

Educator



20 June 2015

SCHOOL FESTIVAL - 23 May

The school festival is an annual event that is planned and executed almost entirely by students. We feel it is a great learning experience for our middle school and high school students. The elementary students get the benefit of enjoying the games and booths. The older students are very caring towards the younger students.



The Elementary Spring Concert was held in the theatre on the same morning.



SCHOOL FEE PAYMENT FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

The bank transfer date for school fees for 2015 fall term is Friday 18 September. Invoices for continuing students will be sent at the beginning of September. Please inform us by the end of August in the following cases:

- To make an annual school fees payment
- To change your billing address
- To obtain annual or fall term invoice earlier before September

Kaoru Endo, fees' administration phone: 072-727-5053

e-mail: kendo@senri.ed.jp

• To apply for school bus and/or lunch
Setsuko Nakatsuka, student information center

Phone: 072-727-2305

e-mail: snakatsuka@senri.ed.jp

FEES & FINANCIAL AID

The financial aid committee will be meeting to review applications in the last week of June. If you have not yet submitted an application but would like to be considered, please submit documentation by Wednesday 24 June. Forms are available from OIS-Admissions-Downloads section of the website. The updated fee schedule is also now available online.

LIBRARY

Summer Schedule 2015 by Chieko Singh, librarian

The library will be closed during the summer holiday. The last day of the library opening for OIS will be on Friday 26th June at 12:00.

Any OIS members should return the library books by Friday 19 June. You can check out books for your summer reading from the day.

If you want to check out more than usual, please ask Mr Mecklem.

*Please note that any library books should not be traveling with you.

All the check out book is to be returned by Friday 28th August.

I would like to show my appreciation to all for your kind and strong support for the library. It has been great to work in the library; I could make great memories with all of you! I especially have a strong feeling for the Book Week; hope you have fun events next year. It is very sad to leave the school/library, but will be in touch with you. I am excited to have more time for reading next year.

I will never forget the time we spent together!

Thank you and have a great holiday!



from the desk of the head, Bill Kralovec

It is a characteristic of international schools that faculty come and go on a yearly basis. In one way this is good because it brings in fresh ideas and new ways of doing things. The difficult part of this, is maintaining continuity of successful programs. I think the key is finding a balance between consistency and innovation. Of course, long term faculty can be innovative and our faculty are always trying to improve themselves. We are proud that the average length of stay at OIS for faculty is seven years, which strikes that good balance. Four years is also above average for international schools regarding teacher retention.

We say goodbye to eight faculty members this year. The elementary principal/PYP coordinator Virginia Sutton will be going to an IB school in Qatar, along with her husband, Mark Upsdell, who was an early childhood classroom assistant. Angela Hancock the MYP math and science teacher will be teaching in Long Beach, California. Elementary teachers Isaac Driver and Megan Castro will be going to the Canadian International School in Singapore. Andrew Reynoso, the grade 5 teacher, will be working in a leadership position with the Mount Zaagkam International School in Indonesia. Richard Fitzpatrick will be teaching chemistry at the International School of Zurich. Chieko Singh, the librarian, will be moving to Tokyo. Elementary music teacher Sarah Bonner will be moving to Australia. The school appreciates their efforts and dedication to our students and we will miss them. The quality of their new positions reflects favorably on our school and on our departing faculty. Best wishes for continued success in your new endeavours.

I am happy to announce that the students and faculty raised 139,561 Yen to send the Lincoln School of Kathmandu's Earthquake Relief Fund. From elementary to high school and from both schools, students led a grass roots movement to help the poor of Nepal. This is truly living our mission statement of "contributing to a global community" and shows the caring nature of our students. The Lincoln School will distribute 100% of the funds to where it is needed most. You can follow their efforts on the Lincoln School Facebook page (lsnepal).

We recently did a security check of the windows on the third floor classrooms. Safety devices will be placed in the classroom and hallway windows. Areas identified on the OIS section of the school were windows opening onto the library courtyard and the lower school small gym open space. The windows will not open fully and will deter students from leaning out on the ledges, hopefully preventing an accident.

