

OIS Educator

SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

News from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

The OIS faculty began the year with a visit from a consultant, Mrs. Barbara Parker. She joined us in the orientation week for teachers to get us enthused and focused on the start of the 18-month accreditation process. She works for the Western Association of Colleges and Schools (WASC) which is a private, non-profit, regional accrediting agency in the USA that assures the quality of schools and colleges. WASC accredits schools in California, Hawaii and international schools in Asia. Accreditation basically is a way of evaluating a school to make sure they are meeting the standards of a quality school. Accreditation started in America in the early 1900s because universities wanted to make sure they had similar admission standards and would allow students to transfer between universities. It has grown considerably in the past 120 years, but it is still basically an outside agency, assuring the quality of education of various institutions.



OIS elementary students participating in the opening ceremony of the Orix Buffaloes baseball game at Kyocera Dome, September 9.

Being accredited signifies that universities and other K-12 schools will accept credentials from OIS.

A visit from an accreditation team takes place every five years. This school year we are undergoing a self-study. The visiting team makes sure we are meeting acceptable international school standards, areas such as emergency drills, certification of teachers, counseling services, etc. are in place. The self study provides evidence for this. However, since our school has been accredited four times, we are also looking at how we can improve in addition to just meeting the standards. The goal of the self study is to seek input from all stakeholder groups, faculty, students, parents



Middle school English and humanities teacher Mrs. Marcella Cooper (r) with Barbara Parker (l).

and others, and come up with 3-4 key learning areas we will focus on. This could be in student writing, use of technology, social and emotional well being, etc. We will complete the self study in December of 2017 and will be visited by an accreditation team in February of 2018. It will be a joint visit with the International Baccalaureate organisation, because this time we are also obtaining reauthorization for offering the PYP, MYP and DP curricular programmes.

Mrs. Cooper is the OIS WASC accreditation coordinator and is leading the faculty during the self study and working closely with the leadership team of the school. On another note, Mrs. Cooper recently had an article published in the East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS) triannual magazine, ET Journal. The article reviews a book about cognitive learning strategies. Congratulations to Mrs. Cooper! My big takeaway from Mrs. Parker's visit was to focus on our mission statement during the accreditation process:

- Are we *Informed, caring, creative individuals contributing to a global community?*
- *How can we measure this?*
- *How can we improve?*

The questions and solutions will be answered in the next 18 months.

Views from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

With the completion of Back to School Night yesterday, the school year is now in full swing. We are approaching the one month mark and most students seem to have settled into a regular school routine. Especially for new students, the start of a school year can be a stressful time. While it would appear that all of our students have settled in well, if you have any concerns or questions about your child, please don't hesitate to contact me or the counselor, Mrs. Lamug.

It was good to see so many people at Back to School Night yesterday evening. We appreciate the chance to have the parents meet the teachers and find out about the classes for the year. If you weren't able to make it to the official event, it is always possible to set an appointment with the teachers.

Events like Back to School Night are all noted on our official [calendar](#). It is available online at the link but you should have also received a hard copy. Keeping track of events on the calendar should ensure that you

do not miss events like last night. However, we do send reminders via SOISmail. We use SOISmail for all important reminders and correspondence. It is important that you have your account working properly. If you are having trouble doing this, please contact the Tech Support office at school at SOISMailSupport@senri.ed.jp. It is important that you check your SOISmail inbox regularly, as most of the information about events happening at school come through the SOISmail system. While you can find the major events listed on the official school calendar more details and other important information will come through the mail system in the days leading up to the event.

Other upcoming events to note on the calendar are **Sports Day (October 8)** and **(Parent-Teacher conferences on November 22)**. Please note that Sports Day is on a Saturday and is considered a school day. If it is raining on Saturday it will be postponed until Monday.

Thank you for your efforts in getting the year started well and your child in a good routine. I'm looking forward to working with you this year!

Sports Day: Saturday 8 October

(Monday 10 October if it rains)

Elementary School

- 8.30: All ES students to homeroom
- 8.45-9.40: KA, KB, G1 & G2 @gym; G3, G4, G5 @pool
- 9.45-10.40: All ES students to the field
- 10.45-11.00: Closing ceremony

Middle & High Schools

- 10.30: All MS/HS students to homeroom
- 10.45-11.00: Opening ceremony
- 11.00-12.45: Morning activities: MS dodge ball, interceptor @gym
HS dodge ball, ultimate frisbee @field
- 12.45-13.05: MS performance @gym; HS lunch time
- 13.05-13.25: MS lunch time; HS performance preparation
- 13.25-14.05: HS performance @field
- 14.10-16.00: Afternoon activities: jump rope, obstacle race, mukade race, tug-of-war, relay
- 16.05-16.25: Closing ceremony
- 16.30: Students to dismiss school

* School buses will operate as usual in the morning but leave at 4.30pm for MS/HS students.

