



TANGO

EXTRA

Dancing with Words

Senri & Osaka International Schools of Kwansei Gakuin

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SOIS Scholars Strike Gold at World Scholar's Cup

The SOIS World Scholars Cup teams, ably coached by Mr. Sheriff and Minakuchi sensei and supported by Ito sensei, achieved outstanding results in the recent Japan leg of the cup right here at SOIS. Meg Nakagawa Hoffmann, Mari Nakao and Haru Kamimura placed first in the senior division. The eighth grade OIS team of Niki Heimer, Helena Oh and Jenifer Menezes placed first in the junior division. Meg was the top overall scholar in the Senior division while Helena was top in the junior division. Mia Lewis and Helena were chosen to participate in the "Showcase Debate." Our teams won the first three spots in both senior and junior division. Several other SOIS students won special awards also.

Read Tyus Sheriff's entertaining article about the cup below.



Say "Pwaa"- My First Time at the World Scholar's Cup

By Tyus Sheriff

"Pwaa."

A phrase that can be heard countless times during the two days of the World Scholar's Cup regional round. Nathan Levin, one of the leaders of the Scholar's cup who organized events at our school, explains that "Pwaa," is the sound that happy Alpacas make.

Yes, I said *alpacas*. That animal is the mascot or face of the World Scholar's Cup. They utilize the awkwardly shaped, strangely cute animal as something to ease the stress when at the event, and to make you laugh off the anxiety.

Each student at the World Scholar's Cup regional round gets a small alpaca, as something to cherish and to keep as memorabilia. Students hug and take pictures with the fluffy alpacas like any other person would do... Yes, even possible future scholars do that.



So reading up to here, you may wonder what this alpaca-convention thing called the World Scholar's Cup is? Well, the World Scholar's cup (or WSC for short) is an event for students that have interest or passion for collaborative/individual debating, writing, and testing. At the regional round,

the first round held for students around the area, participants spend two days doing team debate, collaborative writing, the Scholar's Challenge (multiple choices quiz), and the Scholar's Bowl (a team multiple choice quiz involving clickers) as a team of three.

Those who qualify go to the Global round in Malaysia, to compete against three thousand students from around the world. The best teams there get invited to the Tournament of Champions at Yale University.

And yes, it would be pretty "pwaamazing" to go there. Am I right? Oh... um...

Scholars are expected to thoroughly research the materials provided online that range across six subjects; The Special Area, Literature, Science, Social Studies, History, and Art and Music. Everything in each subject connects to the year's theme, which is, "The World Unbound."



At the Scholar's Cup, we are urged to chat with students who we don't know from other schools. We all have lunch together, and slowly, some SOIS students start talking to YMCA or Koyo Gakuin students. They also urge us to show off! In things such as the Scholar's Showcase or the Talent Show, students unleash their skills, whether

it's speaking, dancing, singing, etc. And they urge us to have fun... Which is real easy given everything about the event.

"At the heart of the World Scholar's Cup," says Daniel Berdichevsky, founder of the WSC or Alpaca-in-chief, in an introductory video of the Global Round, "it was not a competition, but this sort of joyful festival or celebration of learning."

...And that is exactly what the Scholar's Cup is. It's the perfect way of putting the WSC; a festival or celebration of learning. This is because nowhere have I seen so many students so eager and passionate about learning. And, nowhere else have I seen so many students having fun with learning. So, as you may have guessed, my first time at the World Scholar's Cup was amazing.

I had a blast competing with my wonderful team. I can't recommend you getting involved next year enough... Let's make this Kansai round grow! You'll go home with memories of something you may call, "The time of your life"--and your own alpaca.

Oh, and Kuala Lumpur, here we come!





Editorial

by Hannah Yamamoto — Tango President

I don't think I've ever had a more liberating experience, than that of finishing high school. This blissful, three-month, summer-before-college time period has been one of the best times of my life, and it's not just because I can nap whenever I want. I feel like for the first time since moving to Japan, I can finally enjoy life here without the once ever-present burden of school, studying for exams, and buffing up my college applications. Maybe it's due to the fact that I'm in a sentimental phase, because I don't know when I'll be able to visit Japan again, or maybe it's in a *carpe diem* attitude, or maybe I'm just extremely bored, but I lately I've been doing things I would have never thought to have done a year ago.

Waking up early to watch the sunrise and taking up photography, spending whole days by myself shopping and people watching on my own volition, picking up the musical instruments I've long since touched...and yes, even exercising. If you know me well, you know that I'm not really an outdoorsy person and I really hate being sweaty. I'd rather drive than walk, eat inside rather than picnic outside, and stay at a hotel rather than camp. So when I agreed to going on a two-day, 160-kilometer bike trip around Lake Biwa, I surprised myself.

It was grueling. Physically taxing, because I was simply out of my depth. I ended up trekking around the lake exhausted, sunburned, and in hellish back and butt pain from biking on tiny, unpadded mountain bike seats. It was mentally taxing, because if we didn't complete our daily target distance of 80 kilometers before dusk, we would have no place to stay for the night. After the first day, the thought of having to do another one of today, tomorrow almost drove me to tears because I knew how tough it would be.

But I don't have an ounce of regret. First, of course, there is the experience to be proud of. You know I'm not an outdoorsy person, but pedaling past endless fields of yellow daisies and old Japanese houses, and whizzing down a mountain road with the lake in the corner of your eye, sparkling in all of its natural beauty, is something I will never forget. Secondly, there is the accomplishment of the physical feat to be proud of. My 15-minute bike ride to school is a cakewalk compared to 10 hours of biking at 20 km/h, for two days straight. Thirdly, there is the fact that I did something so wholly challenging, partially idiotic, and so completely new. It's another notch on my belt, another great story to share, another exhilarating, personal triumph.

Now I don't know if I would do it again, but I have grown to enjoy the outdoors just a little bit more. And it may have been just two days, but I kind of feel like a semi-pro biker. Stepping out and doing something new really opened up the opportunities for me to enjoy life to its fullest potential. It is so easy to fall into a routine of the mundane, especially because school can become such a drag. A lot of us, including me, find comfort and security in having a schedule, but what better time to venture out and do things differently than this summer break? I didn't really have a choice in quitting half way through because there was no other way I could have gotten home, but in general, the fear of failure or insecurity is not worth the time you could have spent moving forward, even if you stumble along the way. So go cross some things off your bucket list this summer. Overcome a fear, discover a quirky passion, visit that one place you want to go to but nobody else does. Experiment with your style, cut your own hair, take up a DIY project...or perhaps even take a trip around Lake Biwa (if you want to read more about our trip, find Hannah Melville-Rea's article in this issue of Tango!).

Experiencing Ark

By Manon Raby

I've wanted to visit ARK (Animal Refuge Kansai) for as long as I can remember. I always appreciate any opportunity that is given to me that allows me to savour the company of animals. I think that people tend to forget that the organization always needs a helping hand even when it has been a several years since the country was hit by a natural disaster.



ARK is a non-profit organization based in Kansai that was established in 1990. Its aim is to not only promote the welfare of dogs and cats but to also form a network of people who have a love for animals. After interviewing Elizabeth Oliver, the founder of the NPO, I learned some interesting facts. I was told that Ms. Oliver used to depend on the donations of her friends but after the Kobe earthquake hit, the number of volunteers grew by about 3-4 times. Thousands of animals have gone through ARK and there are about 1,500 employees and volunteers involved nationwide. Although the organization has always been relatively small, they currently have major plans for expansion and development in the next few years that will take place in Saseyama.



Working at the animal shelter with some fellow classmates opened my eyes to the reality of how difficult the jobs there are. Whilst the company of the animals can be rewarding, spending almost seven hours just walking countless animals can be strenuous. Nonetheless, there is a lot to benefit from volunteering at ARK. Not only is it enjoyable but also you come to realize the massive amount of work that the workers have to do there and they genuinely appreciate the help as well. If you ever have the chance to lend a hand, Ms. Oliver and the animals would greatly appreciate it.

If you want to learn more about ARK and how you can support them, check out their website at

<http://www.arkbark.net/?q=ja/>



Photos by Vernon Villapando

Q&A

Interview with Ms. Cooper

Question: Where are you from originally?

Answer: I am originally from Toronto, Canada.

Question: What subject(s) do you teach?

Answer: I teach Grade 6 and 7, English and Individual and Societies (Humanities)

Question: Have you taught at any other schools prior to OIS?

Answer: Previously, I've taught at three different schools in Canada and a school in Thailand before coming to OIS.

Question: What hobbies or pastimes do you have?

Answer: I love to run. I usually run 10km in the mornings before work and I'm always on the lookout for marathon in the area or marathons that I can travel to. This summer, my husband and I are both running a marathon in Germany.

Question: What made you come to OIS?

Answer: I had a friend who worked at OIS who could not stop talking about what a great school it was. He bragged about the teachers he worked with, how amazing the students were, and what a great atmosphere it was to work in. When I went to the Bangkok job fair in January 2012 and saw OIS was there, I made sure to grab an interview!

Question: What have been some good memories of OIS life so far?

Answer: I've been amazed to see how enthusiastic students are at this school. I couldn't believe the suspense, for example, when people were getting their colors chosen for Sports Day or when students were so excited to choose their booth for the Festival. I always have a blast at the school wide events.

Question: Outside of OIS life, what has been your best experience of Japan so far?



Picture courtesy of Ms. Cooper

Answer: I can't believe how healthy and active Japanese culture is. I love my running route in the mornings with the fresh air and seeing other people, young and old, running and walking for exercise. I've also had some great memories with many of the teachers who have become great friends.

Question: What has been the most challenging thing about life in Japan?

Answer: At first, the most challenging thing was the language barrier. It was hard to even say sorry or to say thank you! Now that I have a Japanese tutor at home and I've made Japanese speaking friends, it is getting easier. It's now become an exciting challenge. I hope to take the JLPT N5 this December.

Question: Are there any things you would like to do in Japan that you have not done yet?

Answer: I haven't explored Japan yet. I still want to Hiroshima, climb Mt. Fuji, and have a proper visit of Tokyo. There is so much of Japan I still have to experience!

