

OIS Educator

OCTOBER 15, 2016

News from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

The Japan Council of International Schools (JCIS) was founded in 1972. The idea was for leaders of international schools in Japan to come together to discuss matters of common interest, share information and support student learning in their respective schools. The members of JCIS are all independent of each other, but we come together twice a year. The networks formed at these meetings carry on throughout the school year and the heads of schools are in regular contact via email.

I attended the autumn meeting last month hosted by the Fukuoka International School. I view the meetings as an opportunity to benchmark, solve common challenges and learn things I can bring back to improve our school. All schools reported enrollment holding steady or increasing which is a good sign for international education in Japan. The value of the Yen,

international economic trends and other factors, cause periodic fluctuations of interest in international education. Other topics addressed were establishing relationships with local authorities like the police and child protection services, the growing use of artificial marijuana by teens in Tokyo and supporting transgender students in our schools. The day before the meeting I attended the International Baccalaureate Association of Japan meeting. You can read my post on the growth of the IB in Japan on my blog ([link here](#)). Below are some of the representatives of the 18 members of JCIS schools.



JCIS meeting, 2016
Fukuoka International School



IBDP VISUAL ART EXHIBIT TRIP

Grade 11 and 12 IB Visual Arts students paid a visit to the Osaka Municipal Museum of Fine Arts on September 23, 2016 to view the Detroit Institute of Arts exhibition. They got to see some iconic works of van Gogh, Picasso and other impressionist and expressionist artists. This is part of the requirements of the IB Visual Arts course as they prepare for their own individual exhibitions at the end of the two-year program.

School Calendar

October

- 17 Noh Theatre Rehearsal
- 17-21 ES Book Week
- 18-19 Yearbook Picture Day
- 19 PSAT Test
- 22 ACT Test
- 24 Kool Sounds @Kita Senri
- 27 Fall Music Recital
- 28-29 IBDP Chemistry Lab IA

November

- 3 Culture Day, OIS/SIS Faculty Forum - No School
- 5 SAT I & II Tests
- 7 OIS HS Student Council Election
- 9 PTA Monthly Meeting, 9:00am @3F conference room
- 12 International Fair
Bi/Tri-lingual Speech Contest

Views from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

Now that sport's day has finished, the hallways are a little bit quieter after school. I hope you had a chance to stop by and see the students in action. I am always impressed with the enthusiasm the students here bring to the event. Looking ahead, the next big all school event is the international fair which is hosted by the OIS PTA and the SIS PA. That takes place on Saturday, November 12. Other upcoming events include the Kool Sounds @ Kita Senri concert on Monday, October 24.

Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, though, I would like you to take a moment to look back on a previous event, "Back to School Night". Please take a moment to give us a little bit of feedback on the evenings. You can do so by clicking on this link. If you're reading a hard copy here is a shortened link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/rO6mSRHodnyBivAo2>

Even if you didn't go, filling out the form and letting us know why you couldn't come can help us for planning next year. Your feedback is important for our future planning so I appreciate you taking the time answer our questions.

This week progress reports went home. If you haven't seen it, you might want to ask your child if it is still in their book bag or their locker. But now that ManageBac is open to parents you should be able to see a digital copy of their reports. Now that parents do have access to ManageBac we are rethinking the need to send home paper copies of reports. You can access all of your child's reports digitally by logging in to:

<https://osakais.managebac.com/login>.

If you are having trouble accessing ManageBac please contact me or our IT coordinator, Stephen Frater. If you have feedback about the idea of us moving to digital only reports through ManageBac, please feel free to share that as well.

Notes from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

The weather has been stormy but building peaceful relationships has been the focus for students and teachers establishing routines in the PYP. The Actioneers led our Peace Day assembly which had to be postponed a week and moved indoors due to the weather. They quizzed the audience on the identity of notable people who have promoted peace ranging from Mr Kralovec who helps us achieve good relations at OIS to the writer Roald Dahl and animator Walt Disney. Many were surprised by these choices of the Actioneers but the students strongly believe that the work of these people have a positive impact on our lives. KA students shared how they taught Mallow the teddy bear to make friends. She had to learn how to share the equipment in the playground and be caring to others. Grade 1 reported how they had visited many people all over the campus handing out cards of encouragement they had made. An impressive example of conflict resolution was shared by Grades 3 and 5 who had encountered difficulties sharing the field to play soccer. Both classes demonstrated mature communication skills as they calmly explained their concerns and then responded to each other with empathy and sincerity. The students then drew up plans which have been faithfully followed at recess.

I am delighted to see how our students are increasingly taking ownership of their behaviour and becoming active 'solutionaries'. This is an important element of the PYP which encourages student agency.

