Haiku and Artwork by Students at I.S.S.H., Tokyo, Japan

Sakura shines strong
Winning against the spring rain
Warm winds blow again — Nami Ota, 12, Japan

Land of vivid life
Valley with blooming flowers
Our home, Mother Earth
Ryujin Ko, 13, Japan

One star, two stars, and...
What lonely years you have lived!
Let me be your friend
— Seojung Kang, 13, Japan

Birds chirping on trees
Sprouts embroidered on the field
Tender spring blooming
JiminYu, 13, Japan

Windy shoes are back
Breeze traces my feet and face
Soon to disappear
Yena Lee, 13, Japan

Opening herself
Spreading the fragrance
And now
Enjoy the banquet dance
Sora Sreetal, 13, Japan

Sound of cicadas
The only sound I can hear
Summer has finally come
Yuma Sato, 13, Japan

Blowing leaves around,
Sweet smell of the maple tree,
Warms me up till dawn
Roma Hara Yamazaki, 13, Japan
The 2023 Asian Celebration Haiku and Tanka Exhibit

From I.S.S.H., Tokyo, Japan

Shooting stars come here
Glistening in the dark night
Always standing out
—Kii Aoyama, age 13.

Splash Splash! You can hear
Waves crash and the sea sparkles
What a vibrant sight!
—Hana Hasagawa, age 12.

Heart Chocolate box
Given to those you cherish
Sweet Valentines
—Naona I., age 12.

As the sunlight shines,
The sunflowers get taller,
Shadows block my view
—Pearl Hara Yamazaki, age 13.

Sweet smells fill the air
Pink flower petals drift down
Spring is here at last
—Ashmi Kumar, age 12.

Lying on the sand
The ocean in its fury
Aggressive waves crash
—Lina Pontes, age 13.

Falling gracefully
Last amber before Winter
Crisp orange Autumn
—Yumeho Ito, age 13.

First fall, then winter.
Soon spring and summer’s delights.
Nothing’s forever.
The glimmering stars.
The navy-blue dome above.
This is pure beauty.
It’s useless, they said.
Give up, it’s impossible.
I will not, I said.

Love
What is wistful love?
It is the sun and the moon.
Forbidden to touch,
Yet the sun hugs the moon with
Light so bright she shines like pearls.
—Chloe Min, gr. 10, Florida.

Cold Embrace
The waves crash fiercely
Bubbling sea foam rises up
Smell the salty air
No need to fear the water
Its cold embrace welcomes us
—Anjali Oliver Rajan, grade 5, Illinois.

Bamboo
Yielding, flexible,
Swaying, bending with the wind,
Not snapping in half,
Always standing right back up,
Going with the winds blowing
—Derek Meng, grade 6, California.

She paints our trees green
Rain falls when she feels mean
She weaves a spring gale
And it trails me like a fairytale
She is who I want to be.
—Erin Lee, grade 8, New Jersey.

Rain
Splashing in my boots
Pitter-patter on my roof
Wet and cold I’m soaked
—Matthew Koscho, gr. 12, Oregon.

Wild Mother
Gazelle clutched in teeth
She gives the best to her cub
Loving ferociously.
—Allison Liu, age 16, Massachusetts.

Waterfront geese gather
around grandmother’s palm—
breadcrumbs
flashlights
darting through flipping pages:
fireflies
—Sophia Hall, gr. 12, Washington, DC

Stillness of the night,
Silent whispers soothe the soul,
Peaceful dreams take flight.

Stillness of the lake,
Reflecting peaceful beauty,
Calmness within me.
—Cadence Liu, grade 8, California.