Thank you to the parents who completed the first OIS Parent Climate Survey. I recently sent a link to the Google form to all OIS families SOISmail account. The purpose of the survey is to hear the parents' perspective on how we are doing. Good ideas can come from anywhere and we are always looking to improve. With many parents coming to campus next week, we will have laptop computer stations set up in the library for parents to complete the survey. While you are waiting for the end of the school day or your child's party to begin, please stop in the library and complete the survey. It takes about 10-15 minutes of your time.

My father who was a long-time school principal always said that the school year flies by. It seems like August and June are clear and everything in between is a blur. That is very true and I cannot believe that it is already June. I would like to thank the community for welcoming me and my family to OIS and I am looking forward to next year. IB learners are BALANCED and I wish everyone the time to find balance in your lives. Doing things together as a family, being active and enjoying the outdoors, wherever you may be are nice ways to unwind from a hectic school and work year.

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

With every student giving a speech, many in multiple languages, graduation at OIS is unlike any other one I have been associated with either as a student or an educator. Watching the seniors and how far they have come really is a proud moment. I would like to congratulate one more time the class of 2015 for all of their work and the success they had while they were at OIS. I am also looking forward to following what happens next in their lives.

We can't discuss graduation without also bringing up the grade 11 students and their parents. There is a long tradition at OIS of the grade 11 class hosting graduation. The students act as ushers, the technical crew, decorators, waiters, they really take on all kinds of tasks. The parents organize and prepare all of the food that is served at the reception. Graduation wouldn't be as nice as it is without all of the work of the grade 11 families. Thank you!

Whether they just graduated or finished their first year of middle school I would like to congratulate all of the students on a successful year. I would also like to thank the families for your support. I look forward to having another good year in 2015-2016.

There is only a week left of school for middle and high school students. Friday June 26 is their last day (elementary finishes on Wednesday, June 24). Please remember that it is a half day and students will be dismissed at 11:30. After Friday, the next important date to remember is Monday, August 24. This is when students report to school after summer vacation. Returning students should be in the theater at 1:00 pm for an opening assembly and orientation. (Note that new students will have a separate orientation beginning at 9:00 am). They will then go to their homerooms to get lockers, schedules, etc. That way we can start right in on regular classes first thing Tuesday morning. Please also mark Thursday, September 17 on calendar as that is when we will hold our annual "Back to School Night" for parents. This will be an opportunity to meet your children's teachers and find out about the expectations for the year. I'll be looking forward to seeing you! Until then, have a great summer!



RAINBOW OF DREAMS

The Rainbow of Dreams K-12 Art Show was a collaborative effort from many people in our school community. Thank you especially to the SOIS administration, teachers, computer department, and KG office/ facilities staff. We would especially like to thank the dedicated parent volunteers who worked tirelessly on signs, display and design arrangement, labels, ikebana, cards, mural photographs and arrangement and mounting, hanging all the art and the time consuming Poppy display and firings. Without the parent community this never would have happened.

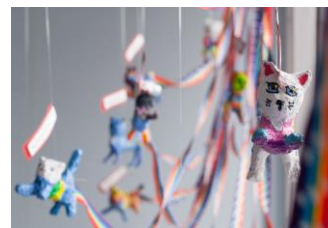
Thank you especially to Mijiah Iwamoto-Lew who first came up with the concept of Dreams and as a designer and parent put many hours into helping make this be a beautiful experience for highlighting the dreams and creativity of our talented students. Mijiah inspired teachers and parents to enjoy time together making our school beautiful with the rainbow of dreams of our children. She inspired Mrs. Henbest to think that the ES could actually do this while the Art department was teaching.



The Elementary especially has never had such nice and handmade signs and display. Thank You ES and MS moms and dads! Next year we will form a committee for each class so we can be more organized and use class Reps. Thanks to the PTA for hosting the opening. Thank you to the seniors Hannah and Lisa who dedicated many hours to making art cards for the art charity "Art in All of Us". It made this valuable experience even better.

