

Educator



11 April 2015



G9/10 Sailing



G9/10 ARK



G9/10 snowboarding @Northstar

Experiential Learning Issue

Featuring G12 group 4 project & G11 service trip to the Philippines (See page 6 & 7.)



G8 Miyajima



G8 Hiroshima



G7 Northstar, Nagano

G6 Camp Sengari 1



Sengari 2



Sengari 3



Sengari 4

from the desk of the head, Bill Kralovec

Dear OIS parents,

Many of the articles in this edition of *Educator* feature stories about experiential learning. This means students learning through reflection on doing. One of the attributes of an IB education is students being active in the community, both locally and globally.

In the spirit of the cherry trees the Japanese government donated to the USA 100 years ago that now line the streets of the capital, Washington D.C., the US Consulate in Osaka gave SOIS several American Dogwood (*Cornus sp.*) trees. The dogwoods are known for their spectacular spring blooms and distinctive bark. The trees were planted on the slope behind the football field to replace a large tree that was struck by lightning. Thank you to the US Consulate for their generous donation.

Also, the grade 5 students' garden is coming along nicely. You can see in the photo the beautiful tulips and vegetables that are healthy and moving upward. The students designed the garden and with some help from the parents and Mr. Reynoso, have tended the garden. Several of them said it was the best thing they have done in school! I really like giving students the opportunity to plant as it teaches them biology, commitment and delayed gratification among other things. The Eco Club will be celebrating Earth Day later this month with an assembly, various planting initiatives and a week of activities promoting sustainability. Earth Day is on Wednesday April 22.



I would like to welcome the new families to OIS. Chae Yoon Kang (3), Tenshin Otsuka (4), Nam Anh Tran (6), Amy Saeki Zhai (6), Irina Setoyama (8) and Yuki Sutton (9). We continue to have strong relationships with the diplomatic community in Osaka with families from both the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea. We also added our 28th nationality this year with my former home of Serbia, being added to our grand total of passports represented in our student body. We are always trying to build our international population in the school and are targeting increased marketing of our Global Futures Program (GFP). Foreign students can live in our Akebono dormitory and study at OIS. If you know of anyone interested in continuing their high school education in English but getting a Japanese cultural experience, please let me know.

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

With the warmer weather, cherry blossoms and other trees flowering, it is easy to forget how cold things were before the long spring vacation. I hope your family was able to enjoy some time together over the break. I would like to welcome all of you back to school and give a special welcome to our new families. April is a transition time in Japan and we had a few families who moved away over the break but we also have several new students who just started at OIS. More information will come out soon but I would like to invite all families to an open day we are planning on April 29. This could be a good opportunity to meet other members of our community.

As the temperature begins to rise, it is easy to think that summer and the end of the school year are just around the corner. It is true that we are in the final trimester of the year but that does mean almost a third of the school year is left. There are a lot of things that will happen in this final trimester and there is still plenty of time for students to work on improving their achievement so that they finish strongly.

Upcoming events include the IB Diploma Art Exhibit that opens this afternoon. Please make some time to stop by the displays on the 2nd and 3rd floors. If you can't come today, the displays will remain in place next week and beyond. On April 23, many of our musicians will showcase their talents at the annual spring recital. On April 29, the grade 12 will begin their study leave as they prepare for the IB Diploma exams that will begin May 4. Seniors are not required to come to school on those days but their teachers are available to meet with them to help with their preparation.

Just prior to spring break, our students participated in our annual camps. So far, I have received positive feedback about the camps. OIS has continued with the same camp structure for quite some time. As we begin planning for next year, I invite you to give me feedback on the camps and their structure. If you have thoughts about how the camps could be improved, please email me (kmecklem@senri.ed.jp) or drop by my office.

If you are on campus, please feel free to stop in and say hello. In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather.

SCHOOL FEES AND FINANCIAL AID FOR 2015-2016

by Steve Lewis, business manager

Kwansei Gakuin's Board of Trustees has approved fees for 2015-2016. Depending upon the grade level, rises will be between 7.3 and 7.1 percent on 2014-2015. Please check the school website for the updated fee scale. Financial aid forms for 2015-2016 have also been posted. For families wishing to apply, please do so by the end of May.