Question: Do you have any message, word of advice or encouragement for OIS students for the end of the OIS school year?

Answer: My advice for students at the end of the OIS year would be this: The school year is like a marathon; it doesn't make sense to sprint at the beginning and then burn out in the middle of the race. Hopefully you've paced yourself and now, the finish line is in your sights! Finish strong, finish proudly, and finish with a smile 😊

Fine Arts to the Fore at SOIS

The past couple of weeks have been a feast of the Fine Arts at SOIS. The Art Exhibition has been spectacular this year. A special thanks to the students, teachers and parent supporters who have worked to fill our school with life and expression through the visual arts.

In the Grand Finale concert on June 3rd, the MS Beginner Band, MS Band and HS Concert band performed in the theater and received a rousing reception.

The Middle School and High School Chorus and Strings performed their Spring concert in the theater on June 4th, and this was also a great success.

The traditional Maple Hall concert was held on June 9th and again received rave reviews. Thank you so much to the teachers, parents and students for all their efforts in keeping the Fine Arts such a central part of SOIS school life,.



Students warm up for the Middle School and High School Chorus and Strings Concert. Photos by Dave Algie

Mr. Kralovec welcomes visitors to the Art Exhibition. Photo by Steve Lewis

The Special Act

By Tyus Sheriff



Image by Yassen Nenov

There are different types of clowns.

I'm a *Circus Clown*. You know, the ones that toss batons, and walk on stilts? Love them, or fear them, it pays the taxes.

Every night, I emerge from a small car with my pals; Doey, Krusty, Pun-Pun, Laffy, Roofy, Looly, and Gooey. After I check what town we're in, I unicycle my way onto the stage, where we perform our act. An hour of laughter and fun goes by, and we pack up the tent, heading straight to the next city.

One night, I'm on a bus to Philly. In my yellow pocket, my phone starts to shake.

I know who it is... I don't want to pick it up...

I sigh.

Then, I pick up.

After two low-key honk noises, I hear someone start to speak.

"Kreepy," says the voice.

"Yes," I answer.

"Have you thought about it? What do you say?"

"No. I would never in a thousand years do such a thing," I reply in a whisper. If I talk any louder, the whole dang circus would wake up... Light sleepers.

"Why? It's Ten Grand. Did you hear me? TEN GRAND!"

"To reveal the secret of the special act? No way Jose.

By doing that, the whole circus would go bankrupt. That act is the only reason why people come to our shows."

I'm sorry but it's true. Though the acrobats may leave you in awe, the elephants may impress you, and the trapeze act may be beautiful, no one would come if it weren't for the special act.

"Alright. Not today. But, we'll get that secret someday."

He hangs up.

It's nearly midnight. I close my eyes, and go to sleep. I never dream in my sleep. I don't need to. The circus already achieves everything and more that a dream could do, so I guess you'd say that I live in a dream.

The clown who called me was a *Mafia Clown*. It's a type of clown that tries to steal secret information about an act from whom (what they think) is the most weak-hearted clown of the pack. Except, I don't think I'm the most weak-hearted of the clowns. I'm guessing he chose me for my villain-ish name: Kreepy. Yeah... I admit that it's not really a name that rings "funny."

A normal day goes by. We awe the audience, and pack up for Baltimore.

In the bus, at the same exact time as yesterday, something in my purple pocket starts to shake. I pick up my phone, and I hear the same low-pitch honking sounds go twice.

"Two phone calls in a row? What is it now?" I say to him, slightly nervously.

"Twenty grand," he says.

"You can't take no for an answer, can you?"

"I said twenty grand."

"And I say *no*."

I hang up.

I got the call every day. Each time, he offered more and more. I kept refusing. I firmly believe that I'm a good guy, and so I won't do things like that. Anyways, a month went by. By this point, he offered me a hundred grand.

One day, we packed up for Kansas City. In the bus, my orange pocket started shaking as usual. After two low-pitch honks, I quickly say, "I said no."

"Oh really?" he says.

"Yes really," I reply.

"So I guess you won't be needing your house anymore."

"What? What are you going to do with it?" I feel my heart starting to pound.

"Nothing much. If you don't tell me the secret, I guess I'll just burn your house down."

"No," I start to panic. Come on Kreepy! House or Circus? House or circus? HOUSE OR CIRCUS? Then I realize; I barely ever stay in my house. I'm a traveling *Circus Clown*! Besides, what is insurance for, anyways?

"I will not tell you. You may burn my house," I finish the sentence.

I hang up.

Next day, I get reported that an *Arson Clown* burnt my house down. I also learned that I don't have fire insurance. I feel a tear form in the corner of my eye, but I shake it off, for clowns can't cry...

We head down to Denver. Just as I expected, the phone goes off. I don't pick it up this time.

Next day, I get a report that a *Murder Clown* killed my sister. My sister. My flesh and blood. They have gone too far. I wipe off my tears because clowns can't cry; they have to be happy all the time!

That night on the bus, I get a call again. I pick it up, in fear of another killing. I waited for two honks. They didn't come.

"You gave up on the honks, I see." I say, "Killing my sister is going too far."

"Tell me the secret of the special act, or I'm sending a *Murder Clown* to kill your parents," he replies in the most sinister voice I've heard in my life.

I feel a sudden jolt. My parents who made, raised, and fed me might get killed. But... if the circus closes, I'll have nowhere to go. I don't even have a house anymore. Then again, even if I live, I won't ever see my family ever again. I can't afford to lose two more.

Come on Kreepy... Parents or Circus? PARENTS OR CIRCUS? PARENTS OR CIRCUS!!!!???

The next day, I cry.

And cry.

And cry.

Service Trip to Cebu

by Emily Yamanaka

"I want a new phone!" "I want a new set of video games!" "I want new clothes!" These are some common demands made by children today and almost always their parents would fulfill their wishes. To those lucky people like us, we seem to have an abyss of wants that can never be satisfied. As time goes by, we become used to these privileges and start to forget about the importance of appreciation. We simply take everything for granted. Deep down, I think everyone is aware of this but nobody wants to admit it; I was definitely one of them. I started this service trip with the mindset that WE will be the one to TEACH the children; however, I think we the juniors have learned much more from the kids.

The juniors decided to visit Cebu for this service trip and it took place a week before spring break began. Our supervisors, Ms. Espie and Mr. Fitzpatrick, along with Mrs. Nagasaka, organized most of this trip. Apparently it was a "miracle" that everyone showed up at the airport on time... The flight itself was rather smooth and we landed in Cebu just in time for us to grab dinner at a mall and exchange currency. We then got onto our buses and headed to our hotel and that was about it for day one.

The next four days were probably the core of this trip, involving interaction with children from reading centers and community renovations. Frankly, we were shocked by the lack of English fluency the children showed as we struggled to communicate with them. It was hard to even get the children to play with us since it took them quite some time to open up. Eventually, the small kids started motioning body gestures to describe the things they wanted to express, older ones who are capable of speaking English more fluently chatted, and even the parents tried to start conversations by connecting some English vocabulary.



On the way from our hotel to the reading center, I saw many basketball courts and learned from Ms. Espie that Filipinos are fond of basketball. It was true. During recess, older children would go down to the basketball court beside the reading center to play some basketball games with even older teens. They welcomed us warmly and asked us to join their games. Thinking back now, it must have been funny for the audience to watch our interactions with the locals since there was an obvious language barrier between us.



Nevertheless, we all enjoyed the games. It was truly amazing to see strangers working together to do something with their shared passion and I guess that is what makes sports so irreplaceable.

It was excruciatingly hard for us to say our good-byes to our kids at the first reading center; however, we knew very well that we would be able to see them soon since we added the teachers at the reading center on social network and they promised to keep us updated on the children.



Prior to the trip, we were told that we would be working with two organizations, AMBIT and Gawad Kalinga. When we thought that our work at the first reading center was done, the GK organization took us to a building beside the first reading center. We later learned from the volunteers that Budlaan, where the reading center located, was one of the oldest and most deprived areas of Cebu. None of the juniors had problem with that since we all got more time with our children; maybe, that was a blessing in disguise. I found painting walls easier than reading to children because I did not have to make sure that my kids are concentrating on the books all the time. However, the weather was hot so I assume that painting was more physically challenging. It was good that we were provided with water or else a few of us might have fainted. On the last day we went to a completely different community where we did activities with children as well as more wall paintings. Half of the class did painting and the other half participated in games with children. The second reading center focused less academics and rather focused more on dancing, which made building renovation more crucial. The walls were higher so some of us had to climb onto ladders in order to paint the walls evenly.



The activities with the children were extremely entertaining and fun. In order to get the attention from the children, the Gawad Kalinga foundation volunteers would shout "Walang Iwanan" (nobody gets left behind) and the children would respond with, "HuHa!" and vice versa.

We followed clumsily as the children moved freely



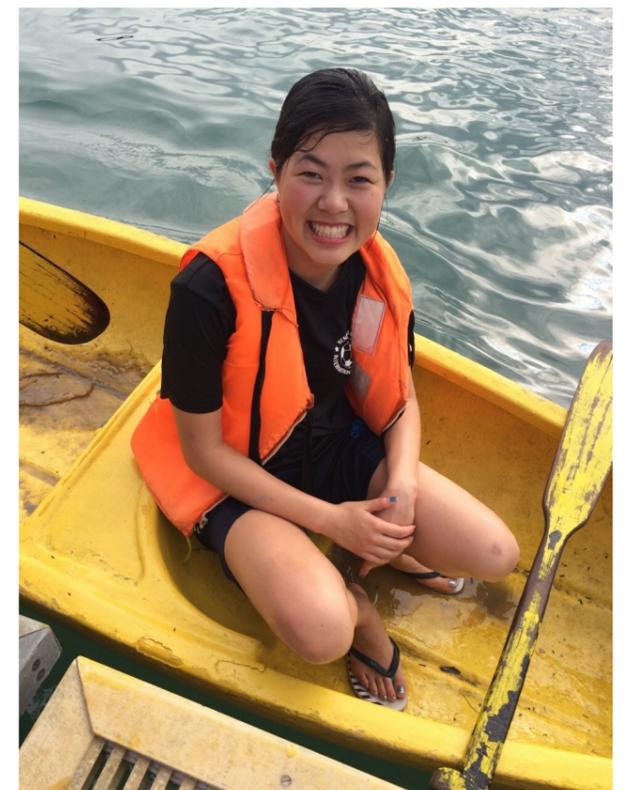
to the beats showing different dance routines that they have all memorized by heart. With that said, I strongly urge you to check out a song called "I'm A Gummy Bear," and I bet you will not be able to get that song out of your head! After we finished our tasks, we were asked to reflect on the experience with the children and building renovation. The majority of the class concluded that they were surprised that the children there were so easily to satisfy and were willing to share despite having so little. We felt guilty for complaining about our lives after witnessing the joy the locals managed to maintain every single day, much more adverse surroundings than us and that is probably the biggest lesson we had picked up from this trip.