This year the SOIS Art Department had all new art teachers Mr. Myers, Ms. Garces, and Mr. Diertley. We also had a new Design/Art Teacher Mrs. Dupont. Mrs. Henbest would like to thank the new department for all their collaborative efforts to make the Rainbow of Dreams Art show happen.

The Art Department will surely miss all the leaving families and teachers who helped make our show great. We have all heard the African proverb It takes a Village to Raise a Child. In an IBO school it takes the village and collaborative colleagues to make a school great. It has been a wonderful experience for everyone.



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

K-Gr. 2 SET LUNCH MENU - CAFETERIA



TUESDAY 23 June
pork-flavored ramen

ANNUAL SUITA CITY MAYOR'S CUP TRIATHLON & AQUATHLON by Hiroshi Baba, triathlon club coach

Date: Sunday, Sep. 6th, 2015

Venue: Kita-Senri Swimming Pool
& Senri-Kita Koen

Category:

Gr.1-2: Swim 50m + Run 1.4km
(Aquathlon)

Gr.3-6: Swim 125m + Run 1.4km
(Aquathlon)

Gr.7-9: Swim 500m + Stationary
Bike 10km + Run 2.8km
(Triathlon) or Swim 500m + Run
2.8km (Aquathlon)

Gr.10 and up: Swim 1000m +
Stationary Bike 20km + Run
5.6km (Triathlon) or Swim 500m
+ Run 2.8km (Aquathlon)

Entry Fee: pay on the race day
Gr.1-Adults Aquathlon and Gr.7-9
Triathlon: 500yen

Gr.10-Adults Triathlon: 1000yen
Rental Bike: 500yen



from the desk of the elementary principal, VIRGINIA SUTTON

Important dates for Elementary:

22nd June: Elementary school Picnic Day

23rd June: Grade 5 Celebration lunch

24th June: Elementary school end of year assembly 9:00am-10:00am in the theater (all parents welcome)

2015-2016 Academic year

25th August Orientation day for new students in the elementary
9:00am-10:30am

26th August Elementary classes start. KA/KB till 11:30am

Another successful year in the elementary draws to a close with the school bidding farewell to some of our students.

Nene Sophie Yamanishi	Moving to USA for a year
Sung Hoon, Sean Oh	Moving to Tokyo
So Yoon Park	Returning to Korea
Shimon Yamanishi	Moving to USA for a year
Ekafuri Akito Nagashima	Moving to Indonesia
Luna Hirano	Moving to USA
Sota Mark Ogata	Moving to Tokyo

We wish all our departing students all the best in their new schools.

As this is my final newsletter as the Elementary Principal of Osaka International School of Kwansai Gakuin, I wanted to write my appreciation to the OIS community which I have been fortunate to be a part of for the past 2 years. There have been so many positive experiences during my two years here that will always remain as special memories.

These include but are not limited to:
our assemblies, grade 5 exhibition, picnic day, Art show, Super swim carnival, and concerts.

These memories were a result of the efforts of all of the groups of the OIS and I would like to say a few words of thanks to each of these groups.

First of all to the faculty: All of our teachers and classroom assistants demonstrate on a daily basis a strong commitment to our students. This commitment is not just limited to classroom learning it is also evident in helping the children to develop strong social skills and providing our students with opportunities outside the normal curriculum that will help them to be successful and well-rounded individuals.

Our Elementary school would not be the wonderful place it is without the support of our parents. Not only do you provide us with the most wonderful group of children to work with but you are very generous with your time to help us provide our students with an enriching and well-rounded day. Further, the respect you demonstrate to our faculty in your interactions with them helps to set the very positive tone that we have at OIS.

Finally to our students: You are a very special group of people who I will never forget for all of the kindness you have shown me these past 2 years. I will forever remember seeing your smiling faces, watching you play and in different extracurricular clubs, coming to my office and proudly showing me your work or reading to me. But the thing I will remember most was when you would take the time and say hello to me or hold a door open for me or ask if I needed help with something. Those acts of kindness will forever be etched in my mind.

To all OIS community farewell and, from the bottom of my heart, many thanks for a wonderful 2 years!