* Cafeteria will be closed. MS/HS students are not allowed to leave campus so they must bring their own lunch.

New Faculty

For the first time in my career we did not have any new foreign hires to orient to the country. These are the faculty changes we do have this year:

Kazuya Sakanaka is teaching PYP Japanese language. Sakanaka-sensei



comes to us from the *Nishimachi International School* in Tokyo. He has also taught at the *International School of Bangkok* and in Australia. He has

undergraduate degrees from Himeji Dokkyo University, Monash University (Melbourne) and a Master's degree from the University of Melbourne. He is a certified teacher in both Japan and Victoria, Australia.

Kazuya reflected on his start at OIS,

"When I read the mission statement of OIS, I realize that the perfect match of the direction that I want to proceed as an educator. I feel privileged and honored to be part of the team to venture the journey to the ultimate goal of the teaching and learning. I would like my students to actively pursue knowledge which will lead to the pursuit of truth in life, allowing them to live to their potential."

Returning faculty in new positions are as follows:

Cary Mecklem became a full time teacher and is focusing on the English language learners in the PYP.

Sarah Wakefield is now the coordinator for our Middle Years Programme service program, in addition to her library duties.

David Myers assumed the role of IB Diploma Programme Creativity, Action and Service coordinator. CAS enables our students to have experiences that enhance who they will become after leaving OIS. It is also an important counterbalance to the academic pressures of the DP.

Tim Seccombe is a part-time English teacher at SIS and is picking up a Theory of Knowledge (TOK) class at OIS. He is an experienced IB educator and due to our increased numbers of students in grades 11 and 12, an additional section of TOK was opened.

Elementary School

- KA:** Yun Geon Lee, Lin Myers, Elena Taylor, Naomi Yusa
KB: Clare Burger, Adison Ryo Kurehara, Xiangzhi Lei, Aanya Muthuvelan
G1: Yelin Yan
G3: Janina Staggs
G4: Avalon Freyder, Haruna Yusa
G5: Sena Onaka

Middle/High School

- G6:** Nanako Kashiwagi, Raphael Kogata, Kotori Nishibori, Renon Ohno, Lindsay Yoo
G8: Kaiyo Freyder
G9: Kennan Eldridge, Ryusei Takabayashi
G10: Carina Agius, Halyard Freyder, Irene Lin, Amy Skerly
G11: Athisa Budiman, Ami Eldridge, Leola Hara, Rina Kawamura, Freya Kirwan, Max Sharpe

Notes from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

At the start a new school year it is helpful to look back and reflect on the previous year. At the first meeting of our elementary faculty I shared with teachers the results of a survey I conducted with grade 5 students who graduated from the PYP in June. Considering their observations helps us gauge the efficacy of our programme and informs our teaching this year. The students described the challenges they faced learning in English and using this new language to help them make friends. They recognized the importance of practising attributes of the IB learner profile such as being an open-minded communicator to enable them to succeed. One student explained that it was necessary to be a thinker and risk-taker and combined those skills as "thought taker" coining a trait that shows both consideration and action. It is also interesting to note that being a thinker was the most common attribute stated by elementary students in their report reflections at the end of the last academic year.

The grade 5 students also stated that sharing their knowledge, especially in the exhibition, was their greatest challenge. They felt that presenting in assemblies had helped to build their confidence. This year we are holding weekly assemblies on Wednesday morning in the small gym. Meeting frequently not only enables classes to share more of their learning, but will also give all elementary students greater opportunities to develop their confidence and communication skills.

Leaders in this are the Actioneers. The team of six students has already been elected by their peers in upper elementary. They meet with me each week to suggest, discuss and plan initiatives for elementary students. There will be a new team voted each trimester so that many students have the chance to develop their leadership skills. The first cohort of Actioneers

comprising Rick Kawakami, Ocean Kralovec, Ruho Lee, Nana Hara, Keito Bortesi and Fred Mecklem are already working on developments to Sports Day, held on 8 October. They will also lead an assembly commemorating international Peace Day on 21 September.