As for the last few days of our trip, we were able to enjoy Cebu by visiting famous malls, snorkeling, canoeing, zip lining, and much more.



Everyone got sunburn, some more seriously than others. Although our tan marks will slowly fade away, I am sure that the memories and experience we extract from this trip will last for a long time.



All photos courtesy of the Junior class.

Yuuki's BAE Playlist

The Bae Playlist

The time has come for me to dedicate a music playlist to my one and only bae. I'm not planning on disclosing who my bae is (although some people may have heard me call them that before...). But since I'm graduating, I wanted to express my gratitude for having such a wonderful person by my side this year. Bae, this is for you!

Songs we bonded over	Why?
Talk Dirty by Jason Derulo ft. 2 Chainz	While this song is catchy, I share this love-hate relationship with 2 Chainz rap verse, and I think that just added to the fun of listening to this song together.
Turn Down for What by DJ Snake feat. Lil Jon	Your dance moves. Just yeah, your sick dance moves, bae. (The cabbage patch, for example.)
All of Me by John Legend	The first time you came over and we had a somewhat deep moment where we kept on replaying this song. It was kind of depressing but oddly sweet at the same time; especially since we got to meet the infamous Sean and Legs the next day!
Partition by Beyoncé	I listened to this song over the summer and disliked it. I thought it was one of B's worst songs ever, to be quite frank. But then bae kept on raving over it, and I got dragged into it. I DO like this song now, by the way.
Fiction by BEAST	Although Hyuna's Bubble Pop is the first K-POP song that we bonded over, it wasn't until we walked to that South Indian restaurant together, blasting music, when you confessed that you knew this song as well. We don't fangirl over music together but we definitely do try to introduce each other to different artists.
All You Need is Love by The Beatles	The moment you start singing this song, I immediately join in. This is why some, if not all, of our underclassmen think that we're strange. It's because we walk down the hallway shouting "All ya need is love! DUH DUH DUH DUH DUH"

Yuuki's BAH Playlist

The BAH Playlist

I refer to one of my closest friends as BAH. Don't even ask. However, one of the reasons we became good friends is because of music. So in honor of our friendship built through our love for music, here's a playlist for you!

Songs we bonded over	Why?
I Don't Love You by My Chemical Romance	I knew a few songs by MCR but didn't really get into their music until you showed me this song at MOS. And then I recently found out that they broke up 2 years ago. (tears)
Godzilla by Blue Oyster Cult	I told you that I like their song, Don't Fear the Reaper, and you recommended this song. I honestly don't know why I like this song, but I do!
We Want Some by 2 Live Crew	I'm not sure if you knew this song when I started singing it out loud, but you do know 2 Live Crew. Probably not the best song to sing along to, but a great bonding experience nevertheless!
Black and Yellow by Wiz Khalifa	When I mentioned this song in my TOK presentation, I said the artist was Wacka Flocka... and you corrected me afterwards at Starbucks. I'm sure Mr. Algie didn't notice though so it's all good!
I Am by Zebrahead	I said I like the Beastie Boys, you said you're into Zebrahead. It's funny how you introduced most of these songs to me at MOS. Possibly even on the same night.
Give It Away by Red Hot Chili Peppers	RHCP performed this song at the Super Bowl 1 or 2 years ago. And when I was talking about how much I loved their performance, you broke the news to me: they lip-synched.



Our Mad, Magical Musical Journey

By Helena Oh

"Was that you two singing right now? That was great!" Teachers would say as they peered out of their classroom doors. We would laugh and thank them graciously.

Last year, when we were in Grade 7, I suggested we start a channel on Youtube together to post covers of songs we loved. However, we both agreed that it would take an unbearably long amount of time as students attending classes, and with commitments such as homework, and decided to start an Instagram account instead.

Instagram is a popular online photo sharing social Web service that lets you share your life with friends through a series of pictures captured with a mobile device. It also allows you to share 15-second videos of whatever topic of your liking.

On October 9, 2013, we created our account, @15secondsofparadise.

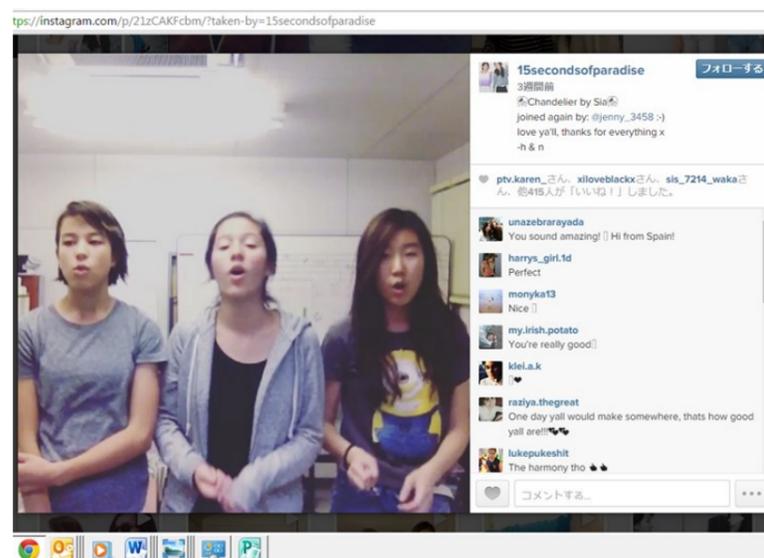


When we sing, we're so very happy, and we do it for 15 seconds, hence the username. October 23, 2013 was the day we uploaded our first cover of Katy Perry's "Roar". We started gaining more followers and positive comments. However, it was difficult to get people to check our account out since most people weren't used to singing accounts on Instagram. This did not stop us from trying, and we continued to post covers as much as we could while interacting with our followers.

Soon enough, we had hit 1000 followers and had an average of about 400 likes. Our friends Moma and Jenifer helped us film and managed our account with us, choosing which songs we should do next and setting up cameras, taking on roles as producers. They helped edit our videos sometimes as well.

This became an integral part of our life, posting a cover, practicing, posting another.. The number of our followers grew and we looked forward to filming every week. It was mostly me working on our account, but Niki started to help and so did Jenifer and Moma.

February of 2015 was when we hit 4000 followers. Our current amount is 4600.



We both believe that one day, if we keep trying, we'll be able to hit 10K, and maybe even more. It is so amazing to be able to share my hobby to sing with my best friend. I'm so thankful for every one of our followers and want to continue this for as long as I can.

58 posts	4,600 followers	4,570 following
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10 things

- Introvert to extrovert
- Grateful to hateful
- Clear to clogged
- Unique to different
- Reaching to distant
- Hurtful to hurt
- Tired to weak
- Suffering to standing
- Leaning to falling
- Strong-willed to unsure
- Stubborn to unyielding

By Yuuki Fujiwara



By L'Oniele Salim

Many "Half Japanese" people are "Homeless".

By Yuuki Fujiwara

I was talking to a close friend of mine about some of her part-time jobs. At one of her jobs, whether she works a 9-hour shift or a 3-hour one, she is not allowed to sit down, go to the bathroom, or eat. No breaks- can you imagine that? One day, she spilled something hot on her wrist, resulting in a visit to the hospital. But guess what- not only did no one accompany her to the emergency room, her boss still made her work for another few hours after getting back. Apparently, if she had gotten the burn treated sooner, because it seems that she didn't receive proper treatment till the next day, it wouldn't have been so bad. But it didn't get much better after that. Her mom, obviously enraged (and rightfully so), called her boss demanding to know 1) why did he not call her immediately when that happened, and 2) why did she go to the hospital by herself. In that situation, he could've used a range of inexcusable excuses: "I didn't realize her injury was that bad.", "I myself don't know where the hospital is.", "I couldn't just leave the restaurant." What he did say to her was this: "Honestly, your daughter doesn't speak Japanese that well..." Um, what?

My friend speaks Japanese fluently; she is at native level. This confused me so much at first. I couldn't understand why he would say that when it clearly isn't true. This incident vaguely reminded me of my friend's experience at another restaurant. There have been two occasions where a customer has gotten mad at my friend for whatever reason. In these kinds of situations, waiters or waitresses usually call the manager over, so that's what my friend did. Now, this has happened twice, just keep that in mind. Each time the manager has had to go over and conciliate a customer, she always apologizes and says that "It's because she's half". My friend is half-Japanese, just like me. But she is just as Japanese as the average Japanese person- and way more Japanese than me. Two different restaurants, different days, but the same exact excuse, and I don't like it. Using my friend's ethnic background as a scapegoat is not how things should be handled. I can't even begin to express how I feel about this. What I can say though, is that I can totally relate to this.

I've never worked at a restaurant in Japan (or anywhere, as a matter of fact), but I do dance and singing outside of school. I take taxis. Nowadays, I eat out often. I get lost and have to ask for directions at times. I interact with Japanese people a lot. Don't get me wrong- it's good

practice for someone like me who is trying to learn Japanese. But I feel like it's also detrimental to my mental health at times. It's more stressful than it should be. Struggling to communicate what I want to say in an understandable way isn't the issue here. It's when I hear someone say "It's because she's half." The term, half (ハーフ), to Japanese people does not mean half Japanese; it means foreigner. The way I look at it, if I'm half Japanese and half Indian, and you're full Japanese, then it makes sense that you'd try to connect with my Japanese side more. But that's never the case, because people only see me for my other half, my foreign side.

