

Educator



16 May 2015

OIS Celebrates Earth Day

The Eco Club sponsored a week of activities to bring attention to sustainability. All elementary students on Earth Day, April 22, worked in the school gardens. The students learned about composting and planting techniques. There were also activities promoting recycling, reducing energy use and conservation of habitat for animals. The students learned a lot and enjoyed time outdoors. Experiential learning deeply impacts young people and it is hoped that their generation will take care of the planet. A big thank you to all the OIS faculty, especially Ms. Henbest and Mr. Stone for their leadership during the week.



2015-16 OIS SCHOOL CALENDAR

Beginning/end of each trimester

Fall

24 August 2015

*MS/HS orientation day

25 August

*ES orientation day for new students (am) – ES no classes

*MS/HS fall trimester begins

26 August

*ES fall classes begin

23 September

*School in session

19 November

*Fall trimester ends

Winter

26 November

*Winter trimester begins

18 December - 6 January 2016

*Winter holiday

7 January

*Classes resume

14-16 March

*MS/HS spring camps

16 March

*Winter trimester ends

17 March –4 April

*Spring holiday

Spring

5 April

*Spring trimester begins

29 April

*School in session

6 May

*School holiday

24 June

*ES last day of classes

30 June

*Last class day / End of school year

Parents are asked to plan holidays based on the above calendar, and not miss days as this has a negative impact on their child socially and academically, as well on other students and the teachers.



Parents Volunteers visual arts department

In the beginning of June, the SOIS art department will be putting together an art show that features work done by all of the students in the ES, MS and HS together. The art department is looking for parents to volunteer their time and assist us with things such as mounting, displaying, and related tasks.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering is encouraged to contact Andrew Dieterly at adieterly@soismail.jp.

We would highly appreciate any help, no matter how large or small. Thank you very much!



from the desk of the head, Bill Kralovec

Recently I attended a workshop hosted by our Extended Essay Coordinator, Ms. Tara Cheney. The purpose of the event was to help students progress with this core component of the IB Diploma Programme (DP).

The extended essay is a requirement for earning the IB Diploma. It is an independent, self-directed piece of research, culminating in a 4,000-word paper. Students can choose an area of interest in one of the six subject disciplines of the DP. The activity is a great practical preparation for university undergraduate research. Students are expected to spend up to 40 hours to complete the paper. I like it because students use scholarly resources, such as Google Scholar, J-STOR, and Project Muse, to read and synthesize results of studies by professors in academic journals. They learn valuable skills such as citing sources, creating a bibliography, as well as formulating a research question and using logic to present an argument. This will put them at an advantage at university to have this experience.

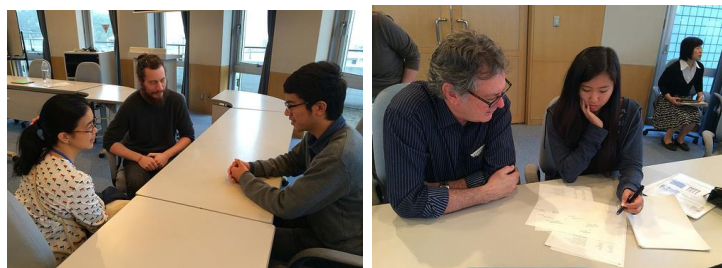
Each student chooses a supervisor to give advice and guidance to them. The supervisor is usually a teacher at the school, and most often, an expert in the subject matter. For example, one student is investigating in English literature, the role of the supernatural in Hamlet and MacBeth, two famous plays by Shakespeare. The student's supervisor is OIS English teacher, Mr. David Algie.

The research begins in the winter term of grade 11 and is completed in the winter term of grade 12. Ms. Cheney's role is keeping everyone on pace to meet the many deadlines of the steps to complete the paper. The workshop last month gave the opportunity for parents to learn about the process and they will be able to give support to the student during the summer holiday. It is an independent activity, so students need to be researching and writing over the summer.

Some of the research questions OIS grade 11 students are writing about are as follows:

- economics - A cost/benefit analysis of the new Gamba Osaka football stadium;
- history - What political influence did Marie Antoinette have on the French Revolution?
- English - Analysis of the World War II speeches of Winston Churchill;
- English - How English is hybridized in Asia by Chinese and Japanese speakers;
- biology - Does left handedness increase or decrease as students go through school?
- physics - Does the calcium carbonate content of seashells correlate to physical strength of the shell?

It is exciting to see OIS students contributing to humanity's knowledge base and produce academic work at such a high level. Congratulations and good luck to Ms. Cheney, the supervisors and most of all, our developing researchers!



