

Educator



14 February 2015

AISA GIRLS BASKETBALL January 30-31, 2015

SOIS hosted the competition with teams from Seoul, Yokohama, Nagoya, and Kobe.



Sabers senior all-star Minami Uemura races away for 2 points.



AISA Women's All-Tournament Team 2015
(including Sabers seniors Minami Uemura and Hitomi Tomi)



Sabers Men's AISA Basketball Team 2015 (above left)
Sabers Women's AISA Basketball Team 2015 (above right)



WHO IS THE DEMON?



KA and KB students went to a nearby park to fight against a bad demon on Setsubun, 3 February.

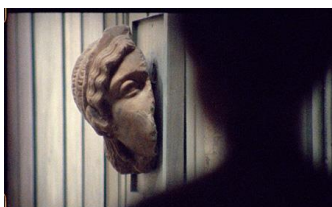
Setsubun, literally meaning "division of seasons", is used to mark the end of winter and summer, and is derived from the old lunar calendar. However, it has now come to mean the day before the first day of spring only and it usually occurs around February 3rd. On this day, in a custom called *mame-maki*, people throw and scatter roasted soy beans inside and outside their houses while saying, "Oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi! (Out with the demon, in with good fortune!)"



Answer on page 5.

**UNIT 3:
HOW WE EXPRESS
OURSELVES**
by Isaac Driver,
G3 teacher

Grade three has been exploring the way that people express themselves through creative art. Two of our big conceptual 'lens' were 'perspective' and 'reflection'. We have listened, viewed and responded to many forms of art such as story writing, music, dance, poetry, painting, sculpture, and photography. During our trip to Osaka Art Museum we explored our different perceptions of Fiona Tan's video art.



The students identified, and chose, local to global issues and topics. We researched the areas of interest and created stories and poetry. In music students used the iPad application *Garageband* to create compositions that reflected perspectives within their area of interest. In art the students used two sides of a canvas board to create two images reflecting two-perspectives on their chosen area. As part of our data handling inquiries in mathematics we conducted an elementary school-wide art survey, collecting data about people's perceptions and perspectives towards art. We tallied and represented our data in bar charts, pie charts and summaries.

Students have been challenged to think about how and why humans use creative art to express different perspectives towards common human experiences. We discussed the role of creative art as a tool that supports human reflection on changing societal values, issues, events and ideas.

from the desk of the head, BILL KRALOVEC

Dear OIS Parents,

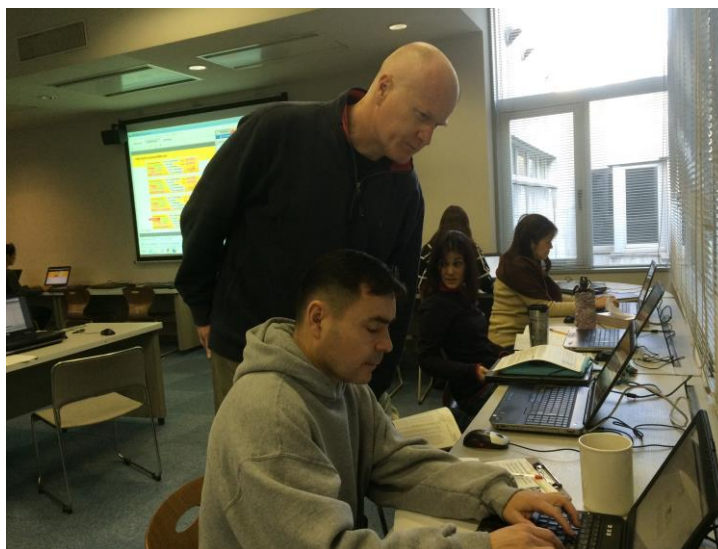
OIS is a learning community and that means not only students, but teachers are also learners. We try to have a faculty culture of continuous improvement and we are always looking at how we can do things better. Ongoing professional development and teacher training is an important aspect for a quality school. With this article, I want to highlight some of the faculty professional development this school year.