I love it when I meet people and we talk (in Japanese) about everything BUT my cultural background. But unfortunately, that seems to be the only part of me that fascinates people (and my luscious blue hair). How many times do you think I've had to explain to someone where I'm from and what I'm doing in Japan? Japanese people don't like to cause trouble for others, and yet, each one that I meet wants to understand my background. I'm so sick of it- there are times when I've introduced myself as being American. But then that somersaults into a series of questions like "New York?", "California?", "English ok?". At this point, I just want to pretend that I don't speak Japanese at all in order to quickly end the conversation. Either that or lie and say that I'm full...which probably wouldn't work.

I appreciate that people are attracted by my foreignness, and it would be sometimes fun to have these cultural exchanges, if I were 100% foreign. I'm half Japanese- so I'm half of a full Japanese person. In other words, we got something in common! If you want to talk to me about things that I like or don't like in Japan, that's fine. But if you're going to respond to my likes and dislikes with "Ah, many foreigners don't like that, so it makes sense." Or even worse, "After all, that's more of a Japanese thing.", then don't bother saying anything at all. No matter what you think, it is a fact that I am Japanese; not full, but I still am Japanese. I'm sorry I'm not pure Japanese- I'm sure if I was, I wouldn't be writing this article at 1 in the morning. That just goes to show strong I feel about this issue.

There are Indian people who don't like spicy food. There are Japanese people who don't like natto. And I'm sure that there are Koreans who don't like kimchi. Therefore, you should-

n't assume that I act or am a certain way, because I'm supposedly a foreigner. I admit that I am foreign. But here's the thing: like I said before, I am half Indian as well, which means even in India, I am (according to Japanese standards) a foreigner. I am a foreigner, in other words, an outsider, wherever I go. Some of you might be thinking that because I lived in the U.S., then the U.S. is my home. I'm sorry to say that I do not have a home; not here, not in India, and not in the states either. Although the U.S. is considered to be a melting pot of different cultures. If I had stayed in the states my entire life, then I probably would consider myself to be American. Despite what one of my two passports say, after moving to Japan, whenever I go back to North Carolina, I do feel like an outsider. It almost feels like I'm more Japanese, but then I get back to Japan, and I'm a foreigner all over again. It really doesn't end, and it just doesn't go away no matter where you are. I don't enjoy being treated differently; it can be awkward, funny, but overall, it's depressing.

Honestly, I'm jealous of people who can be patriotic and say that they're proud of being an American, New Zealander, or Pakistani. I think it's unfair that I can't say the same myself, when wherever I go, I'm not accepted. However, I do try to embrace my ethnic ambiguity. Like many of you mixed race individuals have tried, you've probably used it to your advantage. I can't be a hypocrite, I've done the same. I'd like to give all of you some good news now. It only took me 18 years to realize this. I am not accepted anywhere, so I am not Japanese nor Indian. I am not both, I am neither. I am nothing. Like I said, I can't be patriotic and I hate the fact that I'm not accepted anywhere. So, I'd rather just be nothing. My home? I learned from this one film that "Home is where you make it". So although I was raised in different countries and states, I don't think I'll have a home until I start a family of my own. My home won't be a country though. It'll be where my loved ones are. And that's the good news: home isn't where you are from, but where you feel loved and accepted. This means that many of you already have a home! I'm currently on my own, and my family and friends are located all over the world. Hopefully, once I start a family of my own, this feeling of emptiness and sense of being lost will disappear. Until then, I guess I'll have to remain homeless.

Expectation versus Reality: Student Council in Retrospect

By Eugenie Shin

"I'm Eugenie in OIS grade 10 and I'm the new treasurer," I say nervously as what feels like a thousand pairs of eyes stare back at me. Although I am not what you would call the shyest person, introducing myself to a room full of people is always an intimidating experience. Everyone claps, and Masato (the SIS vice president back then) even says, "I loved your speech!"

That was my very first Student Council meeting back in 2013. Back then, I had no idea that I'd eventually join as President the next year.



Image courtesy of Eugenie Shin

I joined mainly because I wanted to follow my older brother's steps. Through my eyes, his experience was sunshine and rainbows: he met some of his closest friends through Student Council, got to have secret details about all the school events before they happened, and wore a cool arm band during sports day. I wanted to be a part of this sparkly, special, "elite" group.

For the first few months, the "old" student council and the "new" student council members worked together to plan the school festival. It was so much fun getting to know the older, friendly members and being behind the scenes of school festival, an event I'd been attending for so long. However, when they left, I started realizing just how much work Student Council REALLY is.

For one, I had just started the 11th grade and entered the gates of a high schooler's heaven, also known as the IB Diploma Program (just kidding). Having 2 hours of meeting every Tuesday and Thursday turned out to be more of a commitment than I had thought.

Secondly, organizing all these projects and events was not all fun and games. It

entailed long discussions, running around trying to find a teacher, and peeling posters from walls after everyone had already gone home.

Thirdly, trying to reach a unanimous decision with ten people is not always easy. Everyone had something to say. I found this was especially difficult when I was in student council as a president and not as a regular member, trying to let everyone speak his or her mind but at the same time trying to move the meeting along.

Throughout my two terms (years), there were many times I felt frustrated and exhausted because of my involvement with student council. Although I had volunteered for the activity myself, I often felt jealous of students that got to go home early, and students that got to enjoy school events instead of working in them. Why couldn't I go home at 3:30? Why couldn't I watch the performances instead of running around school trying to find that one missing chair? Why am I picking up trash after sports day instead of celebrating and taking pictures with my friends?

Although I often felt this way, I never once regretted joining student council. Being part of it was honestly an invaluable, meaningful and life-changing experience. I realize now that while it was wonderful to create a better school and fun memories for SOIS students, student council helped me to grow so much as a person.



Image courtesy of Eugenie Shin

One lesson I learned from being a student council member is that things are never as easy as they seem. Especially when planning events, I never realized the extent to which Student Council has to work for the enjoyment of the students before I was actually part of it. This applies to many situations in life, because people working behind the scenes aren't usually recognized but are the ones that are most instrumental to making something possible. It is like

watching a musical: although the audience only sees what is on stage, nothing would be possible without the backstage help.

That leads me to the second thing I learned, which is to always be thankful. When I am cleaning up after an event, stressed and tired, one person who thanks us for organizing the event can brighten my day. After joining student council, I am much more grateful for things I took for granted. I am appreciative of the help around school, such as the security guards, cafeteria ladies, and the cleaning staff. I plan to have this outlook anywhere I go, even outside school.

Finally, as the president, I learned the importance of leadership. I felt a completely different kind of pressure as the president than I did as a treasurer; it was hard to constantly lead the discussion and make sure things were going smoothly. I definitely also realized that a good leader is someone who allows people to flourish and be at their best. It is never a good idea to enforce your opinions on someone, or try to control everything. Collaboration can only be successful through communication. When I attended the Leadership Conference in Beijing, the speaker's words stuck with me: "in order to be a good leader, you have to sometimes take a step back."

Student council was what defined my high school life. Not only did I experience hardships and victories, but I also met an amazing group of people that I would have otherwise never talked to. Each of them taught me something different, and I'm sure I will cherish memories in student council forever, as cheesy as that sounds. I recommend any student to join if they get the chance, because I think everyone can learn something from it. Having just finished my term, I already miss it; believe it or not, I wish I could have a meeting one last time in the cramped student council room.



Image courtesy of Eugenie Shin

As well as bidding farewell to the OIS seniors, the ending of this trimester finds us saying goodbye to several teachers and other members of the SOIS community. We at Tango wish all departing students, faculty and staff farewell and good luck.



Recipe by Mia Lewis

Super Quick Breakfast Ice Cream!

If you follow me on Instagram @tardiscooking (if you're not, you should) you would know that I am loving having Nice-Cream for breakfast. It's called "Nice-Cream" because it's made only with bananas and takes no time at all!

To make this delicious ice-cream you will need:

- 1 (or more) frozen banana(s)
- A dash of liquid (I usually use soy milk)
- any fruit/chocolates/nuts for toppings!

Steps:

- Put ingredients into a blender
- Blend (and be patient) until super smooth and there is your ice cream!
- Add berries, coco powder, matcha powder or any other ingredients to make endless delicious flavours of ice cream :D



YouTube Review

by Mia Lewis

This month I am sharing a new channel that I have discovered, called Doodleddle run by a wonderful 20 year old, Dodie Clark. She posts music covers, original songs, random comedy and all the videos you could imagine. Dodie is so creative and is capable of making you happy even if your day has been the worst day of your life. Go on and subscribe to watch Dodie (and maybe meet Evan in the Dovan Flat) to feel happy whenever you want to!



An Eye on Nature with Noah Izumi

English Lavenders

Have you ever wondered which lavender compliments with the plants in your garden on a hot, sweltering summer day?

Scientific name: *Lavandula Angustifolias*
 Flower word: doubt, distrust, silence, I'll be waiting for you

Munstead Lavender

Tolerates summer heat the best of all the English Lavenders, and has purple blooms that go well with roses. If you plan on planting it with herbs, then Rosemary, oregano, and thymes will go nicely with it. However planting mint near it should be avoided, since mint has the tenden-



cy to spread and could interfere with the Lavender.

Miss Katherine Lavender

This lavender bears small and fragrant spikes of light pink flowers during summer. Compared to other lavenders, this is without question one of the most exquisite pink lavenders. It is easier to grow and has a longer lifespan than other pink lavenders. Allium Unifolia may be a good companion plant for this type of lavender.



Seal Lavender

This highly fragrant violet-blue lavender is not commonly known. It has long leafless stems that grow up to 12 inches, which spray ele-

gantly outwards. Rudbeckia and Black-eyed Susan will go well with the purple lavender. The bright-gold and black flowers coupled with the violet-blue of the lavender will produce a cheering effect.



