

OIS Educator

DECEMBER 9, 2017



High School Holiday Concert at Mino City Maple Hall

Enjoy more photos on page 6.

Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

OIS Student Video Goes Viral!

Three OIS students were recently thrilled to learn that they appeared in a video gone "viral". OIS elementary students Emily Kurehara, Kia Konishi-Atwood and Moa Waahlin performed the Disney classic song, "Let It Go" in the lip sync contest at the International Fair. Emily's cousin posted a video of the performance on her Twitter feed. The video was instantly shared on other social media platforms around Asia and the world.



The Twitter post had 188,000 likes, 89,000 re-tweets and generated 160 comments. When they put the video on YouTube, as of Friday, it had 88,170 views. The video was picked up by traditional media sites, appearing on

television shows in Hong Kong and Japan, and was also featured on a Korean website.

In speaking with the girls, they never thought that their performance would be seen by so many people. During a recess on the field, Emily was describing the dance she was preparing for the contest, sponsored by the International Fair committee. Kia suggested using her white sweater as snow, like the character does in the Disney film Frozen. They started laughing about it, but it eventually became part of the performance, with confetti

spray being the ice and snow. It was a creative way of recreating Queen Elsa's ability of shooting ice and snow from her hands. The girls learned a lot from the experience, including, once something is put on social media and the internet, they lose control of it. This time, it was for a good reason. Emily laughed when a Senri International School high school student recognized her from the video in the cafeteria. She felt like a celebrity.

The experience showed me the power of creativity and the potential of the internet. 10 years ago, a performance like this would have been seen only by our community, but with social media, people from literally around the world, could see it. The girls original performance was recognized by the outside world for its excellence. Emily, Kia and Moa really lived up to our mission statement of, "contributing to a global community" and demonstrating creativity. Congratulations to them! Here is the link to the YouTube full version of the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nljQERbelU>



from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

Thank you to all those parents who were able to come to the parent teacher conferences on November 21. We had quite a large turnout and we appreciate people taking time out of their busy schedules to come meet with us. Whether you could come or not we would appreciate you taking the time to give us feedback on the process. Please take a few moments to fill out our [parent/teacher conference survey](#).

I would like to emphasize that our teachers are available at any time of the year to meet and discuss your child's progress. We schedule official reports and conferences to ensure that there are times in the school year when everyone gets feedback but those dates are fairly arbitrary. Since we don't switch classes at the end of a trimester, teacher may still be in the middle of units and assessments when the trimester reports come out. Through our use of ManageBac and by making our teachers available via email we want to encourage ongoing conversations about your child's learning rather than just rely on an official report. If you have questions about your child's progress, what is written in ManageBac, a particular assignment or anything else, please don't hesitate to contact the teacher involved for more information. If after talking to the teacher you still have some concerns or questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

December always brings lots of activities for both individuals and schools. I hope you had the opportunity to see the Maple Hall Concerts this past Tuesday. It was a great show and I would like to thank our music teachers, Ms. Deklinski, Mr. Villapando, Mr. Ligon and Mr. Marica, for all of their work in preparing such a strong concert. Other events include the Middle School Christmas party/movie night in the theater organized by the MS student council and the HS student council organized party in the gym. Both events are next Friday. After that, the school will be on vacation starting December 16 and classes will resume on January 9.

They don't happen until March but camp preparations are already underway. Every year in March, OIS middle and high students go on camps for the three days prior to the spring break. There are costs associated with these camps. This year as noted on the calendar the dates are March 14, 15, & 16.

As in previous years, the middle school students do class based camps. Grade 6 goes to KG's Sengari Campsite. Grade 7 participates in the Northstar outdoor education program in the mountains near Matsumoto, in Nagano prefecture. Note that the bus to Northstar actually leaves on the afternoon of March 13 so grade 7 will be gone for

three nights. You can find out more about Northstar [here](#). Grade 8 will once again go to Hiroshima and Miyajima.