On Tuesday February 10, the faculty started the day with an on line training with a consultant from Achieve3000. This is a software program that improves students reading level. The software collects a tremendous amount of data and is differentiated for different student abilities. We are piloting the program this semester and wanted to know more about how it works. Mr. John Van Plantinga, our inclusion specialist, is instrumental in the implementation of the program. The faculty also had a workshop on photography. This may seem off topic, but we concentrated on capturing learning which spurred conversations on what is learning. Today's young people have access to so many photographs, via social media and the internet, and teaching through the power of an image is an essential skill. The faculty was assigned to take photos documenting our learning principles. This leads to next month's workshop on Saturday March 7 which will be put on by the consultants from Visible Learning Plus. They are a group out of New Zealand that introduces schools to the work of educational researcher John Hattie. His mantra is "know thy impact" and our teachers will be trained to look for evidence of learning. The school received a grant from the Japan Council of International Schools to help support the event.

In planning for next year, we are in discussions with Third Teacher Plus, a Chicago-based consultant group that focuses on classroom and school design. The faculty watched videos of the group's work at a school and redesigning a classroom to maximize learning for the students. We hope to have them come next year with help of the East Asian Regional Council of Overseas Schools "Weekend Workshop" program.

A common theme in our professional development this year has been looking at how we spend our time, energy, resources and what impact that it has on learning. Teachers are adjusting their efforts to maximize the effect on student learning. A few simple changes can make an activity or routine have a bigger impact on learning.

All of this is running simultaneously to our regular International Baccalaureate curriculum monitoring and implementation. From hosting 5 different IB PYP workshops to sending teachers to subject specific workshops, having a robust and rigorous IB curriculum is an on-going process. No matter how much experience a teacher has, we model lifelong learning for our students and continually grow as professionals.



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

With IB Diploma mock exams coming up at the end of the month and the real exams in May, the seniors are very busy finishing up their courses and reviewing. When the pressure builds on most of us, sleep often seems to be the first thing that gets sacrificed. After all, going to bed late, getting up early or not going to sleep at all can seem like the best way to add more time to a busy schedule. But more and more research is suggesting that cutting back on sleep is actually counterproductive. Our minds need sleep to process the day's events and everything that we've learned throughout the day. If we don't take that time, our brains will not retain everything we've tried to study.

The National Sleep Foundation in the United States has published new guidelines for how much sleep all of us should be getting a night. Elementary and middle school students should be getting somewhere between 9 and 11 hours every night. High school students need to be asleep for 8 to 10 hours. Most adults should plan on sleeping 7 to 9 hours. I encourage you to take a look at yours and your children's sleep schedules. Are you getting enough sleep?

More information on the new guidelines can be found in the *Huffington Post* at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/02/how-much-sleep-durations-changes_n_6581628.html.

On February 18, the grade 10 students will be exhibiting their personal projects and the middle school and high school developmental bands will be performing in the theater after school. I would like to take that opportunity to talk to parents about the Middle Years Program from the IB that we teach in grades 6 to 10. There are some parents who have asked for more information on the assessment practices in the program and there may be other questions as well. The MYP talk will take place after the concerts. If you are interested in attending an event to find out more about the MYP please email the school secretary Ms. Aotani (caotani@senri.ed.jp) by February 16.

The camp preparations are in their final stages. You should have received notification this week about preparations and a final estimate of costs. The business office is now open for payments. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the camps.

from the desk of the elementary school principal, VIRGINIA SUTTON

Mid- years progress reports will be issued in March and coincide with the parent/ teacher conferences. These two forms of communication, enable parents to understand where their child is at in relation to outcomes for the subject discipline. A written comment will only be given in Grade 1 to Grade 5 if a student's is not meeting the expectations, that is requires assistance (RA) or working towards (W/A). In our kindergarten reports teachers have set specific winter trimester outcomes and will be placing the students learning on a continuum which will have a descriptor of beginning developing mastering.

Important dates:

February 20th: Block 3 clubs finish

February 20th: Grade 1 Assembly (all parents welcome)

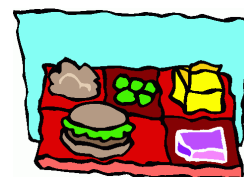
February 26th: Grade 5 exhibition meeting

March 5 and 6th: Parent and Teacher conferences (ES half day of school 5th)

March 10th: Grade 2 assembly (all parents welcome)

March 12th: Grade 5 camp (overnight at OIS)

K-Gr. 2 SET LUNCH MENU - CAFETERIA



MONDAY 16 February
stew with hamburger

TUESDAY 17 February
spaghetti carbonara

WEDNESDAY 18 February
curry rice

THURSDAY 19 February
pork cutlet rice bowl

FRIDAY 20 February
tomato flavored hashed
beef rice

MONDAY 23 February
soy sauce flavored ramen

TUESDAY 24 February
rice omelet

WEDNESDAY 25 February
pork cutlet sandwich

THURSDAY 26 February
kitsune udon (Japanese
wheat noodles with deep
fried bean curd)