Caring/requirements:

The three lavenders all bloom from early to late summer, and are tolerant to dry soil. They will need low watering, as well as average maintenance every now and then. Soil has to be well-drained, also full exposure to the sun will be important for it to thrive. There will need to be about 60-90 cm of spacing for the lavender to spread. These lavenders will perform best in light, sandy, alkaline soil.

Your garden will now have a cheery affect for the duration of the whole summer, by adding this exquisite amethyst colored beauty.



TV Review

By Tyus Sheriff

Wolf Hall Review—'cause we all love the Reformation

Henry VIII, William Tyndale, Anne Boleyn, Thomas More, and Pope Leo X; All reasonably famous names from the Reformation period, in the early 1500's.

But have you ever heard of Thomas Cromwell? He's the underdog, who plays a larger-than-his-fame role in Henry's reformation. Heard of him? No matter; after seeing the six episodes of *Wolf Hall*, you will think of him as the most essential figure in the Reformation.

Wolf Hall, a six part drama from BBC based on Hilary Mantel's two best selling novels, centers on Cromwell and the Reformation. With its £7 million production budget, *Wolf Hall* brings everything you love (?) about the Reformation to life inside of your TV set.

Because of space limitations, and my feeling towards not spoiling too much of the show, I have reviewed only the first three episodes.

Episode 1 "Three Card Trick"

Wolsey (Jonathan Pryce) is losing power after failing to deliver Henry's plea to divorce with Catherine or Aragon to the Pope. As he says in the beginning of the show, "24 hours feels like a victory." Thomas Cromwell says that Anne affected Wolsey's fall, and that Wolsey's biggest mistake was making Anne the enemy, for disapproving of the relationship between her and the one she truly loves.

He's kicked out from the luxurious roof he lives under, and sleeps under a smaller one that night. Thomas Cromwell, meanwhile, deals with his family suffering diseases, and pressures from people all around; he has to deal with his family, the court, Wolsey's fall, Wolsey's internal emotions, etc.

The episode uses flashbacks very cleverly. It would be nice, however, for them to make the flashbacks a different color, or show the year that the flashback took place in a subtitle on the screen, because sometimes you don't know if it's in the present or the past. It takes some time to get into the episode, but once you're in it, you are hooked, from the acting in the show, which was amazingly believable, to the expensive scenery and costumes, which bring the Reformation to life. On top of all of that, I learned something new; Henry VIII wasn't fat when he was younger.

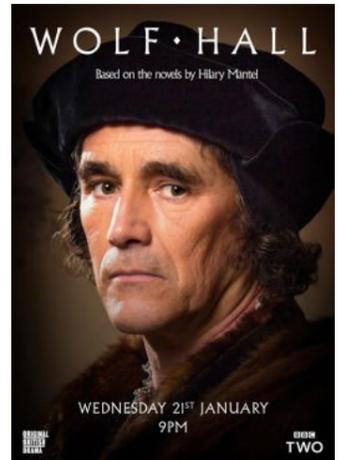
Episode 2 "Entirely Beloved"

Similar to the first episode, this one takes a while to get into. The first 20 minutes are kind of a yawn-fest, and not all that promising. After that, however, the drama starts to pick up, making it thoroughly enjoyable. In this episode, the highlight was Claire Foy, who plays Anne Boleyn. Her confidence while speaking and her fast delivery of lines, makes her an intriguing character to watch... Her character, and her acting reminds me of another character that I like: *Mary Poppins*. It is her wit and style that makes her stand out. Another scene that struck me was a scene in which enemies/haters of Wolsey masked themselves with demon masks, setting up a little play where Wolsey is killed by the demons. As the men who played the roles of the demons removed their masks, each identity was revealed, giving a different meaning to the demented masquerade.

Episode 3 "Anna Regina"

Well, well, well. Out of these three in the review, "Anna Regina," is by far the best of them. Nope, I won't complain about the beginning, 'cause it was a close-enough-to-perfect 20 minutes. In this episode, almost no scenes drag on, and you can really see depth developing inside of each character. It's paced perfectly, with one intriguing scene after another. You can clearly see the actors beyond the surface, more than the previous two episodes. No cast member outshines another, creating a balanced, harmonizing (and yet action-packed) 58-minutes.

So, watch "Wolf Hall." Anyone, whether history-fanatic or not, should be able to see the brilliance of the show. And, even if the show may not be your cup of tea, I guarantee to you, those hours watching the show are not wasted. If planning to watch the show, I strongly suggest you reading a few articles of the Reformation, just so you understand the happenings better. (Conveniently, I was studying the Reformation during class, when I saw, "Wolf Hall.") So pop some corn, read the synopsis (a must) and enjoy the show.



Picture courtesy of BBC



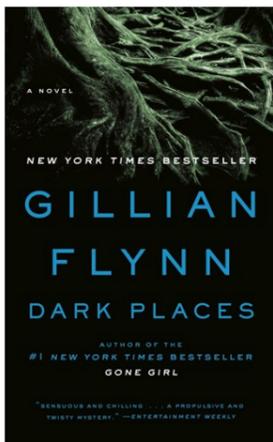
Picture courtesy of The Telegraph (UK)



Book Review

by Shoko Yamaji

Dark Places By Gillian Flynn



Dark Places is a mystery novel that follows the story of Libby Day, the only survivor of a massacre that happened in her house in Kinnakee, Kansas, when she was seven. After witnessing the murder of her mother and two sisters, she fled the house into the freezing snow, and was lucky enough to hide herself from the killer. Young Libby testified her 15-year-old brother; Ben Day was the killer and was thrown into jail for good.

25 years later, she receives an odd letter asking her if she would show up in front of group of people interested in unsolved crimes and mysteries, that call themselves the *Kill Club*. Libby who is desperate for money and attention decides to cooperate, but little did she know she would be unraveling dark secrets about her family that would change her life forever.

As Libby works her way through the puzzle, the narrative flashes back to January 2nd, 1985, the day before the massacre. It shows the events of that day through the eyes of Ben, a rebellious teen influenced by his disturbing friends and Patty Day, her mother troubled by money. I think it is unique that readers can observe three main character's point of view at once. Secrets and stories hidden by each character built up to many clues that solve the crime that destroyed her family.

I have read three books by Gillian Flynn, and so far, this is the best that she has written. The details formed great imagery and I would recommend this to young-adults interested in mystery and criminology. Since this book focuses on the satanic cult hysteria, I would not recommend to those who cannot handle grotesque scenes.



IB Exams and Cycling Biwako:

A comparison

By Hannah Melville-Rea

After completing my 12 IB exam papers over the first two weeks of May, the following week I cycled the 160km it takes to do a loop of Lake Biwa.

Preparing:

I admit I didn't utilize my study-week to the best of my studying ability, but after going through countless tests, review lessons, and mock exams, I knew exactly what to expect in the exam room. Physical activity on the other hand was something I couldn't have been less prepared for. The only exercise I had done in the month leading up to the cycling trip was biking to school on my *electric* bicycle, walking to the bakery on Sunday mornings (I would then single handedly devour a whole loaf of rye bread), and climbing those three killer flights of stairs to the conference room to take my exams. Moreover, none of us had ever done the loop before, we didn't have any map, and I had imagined 160km to be a lot shorter than what it turned out to be.



During:

IB exams were certainly intense; on average I had two or sometimes three papers to complete in one day, and another paper to study for at night. My time was devoted to reviewing and memorizing my notes, and I put everything else on hold (particularly cleaning my room). Cycling was similar in the way that our time was consumed by the 7 hours of solid cycling we had to complete each day. By the second day, the pressure was on to get the bicycles back to the rental shop in time, so we cut our breaks shorter even though our bodies were increasingly weak. The hardest part was that the bicycles we had rented were sports bicycles that bruised our mama-chari-butts to the extent that even after wrapping clothes around the seats, we still had to hover over them.

Just like exams, some sections of the ride were pleasant, with wide footpaths and flat surfaces, while other parts of the ride were tough, with cars racing past us on steep hills. All in all though, (and maybe this was due to our lack of preparation) cycling Biwako made IB exams seem like a piece of cake.



Finishing:

I had always fantasized about the feeling of freedom I would experience when finally being done with IB. And yet, finishing my final paper, Math paper 2, felt completely anticlimactic. For the next few days I stayed at home aimless and bored, until I decided I needed to find a better accomplishment. Hence, cycling Biwako happened. To be honest, I was too tired, sore, and sunburned to feel any great sense of accomplishment when I finished the Biwako loop; I was simply relieved that none of us had suffered any *major* accidents and that we could finally go home. It wasn't until I was semi-sleeping on the train home that I felt pretty darn proud of us for doing something so out of our comfort zones.



Photos courtesy of Hannah Yamamoto

Sophistication in Simplicity

By L'Oniele Salim



Image courtesy of L'Oniele Salim

Medium: Pentel Brush Pen On Paper

Colour Scheme: Black and White

Brush pens are mainly used for the purpose of calligraphy. Just like the art of calligraphy it takes practice and a remarkable amount of patience to be able to make a beautiful piece.

The simplicity in colour and strokes allows the image produced to appear elegant. One that is simply composed of various thickness of lines and the different pressure applied to every movement made. Through these simple techniques, various kinds of paintings may be produced. Ranging from simple, yet pleasant, to sophisticated, and elaborate, detailed paintings.

The simple colour schemes make the detailed lines, created by the pen, visible and pop out more to the audience. It is a distinct detail that is made by the ends of a brush's bristle. Using this to an advantage, we can turn it into the details of the painting instead. For example, hair strands. Being able to control the different sizes of lines with ease gives the benefit of using them as shadows. It is more of a simple style takes carefully predicted strokes into consideration when painting.

I am exhibiting the beauty and capabilities of what the brush pen can do. I believe I will be able to inspire other artists to be more open with their choice of medium for drawings and sketchings, and that calligraphy is not the only thing you are able to do with a brush pen. Even though it may take time and practice, it is definitely a beautiful medium to use.

All the money from the sales will be contributed for donation to an organisation called 'Art In All Of Us' (AiA). This is a non-profit organisation working together with UNICEF. AiA endeavours to enrich the lives of children by inspiring them to look at each others' lives in a cross-cultural context.

