

# Educator



14 May 2016

## SUPPORT FOR KUMAMOTO

The empathic and caring nature of our community really is shining through with the multiple fundraising events to relieve the victims of the Kumamoto earthquake. Elementary, middle and high school students from both schools are coming together to raise money. The student-made “kumamon” cookies were a hit with hungry students and parents in the genkan! OIS students are also doing regular bake sales and donating the proceeds from class events, like the grade 4 emporium to the cause. We are truly living our mission to be “caring individuals contributing to a global community.” Over 100,000 yen has been raised so far.



## from the desk of the head, BILL KRALOVEC

The faculty recently underwent child protection training. Child protection is an issue that has been on top of many international schools agendas with several high profile cases of teachers abusing children at international schools. Regional associations of international schools around the world are writing policies to deal with abuse when it happens and putting in measures to prevent it. The OIS faculty are writing guidelines to protect themselves and our students to avoid inappropriate relationships, including online communication. The workshop included looking for signs of abuse, physical, emotional, psychological, etc in students of all ages. We went through simulations of different scenarios and discussed what should be done. The goal of training was to raise awareness with teachers and to help with any gray areas. The safety of students in our care is always our first priority.

It was nice to see so many parents attending our visitation day. Dr. Masayo Yamamoto's presentation on bilingualism on the day was also well attended. I took away from her research a better understanding of the role of parents in language development of their children. If a parent here in Japan wants their children to speak a language other than Japanese or English, they need to speak with their child and preferably their spouse in that language. I also learned the terminology to describe different types of bilinguals. Thank you to Dr. Yamamoto! We are planning the third part of our symposiums on bilingualism next month.

Finally, it was inspiring to see academics and learning celebrated in our hosting of the World's Scholar Cup. (Please see the photos below.) We hosted 8 schools during the Golden Week. There was such excitement as the students debated and competed in knowledge quiz bowl events. 18 OIS students performed well enough to qualify for the global round next month in Bangkok. Congratulations to the students and best wishes for the program growing even stronger. It is nice to see academic events generating the same level of enthusiasm as athletics and the fine arts.



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

This morning I was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and a student said to his classmates, “do you realize that now that Golden Week is over we have 40 days of school with no holidays?!” We are definitely in the homestretch of the school year. The grade 12 students started their exams during Golden Week and they will finish next week. The grade 11 students and their parents are busy planning the graduation ceremony. All students are using their homeroom time to plan for the school festival which takes place on Saturday, May 28 (which is a school day). There are also several sports tournaments in May. You put all of that together and the end of a school year is really a busy time.

Of course, classes are also taking place and this is a busy time of year for those, too. Many students are working on assessments and the grade 11 students will have exams in June. To some, it may seem that academics should be the only focus in schools but more and more research is pointing to the fact that it takes more than academics to be successful in life. Last month I mentioned how the work of Carol Dweck is related to this. Recently, I came across an article called, [\*The difference between being eligible for college and ready for college\*](#). Any student who graduates from OIS is eligible for college. We have a strong academic program that prepares students for the academic rigors of university. As a principal though, I have to consider whether our program is preparing students for the other aspects of college life beyond academics. The ability to plan ahead, interact socially, negotiate with peers and professors, and manage deadlines are all skills that college students require. That is why we encourage student involvement in other activities such as planning events like the School Festival or participating in sports or service activities.

So yes, it is a busy time of year and the students have a lot going on as we move towards the last days of school. But in the process, the students should be developing the skills they need for when they move beyond school.



**from the desk of the elementary principal,  
CAROLYNE MARSHALL**

Communication skills are practised daily in the PYP and are one of the five approaches to learning skills, the others being social, self-management, thinking and research skills. Teachers support development by providing opportunities embedded in authentic learning experiences which have been much in evidence across the elementary school recently.



Earth Week provided an effective catalyst for authentic communication for all elementary students, as they are very concerned about humanity's use and abuse of the planet.

Grade 2 powerfully demonstrated this through a symbolic tug-of-war in the assembly and the grade 3 students shared their dramatic skills in their presentation of *The Kapok Tree*. Wearing vivid animal masks, they demonstrated strong gestures to communicate the play's ecological message to their parents.

Grade 3 also practised their communication skills by writing persuasive letters. Together they composed a well-argued letter which convinced me that a second-hand sofa would be a useful addition to their classroom learning environment. It is great to see them sitting on this, reading and discussing their ideas avidly.