Grade 9 and 10 students will have a choice of camps. We are still working out the options but in the past choices included downhill skiing and snowboarding at Northstar, volunteering at ARK, and photography. This year we're exploring adding a bike trip on the inland sea amongst other ideas. Grade 11 students will do an international service trip. This year's class has chosen to travel to Cebu to volunteer with some organizations we've visited in the past. Grade 12 will work on their IB required group 4 project but they might do some of it off campus which may mean they will spend

A letter with more details about camps will be coming out soon. Whatever you are doing these next few weeks, I hope you have a great holiday season.

School Calendar

December

- 15 HS student council Christmas Party
- 17 Koshien Bowl
- 18 First Day of Winter Holiday
KG Christmas @ The Symphony Hall

Library will be closed at 4:30pm on Friday 15 December. All the students, teachers and community members are welcome to borrow double number of books until 12 January.

January

- 9 Classes Begin
- 17 PTA Monthly Meeting
- 18 Latino Cooking and Culture
- 20 OIS/SIS G8 Science Excursion
- 24 G11 College Workshop



Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

PYP students are learning skills that will prepare them for a world very different from that in which their parent grew up. They must prepare themselves to be not only global citizens but also digital citizens. The Social and Emotional Learning Focus programme [SELF] has focused on developing digital citizenship skills. Throughout October and November, I have worked with grades 3, 4 and 5 inquiring into their use of technologies, cyber-safety, netiquette, and being ethical digital citizens.

Our first investigation involved finding the size of each student's digital footprint. The students all recorded the range of devices and sites they utilized within a 24-hour period. Grade 4 then practised their data-handling skills to analyse the results, and presented their findings in graphs. They discovered that grade 3 students used the internet most often for educational purposes and to play games. The digital footprints of grade 4 demonstrated that most students used the internet for viewing such things as streamed TV programming and YouTube, with playing games and educational use lower down the list. Grade 5's digital footprints suggested that watching entertainment is the most popular with going online for educational purposes trailing a distant seventh.

The students watched a video produced by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre in the UK to help them understand how to explore and post online safely. In the video, a character set up her own website revealing a great deal of personal information. This generated considerable discussion in each class. The students recognized the need to protect their identity by not sharing personal details. They also understood that when personal information is shared, it must only be with friends you know in real life. During class discussions, the students worked hard on defining what an 'online friend' is. Grade 5 students drafted 'golden guidelines' based on these discussions to help children be safe online and these they shared with grade 4.

The research into students' digital footprints showed that our students rarely communicate digitally. However, in preparation for when this becomes a greater part of their daily lives, we examined how to practise netiquette in order to be principled online communicators. By watching a Brainpop video featuring familiar characters Tim and Moby, the students were encouraged to think about how and why digital stylistic devices such as upper-case letters and emoticons take the place of gesture and facial expression in real-world communication. The most important lesson that the students learned was the need to re-read any piece of communication several times before pressing the send icon to ensure that its meaning is clear and cannot be misinterpreted.

Grades 4 and 5 are learning how to search for information online during their inquiries. To do this responsibly, they watched a video produced by the California School Library Association which helped them to understand copyright and fair use. This will be particularly helpful for grade 5 as they prepare for their Exhibition this year.

On Friday 1 December, ten students from grades 3, 4 and 5 shared their learning at a parent workshop. They were able to respond to pertinent questions from the parents and collected data about the adults' digital footprints and the ways in which they protect themselves online. When grade 4 analysed this data they discovered that by far the most popular use of the internet was for communication. We trust they are practising good netiquette!

Although this series of classes focused on upper elementary, it is also important for younger students to learn how to be good digital citizens. There is a huge variety of resources that parents can use, and we particularly recommend the websites kidsmart.org.uk and internetmatters.org, especially its video available on YouTube 'E-safety tips for parents: 6-10'. As the holidays are approaching, families could use their shared time to discuss the different aspects of being a digital citizen with your child. You may find you learn a lot from them. Of course, the holidays are also a great opportunity to practise the importance of balance in our online and offline lives by spending plenty of quality time in the real world with one another.