During the first unit of inquiry Mrs Lamug the school counsellor and I have worked with each grade to help them focus on developing effective relationships. We gave KB the challenge of crossing the shark-infested ocean with only a few stepping stones. It was tough to find a way to get everyone to the safe shadow-lands but they realized that using their "sight and brains" before moving their feet achieved success. Grade 4 watched a video and carried out a role-play of being a skein of geese to find out that humans can learn from nature how to organize themselves in a group. They then applied this to their own behaviour

when working in a team to create an advertisement.

Parents can capitalize on building strong relationships at home too. All those who attended the Reading for Inquiry workshop on 27th September tried activities that can be shared with children. Not only do they develop literacy but they also enable families to reflect on the actions of characters and to compare these with their own. This builds empathy which will help towards creating a more peaceful world, "Step by Step" as we all sang at the Peace Day assembly.

K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

OCTOBER

17	Mon	spaghetti with meat sauce
18	Tue	chicken pilaff
19	Wed	ramen with a pork bone broth
20	Thu	deep fried marinated chicken
21	Fri	milanaise rice casserole
24	Mon	curry & wheat noodles
25	Tue	pork cutlet
26	Wed	spaghetti with meatballs
27	Thu	kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd
28	Fri	tomato flavoured hashed beef and rice
31	Tue	pizza toast

NOVEMBER

1	Tue	pan-fried noodles
2	Wed	miso flavor ramen noodle soup
4	Fri	rice omelet
7	Mon	chicken & egg bowl
8	Tue	teriyaki burger
9	Wed	fried fish
10	Thu	kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd
11	Fri	croquette with meat sauce

Two School Together: 2016 Sports Day

Theme: Greek Mythology

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

by Leanne Entwistle, Physical Education specialist

Elementary Sportsday was another successful event this year. The students had great fun working together in their teams. The grade 3, 4 and 5s swam in the pool first, riding on whale sharks, playing water polo and finishing off with the Sunken Treasure. The Big Splash was very exciting and congratulations to Kenta Nobe Grade 5 and Aimi Iwamoto Grade 4 for becoming this year's champions.



The Kinder and Grade 1 and 2s had great fun working together in the Big Gym, swinging on the ropes, climbing through obstacles and twisting themselves up in a Twister relay.

All groups came together on the field for some wonderful team work activities; carrying water, kicking soccer balls, hurdling and guiding each other through the obstacle course.

A huge thank you to the middle school and high school student volunteers for helping with each activity and to the parent volunteers who helped with each team. Of course, also to the wonderful elementary faculty who guided their teams enthusiastically and expertly.



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

by Bill Kralovec



Health and Sports Day in Japan commemorates the opening of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Since 1966 it has been a national holiday in Japan and all schools celebrate the event with a sports day. It is one of the most anticipated events on the school calendar for the middle school and high school students. The two schools together ethos is in full display as students from both schools plan and participate the many events of the day. The goal of the day is camaraderie and promoting an active lifestyle.

Congratulations to all the of grade levels and houses for their enthusiastic participation. The grade 12 team and middle school "green" team won the high school and middle school competitions respectively. With the sunny autumn weather and many families in attendance, it was a pleasurable and appropriate manner to enjoy sports day.



Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER

Sabers Athletics Website

<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp>

Sabers Athletics Facebook Page

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

Recent Events

There has been much Sabers activity since the start of the fall trimester, with Sabers teams playing every weekend. Highlights include:

- hosting the annual [Sabers Invitational HS girls volleyball tournament](#);
- participating in the Western Japan Athletics Association (WJAA) [mid-season volleyball tournaments](#) for HS girls (Fukuoka) and boys (Kobe);
- hosting and placing third in the [WJAA HS JV girls volleyball tournament](#);
- bringing home the WJAA girls tennis championship trophy for the 4th year in a row;
- placing 2nd (A team) and 1st (B team) in the MS girls volleyball season-ending WJAA championship tournament; and
- capping off a 2nd straight undefeated MS baseball season by winning the WJAA tournament, A division, with the B team finishing 2nd.

Congratulations to all Sabers student-athletes and coaches.

New Middle School Season Starts

- Practices Tuesday and Thursdays, games on Saturdays
- [Schedules](#) online
- [Swimming coaches](#): Kevin Bertman, Marcella Cooper
- [Girls soccer coaches](#): Stephen Frater, assisted by 6 high school players
- [Boys basketball coaches](#): Rodney Ray, Bill Kralovec
- MS boys basketball, girls soccer [trip to Nagoya](#), October 29

Sabers Sign Up

<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/student-forms.html>

Once a year, and only once, each Sabers athlete must submit a set of 3 online sign-up forms. All information is on the Sabers website under the Forms tab. All students and parents must read the Sabers activities handbook and submit the online forms.