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

Activities Day: “Let’s get our act together”

Students in the elementary school on Thursday 12th March participated in Activities day where students completed various activities around the school. From playing a French horn in the music room to learning how the cameras work, to cooking and many other fun activities, students were able to work collaboratively.

Experiential learning engages students in critical thinking, problem solving and decision making in contexts that are personally relevant to them. We will be making this an annual event and hope next year to involve the school community.



ES Calendar

- April 13th Block 4 clubs begin
- April 17th Grade 3 assembly
- April 22nd Earth Day - ES students will be recognizing the importance of the day by planting plants around the school.
- April 29th School in session

**GRADE 2 PUPPET THEATER
by Megan Castro-Driver, G2 teacher**

The grade two students had so much fun learning through their inquiry into our fourth unit, How We Express Ourselves: Imagination. Throughout the unit, they explored the many different ways that people use their imaginations to think, create and express themselves. In their art lessons with Mrs. Henbest, the students created magnificent ceramic hand puppets. They then used their ideas for these puppets to write a narrative, focusing on the story elements of characters, setting and plot. After individually writing their narratives, the students worked together to collaboratively write a play script for some of these stories, applying dialogue to their ideas. All of the children did a fantastic job writing scripts that both engaged their audience and taught an important lesson. The backgrounds they created in art class with Mrs. Henbest greatly contributed to their ability to express their imaginative ideas. The students enjoyed performing their puppet theaters using captivating expression and enthusiastic puppetry for the elementary school and their parents.



**2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR
STARTING DATES**

- Monday 24 August**
MS/HS orientation day
- Tuesday 25 August**
ES orientation day (for new students)
MS/HS fall trimester begins
- Wednesday 26 August**
ES fall classes begin

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

- MONDAY 13 April**
spaghetti with cream of corn
- TUESDAY 14 April**
hamburger steak
- WEDNESDAY 15 April**
miso-flavored ramen
- THURSDAY 16 April**
tomato flavored hashed beef rice
- FRIDAY 17 April**
pan-fried noodles
- MONDAY 20 April**
pork cutlet sandwich
- TUESDAY 21 April**
kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd
- WEDNESDAY 22 April**
meat au gratin
- THURSDAY 23 April**
curry rice
- FRIDAY 24 April**
cheese croquette
- MONDAY 27 April**
rice omelet
- TUESDAY 28 April**
curry with fried chicken
- WEDNESDAY 29 April**
cheese burger
- THURSDAY 30 April**
spaghetti with meat balls
- FRIDAY 1 May**
hamburger steak
- THURSDAY 7 May**
chicken cutlet
- FRIDAY 8 May**
curry rice
- MONDAY 11 May**
rice omelet
- TUESDAY 12 May**
cheese burger
- WEDNESDAY 13 May**
pork flavored ramen
- THURSDAY 14 May**
meat au gratin
- FRIDAY 15 May**
kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd

HUMAN MIGRATION by Isaac Driver, G3 teacher

Grade three has been exploring human migration through the big conceptual lenses of function, causation and change. Our related concepts are society, population and diversity. We are interested in the reasons why people migrate, the history of migration and the effects that it has on individuals, places and societies.

Using the library, online sources and a presentation from historian Mr. Mecklem we learned about migration throughout history and presented our findings in groups. We visited the National Museum of Ethnology for further our knowledge of human movement and integration. We explored our personal history by collaborating with our parents to create family trees and we reflected on the impact of movement within our family history. We have read news articles from online news reports that highlight issues and attitudes concerning immigration. We went on a walking tour of the local area to investigate signs of intercultural connections. We have been reading literature about human migration stories as well as real stories written by children.

On Friday 3rd April we visited Minoh Intercultural Center (MAFGA) where we met with employees, locals and foreign community members. We rotated in groups and interviewed them about their experiences as locals and foreigners based around five main migration areas. The areas were change, feelings and attitudes, services, education and barriers.

All the grade three students were respectful, engaged in asking relevant questions and making meaningful connections to their own experiences. We all deepened our knowledge and conceptual understanding of migration as a complex human experience.

