



NEWSLETTER

A Season of Blossoms, A Story of Meaning

I was born on a small island in southern Korea. For many important activities, we traveled to a nearby city called Jinhae, which was especially known for its cherry blossom festival. At that time, it was one of the few places in Korea where such a festival existed. I recently heard in the news that the blossoms have begun to bloom again this week, marking the start of the festival.

Living in Saipan, where flowers bloom year-round in a gentle climate, it is difficult to fully grasp the barrenness of a harsh winter. Except for four years I spent in Southern California, I lived in regions such as Michigan, Indiana, and Massachusetts—places where winter strips the trees down to bare branches. Evergreen trees remain green, but they bear no flowers. Then, around April or May, the flowers begin to return. After five or six months without seeing blossoms, the arrival of spring—filled with yellow, pink, purple, red, white, and ivory—feels almost breathtaking.

This experience has long carried a universal message. Spring feels like the return of life itself. Before scientific understanding developed, people often worshiped nature. They connected spring with fertility and life, honoring it through festivals and rituals, hoping for a fruitful harvest. In Europe, for example, there were spring festivals centered around a goddess known as Eostre or Ostara, symbolized by eggs and rabbits—signs of fertility and new life. Later, as the Roman Empire embraced Christianity, the celebration of Easter spread throughout the region. Originally, in the Christian tradition, the death and resurrection of Jesus were closely tied to the observance of Passover. However, differences between the solar calendar used in the Western Church, represented by Rome, and the lunar calendar used in the Eastern Church, represented by Constantinople, led to disagreements about the date. This was eventually resolved at the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, where it was decided that Easter would be observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. Interestingly, this timing closely aligned with the existing spring festivals of European pagan traditions centered on Eostre. Over time, the name “Eostre” evolved into “Easter,” and elements of these cultural practices were absorbed into the Christian celebration. This blending occurred in part because early missionaries often allowed cultural forms to remain, while reshaping their meaning within a Christian framework.

As I reflect on this history, I am reminded of the importance of returning to what is original. The early followers of Jesus did not center their faith on seasonal traditions, but on a historical reality—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This truth stands on its own. It does not depend on cultural symbols or borrowed meanings.

Perhaps the lesson of the cherry blossoms is simple. Their beauty is real, but it is brief. Each season of renewal in nature points beyond itself. It reminds us that not everything lasting is visible, and not everything visible will last. Rather than anchoring our faith to traditions shaped over time, we are invited to anchor it to something unchanging—the empty tomb and the living Lord who rose from it.

This spring break, as I travel to Korea with our students and see the blossoms again, that is the reminder I will carry with me.



Yeon Ho Song
Principal

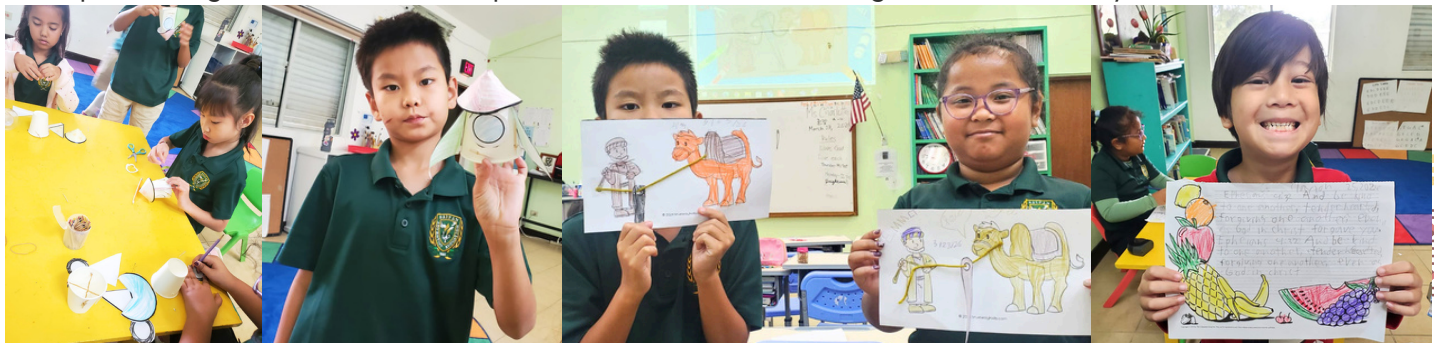




Kindergarten - Left to right: Making a paper quilt for Art class, finding the positions of solid shapes for Math class, and experimenting to see which objects move the farthest when blown by the wind.