<http://www.artinallofus.org/>



Image courtesy of L'Oniele Salim

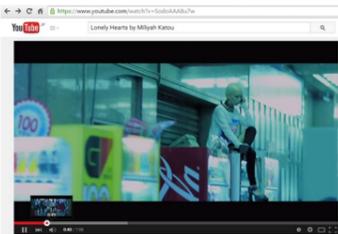


Teachers react to music videos with Yuuki Fujiwara

Yuuki sat down with some teachers and showed them music videos. She then asked them their thoughts on the performances and what they were all about.

Ms. Cheney

Music Video: *Lonely Hearts* by Miliyah Katou



Yuuki: What was that music video or song about?

Ms. Cheney: Mm I think it was about insecurity in expressing yourself as being lesbian in this case, and I think it's about the

sadness that's associated with umm lesbians in Japan in particular not being able to express themselves and feeling like society doesn't accept them.

Yuuki: Okay so here's an explanation of what the song and video are about...

The song conveys a feeling of weakness and loneliness. Despite finally making a friend, the thought of breaking and all of it not being genuine is scary, which is why all of these feelings are bottled up. However, they want to confide in someone. To give you an idea of what the singer was saying, here are some lines from the video (English translations): "I wanted to be loved, I cried", "Because I was loved, I cried", "It's okay, I'm fine now, I said; I lied, I'm actually weak", "Never gonna cry; I needed to cry". The music video shows 3 different situations: a lesbian couple in a Japanese high school, an introverted girl who is bullied but wants to make friends, and most likely a girl getting cheated on by her boyfriend.

Fun fact: At the end, we see all of the "lonely hearts" in heaven, who happen to all be female, perhaps trying to show how girls specifically are victims of such situations.

Now what do you think?

Ms. Cheney: Mm I still think the pervading thing that comes across for me is that insecurity in the female figures. Um, and yeah, I saw the guy there and didn't really know how he fitted in, and...um yeah, and I saw the friends fighting and thought that maybe that was a lover's tryst of some sort as well. So to me the strongest thing is the lesbian theme, but you can definitely see the women throughout, so it alters it a little bit as far as relationships are concerned that they're losing out in relationships whether it be lesbian, straight, or just friends.

Yuuki: Did you like it? Are you going to check out more?

Ms. Cheney: I think cause of the language problem for me, I probably won't check out more. Um...I can't say that I like it cause one thing that I find a little bit- well, actually, repugnant is that the women are all insecure. And that to me is not what you should be about and, yeah, it's stating the problems with society's acceptance, but it's all reeking too much of insecurity. And I think ways to overcome insecurity is through being a strong, confident lesbian couple, being a strong straight couple, being, you know, a strong woman.

Mr. Sommer

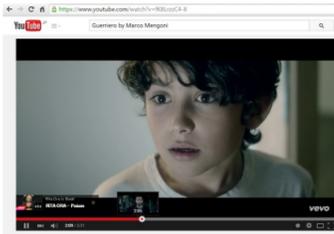
Guerriero by Marco Mengoni

Yuuki: What was that music video or song about?

Mr. Sommer: Um it started out about bullying, and standing up to bullies, but it'd become a very nice little study of umm...fantasy. Fantasies giving you support, and but also, since it was being sung by the older guy, I had a sense that it was the reflection and importance of the past and memory and all those kinds of things.

Yuuki: Okay well, the explanation...

First off, (the title) *guerriero* means warrior. The song is from the warrior's point of view, saying that they will protect and defend you from anything. Just to give you an idea of what the artist was singing, some of the lines from the song are (English translations): "I will always hug you to give you hope", "And I will never fight for a reward; I fight for love, will fight for this", "We will defeat



everybody and stand upright". The video itself is about a young boy who is facing difficulties in different parts of his life, such as his parents arguing, bullying at school, fear of walking through a scary-looking tunnel,

etc. The figure in black who appears in the video is the young boy's warrior. The warrior helps the boy conquer his fears, find solutions to his problems, and is always by his side, drastically improving the boy's life. Eventually, he leaves; but the boy finds the strength within himself to deal with problems, and so the video ends on a positive note. The choreography from the video is done by none other than the warrior himself, showing him doing a fierce battle-like routine.

Fun fact: In the comic book that the boy is seen reading, a line from the song, "I am a warrior" is written. This is most likely to show the audience that the boy is intrigued by the idea of a warrior, something he is in need of. Also the drawing of the warrior in the comic book is identical to the one that appears in the video.

Now what do you think?

Mr. Sommer: Yeah, that's good- I liked the idea that the warrior is somebody who helps you do something in your own mind; it's not somebody who comes and saves you. And that's a really nice- I think it's a nice message- good message for young kids, and for young men. It's almost like looking at the warrior and seeing the warrior as a role model, but it's personalizing the role model because the role model is with you. It's nice at the end, for example, he goes back to the bullies and hugs them and you know- but then, he doesn't want recognition, he just walks out- I think it's a nice finish. Umm yeah yeah I didn't know that detail of the warrior- it works really nicely; I like it, yeah.

Yuuki: Did you like it? Are you going to check out more?

Mr. Sommer: Umm yeah, well I liked it; I like it in terms of the visuals and I liked the kind of silent bits at the start and the finish- the song became a part of a bigger story. I really love the sense of real places, you know, and some were a bit dirty- it was real, you know, the streets, and that was important; otherwise, it would've made the whole message something else. Umm..uhh..yeah, the visuals are good, and I'd check it out for that reason. Songs about vulnerable young men- pity me- aren't really my thing. And even the tone that comes through- the serious melancholic tone- I'm not quite sure that that's the best way of approaching these issues, you know. And so, I have doubts about the song, and certainly being in Italian, it would make it difficult, but if I saw a video of that again and knew where it was from, yeah, I'd sit through it.

Mr. Hancock

That's Not Me by Aaron Yan

Yuuki: What was the music video or song about?

Mr. Hancock: Well...it was all very strange to me. First of all, it was a girl that was held against her will. Then later on in the video, she seemed to be there voluntarily. And at the end, it was against her will again. So it was

about some kind of relationship. It said at the end in English I saw, "Love is cruel but beautiful." Um I could see the cruelty but I couldn't- no- I couldn't see the beauty. Uuum it didn't- it was about an unequal relationship *clearly*. Maybe she couldn't stay away from- the girl- even that when she was free she had to go back to it. And preferred being held against her will to being without him. That's all I could work out.

Yuuki: Okay, well here's the explanation...

The two people in the video are stage actors, getting ready to go on stage. The part of the music video that actually contains singing is when they are on stage. The male actor wants to make a failed relationship work; so much that he makes himself believe out of desperation that it can work. He kidnaps the female actress, treating her like his own personal Barbie doll. His fragile mental state eventually shatters when she starts to rebel against him. When he hears the music coming from the music box, the realization of what he's been doing and that he has gone insane hits him. Realizing that this isn't proper love, helps connect the video to the title of the song. The song is called "That's Not Me", because at the end, he realizes that "That's not me, I'm not that weak", which is a line from the song. To give you an idea of what the singer was saying, here are some lines from the song: "Just thinking of you makes a person go crazy. That's not me; I'm not so weak", "Long after Christmas, I'm still living in Valentine's Day", "When no one is around, I should be able to live on my own. Why then, after you left me, I became not myself?"

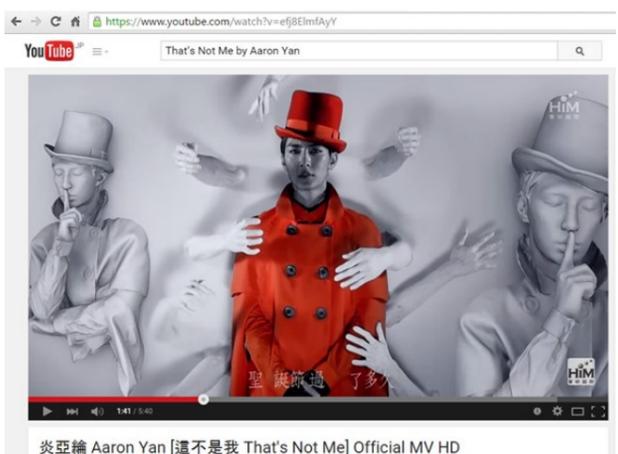
Fun fact: At the beginning of the video, you see the two stage actors give each other this uneasy look, which might suggest that they had been together before. And then at the end, it seems that the scars on his face may have been done by accident as they turn out to be real after he had taken a shower. Plus the way that she touches his face just adds to the possibility that they either once were or still currently are in love. However, the uneasy look at the beginning makes you wonder under what circumstances they fell in love.

Now what do you think?

Mr. Hancock: Well, I think it...the video- it seems to contradict that explanation, because if he realizes what he was doing was wrong, why in the very last scene, was she tied up again? If he realizes what he's done wrong, then he shouldn't be repeating that same behavior. Um and I thought the focus of the video was more on...for me, it was more on her coming back to him, and what was going on in her mind, even though I accept there was more of him on the video than her...because I wasn't quite sure what on earth he was playing at.

Yuuki: Did you like it? Are you going to check out more?

Mr. Hancock: Again, again, it's men crying and being very emotional and melodramatic, and it didn't really- that doesn't really appeal to me, so no. I won't be going anywhere near it.



炎亞綸 Aaron Yan [這不是我 That's Not Me] Official MV HD



Episode 5

whenever I pass by, I always notice the never-ending line of cars trying to park in the tiny parking lot and the people trying to fit in the shop. And it is important to note here that the shop finishes for the day as soon as they run out of soba! So I highly recommend going there a bit earlier before the crowds and then on a satisfied stomach going to visit the historic sites in Nara.

never decide which one to eat first. There are always many vegetables including pumpkin and sweet potato, and of course my favorite shrimp tempura. I could just eat the tempura all by itself, but the crunchy batter on the tempura is so much yummiier with the soba and the sauce.

As this is my last food column before graduation, I thought it would be appropriate to choose to write about 大喜多 to go back to my childhood. Not only is the food always going to be nostalgic for me, but the owners of the restaurant will always hold a special part in my life. I hope that I will always, and that others will too, look forward to creating new relationships with people.

