

# Educator



7 March 2015



## 2015 SIS/OIS All School Production Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat



This year's All School Production was "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Sold out crowds viewed four performances over three days last month. The musical got rave reviews from spectators and the excitement generated during and after the performances was electric! The students, faculty and parents involved in the production really came together to give everyone a learning experience they will never forget. From the sets, props, costumes, lights, sound, live music, etc. it takes many people to make the performance a success. We would like to give a special thanks to director SIS teacher Claire Udy and OIS teacher Nakae Osako for their leadership in the project. We cannot wait until next year's performance.



(more photos on the back)



## **from the desk of the head, Bill Kralovec**

Dear OIS parents,

The winter term and winter weather hopefully, are coming to an end soon and as usual at end of a term, we have a rich array of school events and activities. In order to keep parents informed of all that is happening at the school, we attempt a variety of ways of communicating to our busy parent community.

One of the fastest forms of communication is via email and the school uses a gmail-based system we call SOISmail. We ask that all parents know how to log in and receive SOISmail from the school. This is a secure environment and it is easy to use, once you learn how to do it. All parents have a family email and password. The email is f for family, followed by a six digit number, which is usually the oldest child's student ID, followed by @soismail.jp. With one step, parents can get SOISmail on their smartphone or computer. If you are confused or not aware of how to do this, please contact our technology director, Mr. Stephen Frater ([sfrater@senri.ed.jp](mailto:sfrater@senri.ed.jp)) and he will guide you through the process.

You can also follow school events online by checking the school website. Parents can download all school publications and follow events on the Sabers athletics page or following the school twitter feed (@oisinbrief). Many teachers also have web pages and parents should bookmark them in their web browsers for easy access. Parents can also email any faculty member or administrator and we are happy to meet with you at your convenience. Parents are also always welcome to come and visit.

Finally, with the end of the winter term comes some departures of personnel. We bid farewell to Japanese language teacher Kazue Sudo who will be taking a year-long maternity leave. Sudo sensei will return in April of 2016. We also say good bye to the school nurse, Kei Takeda who covered a maternity leave for the regular school nurse, Natsuko Inoue. The grade 2 classroom assistant, Jez Hancock will also be leaving due to drop in enrolment of the class. Mr. Hancock will continue to be a substitute teacher for us. On behalf of the entire community, I would like to thank them for their contributions to the learning and care of our students.

We welcome several new families to the school who started at the start of the calendar year.

A special warm welcome to students Spencer Tsubaki (KB), Noah Tsubaki (3), Ayana Nakamae (4), Lilian Tsubaki (7), Sho Sakura (8), Evan Tsubaki (9)

Many more will be joining for the spring term when we return in April.

## **from the desk of the middle/high school principal, KURT MECKLEM**

With SIS seniors graduating last weekend, slightly warmer weather, our annual camps next week and vacation just after that, spring must be here! That means that two thirds of the school year is already behind us. While two thirds might sound like most of the school year, that doesn't mean we're almost finished, there is still a lot going on in the last trimester.

Before break we have our annual camps. In middle school, the students go on a camp with their classmates. Sixth grade will spend one day hiking in the hills above Minoh and then go to KG's Sengari Camp for the second and third days. Seventh grade is going to NorthStar lodge in Nagano prefecture where they will do outdoor education activities including cross country skiing, snow shoeing, and other activities. Grade 8 will go to Hiroshima. These are all annual camps that have gone on for a number of years and we have received positive feedback from the participants.

Grades 9 & 10 have a few different options for camps. This year the camps that will be running include a photography camp, volunteering at Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK), snowboarding at NorthStar, and for the first time ever a sailing camp. The sailing camp is being organized by a parent, Mark Smith who is not only volunteering his expertise and time but is also using his boat for the venue. We really appreciate his efforts on behalf of the high school camps.

Grade 11 is participating in their annual service trip and this year they have decided to go to Cebu in the Philippines where our students went two years ago. They will continue working with the Ambit Foundation to refurbish a community reading center among other projects.

The seniors will be on campus completing a science project that is required by the IB Diploma program. They are on the homestretch of the program. They will use the month of April mostly for review and then the exams will take place in May. In addition to preparing for their exams, the grade 12 art students are putting the finishing touches on their work. They will be exhibiting their art after the spring vacation. So look for an announcement regarding their show.

Sometime during the break you should receive your students' report cards from school. For students in grades 11 and 12 in the DP program they will receive a 1 to 7 grade for their trimester's work. For students in grades 6 to 10, they will receive a report that is very similar to what was issued at the end of fall trimester. The report will show how they are progressing in their classes at this point in time. Every class has four criteria which are broken into 8 achievement levels. Your child has been assessed against those achievement levels and their progress will be reported based on that. This report is meant to be a snapshot of where they are at this point in time. In June, a final report with a 1 to 7 overall grade will be issued for each course.