FRIDAY 27 February
fried chicken with cornflakes

MONDAY 2 March
spaghetti with meat sauce

TUESDAY 3 March
curry rice

WEDNESDAY 4 March
fried chicken

2015 MODEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS (MUN) UPDATE
by Tara Cheney, MUN coordinator



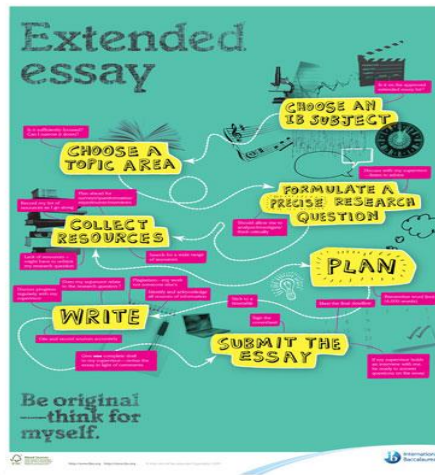
On the 20th of January we were fortunate to have Mr. Nakahara, Osaka Prefecture's Superintendent of Education, visit the SOIS campus. He spoke with the MUN students and listened to the students' country position speeches. He also answered questions from the students.

Please come and see SOIS MUN students debate important issues such as Palestinian statehood, 21st century slavery, fracking and plastic in the ocean. Our 6th and final mock is on Monday February 16 in the 3rd floor conference room from 3:45 – 5:00pm. Alternatively, you are welcome to come see the delegates at the Marist MUN February 25-27th in Kobe.

GRADE 11 EXTENDED ESSAY SESSION
by Tara Cheney, extended essay coordinator

Parents of OIS grade 11 students are invited to attend a research / writing session regarding their teenager's Extended Essay, on **Monday 20th of April, 2015 from 4-6pm in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.**

The interesting research that has been carried out and the draft writing your daughter/son will be required to meet over the summer break will be shared. While this session is informal and based on student/parent/supervisor input, it is very important! All parties concerned must be clear about what work is required. Passing the Extended Essay is an IB Diploma requirement and reinforces valuable skills for college or university.



<http://bluejar.com/extended-b618f-essay-ib-help>

College Counseling Corner by Melissa Lamug, Counselor

Grade 12 students are still in the midst of some final applications. At the same time, some students are starting to hear back from colleges and universities. The full list of schools where students have been accepted will be presented later in the school year, but there have already been some universities that have extended letters of acceptance to our students. Exciting times ahead for our seniors!

On January 28th, the OIS Grade 11 students and parents attended a College 101 workshop hosted by the Counseling office, and we had a very good turnout. Students and their parents began the discussion about where they would like to go, and information was shared about what factors to consider in making their university and college choices. Mr. Mecklem talked about the different types of colleges and universities and encouraged parents and students to look beyond the "list" as there are wonderful colleges and universities that could provide a best fit and where students can flourish. We also discussed what next steps they can take and how they can begin preparing for the application process.



We had a couple of special guests – Mr. Richardson, a representative from Temple University, Japan Campus, talked about the admission process and the impact of IBDP in the university life of the students. Another guest speaker was our G12 Lara Taniguchi, who shared her strategies in the application process, and also gave some advice to our students and parents. Thank you to all of those who supported and attended the workshop.

On a different note, if you are looking for interesting summer programs abroad and camp options, brochures are on display outside of the Counseling Office.



WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES (WASC) / IB SCHOOL WIDE ACTION PLAN (SWAP) UPDATE:

by Tara Cheney, WASC coordinator

This year OIS students are invited to highlight some of the objectives in the SWAP by examining and thinking creatively about members within our school community and verbally expressing their “Big Ideas”.

There is a voluntary activity for KA – Gr. 2, titled: “Who helps us at school?” Students can design, draw and write about this question in their own creative manner. Entries will be displayed around the school and book vouchers will acknowledge individual student entries.

Students from OIS Gr.3 – Gr.12 can speak, illustrate and record their “Big Ideas” via our new TED Ed group. These ideas can relate to a broad range of topics within our school, community, nation and/ or international perspectives. We will meet Tuesday after school, (Room 333) on a needs basis throughout the week and electronically. The group is open to all students from 8 to 18 years and has firm guidelines set by the TED Ed organisation.

