markers,, including days of the week and months of the year. They practiced using HSK-aligned vocabulary, phrases and short sentences to tell the time and talk about days and months. Students also learned about the pattern of day and night through rhymes followed by sorting activities to identify and demonstrate the differences between daytime and nighttime.

Math Connections

In Mathematics, students enjoyed a fun Skittles experiment to explore chance words such as likely, unlikely, and possible. They also worked on a variety of addition and subtraction word problems, learning how to carefully analyze each problem before solving it. In addition, students played an exciting number patterns game where they raced to look for numbers in the correct order. This activity required strong teamwork, focus, and strategy, helping students recognize number patterns while working collaboratively with their classmates. These experiences strengthened their understanding that mathematics follows patterns and that recognizing these patterns helps them solve problems more effectively.



Unit 4

How The World Works

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

- “I learned that plants grow in a cycle and need care every day.”
- “Patterns help me know what comes next.”
- “I learned that animals and plants have life cycles.”

Why This Learning Matters

Understanding patterns and cycles helps students make sense of the world. It allows them to predict changes, solve problems, and make informed decisions. From daily routines and weather changes to plant growth and language rules, recognizing patterns helps students become more independent, thoughtful, and responsible learners.

Family Tip: How You Can Support at Home

- Talk about daily routines and identify patterns (morning, afternoon, night)
- Observe nature together, such as plant growth, weather changes, or the moon
- Encourage your child to explain patterns they notice in numbers, stories, or actions
- Ask questions like: “What comes next?” or “Why do you think this happens?”

Unit 4

How the World Works

Grade 2 – Energy

CENTRAL IDEA

Humans apply their understanding of energy to assist them in their everyday activities

LINES OF INQUIRY

- Different forms of energy
- Changes in Energy
- Impacts of Energy on Human activities

SPECIFIED CONCEPTS

- Form
- Causation
- Change

TRANSDISCIPLINARY SKILLS

- Research
- Thinking
- Self-Management

In this unit, students explored how energy helps people do things in their everyday lives. We began by observing energy in simple, familiar situations such as moving objects, sounds, light, and heat. Through hands-on activities and guided discussions, students discovered that energy can be stored or moving, and that it can change from one form to another. Early in the unit, students learned that energy is not something we can always see, but we can observe its effects through movement, sound, warmth, and light.



Unit 4

How the World Works

Grade 2 – Energy

“

“Energy is everywhere – even when we can’t see it!”

”



As the unit progressed, students investigated different forms of energy, including kinetic and potential energy, as well as light, heat, and sound energy. They explored what causes energy to change and how humans use these changes to make daily tasks easier. Through experiments, games, and real-life examples, students learned that energy transformations help power machines, tools, and even their own bodies. They also examined how simple machines, such as levers and pulleys, help people use energy more effectively.

Across subjects, students strengthened their understanding of how energy connects to language, numbers, movement, and the arts.

In **Language Arts English**, students focused on **adverbs** of manner and frequency to describe how actions happen and how often they occur. They used these adverbs to explain movements, experiments, and routines, helping them communicate energy changes clearly in both speaking and writing.

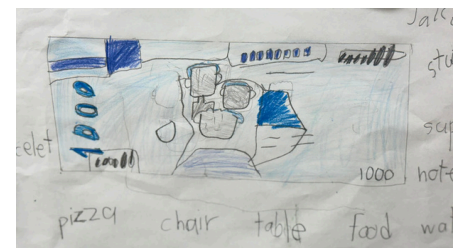
Grade 2 students actively developed their speaking skills by practicing how to use Filipino verbs and vocabulary in everyday conversations. They revisited the verbs and nouns learned in previous units and applied them in simple, meaningful phrases they could both say and write. Through guided practice and peer interaction, students gained confidence in expressing their ideas clearly. As part of their assessment, they created six-box comic strips that showcased their understanding of dialogue and sequence. These comics were then brought to life in their Visual Arts puppet show presentation, allowing students to creatively combine language and performance.



In **LA Chinese**, students learned how magnet, wind, and water resources are used in our daily lives. They conducted various experiments to explore how each of these resources works. Through these hands-on experiences, students developed their skills in observation, attention, active engagement, and responding to feedback. They also learned to use HSK-aligned vocabulary, phrases, and simple sentences through rhymes and activities connected to these energy resources.



In **Math**, students applied their learning through **fractions** on a number line and **money** concepts. They explored how parts make a whole and used real-life budgeting situations to connect numbers to energy use and everyday decision-making.