AISA Events

Congratulations and good luck to all Sabers selected to represent SOIS at the upcoming Association of International Schools in Asia (AISA) events, from 13-16 October.

- girls volleyball at Busan International Foreign School
- boys volleyball at Seoul International School
- tennis at Yokohama International School

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Sabers activities program. Please contact the AD any time you need help. Please visit the AD office, room A-240, near the business office. Contact at pheimer@senri.ed.jp or at 072-727-2137

Thank you. Go Sabers!



MYP Science: Grade 8 - Species at War? Pathogens

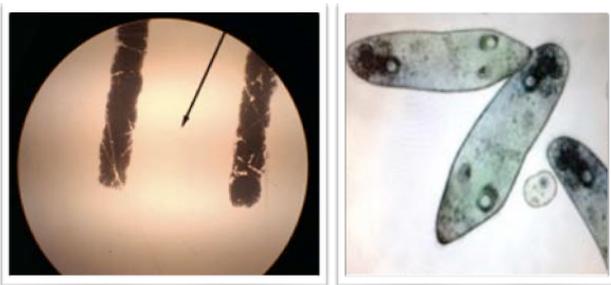
The title of the unit, 'Species at War,' may seem to be simple enough. The word species means, basically, one 'type' of organism and war probably means a severe conflict. There are so many ways where species conflict with each other. Even members of one species or members of a single population compete and therefore conflict. During this unit we learn about many of the ways that they do so.

I have divided the 'Species at War' topic into smaller sections that concentrate on more specific types of interspecific relationships. War and death do go hand in hand, and the first part of this long unit is about disease - mostly those that involve us humans. Causes, effects, consequences and, of course, our defense. We do have to realise that most microbes are either harmless to us and many are essential to our lives, whilst relatively few are pathogenic.

Most of the disease causing organisms (pathogens, germs, whatever you want to call them) are microbes. Soon we began to find out which diseases are caused by each of the various microbe types; viruses, bacteria, fungi and protozoa. We learned how to use a microscope accurately, and gained an appreciation of the size of some microbes.



At 100 x magnification, this is what 2 mm looks like, and some large microbes can get to 0.1mm or even 0.2 mm long though most are one tenth of this size. These protozoa are often over 100 times bigger than bacteria.



Ten thousand viruses could fit across one millimeter. Fungal cells may also be small but when they form large chains or circles we can see them easily. Sizes

such as these are hard to imagine, but it does make us realise that there are things around us, living things, that we just don't notice. Historically, this has been very important.

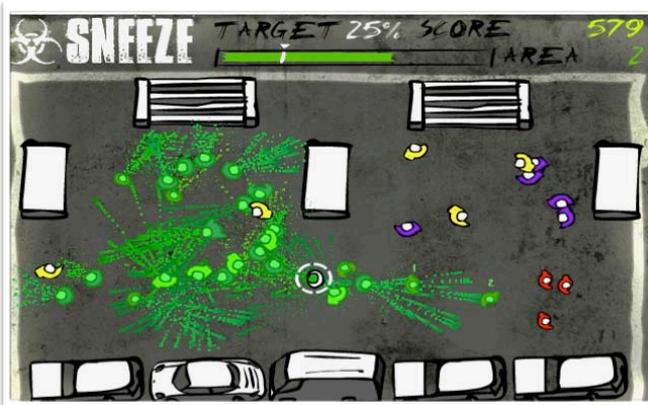
Microbes are not going to harm us unless they get to where we don't want them to be.

The petri dishes shown in the photograph show colonies growing. The left dish was not opened so no microbes got in. The centre dish shows the growth of colonies that grew after a touch by washed hands. On the right are the growths from unwashed hands.



We interpreted observations and produced conclusions. *Does washing help remove microbes? How do harmful microbes affect us? How do they spread from person to person?*

This simulation gives one example. By making each sneeze visibly (and disgustingly) green it shows, specifically' how the flu viruses are transmitted from person to person. Epidemics and pandemics can follow.



<http://www.freeonlinegames.com/game/sneeze>

We have some pretty efficient barriers around our bodies, but some pathogens do get into our blood and other tissues. How do we fight against them? This is what our inbuilt defense system does, and very 'clever' it is. Understanding how it works lets us work out how we can gain immunity naturally, as well produce vaccines.