We would love to hear from you! If you have a personal migration story to tell then please email Mr. Driver (idriver@senri.ed.jp). You could come in and chat with the grade three students or write down your experiences. Why did you migrate? What challenges did you experience? How did it open up new opportunities? Has migration changed the way you think and act?

We look forward to hearing from you.



GRADE 4 LESSONS ON AIKIDO & KENDO IN PE CLASS

by Lora Vimont, G4 teacher

As a way to learn more about traditional Japanese cultural practices and values for their recent inquiry into the transdisciplinary theme *Where We are in Place and Time*, the Grade 4 class had the opportunity to experience the martial arts of Aikido and Kendo in their PE lessons before the spring break. Under the expert supervision of elementary PE teacher, Ms. Leanne Entwistle, and guest teacher Fukai Sensei, the students began with the study of Aikido, and practiced the art of peaceful resistance or “the way of unifying with life energy”. After their lesson, instructor Fukai Sensei commented on the “great positive ki and love” she could feel coming from the hearts of the Grade 4 students! In their later study of Kendo, or “way of the sword,” the class was able to look at a very different approach to self-defense. Armed with “shinai” (bamboo staffs) and suited with Kendo armor, yells of “men” and “do” could be heard throughout the gym as the students practiced administering light tapping blows to targeted head and chest parts on their partners’ armor.

Both of these experiences in PE class were an awesome way for the students to become more familiar with two Japanese martial arts while gaining a deeper insight into some of the ideals that were valued long ago and (in some cases) are still valued today in the Japanese culture.



MODEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS by Tara Cheney, MUN coordinator



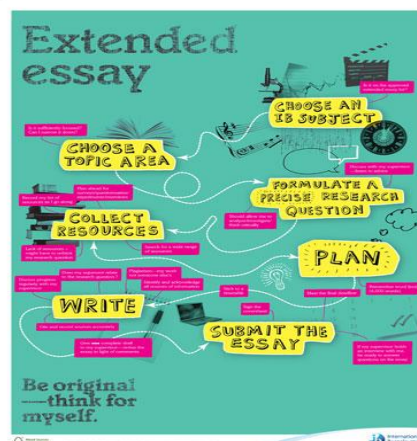
OIS students participated admirably at the Model of the United Nations simulation, Feb. 25-27 in Kobe. Sangwook Eun was awarded an Outstanding Delegate award and Yuichi Beinard Yoshioka was awarded Outstanding Parliamentarian. Other notable contributors within the OIS delegation included: Sophia Grabowski, Kai Junge and Akira Polenghi. Grade 10 students gave a recent assembly presentation regarding their MUN experience and received participation certificates outlining the various roles they fulfilled as well as the country they represented.

Please encourage your child to participate in our MUN programme as it is a valuable learning experience and important to include within college / university resume submissions.

EXTENDED ESSAY SESSION REMINDER by Tara Cheney, extended essay coordinator

Please remember that parents of OIS grade 11 students are invited to attend a 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>

WASC SCHOOL WIDE ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES UPDATE by Tara Cheney, WASC coordinator

This week KA, KB, Grade 1 and Grade 2 will receive information about the poster design activity "Who helps me at school?" Entry forms will be distributed this Tuesday and Wednesday so please encourage your child to enter. Students can give entries directly to Ms. Cheney in room 333 or via their teacher. All entries must be received by Monday, June 15th, 2015.

We have 21 registered members within the TED Ed group. Last session we worked on "What makes a great idea great?" and this week students will explore and declare their idea for their final TED talk. Only 10 more sessions before we upload the final product!



The grade 12 class would like to help a student in Bali who needs a big bag (such as a rucksack) take on adventures. The bag should be big and still usable. If you would like to donate a bag please contact Noemi (noemi1024@gmail.com) or Mr Dupont (bdupont@senri.ed.jp). Thank you.

Noemi Datta (OIS12)



SPRING CAMP REPORT - The Group 4 project by grade 12 students

The group 4 (science) project is a compulsory part of the IB diploma programme. It requires students to show how they can be self motivated, persistent and conscientious. They work in small groups so that co-operation, collaboration and communication are important. Students must also show self awareness in order to utilize their personal strengths and to enable other members of their group to compensate for their weaknesses. It is the team-work that is most important. All of this is done within a real science activity, applying the scientific method to new situations. We hope it is also fun to do. Most of the time it is.