The goals of a TED Ed meeting are:

- “To stimulate and celebrate creative ideas put forth by students from all over the world.
- To work with a generation of problem solvers, critical thinkers and innovators to make the world a better place.
- To connect groups of students of all different backgrounds around the world.
- To provide a web platform where student ideas can be featured and shared.
- To support students in developing presentation literacy and public speaking skills so their ideas can be more easily seen, understood, shared and acted upon.
- To make an idea—developed and presented by a student—a valuable reference point on a resume, college application or in a job interview.” *Page 4 of the TED Ed Club Guide copyright 7-2014*

Below is a link that indicates what students can do via a TED Ed meeting:

<http://blog.ed.ted.com/2014/12/03/one-ted-ed-club-members-journey-from-high-school-auditorium-to-the-ted-stage/>

Here is a short video about TED Ed meetings:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qj_OzmP8iWg

WASC/IB elected representatives: Mina Mullins (Grade 5), Luke Taniyama and Chris Mitsuda (Grade 8) and Akira Polenghi (Grade 11) will promote and help our students participate in the above activities.

OVERSEAS MATH VICTORY

by John Van-Plantinga, inclusion specialist

Out of the blue the students at Osaka International School were challenged to a math Fai-To by an award winning school on the eastern coast of the United States. Sponsored by a math website called MangaHigh.com, the term Fai-To (pronounced Fight-Oh) is the Japanese pronunciation of fight. In a Fai-To, two schools compete at math games, and any points scored by students during the Fai-To will count towards their school's score. The challenging school was Rachel Carson Elementary School, a Blue Ribbon School in Maryland that ironically was also built in 1990.

Immediately Rachel Carson was up two rounds in the 5 game match before the OIS students realized they were even being challenged. The battle call at OIS went out to math teachers to engage their students in the online challenge. Students heeded the call to log into their MangaHigh accounts. Because of the time difference between the United States and Japan, each day students awoke to a losing battle since they were sleeping while the stateside school was earning points. But as the sun rose the students of OIS regained a lead, sometimes playing into the night to secure a victory. In the end it was a neck and neck battle tied up at 4 rounds each before Osaka International School took the victory in a close race. The online battle produced many math heroes from the OIS student population who bravely competed against the far away school. The result of their efforts has placed OIS in 7th place on the leader board behind the British School of Jeddah and ahead of the school, Tanglin Trust Singapore. But there is no time to rest as the next Fai-To may be just around the corner.

-Continued from the cover page-

WHO IS THE DEMON?



THE ANSWER IS.....Mr Algie!!



SABERS UPDATE

by Peter Heimer, activities director



Sabers website: sabers.senri.ed.jp

Middle school winter sports seasons continue

The winter sports season II for middle school student-athletes continues. The boys soccer team, coached by Mr. McGill and Mr. Stone, looks strong again this year, already handily defeating Canadian Academy (CA), Marist Brothers International School (MBIS), and Kyoto International University Academy (KIUA). The MS girls basketball team, coached by Ms. Entwistle and Mr. Mecklem, have played games against CA, MBIS, and KIUA, with some wins and some losses. All players on the MS teams have seen game action, from the A team all the way through to the beginners. Good luck to the MS teams as they work toward WJAA tournaments in early March.

AISA math mania and leadership

January 29–February 1, eight SOIS students traveled to the British School of Beijing (BSB) to participate in two AISA events: a math mania competition and a student leadership conference.

Four Sabers “mathletes” – Yuichi Yoshioka, Sangjin Oh, Re Ea Tay, and Ryoko Izuta (for the second time) – competed against math students from the other three AISA schools. Also, four SOIS student council members – Sungwook Eun, Emily Yamanaka, Kanako Tsutsumi, and Eugenie Shin (for the second time) – took part in a collaborative conference in which they explored international leadership issues and shared common student leadership experiences with their AISA counterparts. These were great events for our students. Special thanks to the teachers who prepared the students – Mr. Bertman, Mr. Dupont, Baba-sensei, and Munemasa-sensei – and to Mr. Bertman and Tosa-sensei for chaperoning.



Sabers mathematicians and student council in Beijing.