Classroom Assistant Needed

OIS is looking for a classroom assistant for the 2015-2016 school year. This could be a part-time or full-time position and we are preferably looking for native English speakers. Depending on enrollment, the assistant could be working with a class from KA up to grade 2. If you are interested or need more information, please send an email to Virginia Sutton (vsutton@senri.ed.jp) or Bill Kralovec (bkralovec@senri.ed.jp).

**HIGH SCHOOL
SPRING CONCERT AT
MAPLE HALL - 9 June**



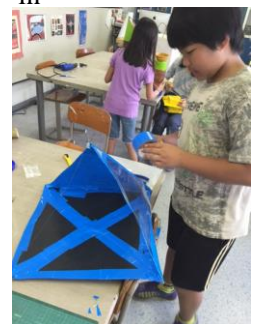
**MAKING ANIMAL HOMES OUT OF A LOT OF “JUNK”!
by Jennifer Henbest, art teacher**

You may already know that many artists can make beautiful sculptures out of junk, but did you also know that animal homes can be made out of junk as well? As a way of integrating with the Grade 4 unit on Sharing the Planet, the 4th graders worked in the Art room in small groups to explore the question: “How can we make homes for small animals?”

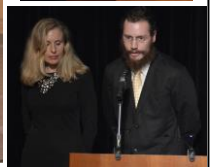
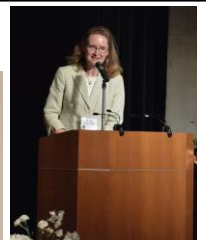
Using different recycled materials and tools, students made homes suitable for small animals such as birds, butterflies, insects and lizards out of what many people would consider a lot of “junk” such as old pieces of wood, terra cotta jugs, aluminum pails, used plastic yogurt cups and the like.

A lot of learning went into this unit! The students learned how to work with saws for drilling holes. They also learned special techniques for how to join materials together. In addition to this, some students even experimented with waterproofing materials to help keep the animal homes dry outdoors.

It was a great learning experience for the G4 students and a chance for them to be creative while making functional homes for small animals and promote biodiversity in nature!



CLASS OF 2015 - Graduation Day, 12 June



Stephen Frater's TECH CORNER

Dear OIS Parents / Guardians,

Following on from our letter of 28 May and the coffee morning meeting and discussion with a group of parents on 3 June, we would like to move forward with our plan to collect in the school iPads from students in grades 6, 7 and 8, and to re-configure them over the summer to be classroom-only devices from the Fall trimester onwards. This means that students will no longer be allocated a personal iPad, and will not use them between classes or at home except in special cases and at the teacher's behest.

To recap, the purpose of this change in the distribution of the iPads is to address a number of concerns about the non-academic use of the devices, and also to reduce incidences of damage to extend the number of years we can use them.

Students have been told that there are a few steps they should take between now and the end of the trimester. They should:

- **Recommended:** Connect their device to a personal computer running *iTunes* and create a fullback-up. This will ensure that all of the files and applications on the devices are saved, and can be restored to another iOS device. Once the iPads are reset over the summer, all personal data will be erased. Any applications tied to the family's personal *iTunes* and *iCloud* accounts, will remain each family's personal property, and will be available to download to other iOS devices now or in the future from the *iTunes* or *App Store*.
- **Recommended:** Upload photos and other documents to their *SOISmail* or *iCloud* account. All students have unlimited storage space with their *SOISmail* Google Drive, so all content can be stored there to be accessed via any computer.
- **Required:** Sign out of all accounts, in particular *iCloud* and *iTunes* accounts. Unless this step is taken, we cannot reset the iPad.
- **Required:** Ensure that they can return the iPad, USB cable and charger, box and cover. Any missing items should be replaced so that the device can be re-used next trimester.

As mentioned in the previous mail, from next trimester students will not have access to the iPads at home, and may sometimes wish to use the family's personal computer for homework assignments. However teachers are aware that not every family has, or provides their middle school children access to, a personal computer at home. In such cases, we will communicate with parents and look at alternative solutions to enable students to complete homework tasks. Please note, we **do not** expect parents of students in middle school to purchase a computing device to replace the school iPad, as we do not have a 'bring your own device' policy for middle school at this time, and students will still have access to school iPads and laptops whilst on the premises.