Alongside promoting a strong supportive community in the elementary school, OIS students have already been actively engaging with the wider community. Many families visited the two atmospheric venues where our students exhibited artefacts as part of the Eighth World Archaeology Congress in Kyoto. I was delighted to see our students sitting with visitors and journalists enthusiastically explaining their creative process. To promote international-mindedness and principled play, six OIS elementary students participated in the opening ceremony of the Orix Buffaloes game last Friday night. Standing on each base, they greeted the players in front of a crowd of thousands in the Kyocera Dome.

I was very pleased that so many parents attended Back to School Night – the theatre was packed! This year we scheduled the event later in the evening to help families attend. Please let me know if this was helpful or whether you would prefer to revert to an earlier time as in previous years.

There will be more opportunities for parents to learn about the IB Primary Years Programme during the year. On 23 September at 9am in the third floor conference room there will be a workshop called Reading for Inquiry. Ms Wakefield, Mrs Mecklem and I will show how children's learning can be supported at home. Osako-sensei and Sakanaka-sensei will also both be contributing and providing Japanese translation. Later in the year, I will be running a workshop about how to engage with your child at the student-led conferences in response to requests made in feedback following last year's conferences.

K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

SEPTEMBER

21	Wed	fish burger
22	Thu	curry rice
23	Fri	fried noodles
26	Mon	spaghetti with corn cream sauce
27	Tue	kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd
28	Wed	spaghetti with meat balls
29	Thu	focaccia pizza & corn soup

OCTOBER

3	Mon	beef stroganoff
4	Tue	spaghetti carbonara
5	Wed	ramen with a pork bone broth
6	Thu	fried chicken
7	Fri	curry & rice
11	Tue	rice omelet
12	Wed	fish burger
13	Thu	kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd
14	Fri	pork cutlet

THE OIS EDUCATOR

is published once a month for OIS parents. Those who wish to receive paper version, please contact Ms Aotani (caotani@senri.ed.jp).

The next Educator will be published on 14 October.

Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER

Contact information

Welcome back to school, everyone in the SOIS community. My name is Peter Heimer, longtime English teacher at SOIS, and I am entering my sixth year as the Sabers activities director (AD). Thank you very much for your past support and I look forward to another great year of Sabers athletics. Please visit me in the AD office, room A-240, near the business office. Contact me at pheimer@senri.ed.jp or at 072-727-2137.

Sabers athletics website

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

In each Educator I provide Sabers updates and reminders. Most tournament dates are listed on the school calendar. For weekend schedules, reports, photos, handbooks, and everything else you want to know about the Sabers, please visit the Sabers athletics website at sabers.senri.ed.jp. Online calendars show upcoming Sabers events, times, and locations.

Sabers Athletics Facebook page

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

Please join the Sabers Athletics Facebook group for more Sabers updates and photos.

New season, Sabers Sign Up

<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sign-up.html>

The fall sports season is already up and running. Current Sabers athletes have attended pre-season information meetings and have completed the mandatory online Sabers Sign Up. At the meetings, we discuss the importance of commitment to an athletic team and of balance among athletics, academics, music, and other interests. We talk about eligibility requirements and costs. We emphasize the importance of appropriate behavior on and off the court, behavior that is consistent with our concept of the 5 respects and with our mission of developing "informed, caring, creative individuals contributing to a global community." We tell students that there are 3 kinds of sportsmanship: poor sportsmanship, good sportsmanship, and – at the top – Sabers sportsmanship. We have high expectations of our students.

"Sabers Sign Up" is a series of 3 online sign-up forms to be submitted prior to participation. All information and forms can be found on the Sabers website under the Forms tab. All students and parents should read the Sabers activities handbook and complete the Sabers Sign Up – only one time per school year.

Event calendar

<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/season-schedule.html>

There is much Sabers activity already. The MS baseball team is undefeated on the season with victories against MBIS, SOL, and KIUA.



MS baseball team

The MS girls volleyball teams have played its first matches. The high school girls volleyball team hosted its annual invitational tournament last weekend and will travel to Fukuoka this coming weekend for another tournament, while the HS boys volleyball team play in a tournament in Kobe. The HS tennis team is in full swing with strong showings at last weekend's Sabers Invitational, and the triathlon team has competed recently. Please check the Sabers website for more details.