After finding out how much waste is created by the school community, grade 1 students used their communication skills to present a TV broadcast to the SOIS community. They urged everyone to think more carefully about creating waste and to recycle more often. Their television debut was widely praised.

Running their emporium, grade 4 sharpened their communication skills as they dealt with a wide variety of customers. Ms Lamug, the school counsellor, and I worked with the students exploring different situations that they might experience. This enabled them to appreciate the importance of body language and teamwork to sell their product or service effectively.

Another expressive performance was delivered by KB students in their play *The Rainbow Fish to the Rescue*. The students confidently took on the roles of a variety of sea creatures and spoke the lines that they had created and learnt very well.



KA students demonstrated their communication skills when they conducted their parents around their art gallery. They explained in detail their impressions of the artists' techniques they had studied and how they had created their own artworks expressing their views about different colours.

Actioneers now include representatives elected from grades 3, 4 and 5. These six students lead assemblies, welcomed parents to the Osaka Olympics and will present an assembly to SIS about Earth Week in Japanese. Grade 5 hosted a visit of fellow fifth graders from the Wong Kam Fai Primary School from Hong Kong who contacted me asking for help to research earthquake safety procedures.

At the end of this month all the elementary students will demonstrate their communication skills in a concert at the school festival on Saturday 28 May. There will be songs, plays and musical items in English and Japanese. I hope everyone will come along and enjoy this musical and dramatic celebration that will also emphasize our students' ecological message.

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



- MONDAY 16 May**  
ramen with gyoza
- TUESDAY 17 May**  
curry rice
- WEDNESDAY 18 May**  
hamburger steak
- THURSDAY 19 May**  
fried white fish
- FRIDAY 20 May**  
pizza toast
- MONDAY 23 May**  
chicken stewed in tomato sauce
- TUESDAY 24 May**  
chicken cutlet
- WEDNESDAY 25 May**  
cheese omelet with meat sauce
- THURSDAY 26 May**  
kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd
- FRIDAY 27 May**  
spaghetti with meat sauce
- MONDAY 30 May**  
fried chicken 
- TUESDAY 31 May**  
hiyashi udon - cold wheat noodle soup
- WEDNESDAY 1 June**  
Spaghetti with corn cream sauce
- THURSDAY 2 June**  
Milanese pork cutlet 
- FRIDAY 3 June**  
miso-flavored ramen
- MONDAY 6 June**  
hiyashi somen - cold thin wheat noodles
- TUESDAY 7 June**  
curry rice
- WEDNESDAY 8 June**  
spaghetti with meat sauce
- THURSDAY 9 June**  
saute of a fried meat cake & sausages
- FRIDAY 10 June**  
hamburger 

**SCHOOL FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY, 28 MAY**

Everyone, students, parents and other community members are invited to attend the School Festival on Saturday May 28. The SOIS student council organizes the event with the help of volunteers. This year's theme is **Fairy Tale**.

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 in the theatre
- 9.50:  
Festival starts.
- 10.30:  
Performances start.
- 14.30:  
Festival finishes and cleaning starts.  
All non-SOIS students must leave the school to facilitate cleaning.
- 15.30:  
Cleaning finishes and students are dismissed.  
(All MS students must leave.)
- 15.30:  
Evening performances start.  
Please note the evening performances are only for high school students (with faculty supervising).  
Parents, middle school students, non-SOIS friends and graduates are asked to respect this request as it is made by the Student Council.
- 18.30:  
Evening performances end and all students must leave.

**Please remember there is no parking at school.**



**OSAKA OLYMPICS 2016**

by **Leanne Entwistle, P.E. elementary specialist**



The elementary school held a very exciting Osaka Olympics Track and Field Sports event on the afternoon of Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>. Although the weather was a little cool, the children ran fast, threw long and jumped as far as they could. Many parents braved the weather to cheer and support the children. Thank you!

24 school records were broken on the day.



A huge thank you must go to the teachers and parent volunteers, who helped to organize the children, measure and record for them. Also thank you to the OIS PTA for donating icy poles for the children to enjoy after the event. Much appreciated.

Next year we will hold the Super Swimming afternoon in June.

Thank you for all your support and enthusiasm.





## Welcome to the Grade 4 Emporium! by Lora Vimont, Grade 4 teacher

emporium (n) – a market place offering a wide variety of goods and services

Throughout the last week of April, the Grade 4 class hosted its own shopping “emporium” for members of the SOIS community as a way of inquiring into their unit on HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES and the central idea: Businesses depend on the ability to produce goods and supply services that can be exchanged.