—Natsumi Yasuzaki, age 12, Japan.
—Jiwon Baek, age 12, Japan
—Hannah Nussbaumer, age 13, Japan.
**Fourth Graders @ Laurence School, California**

**A Setting Sky**
Transforming the sky
Into a mix of color
Which fades into stars
—Finn Maguire.

**Representing Beautiful**
Vibrant red petals
Representing beautiful
Memory, and hope
—Catherine Nemecek

**Beautiful Sky**
Vibrance in the sky
See the beautiful colors
Makes you feel happy
—Mia Smith.

**First Light**
Red, yellow, orange
Floating up in the blue sky
Beauty at first sight
—Agatha Blumenthal.

**Grass**
Grass is amazing
Waving in the breeze it’s free
Freshness fills my nose

**Opportunity to Glow**
Lights, flash, bright, talking
Action, focus, pressure, script
Headshots, agent, smile
—Katherine Bunch Mercado.

---

**Fifth Graders @ Yujin Gakuen, Oregon**

**Equinox**
Budding from cold earth,
Snowdrops waken and whisper,
“Join us in new life.”
—Allison Liu, age 16, Massachusetts.

**Boredom**
I sit down at the
table that should quench my long
lasting greed for some-
thing more. But I find myself
lost in a long, empty space.

**Glass**
you speak words of glass.
Clear with no deeper meaning-
slowly breaking me.
—Aditi Nair, age 15, Virginia.

---

**1. Island**
Sand sparkle in sun
Travel and explore island
Large algae and sea
coconut fell on bald head
Hit the coconut so hard

**2. Marigold Haiku**
Tiny buds new world
Patience sees dazzling colors
Tiny bugs inside

**3. Platypus Haiku**
Otter tail
Venomous mammal
Lay some eggs
—Sky Tosheng, age 11, California.

**Equinox**
Budding from cold earth,
Snowdrops waken and whisper,
“Join us in new life.”
—Allison Liu, age 16, Massachusetts.

**Boredom**
I sit down at the
table that should quench my long
lasting greed for some-
thing more. But I find myself
lost in a long, empty space.

**Glass**
you speak words of glass.
Clear with no deeper meaning-
slowly breaking me.
—Aditi Nair, age 15, Virginia.

---

**1. Island**
Sand sparkle in sun
Travel and explore island
Large algae and sea
coconut fell on bald head
Hit the coconut so hard

**2. Marigold Haiku**
Tiny buds new world
Patience sees dazzling colors
Tiny bugs inside

**3. Platypus Haiku**
Otter tail
Venomous mammal
Lay some eggs
—Sky Tosheng, age 11, California.

---

Bare branches, white snow
sugar blankets wrap us in.
Quiver in warm dreams

Insects come wiggling
And then birds come free-floating
Lush and lively spring.

Birds chirping, singing
Drown the dissonance to ash
Sounds that relax me
—Victoria Gong, grade 5, New York.
Miku Hasegawa, age 12, Japan.

The Bad Storm in California
By Shawn Yang, age 5, California.

Anna Svininnikaa, age 12, Japan.

Snow Fall
On fluffy white snow
A Snowy tree on my right
Flying through the night
With a biting frosty nose
Riding above that dead rose

Julia Azevedo, grade 7, California.

Evergreen
Growing beyond skies
A symbol of resilience
Defies winter’s chill
A sign of strength that endures
Northstar in the endless night

Anna Conca, grade 7, California

The warm stary night
I gaze into the bright stars
Feeling peace inside

Alyssa Kim, grade 5, Oregon

Carina Araujo, grade 5, Maryland.

Allison Liu, age 16, Massachusetts.

Beauty surrounds us
Standing tall and elegant
Looking far ahead

Dandelion field
Sending one thousand wishes
I blow a flower
Anna Svininnikaa, age 12, Japan.

Sophia Hall, grade 12, Washington, DC.

rock creek park
hum of traffic silenced softened by snow

The warm stary night
Alyssa Kim, grade 5, Oregon

Creatures climb out of the woods.
Carina Araujo, grade 5, Maryland.

Alyssa Kim, grade 5, Oregon

The light and bright path
The cherry blossoms glowing
Watch them all night.

Anna Conca, grade 7, California

The Bad Storm in California
By Shawn Yang, age 5, California.

Skipping Stones