

August Schedule

Date	Day	Preschool Events
1	Sat	
2	Sun	
3	Mon	Singing Time, Let's Play in English, Staff Study Meeting
4	Tue	Karate Class, Let's Play in English
5	Wed	Kids' Art Class
6	Thu	Gymnastic play
7	Fri	
8	Sat	Please bring a packed lunch (Bento).
9	Sun	
10	Mon	Singing Time, Let's Play in English, Emergency Evacuation Drill
11	Tue	Mountain Day (preschool is closed) National holiday
12	Wed	Karate Class (Afternoon)
13	Thu	Gymnastic play
14	Fri	
15	Sat	
16	Sun	
17	Mon	Singing Time, Let's Play in English
18	Tue	Let's Play in English
19	Wed	
20	Thu	Height & Weight Measurement
21	Fri	
22	Sat	
23	Sun	
24	Mon	Singing Time, Let's Play in English, Michi-junē (Eisa Street Parade), Cleaning Day
25	Tue	Obon Holiday, Let's Play in English, Eisa Performance (15:30 p.m.)
26	Wed	

Date	Day	Preschool Events
27	Thu	Ukui (Final Day of Obon), Please bring a packed lunch (Bento).
28	Fri	
29	Sat	
30	Sun	
31	Mon	Singing time, Let's play in English, Birthday party at each class

Regular Activities

- Let's Play in English
 - Every Monday and Tuesday
 - 9:30-9:45 a.m.
 - For all children
- Story Time
 - Every Wednesday
 - 9:30-9:45 a.m.
 - For all children
- Karate Class
 - For 3- and 4-year-old children
- Kids' Art Class
 - For 3- and 4-year-old children
- Physical Play
 - For 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old children
- Singing Time
 - Every Monday
 - 10:00 a.m.

Let's Honor Our Ancestors

The hot summer days continue. Even in the heat, the children are enjoying the season to the fullest. They listen to the songs of cicadas and excitedly say, "The cicadas are singing!" and "Where are the cicadas?" They also enjoy the occasional cool breeze, have fun playing with the water, and experience the many joys of summer.

This month, we celebrate Obon, the traditional Japanese festival for honoring our ancestors. During the three days of Unkei, Nakabi, and Ukui, many families gather with relatives to remember and pay respect to those who came before us.

Have you ever read the picture book "Festival of Life" (*Inochi no Matsuri*, Sunmark Publishing)? In this wonderful book, life is described as a relay baton passed down from one generation to the next. It reminds us that each of us is connected to countless ancestors and helps us realize, *"I have so many ancestors, and the baton of life has been passed all the way to me."*

As we celebrate Obon, we hope everyone will take a moment to feel grateful to their ancestors, who passed on this precious baton of life, and spend meaningful time with their families.

Eisa Season Has Arrived!

As the Okinawan Obon season approaches, it is also time for Eisa, one of Okinawa's most famous traditional performing arts. Here is a brief introduction to its history and origin.

☆ The Origin of Eisa

There are several theories about the origin of Eisa because there are few historical records.

The most widely accepted theory is that around 1600, a Buddhist monk named Taichu Shonin visited Okinawa and introduced Nenbutsu Odori (Buddhist prayer dances). Over

time, these dances blended with Okinawan culture and traditions, eventually developing into what we now know as Eisa. (*Reference: teruyashikki.com*)

☆ The Meaning of the Name "Eisa"

There are also two main theories about how the name "Eisa" came to be.

- One theory is that it comes from the phrase "Esa Omoro", which appears in the Omoro Sōshi, a famous collection of songs and poems from the Ryukyu Kingdom.
- Another theory is that it comes from the chant "Eisa, Eisa, Hiyaruga Eisa," which was used in Buddhist prayer dances.

At present, these are considered the two most widely accepted explanations.

Reference: teruyashikki.com

Eisa Events in August

☆ Eisa Night

Date: Saturday, August 9

Gates Open: 5:00 p.m.

Performance Begins: 7:00 p.m.

Venue: Okinawa Comprehensive Athletic Park

☆ Michi-junē (Eisa Street Parade)

Since last year, the Aja Seinenkai (Aja Youth Association) has also been performing Michi-junē (a traditional Eisa street parade) in the Akebono area.

We hope you and your family will have the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful Okinawan tradition together. During obon time (August 25~27), the teachers will be visiting relatives to pay respect to the ancestors too, so we appreciate if you could take

these days off or pick up your children earlier. We thank you for your cooperation.