Last month, I invited parents to come in for a more detailed explanation of the MYP system. Not too many could make it. If people are interested in finding out more about the program please contact me and I can make arrangements for another presentation.

Have a great spring holiday!

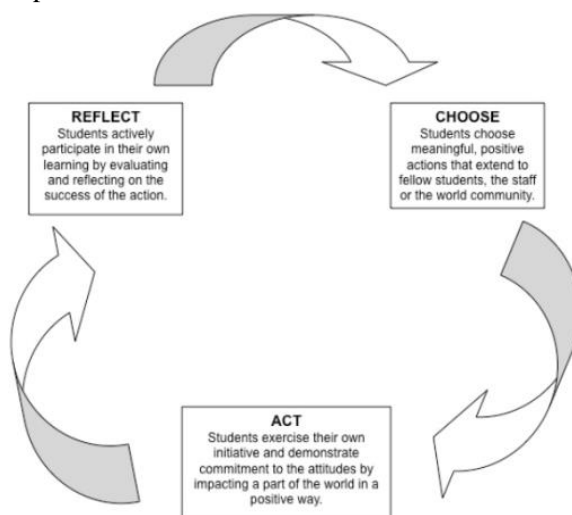
## from the desk of the elementary principal, VIRGINIA SUTTON

At OIS we strive to provide students with opportunities to choose, to act, to decide on their actions and to reflect on these actions in order to make a difference – all of which are an integral part of the IBPYP. The actions students take in the elementary school will look different at each grade level and may require appropriate adult support in making choices and facilitating students' efforts.

There are four forms of action in the Elementary School:

| ACTION                     | DESCRIPTION                               | EXAMPLE  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Direct Action</i>       | Person to person or person to environment | A student picks up litter even though he/she did not drop it.  |
| <i>Indirect Action</i>     | Person to community                       | A group of students or a class sends a donation e.g. "soles for souls."  |
| <i>Advocacy</i>            | Creating an awareness                     | A student reminds his/her classmates to recycle waste paper or a group of students create a campaign to recycle and share that information.                    |
| <i>Research for Action</i> | Learning in action / action in learning   | A student borrows a library book on his/her own to extend knowledge about something that was learned or pursues his/her own inquiry and shares with the class. |

Regardless of which form of action students take, using the Action Cycle as indicated in the IBPYP helps students to initiate action by being both a problem finder as well as a problem solver.



*So how do parents show their child how to make a difference in our world?*

Your child learns most powerfully from your example. If you reach out to make the world part of your neighbourhood, you will raise a child who grows up to care for our planet and the people in it. Talk with your child about the things you do for people in your community. You may help watch a child while a parent is away. Now ask your child "What would we do if we thought of the whole world as our neighbourhood?" Make a list of things you can do right away-using less water, for example. Then think about things that take more time and planning. You might collect books to give to children in hospital or connect to the Unit of Inquiry your child is learning at school. Then start doing some of the things on your list. You'll teach your child that even small action makes a difference and makes our world a better neighbourhood to live in.

## K-Gr. 2 SET LUNCH MENU - CAFETERIA



**MONDAY 9 March**  
soy sauce flavored ramen

**TUESDAY 10 March**  
focaccia pizza

**WEDNESDAY 11 March**  
kitsune udon (Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd)

**THURSDAY 12 March**  
hashed beef & rice

**THURSDAY 2 April**  
pork cutlet

**FRIDAY 3 April**  
miso flavored ramen

**MONDAY 6 April**  
macaroni au gratin

**TUESDAY 7 April**  
beef stroganoff

**WEDNESDAY 8 April**  
fried chicken

**THURSDAY 9 April**  
teriyaki burger

**FRIDAY 10 April**  
curry rice

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### **Important dates in the elementary school:**

10th March:  
Grade 2 assembly

12th March:  
Grade 5 camp

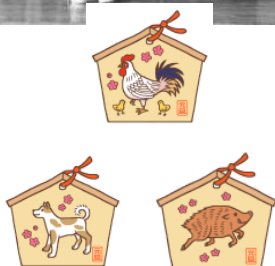
13th March:  
Students finish at 11:30am  
for Spring break

2nd April:  
ES start back at school

13th April:  
Block 4 clubs start

**GRADE 1 TAKES THE STAGE by Paula Dezem, G1 teacher**

Do you know the origin of the order of the twelve animals of the zodiac? Why is the small rat the first animal in the cycle? On February 20, the Grade 1 students performed a play based on a famous Japanese folktale called "Junishi no Hajimari" (The Origin of the Twelve Animals of the Zodiac. Drama is a powerful teaching tool. It has tremendous positive effects on social interaction, self-confidence and language development as students develop their verbal and nonverbal expression skills. The Grade 1 children were fantastic and from the enthusiasm and smiles on their faces it looked as though they were having a lot of fun. The play was directed by Sudo sensei and Yamakubo sensei, assisted by Sugawara sensei. The props and masks were made by the students with the assistance of Ms. Henbest and Ms. Allen. Thank you and congratulations to all involved!