Location: 986-1 Takabatake-chō, Nara city, Nara prefecture

Opening Hours: Open for lunch (until sold out) on all days except Monday and Tuesday

大喜多 Ookita

Nara, the place I was born and where I grew up, is full of many childhood memories, including one soba restaurant called 大喜多 (Ookita).

Almost every Saturday before my violin lesson, I would go there with my parents to eat lunch. Now that we don't live in Nara anymore, we can't go there very often, but when we do, the same friendly owners of the restaurant, that we now think of as our friends, still serve our favorite soba.

大喜多 is located nearby the many famous shrines and temples in Nara Park, and is therefore the perfect place to stop by for lunch during your visit to Nara. But



Although there might be a wait to eat the soba, the wait is definitely worth it. The soba served at 大喜多 is not just any ordinary soba. It is a special type of soba called 信州そば (Shinnsyū soba) from the Nagano area. The typical characteristics of this soba is that it is slightly thinner than normal and has a very delicate taste. This goes perfectly with the saltiness from the soba dipping sauce, the sharpness from the shredded daikon radish, and the crunchy green onions. What I also love to order is their tempura plate. Whenever I order this and the plate is placed in front of me, I am always amazed at the huge pile of tempura and I can



Tom and Jerry

I hate this game of cat and mouse
Your job isn't to arrest
Your job isn't to capture
And yet you don't read me my rights
And imprison me straight away

I'm not Jerry
And you're not Tom
I'm not swearing (yet)
And you clearly aren't caring
Enough to respond anymore

Give back my papers
Give back my last two years
And speak when spoken to
You won't be heard
The same way that I currently am not

By Yuuki Fujiwara



Remember: "Pwaactice makes perfect."



"SOIS LIFE" by Anna Kim

Letter from the Universe

Sweet little princess,
Once upon a time, everything was right
In daytime, the sun shined; at night, the moon was lit
No evil or darkness in sight

Sweet little princess,
Times have changed and the world is colder
The clouds block the sun; there are fewer stars
It seems we're only getting older

Sweet little princess,
Now you have changed and the lights are out
Nothing is shining, shimmering, or splendid anymore
You live unhappily with every reason to pout

Sweet little princess,
I was wrong is what I want to convey
It is not you who has changed but this world
And you're still the same sweet little princess today

By Yuuki Fujiwara



by L'Oniele Salim

Letter to my Host Family By Yuuki Fujiwara

さようなら

To Mari, Kent, Kenji, Peko, and Leo

Whether I move down the street or overseas, I will miss watching movies, dining, and falling asleep in the same house with all of you. I am grateful for everything, and sorry for...a lot haha (dyeing my hair...and your shower...blue...oops). I was thinking of listing everything you've done for me, and that I've done to you, but I feel like that's been done before. So I'm just going to say whatever! :D

It's not every day that I get the opportunity to live with such a sweet family. It really gave me a taste of something...different? Yeah, I think that's how I would like to word it haha. I would especially like to thank you guys for tolerating my irregular sleeping habits, taking up the dining table to study for my exams, and making me feel like more than just a guest. :3 I really enjoyed celebrating Kent's birthday, and hope that I at least get the pleasure of buying him the most gifts again next year haha!

It also took me a while to realize that Mari may have been cleaning the house everyday...possibly due to my cat allergies? If so, thank you and sorry! I know it must've been めんどくさい。And that's another thing: I'll definitely miss Leo. I mean, I love Peko...でも、レオの方が好き <3 Oh, and I think I was the one who usually ate all of the yogurt? I'm sorry about that- but you kept on buying my favorite kind! セルフコントロールができないよ!

Ah, Kent, you can always call me your お姉ちゃん by the way! ;) Sorry I couldn't play video games with you...but I loved just being around you. いつかタコスを作ってあげる。そして、勉強は確かに大変だけど、頑張ってるね!

けんじ、私のイケメンのパパ、またアイスクリームを買ってくれるかな hahaha. XD 覚えてる? 前に、私は「とんかつが好き」と言ったから、けんじはロースを買って行ってくれた! いつまでもそのまま、けんじにやさしくしてね! いいパパだから。^_^

私の美人のママ、まり、いつもご飯を作ったり、洗濯物をしたり、そうじをしたり、してくれてありがとうね! まりは忙しくても、私は体調が悪かった時に、迎えに来てくれた。本当にありがとうね! :)

迷惑をかけたかも...ぜったい迷惑かけたので、ごめんね! >_< それで、がまんしてくれた、ありがたい。大学生になって、時間がある時に、また食べに行こう! お祝いじゃなくても。

バイバイね~

From 由宇希

Why Am I Here at SOIS? By Mio Okuda

Hello. I am Mio.

Up until now, I have written about SIS in "Spotlight on SIS", because I belong to SIS. In TANGO there are no other SIS students. From now on I will write on other topics. Since becoming a junior I want to challenge myself to try everything I have never done. I think that changing my topic can be my first challenge.

Anyway this time, I will write about the dancer MAHO UDO. I think that most people have probably never heard of him. Actually I did not know of him until I went to a Taylor Swift concert which was on The 1989 world tour. Maho was a member in this concert. So he is a dancer on the international stage. Also he inspires me so, I really want to introduce him. So now I would like to let you know about his history.

The following comes from a Maho's profile page: http://www.maho-udo.com/maho-udo_jp.html



"In 2005, at age 18, he left Japan for New York to hone his dancing skills. In 2008, he passed the dancer audition for Cirque du Soleil. In 2009, selected through highly competitive audition, he got a great chance to participate in Madonna's Sticky & Sweet Tour 2009. He has widened his appeal by frequently appearing in media such as music videos, TV commercials and advertisements. He has also joined AmountBoyz and appeared in various shows and TV programs. In 2012, MAHO moved his base to LA and performed with many artists such as Jason Derulo, PSY, MC Hammer, will.i.am and Justin Bieber. He has continued appearing in various award shows, TV programs, TV commercials and music videos. 2013 - 14, MAHO was dancing on tour around the world with Jason Derulo. MAHO is one of the few Japanese dancers who make the world their stage."

And now he is a backup dancer to Taylor Swift. He has joined the 1989 world tour.



His career shows you that how much he succeeded. Over the course of those experiences, he met many people who helped make him famous. This led to many big opportunities from him. Actually he is so cool because he lives internationally. It means he is active in the world as a Japanese person. This fact inspired me.

I know that is a sudden change in focus, but, I have never lived abroad. When I was 13, I went to the USA just to study English. It was my first time to visit another country. There I stayed in a host family with just a host mother and father. They were so kind and sweet. They welcomed me as their family. But at that time I could not speak any English at all and because of that I could not communicate with them. I could just say "HELLO" or "THANK YOU". Actually then I really wanted to talk with them. I wanted to tell them my appreciation. But I just

could not. Then I went back to Japan. I was really regretful of this situation. However I received a letter from my host parents. The letter said "THANK YOU FOR COMING TO US. AND SORRY THAT WE COULD NOT HAVE MUCH CONVERSATION WITH YOU" Basically, I was already really interested in English, but when I read this letter, English became even more interesting to me. I really want to communicate with many people using English. So I decided to go to SIS and I belong to TANGO. Anyway, that's my story.

This story shows you how much MAHO UDO has inspired me and why I am here.



An Apology

by Yuuki Fujiwara

After a little over 2 weeks of exams, I was quite tired...of studying. Of course, your teachers will tell you that you should not start studying for an exam last minute. And if it had been anyone else, it probably would not have worked. However, I spent around 10 hours every day studying, and it worked out quite well for me. My only regret is having neglected my standard level subjects. Otherwise, I am proud of myself- no one expects it from me, but I stayed committed to studying for around 3 weeks, and I think the results will be in my favor.

Despite all of this, the moment I finished my final paper, and walked out of the third floor conference room, I did NOT feel that sense of accomplishment that I was anticipating. Even now, about a week later, I am still waiting for it. Now I feel more disappointed than anything. I put all of my time and effort into studying, did my best on the exams; I focused for the first time this year! So why am I not patting myself on the back? Simply because nothing changed. I finished taking a series of tests, that's it. Of course, when the results come out, maybe then I'll feel different.

I've heard some students talk about how they're just glad it's over. Other have expressed concern in regards to their results. Honestly, I feel nothing. I feel angrier than ever now that I have time to think (A LOT OF TIME BY THE WAY). Angry at myself for having messed up the last 2 trimesters of my senior life, although a part of me can't blame myself completely. Angry at (some) teachers for having seemingly given up on me; however, I can't completely blame them either. Perhaps because I gave them a reason to give up on me. Angry at the school because I always wondered what my life would've been like if I hadn't moved to Japan. These are all what ifs; basically, things that I can't change. It may seem like I'm only ranting here...and that is pretty much what I'm doing. What I am trying to say is this: If you're going to mess up or act out or make any major changes to your daily routine, try to plan it so it isn't during your final year of high school. Because I feel like I could've done better; but I know I couldn't have tried any harder as some things were just that complicated. So, to any teachers or students who perhaps weren't or aren't very fond of me, I hope this answers any questions you have about my behavior this year. Consider it an apology.

"Ways of Knowing" AND Farewell to our Seniors

With this edition, we say goodbye to the Seniors who have contributed so much to *Tango* over the years, in particular, Hannah Yamamoto, Eugenie Shin, Yuuki Fujiwara, Haruka Liu, Jamie Bassett, Lara Taniguchi and Hana Matsuura.

These students have also been my TOK students over the past two years, and I have really enjoyed teaching them. In TOK they have learned about the Ways of Knowing, which is TOK jargon for the methods and means by which we understand the world around us.

Language is one of the ways of knowing, and *Tango* magazine is all about using language to gain and to share knowledge and ideas. Knowledge about experiences SOIS students have had, knowledge about films, books, and TV shows. Knowledge about restaurants that are great to eat at. The departing seniors have been wonderful practitioners of using language to seek, gain and share knowledge.