AISA tournaments

<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/aisa-calendars.html>

SOIS enters its eighth year of competition in the Association of International Schools in Asia (AISA). Last year the Sabers won team championships in girls volleyball, girls soccer, and boys soccer, and sportsmanship awards in both boys and girls soccer. For AISA championship tournaments this fall, the Sabers boys volleyball team travels to Seoul, the girls volleyball



HS girls volleyball team

team goes to Busan (for the first time), and the tennis team treks to Yokohama (for the last time). The Sabers look forward to defending our AISA championships as well as winning new ones.

Thank you. Go Sabers!

KYOTO CONGRESS

OIS visual arts students in grades 1 through 5, SOIS grade 7 and the high school manga club exhibited their art works with international artists at the recent *World Archeology Congress (WAC)* in Kyoto. The WAC takes place every two years and scholars, artists and scientists from around the world gather to celebrate new findings and culture.

Our students' art pieces were exhibited in Ryosokuin, a sub temple of the 800-year old Kennenji Zen complex in Gion and Ressei, a former elementary school in the heart of Kyoto, which has been reused as an exhibition space for art shows and film festivals.

Students worked with guest copy artist Emi Isayama, who shared a beautiful Edo period emaki screen from the Kyoto National Museum with students. Then students made



a modern version of this with yokai marching carrying imaginative modern artifacts.

The students combined to exhibit a 'box project' based on memory and artifact at the fringe venue at Ressei. OIS students interviewed older family members and re-made an object or artifact an older relative remembered from their childhood. Grade 7 students added an additional Asian cultural symbol into the artifact. Inspiration came from Lee Ming Wei, who had a retrospective in Tokyo. It was a work called *Fabric of Memory* that solicited handmade works from families.



10 elementary students were selected to show their work in Ryosokuin the main venue for the art and Archaeology show. The rest of the students placed worked in the Ressei show where OIS art teacher David Myers built wooden boxes to showcase the works. Students and parents set up the show by building a historical city wall filled with memories of culture and family.

The community really came together to make this wonderful event happen. Thanks to OIS art teachers, especially Jennifer Henbest, David Myers and Andrew Dieterly and Hirono Aoyama. Thanks also to OIS parents and teachers Natusko Konishi-Attwood, Derek Entwistle, Rogerio Dezem, Lyn Melville-Rea, Chizuko Bobrove, Gina Moriguchi, Dominique Lutringer (who also exhibited his students' works), and Daniel Ligon for supporting Marc Craig as a guest artist from the UK, and alumni

parent Sahoko Aki for making the extra effort to put student work in this exciting show. It was a melting pot of art and ideas.

Also thank you to the community of drivers especially ChunYuan Yang, Yumiko Mizutani and Mr Zhou and all the visitors we had in Kyoto in the brief time the show commenced at a busy time. Without the time and dedication of a community of lifelong learners we would never have seen beauty and memories in these beautiful venues.

When thinking about the value of art and culture and memory in society. Mrs Henbest felt that this experience was a dream come



true in the sense that our dreams are linked with our memory and that there is nothing more vital and essential than art by adults, children, parents and friends to link each of us to a place in time with our community and to our families. It was a real pleasure to be apart of such an unusual experience in Japan.

International Fair 2016

Saturday November 12, 10:30~15:00
Our theme this year is "ONE WORLD"

WANTED!