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

It was a little bit of a surprise to come back from Golden Week and look at the calendar to see that there are less than 7 weeks of school left. June 26 feels like a long way off at this point but when you actually count the weeks, it is really just around the corner. The surprise comes from the fact that while the end of school year is almost here, there are still a lot of things happening and a lot left to do before we put the 2014-2015 school year in the books.

Thank you to those parents who attended the Open Day we held on April 29. Overall the day was a success and I heard positive comments from those parents who were able to attend. We have already put it on the calendar for next year when we hope to see even more people. If you have comments or feedback on the day, please feel free to share them.

While the grade 12 students are in the middle of their Diploma exams, it is not too soon to start thinking about the grade 11 students. This year, we are introducing an earlier set of exams for the juniors to help prepare for the real test they'll take next year. The exams will take place from June 15 – 17 and they will not attend regular classes during this time. These tests will give the students an indication of their progress so far in the program and will also be helpful for teachers as they plan for learning next year. They will also help the teachers make a more accurate grade prediction for the students who need them for their college applications. Not all classes will have an exam but all students will be participating regardless of whether or not they are planning on completing the full IB Diploma. Please contact me or the Diploma Coordinator Miyuki Endo if you have any questions.

Grade 11 students and their families are also busy preparing for graduation. That may seem odd considering that they are still more than a year away from finishing school. However, there is a long tradition at OIS of the grade 11 hosting the graduation. The students organize the theater and the other venues, act as ushers for the ceremony and then serve snacks at the reception following graduation. Their parents prepare the food for the reception. Thank you to the students, their parents and the grade 11 PTA representative, Mr. Kuni Wakida for all of their work on this.

All students are currently making preparations for the annual school festival. This is a student organized event that occurs on Saturday, May 23. Each class organizes booths with games or food. It promises to be a good time. I hope to see you there.

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

Spring Concert

Elementary School Spring Concert is on Saturday 23rd May. Could students meet their homeroom teachers in the classroom at 8:30am. We encourage all students to wear bright spring colours. We look forward to sharing this event with all our parents.

Student Led Conferences

Student Led Conferences are on Friday 5th June. The students are responsible for leading the conference, and also take responsibility for their learning by sharing the process with their parents. It may involve students demonstrating their understanding through a variety of different learning situations. There may be several conferences taking place simultaneously.

The conference will involve the students discussing and reflecting upon samples of work that they have previously chosen to share with their parents. These samples have been previously selected with guidance and support from the teacher, and could be from the student's portfolio. The student identifies strengths and areas for improvement. It enables parents to gain a clear insight into the kind of work their child is doing and offers an opportunity for them to discuss it with their child.

ES end of year assembly

Elementary school end of year assembly will be held in the theater on June 24th at 9:00am. All parents are welcome to join us to celebrate the year and congratulate the students and faculty.

Reports for Spring Trimester

Reports this trimester will be posted to all parents in the summer vacation. if you have changed address recently could you please inform the business office.

Picnic Day

All elementary students will be going on the annual picnic on June 22nd. More information about this event will be communicated closer to the time.

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



- MONDAY 18 May**
fried chicken
- TUESDAY 19 May**
spaghetti with meat sauce
- WEDNESDAY 20 May**
curry rice
- THURSDAY 21 May**
pan-fried noodles
- FRIDAY 22 May**
pork cutlet
- MONDAY 25 May**
rice bowl with minced chicken
- TUESDAY 26 May**
cold wheat noodle soup
- WEDNESDAY 27 May**
hamburger meat with cheese
- THURSDAY 28 May**
curry with fried chicken
- FRIDAY 29 May**
pork cutlet sandwich
- MONDAY 1 June**
fried chicken
- TUESDAY 2 June**
pork cutlet bowl
- WEDNESDAY 3 June**
meat au gratin
- THURSDAY 4 June**
kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd
- MONDAY 8 June**
spaghetti with meat sauce
- TUESDAY 9 June**
curry rice
- WEDNESDAY 10 June**
miso-flavored ramen
- THURSDAY 11 June**
teriyaki burger
- FRIDAY 12 June**
chicken fried with cornflakes
- MONDAY 15 June**
chicken and egg rice bowl
- TUESDAY 16 June**
pizza
- WEDNESDAY 17 June**
chicken pilaf
- THURSDAY 18 June**
sandwiches with pork cutlet
- FRIDAY 19 June**
kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd

SCHOOL FESTIVAL – SATURDAY, 23 MAY 2015

Everyone, students, parents and other community members are invited to attend the School Festival on Saturday May 23, 2015. The SOIS student council organizes the event with the help of volunteers. This year's theme is **Tropical Paradise**. The purpose of the theme is to encourage unity among booths and increase the festive atmosphere. There will be games for children, like mini-golf, a haunted house, and water games to name a few. There will be music and food as well.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 8.30: Students go to Homerooms
- 8.45-9.45
* Elementary School Spring Concert @theatre
- 9.50: Festival starts.
- 10.00: Performance starts.
- 14.30: Festival finishes and cleaning starts.
- 15.00: All non-students must leave the school to facilitate cleaning.
- 15.30: Cleaning finishes and students are dismissed. (All MS students must leave.)
- 15.30: Evening performance starts for HS students only (optional attendance).
Please note the evening performances are only for high school students (with faculty supervising). Parents, middle school students, non-OIS friends and graduates are asked to respect this request as it is made by the Student Council who organizes the event.
- 18.30: Evening performance ends and all students must leave.



GRADE 2 FIELD TRIP TO THE OSAKA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

by Megan Castro-Driver, grade 2 teacher

Throughout our current unit of inquiry, Sharing the Planet: Adaptations, the Grade 2 students have been learning that over time, living things need to adapt to their environment in order to survive. On April 16th, the class visited the Osaka Museum of Natural History to support our inquiry. We explored the variety of exhibits in the museum and participated in a workshop given by an entomologist. The museum provided a wonderful opportunity for the students to discover the evolution of living creatures and to learn more about their habitats.



The students have been learning about different ecosystems in the world and the animals that live in these ecosystems. They have also been learning about the physical and behavioral adaptations of animals and how these adaptations help the animals to survive.



WELCOME TO THE GRADE 4 EMPORIUM! by Lora Vimont – grade 4 teacher



emporium (n) ~ a place where goods and services are exchanged

The Grade 4 students recently had a chance to gain some real-world experience in the business world by creating their own “Grade 4 Emporium” as part of their inquiry into HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES: *Businesses depend on the ability to produce goods and supply services that can be exchanged.* In teams of 3 or 4, students worked to form their own business communities where each team member was responsible for thinking of and marketing his or her own good or service for the team business. Business communities and offerings ranged from magic-related items to fun games, beauty services, cool products and an array of food and drinks. In addition to working on team social skills such as group decision-making and adopting a variety of group roles, individual self-management skills such as time management (a.k.a. “meeting deadlines”) and personal organization were also put into play during this learning opportunity.

Our Grade 4 students were fortunate to have several opportunities to present their emporium offerings over a couple of school days to a wide range of customers, from children to adults, using mediums of exchange including real Japanese Yen and virtual US dollars. This gave all students the chance to reflect on which things worked well for their businesses and which things did not, and then think of ways to refine their group marketing campaigns to improve for the next time. Many mathematical skills were also utilized throughout, including problem solving, money handling and a great deal of computational work involving the use of fractions, decimals and percentages. Students were also responsible for collecting, organizing and analyzing the data during their experience in the form of surveys, tables, bar graphs and pie charts. Start-up costs were also factored in and repaid to parents or friends before calculating final team profits.

In the end, the Grade 4 business teams were proud to announce their combined earned profits from sales generated on our Open Day of **12,925 Japanese Yen!** The students have decided to **donate this money to the Save the Children/Red Cross charity** who are now working to help the children that are suffering in Nepal from the recent earthquake disasters.

Well done, Grade 4 students!



SABERS UPDATE by Peter Heimer, activities director

Sabers website: sabers.senri.ed.jp

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



WJAA season-ending tournament: HS softball

Last Friday and Saturday, May 8-9, Coach Hirai, Coach Hikosaka, and the high school softball team travelled to Marist Brothers International School (MBIS) in Suma, Kobe, to participate in the annual Western Japan Activities Association (WJAA) championship tournament. The Sabers varsity finished in 2nd place, losing to the powerhouse host Bulldogs in the finals. The Sabers JV team also played and finished in 5th place, gaining valuable experience. Fuku Ugai and Akiko Takeda were voted to the all-tournament team.

Table tennis

The Sabers high school table tennis team plays in a season-ending competition against Haga Junior High School and Harima-Kohgen Junior High School at Harima-Kohgen Junior High School in Hyogo Prefecture on Saturday, May 16. Thank you, Coach Takahashi and Coach Yamada, for a good season of table tennis.

WJAA season-ending tournaments: MS softball, MS volleyball, HS baseball

This Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, the middle school boys volleyball team travels to Canadian Academy (CA) on Rokko Island, Kobe, for its WJAA final tournament. At the same time, SOIS hosts the WJAA middle school girls softball tournament. Please come to the Sabers field to cheer on the softball team. And the Sabers HS baseball team travels to Nagoya for a shot at a repeat WJAA championship. Good luck, all Sabers teams.