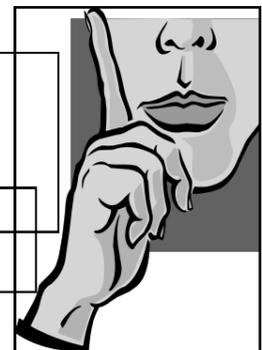
Sense perception. We gain understandings of the world through our five senses. The *Tango* seniors we farewell will have known *Tango* through looking at Haruka's marvelous cartoons, and the photos and columns laid out so well by Mr. Sommer in *Tango* over the years. They will have known *Tango* through the sound of laughter in *Tango* meetings. They will have known it through the smell of freshly printed paper, and the feeling of flipping through the pages of the latest edition. They will have known *Tango* by the taste of Kit Kats in *Tango* meetings.

Imagination is another way of knowing things, and our seniors have used their imagination to create new ways of perceiving the world for their readers and for themselves. Whether through poetry, prose, drawing or photography, the creativity in the minds of the seniors we farewell here has been a tremendous asset to *Tango*.

Reason is a key way of knowing. Our understanding of the world around us is shaped by logic, by the certainty that sound reasoning seems to provide. Reason has played a part in every text produced within *Tango* over the years. Articles and stories don't work without an underlying logical structure. Even poems, cartoons and photographs require rationality in the ways they are produced, chosen and received. Without this way of knowing, Eugenie and Hana's articles, Jamie's interviews, Lara's reviews, Yuuki's stories and Hannah's editorials simply wouldn't have worked as well as they did.

Talking TOK

by David Algie



Intuition is a hotly debated Way of Knowing. Some TOK teachers and writers debate whether it should even be considered a Way of Knowing. Intuition is the sense you get of something, a feeling you go with even when there appears to be no evidence to support it. I admit I'm skeptical. I suspect that many cases when people's "intuition" seems to prove correct, it was simply coincidental, or more often, actually a case where reason, even subconsciously used, led to the truth being discovered. Nonetheless, as editor in chief of *Tango*, I have often had to base decisions on a hunch or a feeling. For example, my feeling was that Eugenie's "Crime in the Cafeteria" article, even with its serious and controversial content would be a successful cover story, and it was; getting rave reviews from several members of the SOIS community.

Memory is yet another way of knowing, and as I look back through my memories of my first year in charge of *Tango*, I know that Jamie, Lara, Yuuki, Hana, Haruka, Hannah and Eugenie will be sorely missed. Their dedication and creativity have been invaluable.

Emotion is another Way of Knowing. You don't know *Tango* if you don't know the feeling of excitement of creative energy flowing, or the feeling of frustration that comes with writer's block. Or the feeling of pride of working with such a great team.

Finally, **Faith**. Faith is another Way of Knowing. For many this way of knowing will be in the way they view the world through the prism of their spiritual beliefs. But the reality of this doesn't preclude another way in which faith is central to the way we know the world. We largely know the world through our faith in the people we trust and believe in. I am sure I speak for all of the *Tango* members saying goodbye to the departing seniors when I say we have a real belief in their creativity, talent, motivation and leadership and how these will allow them to shine in the world they are heading out in to.

Good luck, Senior *Tango* members. And thank you for all you have contributed.

Triathlon Interviews by Kaya Frese**Sabers "Sports Shorts"****Coach Heimer, AD**

Sabers Athletics Facebook page: "Like," please.

<https://www.facebook.com/soissabers>

**SHOUT OUTS**

To Coach Driver and Coach Fitzpatrick: "Once a Saber, always a Saber." Best wishes.

To new SSCers Lisa, Ayana, Riho, Marika, Tomoya, Hiroki: welcome aboard.

To Sabers TV anchors (Ai, Sakiko) and to the SSC on your Sabers awards celebration work: thank you, thank you, thank you – prepared, poised, professional.

To Coach Bertman, Sabers Coach of the Year: Don't take your trophy into the pool; gold does not float.

To Othello: You should have got your news from honest Ai on Sabers TV rather than honest Iago. Anyway, all's well that ends well, as someone once said. No, wait...

Sabers athletic awards

Congratulations to the following five deserving Sabers student athletes:

Fuka Ugai: Dr. Fukuda Scholar Athlete (female, co-winner)

Sakiko Otsuki: Dr. Fukuda Scholar Athlete (female, co-winner)

Gerardo Takeuchi: Dr. Fukuda Scholar Athlete (male)

Minami Uemura: Sabers Athlete of the Year (female)

Tomoaki Ban: Sabers Athlete of the Year (male)



Kaya asked triathlon team members a series of hard-hitting questions. Some of the results appear below.

Takayoshi (SIS 7)

1. How long have you been in Triathlon?
Since the summer break.
2. Why did you join?
Because I had spare time
3. What are the benefits of joining?
You can become fit and fun longer durations without difficulty.
4. Have you improved?
Yes!
5. How often do you go?
I go about two or three times a week.
6. What was the biggest challenge you've had since joining?
I twisted my ankle while running.
7. What's your favorite memory from Triathlon?
Playing with friends after a competition is probably the most fun.
8. What route is your favorite?
Kita Koen (4-5km)
9. What route is your least favorite?
Minami Senri Koen (10km)

Masashi (SIS 8)

1. How long have you been in Triathlon?
Since seventh grade
2. Why did you join?
For health and personal fitness
3. What are the benefits of joining?
You can lose weight.
4. Have you improved?
A little...maybe 3 seconds in my 5km. [Hahah]
5. How often do you go?
Once a month maybe
6. What was the biggest challenge you've had since joining?
Running is tiring in general.
7. What's your favorite memory from Triathlon?
When I completed my first competition!
8. What route is your favorite?
Starbucks (6-7km)
9. What route is your least favorite?
Kita Koen (4-5km)
10. Would you recommend triathlon to others?
Yes, but it's very tiring!

Yuto (OIS 9)

1. How long have you been in Triathlon?
Since the 7th Grade
2. Why did you join?
To improve my stamina for other sports like soccer and volleyball
3. What are the benefits of joining?
Improve jogging duration.
4. Have you improved?
Yes, my 5k time improved by 6min.
5. How often do you go?
Twice a week
6. What was the biggest challenge you've had since joining?
Running in the sectionals I think. Cause everyone there was faster than me. (Hahah)
7. What's your favorite memory from Triathlon?
Winning the seniors and older grades in practice and competitions
8. What route is your favorite?
Senri Chuo Koen (6-7km)
9. What route is your least favorite?
Starbucks (5-6km)
10. Would you recommend triathlon to others?
Yes because it improves your stamina, which can be helpful in other sports.





Round up

High School Boys Baseball

Article by Mr. Algie. Photos by Akira Morioka.

The high school boys' baseball team has had a successful season, culminating in a victory in the WJAA tournament in Nagoya.

The season started with the team having to face that one of our star players, from previous seasons, Shutaro Hisamatsu, would not be playing due to his being away overseas this year. Fortunately the new players coming through have added their own skills and enthusiasm to the team and this helped offset Shutaro's absence.



The season is a frustratingly short one, which means that the Sabers team wasn't able to have the same kind of build up other school's teams enjoyed. The Sabers started with a good win at Mino against Marist. This was followed by a domestic game between our players at the same venue. They then went to Canadian Academy for a tournament there where they played Canadian Academy and Kyoto International University Academy. The Sabers had a good win against CA in the morning, but a dissatisfying defeat to KIUA in the afternoon.



The next week it was on to Nagoya International for the WJAA tournament. On Friday, the Sabers had a fairly tight win against Sons of Light and a pleasing victory over KIUA. The next day they played Marist to see who would go through to the final. Marist played pretty well but the Sabers took it in the end, with some good pitching by Kan, and excellent fielding by the whole team. The Sabers were through to the final



against the host school, Nagoya, who had a strong team this year.

The final was tight and tense. Many times the Nagoya team got several runners on base but the pitching by Mark Yamamoto was cool, calm and collected, and the fielding was exceptional, with Akira Morioka taking three crucial catches in left field. The final ended in a 3-0 victory to the Sabers, making them WJAA champions for the second year in a row.

So the season has proven to be a success. It was particularly great to see our two pitchers, Kan and Mark step up and deliver for us, especially in the WJAA tournament. Well done to Coach Sagara, captains Kan Sawabe and Allen Morimoto, all the boys and everyone who supported them, especially the managers. We are looking forward to several of the team returning next year in what will hopefully be another successful season.



High School Girls Soccer

Article by Mr. Algie. Photos by Emily Yamanaka

The girls high school soccer team did not do quite as well as they had hoped for or expected this season. They did however have a great time together and enjoyed bonding as a team. The highlight of the season was a second placing in the WJAA tournament in Sanda.



The girls now farewell coach Fitzpatrick, who is leaving OIS. Mr. Fitzpatrick has been a great help and support to the team. Goalie Emily Yamanaka stated that Mr. Fitz's expertise has really helped her understand the technical aspects of being a goalie better.



The team thanks Mr. Fitzpatrick for and wishes him all the best.

The team would also like to thank Coach Frater for his continued guidance and support.



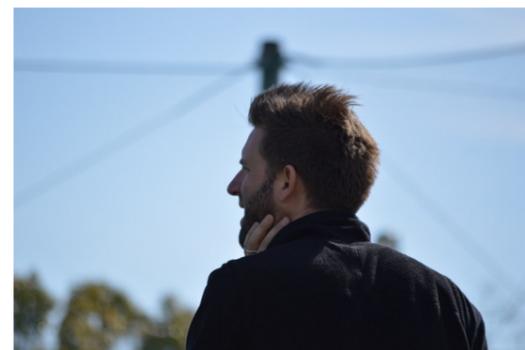
High School Boys Soccer

Article by Mr. Algie. Photos by Emily Yamanaka

The high school boys had another successful season, under the astute guidance of Coach Entwistle and Coach Driver. They racked up some big scores in several games throughout a successful season. The season ended on a high note with an excellent win in the final of the WJAA tournament.



Sadly the team has now had to say goodbye to Coach Driver, who is leaving SOIS. The boys said that Coach Driver's knowledgeability of football has been a real asset to the team. They wish the best of luck to Coach Driver in his future.



The boys would like to thank all the people who supported them in this successful season, especially Coach Entwistle and Coach Driver. Here's to another great season in 2016!