Should you have any questions or need any assistance with this change, please do not hesitate to contact me directly by email at sfrater@soismail.jp, or please come and see me in room 324 if you are on the campus.

Thank you...



HEALTH CENTER REQUEST FOR SUMMER VACATION Natsuko Inoue, school nurse

At the beginning of each school year, all students are required to submit the "Health Record" form. Also, all new students and all students in grades 3, 6 and 9 must submit a "Physical Exam" form. These forms are sent home with report cards and are available on the school website. Please be prepared to submit these forms. Even if there is no change from the previous year, the school still needs these forms. Please submit these forms.

Over the summer, please try to arrange physical check-ups for your children and please check their immunization records. Especially for children age 11-13, please get a DTstage2.

Please see this website for more information.

【Infectious Disease Surveillance Center in Japan】
<http://www.nih.go.jp/niid/images/vaccine/schedule/2015/JP20150518.pdf>

保健室から、夏休み中のお願い

昨年と同様、「Health Records」「Physical Exam」を新年度に提出していただきます。「Health Records」は全生徒、「Physical Exam」は新入生全員と、3・6・9年生が対象です。夏休み中に、病院などで受けて来ていただきますようお願い申し上げます。前年から、なにも変更がない場合も、必ず提出していただくようお願い申し上げます。また、この機会に予防接種の受け忘れがないかご確認ください。とくに、11-13歳のお子様はDTⅡ期の受け忘れがないよう、注意してください。予防接種スケジュールは以下のサイトで確認できます。

【日本・国立感染症情報センター】 <http://www.nih.go.jp/niid/images/vaccine/schedule/2015/JP20150518.pdf>



SABERS UPDATE by Peter Heimer, activities director

Sabers website: sabers.senri.ed.jp

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

End of the school year

As the 2014-15 school year draws to a close, June is a relatively quiet month for Sabers athletics – but not entirely silent. The MS badminton and tennis clubs have practiced diligently, the triathlon club always has events on its schedule, the athletic awards presentation was a great success, we are finalizing the athletics schedule for the fall, and we are already preparing for next year's AISA events. Lots still going on. Please visit the Sabers athletics website for details, including schedules, results, photos, sign-up and permission forms, handbooks, and Sabers TV shows.

Fall sports: mandatory online sign-up

The fall season starts immediately upon our return in August: HS volleyball, HS tennis, MS baseball, MS girls volleyball, running club. Current OIS 5th graders: you'll soon be 6th graders, eligible for MS sports – see you in a Sabers uniform soon! All Sabers athletes must submit sign-up and permission forms online at sabers.senri.ed.jp (under the "Forms" tab). We'll help students with this in August, but you can start on this now – it takes just a few minutes.

Athletic awards celebration: sabers.senri.ed.jp/awards

On Friday, June 5, we held our annual Sabers high school athletic awards celebration. Players and coaches reminisced about the year with a slideshow of photos and video and with speeches from the players of the 17 different girls and boys varsity teams. We honored our high school student-athletes with two kinds of awards: 1) three team awards: most improved player (MIP), most valuable player (MVP), and Sabers Spirit Award (SSA), chosen by each team's coaches; and 2) two school awards: Sabers Outstanding Athlete of the Year and Dr. Fukuda Scholar-Athlete, chosen by coaches and school administrators.



Sabers athletics awards celebration:
SSC members

Outstanding Athletes of the Year: Minami Uemura, Tomoaki Ban

This award is presented to Sabers student-athletes, female and male, who have shown high levels of athletic skill, team leadership, and personal determination as a member of at least two varsity teams. Winners of this award are positive role models and good representatives of SOIS. Minami Uemura and Tomoaki Ban – both 4-sport Sabers athletes – were very deserving winners. Minami, respected for her strong work ethic and positive attitude, was the captain, the MVP, and an all-AISA basketball player on the Sabers WJAA championship team, and she was a key starter on the volleyball, soccer, and softball teams, a true leader by example. Tomoaki, though only a 10th grader, played vital starting roles on 4 teams: an all-AISA player and MIP in basketball, the MIP in soccer, and a starting player for the Sabers AISA championship volleyball team and WJAA championship baseball team – a hard worker and proven winner.