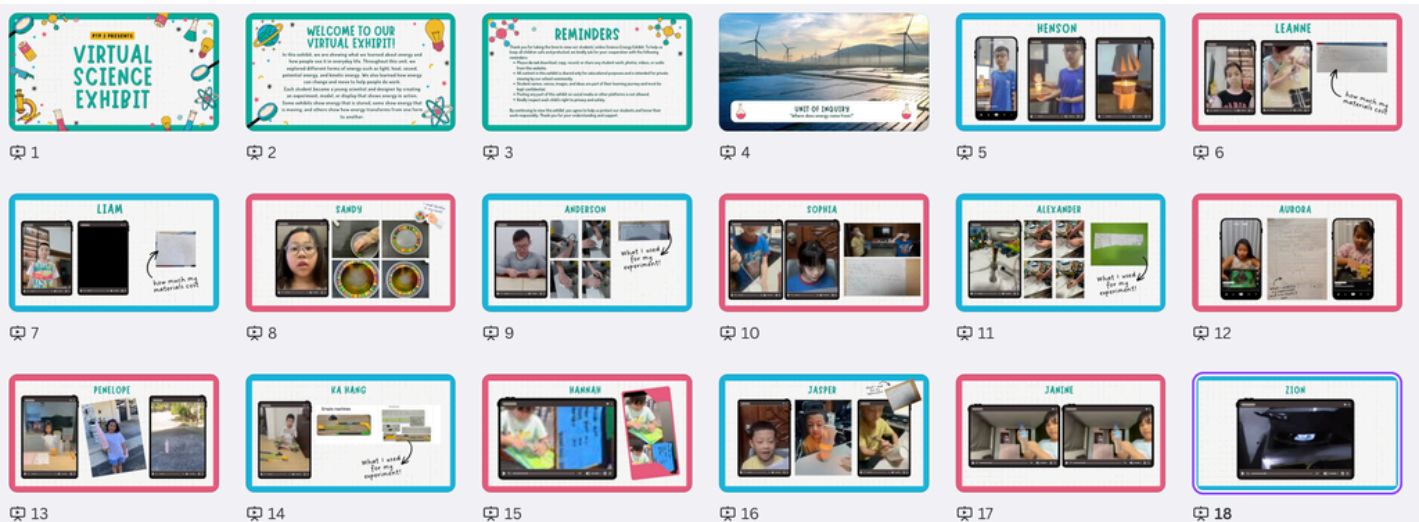
Grade 2 students explored real-life math skills by identifying and listing items they can purchase using different Philippine bills.



To conclude this unit, students participated in a **Virtual Science Exhibit**, where they became young scientists!

Each student created an experiment, model, or visual display showing energy in action, such as how energy moves, changes form, or helps people in everyday life.

Through drawings, photos, short videos, and simple explanations, students proudly shared their learning and demonstrated their understanding of different forms of energy



STUDENT REFLECTIONS

- “I learned that energy never really goes away!”
- “Energy is all around us!”
- “I am energy!”
- “The fireflies are an example of light energy”

WHY THIS MATTERS

This unit helped students understand that energy is all around them and plays an important role in their everyday lives. By exploring different forms of energy, such as light, heat, sound, potential, and kinetic; students learned how energy can change and how people use it to do work, move objects, and solve problems. Through hands-on experiments and real-life examples, students developed curiosity about how things work and began to see the connection between science and daily activities. This unit also encouraged responsible thinking, helping students realize why using energy wisely is important for people and the world around them.

FAMILY TIP

- **Notice Energy in Daily Life:** While at home or outside, ask your child to spot where energy is being used (lights, fans, appliances, vehicles). Ask questions like, “What kind of energy is this?” or “Is the energy moving or waiting?”
- **Try Simple Experiments Together:** Roll a ball down a slope, stretch a rubber band, or clap hands softly and loudly. Talk about how energy changes from waiting (potential) to moving (kinetic) energy.
- **Connect Energy to Chores and Play:** Ask your child how energy helps them when they run, play sports, or help with household tasks. This helps them see that energy supports people in everyday activities.

Unit 4

How The World Works

Personal, Social, and Physical Education (PSPE)

In Unit 4, students explored the transdisciplinary theme How the World Works, focusing on how movement, patterns, and energy help us understand the world around us. In PSPE, students investigated how their bodies move, repeat actions, and use energy in purposeful ways. Through dance and sports activities, learners discovered that movement follows patterns and rules, and that understanding energy helps us move more safely, effectively, and confidently.

Thank parents for their continued support in encouraging active and healthy learners.