Final MS spring season begins in late May

Once the school festival is finished, the final spring sports season for middle school begins: badminton with Coach Minakuchi and Coach Mishima, and tennis with Coach Avery and Coach Van Plantinga. Practices for both sports begin Tuesday, May 26, and are held Tuesdays and Thursdays after school.

AISA results, April 10-11: swimming, girls soccer, boys soccer

The Sabers high school and middle school swim teams competed in the AISA swim meet here in the Sabers pool. The high school team finished 3rd behind Seoul International School and Korea International School. The middle school team finished 4th. Top swimmers for the Sabers were high schooler Haruka Sugimoto, who scored 36 points to finish as the third place female swimmer overall, and middle schooler Natsumi Takeda, who scored 27 points to finish as the fifth place female swimmer. Haruka was the 100 meter butterfly champion and Natsumi was the 400 meter free style champion. Congratulations and thank you, Coach Bertman and Coach Kano. For more information and photos, please visit the AISA swim meet webpage at <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/swimming1.html>.

The Sabers boys and girls soccer teams traveled to Seoul for season-ending AISA tournaments. Both teams finished in 3rd place.

- All-tournament team selections for the Sabers girls were Sakiko Otsuki, Fuka Ugai, May Murakami-Smith.
- All-tournament team selections for the Sabers boys were Gerardo Takeuchi, Akira Polenghi, Taku Kitagawa.

Congratulations and thank you to coaches Stephen Frater, Richard Fitzpatrick, Isaac Driver, and Derek Entwistle, and to chaperone Leanne Entwistle. Great seasons, Sabers.

One more big Sabers event: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/awards.html>

On Friday, June 5, we hold our annual SOIS high school athletic awards celebration. At 4:00 PM in the theater we recognize all teams with photos of the seasons and announcements of most valuable players and most improved players for each team. Then, we enjoy a light meal in the cafeteria, where we announce two major awards: the Dr. Fukuda Award to the top SOIS scholar-athlete, both male and female; and the Outstanding Athlete of the Year Award to the best all-around Sabers athlete, both male and female. This is a fun, important event that celebrates all of the many positive aspects of the Sabers athletics program.

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 MS girls softball A team



Sabers MS girls softball B team



Stephen Frater's TECH CORNER

iPads in Grades 6, 7 and 8

The use of technology in education at OIS over the past few years has had three main areas of focus; the 1:1 iPad pilot programme in grades 6, 7 and 8, the adoption of Google Apps for Education under the soismail system for students and families, and the move to put more curriculum materials, assignments and assessments online using Moodle and ManageBac. After reviewing the use of technology at OIS, we will be contacting parents with some proposals for implementation from this Fall, particularly in regards to the 1:1 iPad programme. We are seeking feedback from parents currently involved in the programme, and hope to receive your comments and/or answer your questions, through written correspondence as well as a series of coffee mornings to be scheduled for this purpose.

Please look out for an email in your family **soismail inbox** early next week for more details. Whilst the target audience for the email is families with students in grades 5-8, I would welcome comments from all OIS parents and guardians on the topic.

Thank you.

VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION IN TOKYO



Elementary and middle school school visual arts teacher Jennifer Henbest de Calvillo recently participated in an arts exhibition entitled “Yohaku” at the Grill Gallery in the avante garde neighborhood of Koto-ku in Tokyo. Ms. Henbest and three international school art teachers from Tokyo, Korea and Vietnam, exhibited works interpreting a Japanese concept/kanji of “empty space”. She had 22 small works, 7 mixed media projects and a 3-D installation. It was a special opening reception on May 2, with the sense of sharing and the arts bringing the community together, being strongly present. Media coverage of the event included NHK World and community radio.

It helps our students greatly when our visual arts teachers can work professionally and exhibit their own works publicly. Congratulations to Ms. Henbest!

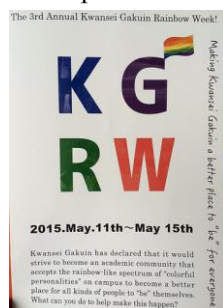


RAINBOW WEEK

Kwansei Gakuin celebrated the third annual Rainbow Week from May 11 - 15, 2015. KG has declared that it is striving to become an academic community that accepts the rainbow-like spectrum of “colorful personalities” on campus to become a better place for all kinds of people to be themselves.

The university adopted the “Inclusive Community Declaration” in September of 2010 in order to achieve a community without barriers. The declaration reads that every student, professor, employee, alumni and their family members are respected and it aims to create an environment where every individual can have the chance to display their abilities to the fullest, regardless of their gender, age, nationality, race, ethnicity, birthplace, language, religion, beliefs, physical features, mental state, and sexuality.