**PUPPET SHOW by Megan Castro-Driver, G2 teacher**

Osako-sensei organized a special event for the elementary school classes on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The puppet theatre group, Palette, came to visit OIS and performed a puppet theatre show about the two gods, Bimbougami and Fukunokami. Their handmade puppets and set, in addition to their expressive and engaging performance, left all of the elementary students amazed by this lively presentation. Certainly the second grade students, who will be performing their own puppet shows in the near future, had a lot to reflect upon following the show. "How did they memorize all of those words?" asked Nana. "I thought they used a lot of expression," reflected Yuito. "It was so funny, everyone was listening," Daisuke commented. This truly was a wonderful guest visit in connection to our unit on imagination. Thank you, Osako-sensei!



## **CELEBRATING UNITED NATIONS MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY (21<sup>st</sup> February) by Chieko Singh, librarian**

As an International Baccalaureate World School, OIS supports and celebrates languages! We focus on maintaining mother tongue languages of our students. We also graduate a significant number of students with bilingual diplomas. In our language rich environment, we are fortunate to have many teachers whose mother tongue is not English or Japanese. To celebrate the diversity of the language in our community, we had a special reading time during the week of 21<sup>st</sup> February, United Nations Mother Language Day.

The students enjoyed listening to the following teachers:

Mr. Andrew Reynoso (Spanish) for KA,  
Mr. Briag Dupont (French) for KB,  
Ms. Melissa Lamug (Tagalog) for G1,  
Ms. Paula Dezem (Portuguese) for G2,  
Mr. Shammi Datta (Hindi) for G3,  
Ms. Carolina Dupont (Spanish) for G4, and  
Ms. Frances Namba (Welsh) for G5.

### **SPRING LIBRARY SCHEDULE**

Tuesday 10 March:  
Open 8am-4:30pm

Wednesday 11 March  
- Friday 13 March:  
CLOSED for Inventory

Saturday 14 March  
- Wednesday 1 April:  
CLOSED for Spring Break

Wednesday 2 April:  
Open as usual



### **Stephen Frater's TECH CORNER**

#### **Soismail**

Mr Kralovec has explained some of the ways in which the school uses soismail to stay in touch with parents. Not only is email a faster means of communicating important information to parents, it is also more secure and reliable than paper-based letters that can sometimes remain at the bottom of a student's bag for days before he or she remembers to pass it on to a parent!

We are also increasingly asking parents to submit information through web-based forms, such as declaring your intention to re-enroll your child at OIS for the next academic year, or giving permission for your child to travel or participate in school events. We use the soismail system to ensure that only parents can give this permission (i.e. students cannot 'sign' their own permission forms), and to ensure that only OIS families can see these web-based resources.

Consequently we are asking all parents to set up soismail accounts on your smartphones, tablets, and computers, to ensure you receive mail in a timely fashion, and to know how to login to a Chrome web-browser with the soismail account so that you can access secure forms that need to be completed from time to time. Instructions on how to access your soismail account, and how to login to Chrome with your soismail credentials, can be found here:

<http://technology.senri.ed.jp/sois-mail.html>

In addition, I am always happy to respond to parents' enquiries by phone (via the school's main telephone number), by email ([sfrater@senri.ed.jp](mailto:sfrater@senri.ed.jp)), or in person (room 324) if you happen to be in the school. Any family that has lost or forgotten their soismail password can also contact me to have it reset.

Thank you to everyone for cooperating with this effort.



## SABERS UPDATE by Peter Heimer, activities director

Sabers website: [sabers.senri.ed.jp](http://sabers.senri.ed.jp)

New Sabers Athletics Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/soissabers>

### Middle school girls basketball, boys soccer

The MS girls basketball and boys soccer teams both completed successful seasons. The girls, coached by Ms. Entwistle and Mr. Mecklem, took a tough fourth place at the season-ending WJAA tournament held at Marist this past weekend. Akari Sugimoto was named the Sabers tournament MVP.

Also this past weekend, after having first won the Sabers Invitational futsal championship the week before, the boys, coached by Mr. McGill and Mr. Stone, won the WJAA soccer tournament in both the A and B divisions, a perfect sweep and defending last year's A and B division championships – a double repeat. Furthermore, that makes it 4 years in a row that the Sabers footballers have won the league title. (How do you say 王朝 in English?) The top goal scorer for the Sabers was 8<sup>th</sup> grader Shota Muta.