Grade 1 students explored patterns and cycles through the fundamentals of folk dance. Throughout the unit, they practiced basic arm and foot positions, repeated movement sequences, and simple dance routines that helped them recognize patterns in movement. Students learned how repeating steps and rhythms help dancers remember sequences and move together. As their summative assessment, students performed the Cariñosa, applying the folk dance fundamentals they learned and demonstrating how patterns and cycles appear in dance.

Grade 2 students focused on understanding energy through basketball. Throughout the unit, they explored how energy is used, transferred, and controlled in sports. Students practiced basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, catching, and shooting while identifying when they used low, medium, or high energy. They also learned about kinetic and potential energy and how controlling energy helps improve performance in games. For their summative assessment, students created a basketball bulletin wall showing different basketball skills, how each skill is performed, and the type of energy involved.



Unit 4

How The World Works

Music

In Music, Grade 1 students learned to identify repeating and contrasting sections in familiar songs, helping them recognize simple musical forms. They explored how patterns in music create structure and meaning. To conclude the unit, students performed the round song Kookaburra, which strengthened their understanding of form through layered singing. This performance encouraged collaboration, attentive listening, and individual responsibility, as each student maintained their part while working together as an ensemble.



Grade 2 students deepened their understanding of music interpretation through their exploration of dynamics. They learned basic dynamic markings such as piano (soft) and forte (loud) and practiced expressing these contrasts using their voices and classroom percussion instruments. Throughout the unit, students developed control and awareness of how volume changes can shape the mood and meaning of music. As a culminating task, each student selected a song, added their own dynamic markings, and performed it while carefully following their plan. Their final performances demonstrated growing confidence, creativity, and expressive musicianship.



Unit 4

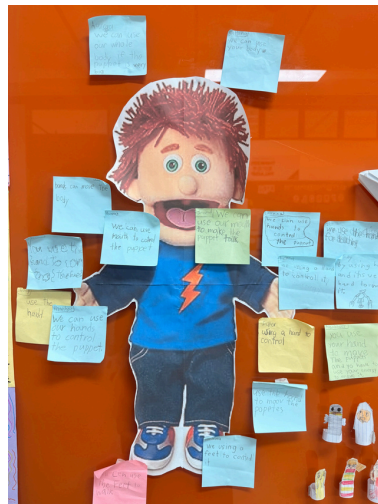
How The World Works

Visual Arts

Grade 1 students explored visual patterns by identifying patterns in the environment and in art. They developed an understanding of patterns formed through lines, shapes, and colors. Students also examined patterns in traditional and ethnic art and applied this knowledge by combining various elements to create their own patterns. They showcased their application of these skills through their summative assessment, in which they designed their own Cariñosa hand props featuring original patterns.



Grade 2 students explored the use of energy in puppetry, learning how movement, expression, and voice bring characters to life in a puppet performance. They experimented with different ways energy can be applied in both creating and presenting a puppet show, developing coordination and storytelling skills. Students were also introduced to various types of puppets, including traditional shadow puppets such as Wayang Kulit from Indonesia. For their summative assessment, integrated with Filipino, students created and performed a sock puppet show based on their own comic story, demonstrating creativity, collaboration, and expressive performance skills.



A Joyful Welcoming of the Year of the Horse



On February 14, 2026, the Chiang Kai Shek College – Southmont community gathered at the Philflex Sports Center for a vibrant Chinese New Year Celebration. The event was a true family affair, attended by students, parents, staff, and distinguished members of the Board of Trustees.

The energy was electric as the whole community danced and celebrated together. Some of the highlights were the Wushu Exhibition performed by the Padre Algue Campus Wushu Team, they showed their discipline and mastery of martial arts. There also was a thrilling professional Lion and Dragon Dance, bringing traditional luck and excitement to the arena.

The heart of the program featured diverse student presentations. Our Montessori students delighted the crowd with charming song and dance numbers, including “Healthy New Year” and “Come On, Let’s Celebrate the New Year” However, the standout moment was the collaborative Dragon and Lion Grove performance. This joint showcase saw Montessori Kinder students dancing gracefully with flower wreaths, while our IB PYP 1 students took on the roles of the lion and dragon. Providing the rhythmic heartbeat for the performance was the IB PYP 2 drum line, whose synchronization was truly impressive.

Following the lively stage performances, the celebration transitioned to the Academic Resource Center. Families engaged in various hands-on art activities, fostering creativity and community spirit.

It was a magnificent day to welcome the Lunar New Year, honoring tradition through the collective talents of our students. We thank all the parents and guests who joined us in making this “Year of the Horse” celebration a resounding success!

To see more photos from the event, kindly scan the QR code below to view the full gallery on the school’s Facebook page.