1st Grade - Left to right: Testing how objects move in Science, created a craft of "The Rich Young Ruler" in Bible, presenting their "All About Me" poster in ELA, students writing out their memory verse.



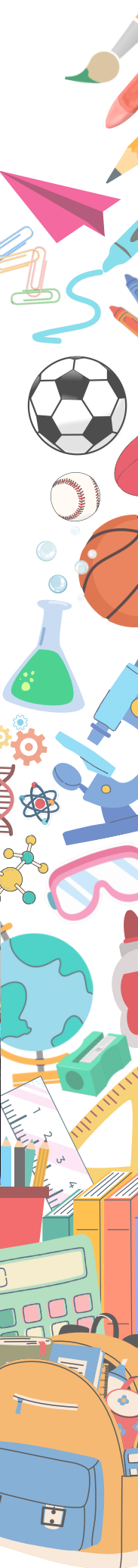
2nd Grade - Left to right: Making paper rockets in Art class, creating "The Rich Young Ruler" craft, and writing out their memory verses in Bible class.



3rd & 4th Grade - Left to right: Engaging in narrative writing through a "Roll a Story" activity and participating in peer reviews to enhance their spelling, grammar, and punctuation skills.



5th & 6th Grade - Left to right: Making desserts in cooking class and debating "free speech vs. order in society," inspired by the Trial of Socrates.



HE IS
NOT
HERE

He has risen

JUST
AS
HE
SAID.

MATTHEW 28:6



7th & 8th Grade - Left to right: Making sushi bake in cooking class and painting for Easter while expressing their creativity through festive artwork.

Physical Education



April Birthdays

- Averick Theo Santiago** 10
- Isabelle Javier** 11
- Victoria George** 16
- Felix Shen** 19
- Kocho Jinna** 22
- Saniyah Cabrera-Hill** 27
- Hina Tilipao** 28
- Hanalei Ayuyu** 28
- Euan Felix** 29

Friday Chapel



Dates to Know

March 30 to April 3

Elementary Spring Break

Friday, April 3

No School - CDC
Good Friday

Monday, April 13

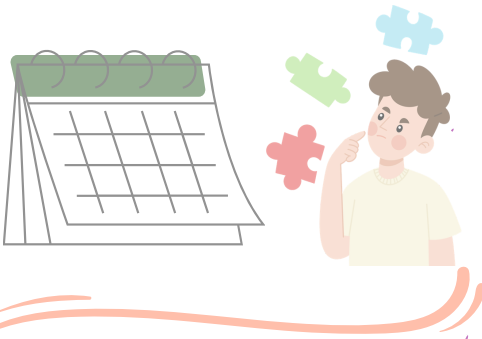
Open Enrollment
Summer & SY 2026-2027

April 13-17

Spiritual Emphasis Week

April 30 - May 1

Science Fair



FOLLOW US



Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School



saipansdaschool



Saipan SDA School



www.saipansdaschool.org



Child Development Center



Toddlers – Left to right: Developing fine motor skills by placing an 'egg' in the nest and practicing handwriting by making the letter "E" for "Elephant".



Preschool – Left to right: Understanding prepositions using a chair and a toy truck, demonstrating understanding on a worksheet, and finding, matching, and pasting pictures of animals together.



Pre-Kindergarten – Left to right: Exploring the cylinder shape by creating their own binoculars, and having fun decorating while connecting shapes to real-life objects, learning through creativity and play.

After School Academy



Music

Indoor Play



Study Hall

Art