This year we had three teams and each worked within the broad topic title:

Prepare and present a lesson to teach an important scientific principle to a group of 8 – 10 year old children.

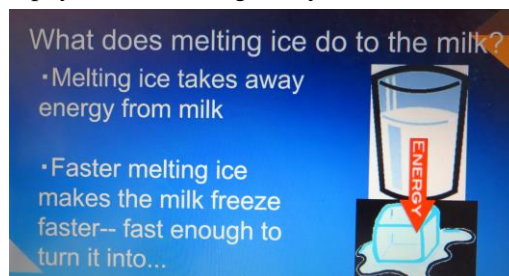
They presented their work to grades 3, 4 and 5 on Friday morning. This year every student showed significant personal qualities and gained good marks to add to the Internal Assessment section of their Group 4 subjects.

Eiichi, Lara, Haruka, Yuuki, Jamie and Mirai worked on ice cream.

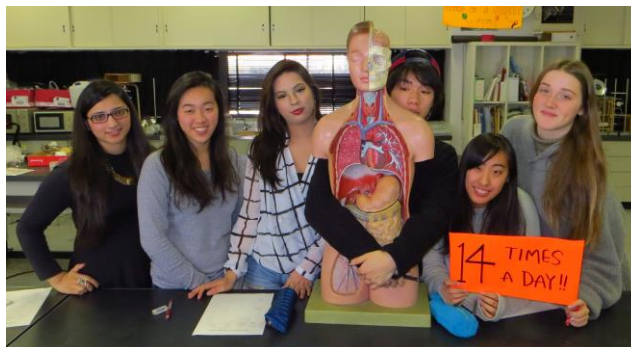


They included information on its chemistry, its nutritional value and the physics of freezing. They demonstrated one method of making it without using a freezer too.

It was tested and approved by all.



Hannah, Hana, Hannah, Hamna, Chihiro and Arisa presented a workshop about intestinal gas.



Noemi, Lisa, Won Jae, Saki, Atoka and Julia worked on density.

They concentrated on molecular distribution, solids, liquids and gases, buoyancy and comparative densities.



GRADE 11 SERVICE TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES **by Richard Fitzpatrick, science teacher / G11 advisor**

The current OIS grade 11 class chose to go to Cebu in the Philippines to undertake their service learning trip during the final week of the spring trimester.

The months of planning were over and the fundraising (which included valentines gift distribution, photo booths and drinks / cookie sales) had ended. It was now time to go and pass on the money that had been raised along with all the books that had been kindly donated by the SOIS community.

After a relatively painless journey to get to Cebu, the students' time there was split between working with two different organisations. Firstly, The Budlaan Reading Centre. This centre was located in one of the poorest and oldest communities in Cebu and was set up to help children from the ages of 2 upwards learn to read, and give them the best possible chance at getting a good education.

As we walked in to the reading centre both the students from the reading centre and from OIS seemed apprehensive, but their nerves quickly disappeared and they were soon playing together. Throughout the two days that were spent there the students helped out with arts and crafts, feeding the students, reading to and playing with the children in addition to organizing the books in the reading centre's library.

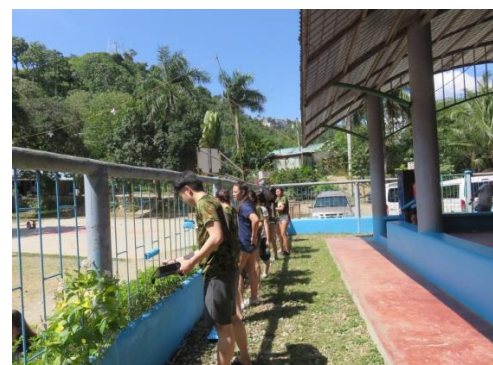
It was a great experience all round and many people were sad to leave at the end of the second day.



The second organization the class were helping out was called Gawad Kalinga, which strived to renovate communities and improve the living conditions, whilst also trying to build skills in the community so that the residents can gain employment of their own.