K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

December

11	Mon	pork bone broth ramen
12	Tue	rice omelet
13	Wed	curry & rice
14	Thu	fried white fish
15	Fri	spaghetti with meat sauce

January

9	Tue	spaghetti meat sauce
10	Wed	chicken grilled with pizza sauce
11	Thu	hamburger steak
12	Fri	chicken fried with bread crumbs
15	Mon	pork fried with almond
16	Tue	cheese burger
17	Wed	chicken cutlet
18	Thu	hamburger in stew
19	Fri	pork cutlet

Service

Sarah Wakefield & David Myers, Service Coordinators

One of the key components of all IB programs is service. Service allows students to make authentic connections between what they are learning, and skills they are developing in the real world. It gives them an opportunity to develop as leaders, build independence, and see their actions impact the greater global community.

In the MYP, students are required to do between 1-2 service activities and 1-2 action activities per year. The expectations increase as students advance in recognition of their expanding skills and experiences. It is also highly encouraged that students take a leadership role and act independently in grades 9-10 as they prepare to take on their CAS projects in the IB Diploma Program.

Students should seek out service and action activities that appeal to them. One of the benefits we would like to see for students is to spend time finding and seeking out their passions, following new interests and gaining empathy for others. Some examples of service and action activities include (but are in no way limited to): volunteering for, or raising funds for ARK (Animal Refuge Kansai), volunteering at the rehabilitation hospital, participating in sports teams, learning a new skill, volunteering or raising funds for Yomawari (homeless organization), assisting in afterschool activities, participating in community groups or activities, participating in the ASP, etc. A wide variety of activities will qualify for service and action as long as the student is not being paid for their time.



In the Diploma Program, students continue to experience a variety of service opportunities as they did in MYP. At this stage, they create their own program entirely. As these activities continue to fall in line with their own passions, those who sought out personal interest in MYP will find this much easier once they are in Grade 11. In both the MYP, and DP, we do not want students to participate in activities if they don't feel personally invested. After all, these activities are as much for them as they are for the people they serve.

By this time the majority of Grade 11 students have found their major interests and are participating in a way that will sustain activities long after they leave. The Grade 12

class are reaching the end of the Diploma Program, and as pressures mount in the DP they are recruiting students in Grade 11 to take over leadership roles in order to ensure that these excellent services do not disappear once they graduate.

Many of the activities students are involved in take place right here on campus, but some are within the community. Every month students participate in activities within Osaka, or offered their assistance to people online. As well, we reach out globally. At the end of this trimester, the Grade 11 class will embark on their Service Trip. Last year the Grade 11 class went to Cambodia and helped on site with the SOIS School of Hope. This is a rural Cambodian school that we have been sponsoring for a number of years. Aside from exposing students to a variety of cultural activities, language classes, and interpersonal exchanges, students had raised 1 000 000 yen for the school. Students had a chance to see exactly how their efforts would help the School of Hope. This year, students will be going to Cebu, in the Philippines to help with education programs, help out at a Children's Cancer Centre, participate in environmental rejuvenation / tree planting, as well as help build a mobile library resource for the community. We hope to continue to strengthen our school's relationship with the outside world.

As the Service Coordinators for OIS, both Ms. Wakefield, and Mr. Myers are very happy to answer any questions or assist you, or your child in finding the right fit for fulfilling their requirements. Please feel free to make an appointment, or email us at at swakefield@siosmail.jp, or dmyers@soismail.jp.



Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER

Sabers Website:

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

Sabers Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SabersAthletics/>

AISA MATH MANIA, LEADERSHIP

1-4 February 2018

In early February, the Sabers host the annual AISA math mania and leadership events. Sabers mathematicians and student council members participate, supported by Mr. Bertman, Takahashi-sensei, Mr. Welburn, Mr. Sheriff, and Mitsuhashi-sensei. This is an exciting opportunity for our students and school community. Preliminary information here: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/mathleadership.html>.

Homestay hosts needed

One of the key features of AISA is the homestay system which promotes greater intercultural communication, encourages friendly competition, and reduces travel costs. This is a reciprocal arrangement: when SOIS students travel overseas, they are homestayd there, and when overseas students travel to SOIS, we homestay them here. All SOIS families, especially those with AISA participants, are encouraged to offer a homestay. Much useful bilingual information about AISA homestays can be found in the "Homestay" section of the Sabers website.

In early February, we will homestay 20 math and leadership students from South Korea. We would like to show our guests true Osaka hospitality and are looking for homestay hosts. If you are able to offer a homestay, please contact the AD office.

The homestay experience can be very rewarding for both the host family and the visiting students. At past overseas events SOIS students have stayed with wonderful families who made them feel welcome and provided a local experience. Our students have been cared for very well while representing our two schools overseas and we would like to ask the SOIS community to help by hosting AISA visitors. Without the assistance of everyone in our small community we could not be a part of such exciting opportunities, and I thank you in advance for your generosity.

EVENTS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

It has been a busy November and early December for Sabers student-athletes.

- **MS girls soccer:** The Sabers A, B, and C teams played in the recent season-ending WJAA tournament held at Canadian Academy in Kobe. The Sabers A team finished in 4th place in the A division, the B team placed 2nd in the B division, and the C team finished

3rd in the C division. Three Sabers players were selected to the all-tournament teams: Do Hee Kwon (A division), Yurina Fujii (B), and Miku Akizawa (C). Congratulations, Coach Frater, Coach Rumble, and the Sabers players. More info here: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/girls-soccer-latest-news>

- **MS boys basketball:** The Sabers boys finished 5th out of 8 teams in the WJAA basketball tourney at Marist Brothers in Kobe. Eojin Lee was named to the all-tournament team and finished 2nd in the shooting contest. Well done, Coach Ray and Coach Kralovec and the Sabers players.
- **HS basketball:** The Sabers girls and boys basketball teams continue their successful seasons, both teams having lost only 1 game. WJAA varsity and junior varsity tournaments take place in January, and the AISA tournaments are held in early February in South Korea.
- The **MS/HS Sabers swim team**, coached by Mr. Bertman and Kano-sensei, compete this weekend at the American School in Japan (ASIJ) in Tokyo, a great overnight experience for the Sabers natators.

Congratulations and thank you to the many Sabers athletes, coaches, managers, and chaperones. And thank you, parents, for supporting the Sabers activities program by allowing your children to participate in these events.

NEW MS SEASONS, SIGN UP

The middle school winter season II begins immediately upon our return from the winter holiday: MS girls basketball and MS boys soccer. Middle schoolers, be ready. Sabers Sign-Up forms here: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sabers-sign-up.html>

THANK YOU

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Sabers activities program. Please contact the AD any time you need help. Please visit the AD office, room A-240, near the business office. Contact at pheimer@senri.ed.jp or at 072-727-2137.



The next *Educator* is scheduled to be published on 20 January. Until then, you can follow us on:

Twitter [/oisinbrief](#)

Instagram [/soisstories](#)

YouTube [/soisvideos](#)

SOIS High School Holiday Concert at the Maple Hall

Over 150 SOIS students performed at this year's high school Winter Concert. The choir, strings and winds ensembles played a variety of pieces, from technically difficult works such as Bach, to traditional Christmas songs. There were many parents, teachers and students in attendance at the beautiful Maple Hall in downtown Minoh. The video of the concert will be going online at our [music program web page](#) (go to www.senri.ed.jp/en and then choose the Learning/Shared Programs/Music page) where you can see archived videos of past concerts as well.



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