AISA basketball

Both the Sabers boys and girls basketball teams played in AISA tournaments, January 30–31. The boys, coached by Mr. Routh and Mr. Takagi, played at Yokohama International School and finished in fourth place. All-tournament team members were Tommy Ban and Kan Sawabe. The girls, coached by Sagara-sensei and Hirai-sensei, played here in the Sabers gym and finished in fourth place. All-tournament team selections were seniors Minami Uemura and Hitomi Tomi. You can view girls results and photos here: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/aisa-basketball.html>. Congratulations, players and coaches, on successful seasons.

New high school sports seasons

Boys and girls soccer, boys and girls swimming, boys and girls badminton, and softball – all these teams are up and running. The girls soccer team, coached by Mr. Frater and Mr. Fitzpatrick, and the boys, coached by Mr. Driver and Mr. Entwistle, have already played matches at the KG Sanda campus ground, a new venue for us. Swimming (Coach Bertman, Coach Kano) and badminton (Coach Datta) are busy practicing. And softball (Coach Hirai, Coach Hikosaka) begins in earnest next week. Good luck to all Sabers teams.

Sabers TV

Do you know that Sabers athletics has its very own television show? Every other Wednesday morning, Sabers TV is broadcast to all classrooms via the SOIS in-school television network. Student anchors, interviewers, camera operators, and control board technicians work together to put on this semi-polished biweekly show containing Sabers results and interviews with coaches and players. With the technical expertise of Mr. Frater and minimal interference from Mr. Heimer, the students organize, write, rehearse, promote, produce and broadcast the show on their own...and have lots of fun doing so. They work hard and provide an informative and entertaining service to the Sabers community. View past shows on the Sabers TV webpage. <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sabers-tv.html>

Thank you

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

Stephen Frater's TECH CORNER

New and renewed technology initiatives this month

Rather than focus on one topic this month, I would like to provide a brief report on three new or renewed uses of technology at SOIS.

1) Live streaming of events

At the end of January SOIS hosted the annual AISA HS Girls Basketball tournament. Teams from Yokohama International School, Seoul International School, Korea International School, Nagoya International School and Marist Brothers International School competed over two days for the trophy, and for the first time we were able to offer viewers from other schools a live video stream of all the games. We received comments from viewers as far away as Okinawa, Queensland in Australia, and California and Kentucky in the US who enjoyed watching their teams play. In all we had over 200 unique (i.e. different) viewers watching the channel, with nearly 30 watching the final live.

We hope to continue and extend this effort to make our events at SOIS accessible to parents, friends and alumni who cannot attend in person. Links to these streams will be made available on the Sabers website (<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp>), so please check the site regularly for news and event schedules.

2) Renewed library website

The Technology Support office recently collaborated with the OIS librarian, Ms Chieko Singh, to redesign the top page of the library's intranet site (<http://yayoi.senri.ed.jp/shared/intralib/index.htm>). The intention was to make the library's online resources more accessible to students, and to encourage students to explore the different tools at their disposal, rather than to rely on Google for their research! The single page we had before has been split into elementary, middle and high school appropriate content, and has more visual clues and prompts now. Please note that, if you explore the site from home, some of the links within the site are only accessible from within the school (it is a condition of our contract with some of the database companies). We will continue to add resources to these pages over the coming year.

3) New address for the Technology Support website

As briefly mentioned last month, our website dedicated to supporting the use of technology at SOIS has a new address (<http://technology.senri.ed.jp>). In addition, we have slowly been adding more Japanese translations to the site, so please remember to check it out from time to time, particularly if you are looking for tips on using soismail, Moodle, and many of the other technologies in use at SOIS. Parents are also welcome to contact me at any time on sfrater@senri.ed.jp.



The next *Educator* will be published on Friday, 6 March.

SCHOOL CALENDAR



18 February

*MYP personal project exhibition
*HS student council election

18-24 February

*IB Mock exams

25 February

*HS student council cleaning day

25-27 February

*MUN @Marist Brothers IS

5 March

*ES Parent-Teacher Conferences
-ES half day of school

6 March

*ES Parent-Teacher Conferences
-ES no classes

Lost & found items to be displayed in the 2F showcase area, 23 February – 13 March



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Peter Heimer, *activities director*

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Kei Takeda, *school nurse*

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Student attendance

072-727-2305



All School Production 2015 Dress Rehearsal



"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"



Thursday, February 12 4:30 pm
Friday, February 13 6:00 pm
Saturday, February 14 2:00 pm (matinee)
Saturday, February 14 6:00 pm (last performance)

Enjoy it with your family and friends.