Dr. Fukuda Scholar-Athletes: Fuka Ugai, Sakiko Otsuki, Gerardo Takeuchi

This award is presented to Sabers student-athletes who have achieved high academic levels and have played active roles in school and community service while a member of at least two varsity teams. The winners of this top award show that one can maintain high academic standards and contribute to the school community while participating in sports. The female co-winners were Fuka Ugai and Sakiko Otsuki. Fuka has one of the highest grade point averages of all Sabers athletes while being a standout player in 4 sports – SSA winner in volleyball, MVP and all-AISA in soccer, and starting member in basketball and softball. Sakiko, too, had one of the highest grade point averages and played 3 sports: MVP of the volleyball team; captain, SSA, and all-AISA for soccer; and starting member of the softball team. Both Sakiko and Fuka are Sabers musicians, too. And did I mention student council leadership, Fuka as president and Sakiko as translator?

The male winner was Gerardo Takeuchi. Gerardo played 3 sports, captaining the WJAA championship soccer team (and earning captain, MVP, and all-AISA recognition), playing a key role on the AISA championship volleyball team, and finding time to run with the running club on Sundays, all while maintaining very high grades.

Fuka, Sakiko, Gerardo, Minami, and Tomoaki all epitomize what we expect our Sabers student-athletes to be. We congratulate and thank all Sabers players, coaches, administrators, and parents.

AISA calendar 2015-16: sabers.senri.ed.jp/aisa-calendars

We will soon enter our seventh year in the Association of International Schools in Asia (AISA). You can find the AISA schedule on the Sabers website (under the "calendars" tab). The Sabers host two events next year, girls volleyball and girls soccer.

Thank you

Best wishes for safe and fun summer holiday. 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 awards winners, from left: Tomoaki Ban, Minami Uemura, Fuka Ugai, Sakiko Otsuki, Gerardo Takeuchi (flanked by Mr. Kralovec and Masago-sensei)

ELEMENTARY SUPER SWIM CARNIVAL 2015

by Leanne Entwistle, ES PE specialist
& Chitose Higashi, swimming instructor

On Friday June 12th all the Elementary School gathered in the Swimming Pool to take part in our bi annual Swim Carnival, showcasing their swimming prowess.

A very exciting afternoon was had by all, with the students competing with each other in 83 events! The children chose what events they wished to compete in and have been practicing hard in their P.E. classes.

Special Thanks must go to the **Elementary faculty, the P.E. Department** and the **other volunteer teachers and administrators** who gave up their time to act as officials for the day. The day would not have run so smoothly without their help and support.

It was also wonderful to see so many parents come to watch and cheer their children on.

Eighteen school records were broken on Friday and the children have received certificates to acknowledge this great feat.

Thank you to everyone involved- and especially the great Elementary Swimmers.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

24 June
*ES last day of classes
- half day of school

26 June
*MS/HS end of school year
- half day of school

24 August
*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

EARLY DISMISSAL

24 June will be a half day for **elementary students**. They will dismiss at 11.30 am. School Bus will depart at 11.45am. No cafeteria for elementary students.

26 June will be a half day for **middle and high school students**. School buses will be operated normally in the morning but not operated in the afternoon. Cafeteria will be closed.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Bill Kralovec, head
072-727-5080
bkralovec@senri.ed.jp

Kurt Mecklem, MS/HS principal / IBMYP coordinator
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Virginia Sutton, ES principal / IBPYP coordinator
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Mike McGill, admissions director
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Steve Lewis, business manager
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Miyuki Endo, IBDP coordinator
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Peter Heimer, activities director
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Natsuko Inoue, school nurse
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student attendance
072-727-2305



This is the last issue of the *Educator* for the 2014-2015 school year. Have a nice summer holiday!