Sabers MS girls basketball A team



Sabers MS boys WJAA champions A and B divisions

### SUITA CITY MAYOR'S CUP TRACK & FIELD MEET

by Hiroshi Baba, triathlon & running coach

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2015

Venue: Suita-shi Sogo Undojo (Taketani, Suita-shi)

Entry Fee: Free Entry

Qualification: 4th graders to adults

Gr.4: 100m

Gr.5-6: 100m, 1000m

Gr.7-9: 100m, 200m, 800m, 1500m, Boys 3000m

Gr.10-12: 100m, 200m, 1500m, Girls 3000m, Boys 5000m

Adults: 100m, 1500m, 3000m, 5000m

Deadline: March 11



### Middle school girls softball, boys volleyball – new seasons

The next MS sports are boys volleyball, with Coach Van Plantinga and Coach Routh, and girls softball, with Coach Nakamura and Coach Matsushima. Both teams are practicing now, Tuesdays and Thursdays. MS athletes, be ready.

### High school: soccer, badminton, softball

Both the boys and girls HS soccer teams are competing in WJAA tournaments this weekend. Undefeated on the season, the boys, led by Coach Driver and Coach Entwistle, are riding some momentum after recently handily beating a strong Canadian Academy (CA) team. Coaches Frater and Fitzpatrick have high hopes for the girls, also undefeated. For AISA soccer in April, both the boys and girls travel to Seoul.

Also this Saturday, the Sabers badminton team and Coach Datta host CA. The badminton squad will play in the WJAA tournament in April in Kobe.

Finally, the HS girls softball team begins its season with a game against CA Saturday on the Sabers field. Coaches Hirai and Hikosaka and the girls will continue practice during the spring holiday. Busy times for the Sabers.

### KG Sanda campus field

The Sabers high school soccer and baseball teams now have access to another game venue, an all-purpose field at the KG Sanda campus. Though a bit remote, this new venue allows the Sabers to host soccer and baseball tournaments. For a look at the field, please visit <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sanda.html>.

### Sabers scoreboard

The Sabers athletic department is making preliminary plans for the purchase of a new scoreboard for the Sabers gym. With the help of the OIS PTA, we will begin a fundraising campaign soon. More details are to come, but in the meantime if you would like to donate or be involved or if you know of a potential corporate sponsor, please contact Peter Heimer, Sabers AD.

### Thank you

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Sabers activities program. Please contact the Sabers AD any time: in the AD office, room A-240, near the business office (072-727-2137), or at [pheimer@senri.ed.jp](mailto:pheimer@senri.ed.jp).



## KG UPDATE

### Conserving Energy and Costs with New Lighting System

The Kwansai Gakuin Foundation facilities department is upgrading the lighting system of its schools, moving from fluorescent to L.E.D. lights. L.E.D. stands for light-emitting diode. LED lights are superior to fluorescent lights in several ways:

- They contain no hazardous materials such as mercury in fluorescent lighting
- All parts of a L.E.D. are recyclable.
- The light is more natural and easier on the eyes for students and teachers, thus giving a more comfortable learning environment.

There is also a huge energy savings. In our current fluorescent lighting system, there are two bulbs that require 40 watts each, and with other components adding another 10 watts, a total of 90 watts of energy are required. LED systems use only 40 watts total of energy per system. They also last much longer and do not need replacing as often, thus further reducing costs. Although being more expensive initially, LED retrofits usually pay for themselves after 1 - 2 years.

KG selected the Senri campus to start the foundation-wide retrofit. The first room completed is the Japanese calligraphy room, #225, which is used by both schools. Students commented that the lights are better! The rest of the second floor is planned to be replaced this year and the other floors in subsequent years.

Heading the project for the Senri campus retrofit is KG employee, Keishi Uenoya. He visited the OIS grade 5 classroom last week to show the students the new lighting system. The grade 5 students personal project theme is sustainability and they were keenly interested in the energy and cost savings.

This initiative is part of the SOIS commitment to sustainability and supports the fine work of the Eco Club.



The next *Educator* will be published on Friday, 10 April 2015.

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

**11-13 March**

\*MS/HS spring camps

**13 March**

\*Winter trimester ends

- ES half day of school

**School bus**

11 & 12 March: operated as usual

13 March:

operated as usual in the morning

leaving at 11:45am from school

**Cafeteria**

11 & 12 March: closed at 12:15

13 March: closed

**14 March - 1 April**

\*Spring break

**1 April**

\*SIS entrance ceremony

\*OIS faculty inservice (No classes)

**2 April**

\*Spring trimester begins

**8 April**

\*OIS/SIS joint assembly

\*PTA meeting, 8:45-10:00am

@3F conference room

\*OIS/SIS HS student council club fair

**Lost & found items** have been displayed in the **2F showcase area** until **13 March**.

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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