During the two days we spent working with GK, we went to two regions that were most in need of help renovation. The first just happened to be in Buldaan, right next door to the reading centre. This was a great surprise and whilst they were having a break from their painting duties they were able to go and meet their friends from the previous two days.

The final day of service work saw everybody pitching in to paint the inside and outside of a local community centre which was in need of renovation. This community was in an area that had become a little isolated, but everyone there welcomed the group and helped them out where ever they could.



Overall, the entire group worked very hard on the service activities and gained a lot from the experience.

The whole class would like to give a special thank you to the PTA for their generous donation and to Mrs. Nagasaka for the tremendous amount of help she gave in organizing the trip.

SABERS UPDATE

by Peter Heimer, activities director



Sabers website: sabers.senri.ed.jp

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

Middle school girls softball, boys volleyball

The new season for MS students is underway: boys volleyball coached by Mr. Van Plantinga and Mr. Routh, and girls softball coached by Mr. Nakamura. Games this Saturday, April 11, at SOIS. Come watch. Go, MS Sabers!

MS/HS table tennis

Why not join the Sabers table tennis team? Practices are on the second floor of the gym after school, HS on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and MS on Tuesdays and Thursdays. See Takahashi-sensei, SIS math teacher, for details.

HS badminton

This past Saturday, April 4, the Sabers HS badminton team played in the WJAA tournament at CA, finishing in 3rd place overall. Anna Onishi took first place in the girls singles, and Ryohei Shiraishi and Yuya Kitano joined forces to take the boys doubles championship. Well done, Sabers and Coach Datta.

HS futsal

On Saturday, April 4, SOIS hosted the 10th annual Sabers Invitational WJAA High School Boys Futsal Tournament. This popular event attracted 12 teams from 9 schools from Sasebo, Fukuoka, Iwakuni, Kobe, Kyoto, Nara, and Osaka. With 28 matches played on the Sabers ground, the action was fast-paced and exciting. In the end, if you were betting, the safe money would have been on the Sabers as *both* Sabers teams made it to the championship match, with the Sabers so-called B team prevailing 6–1. Both Sabers teams were clearly the class of the tournament, outscoring opponents 49–2. SIS sophomore Hiroto Inui won the Golden Boot award for scoring the most goals in the tournament. Congratulations, Coach Driver and Coach Entwistle.

AISA: soccer, swimming

The Sabers girls and boys soccer teams are now playing their season-ending AISA tournaments in Seoul. The Sabers swim team is competing in the AISA meet hosted here in the Sabers pool. Best wishes to the Sabers swimmers and footballers. (Check out the meet t-shirt logo design by grade 4 Ayana Nakamae at <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/swimming1.html>.)

HS girls softball

Coach Hirai and Coach Hikosaka have been leading a few die-hard HS softball players in diligent practice the past few weeks. With the end of the soccer season, more girls will join the team next week as the softball season continues. The Sabers travel to Nagoya next weekend for a tournament.

HS baseball

In the past, the HS baseball season has been in the fall. For the second year, we are running the season in the spring. Baseball players, please see Coach Sagara. First game: April 25 at 第一 ground. Get ready to hit the diamond, Sabers.

Thank you

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Sabers. Please contact me any time. Visit the AD office, room 240, across from the business office. Or contact me at pheimer@senri.ed.jp or at 072-727-2137. Go Sabers!



Sabers AISA swim team

SCHOOL CALENDAR

10-30 April

*IB visual arts exhibition

17 April

*PTA G4 & G5 parent-student dance (pm)

18 April

*ACT test @3F conference room

23 April

*Spring music recital, 4.00pm @theatre

24 April

*SIS/OIS G8 art field trip to National Museum of Ethnology & The Japan folk crafts museum, Osaka

27 April

*G12 study leave begins

29 April

*Day of Showa – School in session

2 May

* SAT I & II Tests @3F conference room

3-6 May “Golden Week” – No school

3 May-Constitution Day

4 May-Greenery Day

5 May-Children’s Day

6 May-Substitute Holiday

4-22 May

*IB exams

13-14 May

* G5 “The Exhibition”

Lost & found items to be displayed in genkan from 13-17 April.

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