In order to prepare for their “real-world experience” as young business owners and operators, the students worked both individually and together within a business team of 4 members. The challenge was to not only create and operate their own individual business, but also to see which business team could generate the most in profit by the end of the emporium.

In the beginning, each team brainstormed ideas on different types of goods and services that they thought would not only attract business, but also work within their own particular business communities. Once a team decided upon what kind of business each person would offer, each person on the team was then responsible for inquiring into their own good or service by doing a bit of research about the materials and procedures involved. They also were asked to research a real local business that offered a similar type of good or service for realistic examples of pricing, serving sizes, types of payment accepted, mission statement, etc.

About a week before the real emporium, it was “crunch time” and all teams had deadlines to meet! Students were asked to bring in samples of their goods or services to try out within their own individual business communities in order to test for quality. Like all real businesses, students were asked to keep track of their own “start-up” expenses so that they could pay back their lenders (aka “parents”) in the end. At the same time, poster advertisements and other components used for marketing, such as business cards and informational pamphlets, were also prepared. It was a real organizational and time-management challenge!

During the final days leading up to the big Friday Emporium, the Grade 4s had a lot of opportunity to experiment and test their different business and marketing strategies by inviting all the elementary classes and teachers to come in and shop using pre-issued paper “bucks” as the medium of exchange. At the end of each day, students were asked to reflect on what went well, what didn’t go well and their ideas for improving for the next time. They were also required to create a line graph showing their individual sales over time and analyze their data.

On “Open Day” Friday, April 29th, the G4 parents and members of the SOIS community were invited to shop at the G4 Emporium using real “100 yen coins” as the medium of exchange for all purchases. In the end, the G4s were able to generate over 69,000 yen in sales and 47,683 yen in total profits which they decided to donate to the earthquake relief effort in Kumamoto.

Congratulations to all the G4 students for demonstrating such great business savvy and teamwork! An extra round of applause goes to the TOP SELLING TEAM: “Kenomiinico!” who was able to generate 17,411 yen in sales and (after paying back their lenders) 11,466 yen in total profit!

Many thanks to the generosity of all who came to support our class and shop at our emporium!!

We really had fun and learned a lot!

## Grade 4 Emporium Business Teams

### “Wacky Variety City”

- Sam, Natsumi, Kevin and Mira



### “Grab ‘n Go Town”

- Mary, Chiharu and Ethan (Karni not pictured)



### “Doodle Doods Studios”

- Chae Yoon, Mia, Keito and Oliver



### “Banana Bashers Resort”

- Lee Ern, Lyon, Irene and Fred



### “Kenomiinico Studio”

- Kenta, Miina, Nico and Noah



## SABERS UPDATE by Peter Heimer, activities director



- Sabers website: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/>
- Sabers Athletics Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/soissabers>
- Scoreboard fundraiser: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/fundraising.html>

### AISA results: swimming, soccer, April 14-17, 2016

- The Sabers high school swim team traveled to Seoul to compete in the AISA swim meet. The Sabers swimmers finished 3rd behind Seoul International School and Korea International School. Congratulations and thank you, Coach Bertman and Coach Kano.
  - The Sabers boys and girls soccer teams both competed in season-ending AISA tournaments, the boys in Yokohama and the girls at the KG Sanda campus field. Both teams played well – good. Both teams won AISA championships – better. And both teams won tournament sportsmanship awards – best.
  - All-tournament team, girls: Sakiko Otsuki, Ai Kano, Hana Ikeda, Suono Fujii, May Murakami-Smith
  - All-tournament team, boys: Kento Moriguchi, Hiroto Inui, Kazuma Kiyohiro, Shutaro Hisamatsu
- Congratulations and thank you to coaches Stephen Frater, Mitsuhiro Kono, David Haske, and Derek Entwistle. Great seasons, Sabers.
- An important side note: with the double AISA soccer championship and sportsmanship awards, the Sabers soccer teams – boys and girls, MS and HS – made a clean sweep of titles in 2015-16, winning every tournament competition. Not bad.

### WJAA tournaments

Four Sabers teams compete in season-ending WJAA championship tournaments this Friday and Saturday, May 13-14. Good luck to all coaches and teams. Come to the Sabers gym to cheer on the MS boys volleyball team.

- MS girls softball @Canadian Academy
- HS boys volleyball here @SOIS
- HS girls softball @Marist Brothers
- HS boys baseball @Nagoya (going for a “three-peat” championship)

### Table tennis

The Sabers high school and middle school table tennis teams do not get as much recognition as other teams, but thanks to Coach Takahashi and Coach Yamada, the two teams are popular and going strong. The teams played in one competition, April 24, at Sayou Junior High School in Hyogo Prefecture. And the Sabers will play 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 21. Good luck, Sabers table tennis team.