1. **Booths applications / Due on September 16 at 21:00:** There are opportunities for any OIS PTA member to have a booth at the Fair to sell items or food, or to offer games or other activities. Please join us by having a booth.
 - *To all Booth representatives:* We will have a SIS and OIS combined booth meeting on October 14 from 10:40~12:00 in the 3F conference room.
 - *To student Booth representatives:* We will have Booth meeting especially for student-run booths on October 14 from 15:45~16:45 in the small cafeteria.
2. **Entertainment application / Due on September 16 at 21:00:** We are looking for students, parents, graduates or other community members who would like to perform a talent on stage.
3. **MCs (in English):** We would be very pleased to have parents, guardians, students or graduates who are interested in being Master of Ceremonies, even if it is only for a short period of the festival. If you are interested or if you can recommend someone, please contact us!
4. **Donation Goods / From September 26 to October 28:** Collection box for donations in front of the library
 - Only new items, please! Alcohol, cigarettes and used clothes are NOT accepted.
5. **Eco (Pet bottle) cap / From September 26 to October 28:** Collection box for Eco-caps in front of the library: We are collecting clean and dry caps from PET bottles. Last year, we collected 32,400 bottle caps. A polio vaccine takes 840 caps. Please help us to collect caps for vaccines again this year. We will not collect caps on the day of the Fair. Please donate caps within the specified time frame.
6. **Volunteers:** We need volunteers for preparation and set-up, help during the festival, and clean-up, even if it is only for a short period. Because some of the things that need to be done require some physical strength, we would particularly welcome some male volunteers.
 - The day before the Fair (Friday, November 11, roughly 15:30~18:00): Setting up the stage for the entertainment (physical work)
 - The day of the Fair (Saturday, November 12): Setting up the Donation Goods Sale and salespeople for the booth.
 - Helper at the back stage for the entertainment.
 - Clean up on the day of the Fair (roughly 15:00~17:00): taking down the stage (physical work), clean up at the cafeteria and booths.
7. **A booth for USED books, CDs, and DVDs:** We are looking for somebody interested in selling used books, CDs, and DVDs. If you are interested, APPLY TODAY for a booth!

All applications (booths , entertainment and volunteers) will be accepted only by e-mail. Please check your family's SOISmail account. The announcement mail with links to the necessary application forms was sent out on September 1.

If you have any questions, please contact to oispta-if@soismail.jp or OIS IF Representatives.

Important Note!

There will be NO PARKING for the public or parents (some accommodations can be made for booth leaders; please arrange this in advance with the IF committee). Please use public transportation. There will be free buses running between the school and Q's Mall / Senri-Chuo and Kita-Senri. There are also Hankyu buses. We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

KG Update

KG Uegahara Habitat, a student organization that works to address poverty and housing-related issues around the world, travelled to the Philippines from September 2~13 to take part in an aid project at elementary schools and orphanages in Bicol, one of the country's poorest regions. Starting with lessons on Japanese culture and exchanges to share the cultures of both countries, local aid also included donations of essential school supplies like notebooks and pencils.

Known as "RIN" (meaning "circle"), the project was started in 2006, making this the 11th year. Twenty-five students participated. During the four-or-so months leading up to their trip, the students held weekly meetings, coordinating their activities in the region, and conducting study sessions on the Philippines. They also held charity drives at nearby stations and other locations to collect donations for the school supplies.

Student representative Kaname Kato (sophomore, School of Economics) said, "The goal of this project is to open up future possibilities for the children. Visiting the same places each year lets more people in the community learn about us, which helps establish trust. The children really look forward to visits by 'the people who come and give interesting lessons every year!' We will work hard as a team so that years and even decades



from now even one more child can say, 'My life was changed thanks to the Japanese people who visited through a project called 'RIN'!'"

KG Uegahara Habitat is involved in a variety of other projects, including home construction in Southeast Asia, public awareness and educational activities on housing and poverty-related issues at high schools in Japan, and relief efforts in the wake of the natural disasters in Japan.



Tomodachi wa
Ice cream demo
Tokeru

OIS student Genny Hwang wrote a haiku poem last school year in Osaka sensei's Japanese language class and entered it into the Itoen tea company's 27th annual competition. Genny's haiku won a Special Merit award,

School Calendar

September

- 19 Respect for the Aged Day.
No school
- 20 Monday Schedule
- 22 Autumnal Equinox. School in session
- 23 OIS/SIS MS social event
Elementary Reading Workshop for Parents @3F conference room
- 28 KG School Foundation Day
G12 College Workshop, 5.00pm @3F conference room
- 30 ES Parent-Teacher Conferences.
ES no classes

October

- 1 SAT I & II Tests @SOIS
- 6 Bilingual Brains by Dr. Taura
@3F conference room
- 8 OIS/SIS Sports Day
- 10 Health & Sports Day. No school
SOIS Sports Day Back-up
- 12 PTA meeting, 9.00am @3F
conference room
- 14 ES futsal @CA

which went to only the top entries among the 1.8 million haikus entered. Besides appearing on special edition bottles of Itoen tea, Genny's haiku will also be published in an anthology of winning poems. According to our Japanese language department, this is the highest award any student has ever received from SOIS. Genny said that the sentiment behind the poem is that friendships can be sweet like ice cream, but most of them melt away like ice cream. We can see why that beautiful imagery won the contest!

Important Numbers

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