We had a look back into the history of diseases, a wonderful opportunity to research and present findings about how science and new discoveries were applied in the past. It seems that the discoveries of Pasteur and his peers, what has become known as germ theory, is rather crucial.

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Book Week 2016

October 17 - 21

Our Elementary "Book Week" will be held during Monday the 17th - Friday 21st of October. Book week encourages students to develop their love for literature and reading.

Some of the events include:

- **DEAR time** (Drop Everything And Read)
- **All school DEAR:** We invite parents to join us and students to come dressed in PJs and bring teddies for an all school DEAR in the library Friday October 21st from 3:00-3:30
- **Get Caught Reading:** Tweet or send in photos of you or other family members reading with your child or children
- **Read-A-Thon:** Students will be reading and raising money for a variety of charities (Forms will go home Friday, October 14th, 2016)
- **One Book, One School:** The entire ES is reading the Mottainai book and looking at how we can waste less.
- **Book Week Assembly** Wednesday October 19th at 8:45 in the courtyard (If raining it will be in the small gym)
- **Mottainai Fashion Show:** Students and staff will show how they are reusing and not wasting during our assembly
- **Story telling at recess.** Ms. Wakefield will be sharing some oral stories to different grades at certain recess times.
- **Read Alouds** by guest readers in classrooms
- **Book Sales:** a special vendor will be selling books for children near the genkan on Thursday and Friday October 20th and 21st.
- **Book Face:** make your own or come see others on display in front of the library entrance

Here are some examples of Book Face, taken from the English School of Kyrenia:

<http://www.englishschoolkyrenia.org/secondary-school/news/world-book-day-bookface-competition-winners-7-march-2016>



We hope this will be a week filled with reading and sharing books and literature. We encourage all parents to join us Friday afternoon in the library where the entire ES will read and share books together. Please see Ms. Wakefield if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your participation.

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Grade 8 students are more knowledgeable than the worlds scientific pioneers of the mid 19th century thanks to the work and exploration done by quite a small band of open-minded and logical scientists.

Remember the IB learner profile? The knowledgeable, open minded inquirer, the thinker, the communicator. These are great ideals for this unit. We do not, however, want to have too much of the risk taker when studying pathogens. The IB organization tells us also to strive to help our students to become skilled at: communication, collaboration , organisation, reflection (here I would stress their abilities in justified evaluation). There is also

information and media literacy in addition to being knowledgeable and creative. In science, this is, and always has been, exactly the kind of mind needed. This topic is ideally suited to promote such attributes.

P.S. Whilst looking for pond water microbes, some students chanced upon some tardigrades, also known as water bears. They are not an awful lot bigger than some of the larger unicellular organisms but they are, in fact, complex multicellular organisms. They are interesting creatures, why not 'google' them?



KG Update

Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU) has a strong relationship with the United Nations. KGU joined the United Nations Academic Impact program in 2010 that aligns higher education with the UN in actively supporting human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution around the world. Since 2004, 70 KGU students have been dispatched to engage in activities in developing nations. The Youth Volunteer Japan Training Center at KGU offers pre-assignment training courses taught by professionals from international cooperation agencies such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The university was the first in Japan to sign an agreement with the UN Human Rights Commission to accept refugees as students. They will admit 2 refugees to the university each year. KGU also has an internship program with the UN Population Fund in Tokyo and hosts lectures by leaders in the field of peace and development, such as Nobel laureate Dr. Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan environmentalist.

KG Fighters

On another note, some of you may not know that KG has the best university American football program in the nation. You can get a chance to see the KG "Fighters" in action close to us when they play arch rival Ritzumeikan University "Panthers" on Sunday November 20 2:30 PM kickoff at Expo '70 Stadium in Suita. More information can be found at the football team's website,

<http://kgfighters.com>



Important Numbers

Bill Kralovec, head
072-727-5080
bkralovec@senri.ed.jp

Kurt Mecklem,
MS/HS principal/ IBMYP
coordinator
072-727-5050
kmecklem@senri.ed.jp

Carolyne Marshall,
ES principal / IBPYP coordinator
072-727-5050
cmarshall@senri.ed.jp

Melissa Lamug, counselor
072-727-5061
mlamug@senri.ed.jp

Mike McGill, admissions
director
072-727-5070
mmcgill@senri.ed.jp

Steve Lewis, business manager
072-727-5090
slewis@senri.ed.jp

Miyuki Endo, IBDP coordinator
072-727-5050
mendo@senri.ed.jp

Peter Heimer, activities director
072-727-2137
pheimer@senri.ed.jp

Natsuko Inoue, school nurse
072-727-5050
ninoue@senri.ed.jp

Student attendance
072-727-2305