### Final MS spring season

Once the school festival is finished, the final spring sports season for middle school begins. MS Sabers have 3 options.

- badminton
  - tennis
  - Sabers Skills (throwing, batting, kicking, running, shooting, jumping)
- Practices are held Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, beginning May 31.

### One more big Sabers event

On Friday, June 3, 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. From 6:00 PM, 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. We encourage all Sabers athletes, fans, and family to attend.

### Thank you

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



Sabers HS girls softball teams – WJAA



Sabers HS boys baseball teams – WJAA



## TECH CORNER from Stephen Frater

OIS has a policy of *bring-your-own-device* (BYOD) for high school students in grades 9-12, whereby students use their own laptops, tablets or other electronic devices at school when a computer is needed. A computing device is actually not needed in every class or even every day, and teachers try to give advanced warning of when one might come in useful so that students can bring one from home for the day. The school provides WiFi access for those devices on request, and as long as the student follows the appropriate guidelines for using the network, this access will remain in place for their device for the duration of their stay in high school. (For your interest, a copy of the WiFi application form and the guidelines for network use can be [found here](#)).

In contrast, the school provides a range of computers and iPads for use in elementary and middle school. Each classroom from grade KA to grade 5 has its own allocation of Dell laptops and iPads, and there are another 20 Lenovo laptops and three computer labs for the teachers to use when more devices are needed. In middle school, each classroom has a set of around 20 iPads, plus access to the three computer labs and another mobile lab of up to 40 Dell laptops. In other words, there is a substantial quantity of IT hardware available to teachers and students in our elementary and middle schools.

I have chosen to focus on this because it is becoming increasingly common for middle school students (and some elementary students) to have their own smartphones, iPods, iPads and laptop computers, and an increasing number of middle school students have asked if they can connect their device to the school WiFi. Our general guidelines in these circumstances are as follows:

- First of all, adding a personal device from an elementary or middle school student is an exception, and as such there needs to be an exceptional reason for the request. Teachers plan their curriculum around the availability of our school laptops and iPads, so there should never be a case of a student 'needing' their own device to complete an assignment.
- Secondly, we must weigh up the 'preference' of a student to use their own device, with the added risks that come with carrying an expensive piece of technology around school all day. The main dangers tend to be damage to the device (it's remarkable how many are left on the floor, or stuffed into bags with no protective cover), or a lost device. The dangers tend to increase the lower the grade and the younger the student.
- Thirdly, we have a finite network bandwidth at school, and many devices (especially the 'always-on' smartphones and iPads) continue to be connected and downloading data even when not in use. Many applications update themselves in the background to ensure that the latest messages/posts/data is available when the application is next opened. This uses valuable bandwidth that is needed by students actually completing tasks in class, so the fewer devices we have active at any given time, the better.
- Finally, despite the agreement that students sign when requesting access, it is frequently tempting for students to use their personal devices to play games and watch videos online for entertainment, during breaks or between classes. This uses a lot of our network resources for non-educational purposes, and again the likelihood of this happening tends to increase the lower the grade.

As a general rule, therefore, any elementary or middle school student who wishes to bring their own device will be asked to discuss the request carefully with their parents first, and we ask parents to consider the risks and to be aware of our concerns before approving their child's request. We are always prepared to cater to specific needs, or course, but as a general rule our policy and preference is to limit BYOD to high school whenever possible.

Thank you for your consideration. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sfrater@senri.ed.jp](mailto:sfrater@senri.ed.jp) with any technology related questions or suggestions you have, or visit me in room 324 next time you are on campus.

## 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](mailto:ntruscott@senri.ed.jp)  
Phone: 072-727-5061

# 2016 SPRING MUSIC RECITAL, 26 APRIL



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**2 - 19 May**

\*IB exams

**18 - 19 May**

\*G5 Exhibition

**28 May**

\* MS/HS School Festival / ES Spring Concert 'Earth Celebration'

**1 June**

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

**2 June**

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

**3 June**

\* HS Athletic Awards, 4:00pm @theatre

**4 June**

\* SAT I & II Tests @OIS/SIS

**6 June**

\* OIS/SIS MS student council election

**6 - 17 June**

\* OIS/SIS Art Show

**7 June**

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

**10 June**

\* HS Graduation



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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