The week is sponsored by KG's Institute for Human Rights Research and Education (IHRRE). They are presenting panel displays on all their campuses and they showed the 2012 American movie, “Any Day Now” earlier in the week.



The last *Educator* of this school year will be published on Friday 19 June.

FROM THE STUDENT INFORMATION & COUNSELING CENTERS

If you need any kind of certificate for any reason (transcript, certificate of attendance / graduation, etc.) please make sure to request it before summer vacation. Office staff will take some days off and may not be able to issue documents immediately during the summer.

To request, please submit “Application for Issuing Certificates” at the Student Information Center.

各種証明書(在学証明書・成績証明書等)は、夏休み前に申し込んで下さい。

夏休みに入りますと、すぐに対応できない場合があります。

The Student Information Center
TEL: 072-727-2305



REMINDER FOR LEAVING FAMILIES

If your child or children are leaving OIS as of the end of June, please turn in a Withdrawal Form (green color) to the Counseling Center as soon as possible. Forms are available at the Counseling Center.

For middle and high school students, there is Sign Out (yellow) form which they need take around to HR and class teachers to receive signatures. Without these withdrawal forms we cannot start the process. Grades for this term will be input and confirmed at the beginning of July.

A School Report and transcript (cumulative record at OIS) will be sent to your current address, unless there is a special request.

6月末で退学を予定されている方は、早目にカウンセリングセンターにて手続きをお願い致します。必要な用紙はカウンセリングセンターにあります。手続きの事で不明な点がありましたら、カウンセリングセンターまでご連絡下さい。

Noriko Truscott
Email: ntruscott@senri.ed.jp
Phone: 072-727-5061

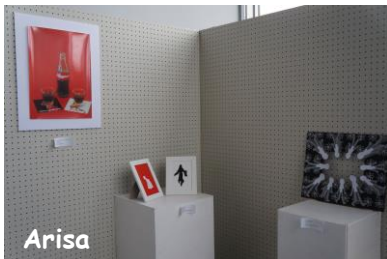
GRADE 12 IBDP EXHIBITION

The Grade 12 IBDP Visual Arts exhibit took place from April 10-30. It was the culmination of the students' two-year course for art in the diploma programme. Each student set up their individual exhibit to mark the end of their artistic journey in the course. The art pieces in the exhibition were the students' personal expression of their thoughts and ideas on historical and cultural issues visualized using different forms, media and techniques. This year the artists also decided to sell some of their art pieces and donate the proceeds to the school in Bali that their class went to for service trip last year.

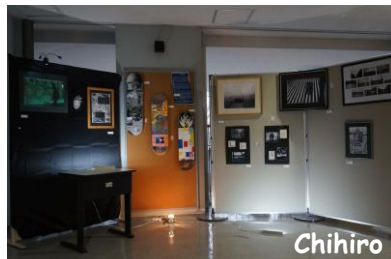
Congratulations to Jamie Bassett, Noemi Datta, Julia Grabowsky, Lisa Ishihara, Haruka Liu, Hannah Melville-Rea, Saki Nagai, Chihiro Okada, Arisa Mizuno, Eugenie Shin and Hamna Zulfiqar for a wonderful show of works!



Eugenie



Arisa



Chihiro



Hamna



Haruka



Hannah



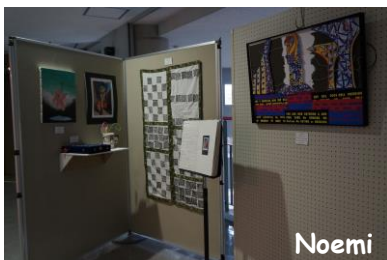
Jamie



Julia



Lisa



Noemi



Saki

SCHOOL CALENDAR

4-22 May

* IB exams

13-18 May

* G5 Exhibition

23 May

* MS/HS School Festival / ES Spring Concert

29 May

* Faculty Forum – Half day of school

3 June

* PTA meeting, 8:45-10:30am @3F conference room

* MS/HS Spring Bands Concert, 4:00pm @theatre

4 June

* MS/HS Spring Strings & Chorus Concert, 4:00pm @theatre

5 June

* HS Athletic Awards, 4:00pm @theatre

6 June

* SAT I & II Tests @OIS/SIS



9 June

* HS Spring Concert, 6:30pm @Mino City Maple Hall



12 June

* ES Super Swim Carnival
* HS Graduation, 7:00pm

17 June

* HS Student Council Cleaning Day

19 June

* Courtyard Concert

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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student attendance

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