

SOIS Educator

DECEMBER 10, 2016



High School Holiday Concert at Minoh City Maple Hall

The strings ensemble is pictured performing a complex piece by the Italian composer Respighi. The high school winds ensemble and choir also performed. 27 SIS seniors played their last concert for the winds ensemble.

News from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

I am pleased to announce that the Kwansai Gakuin facilities department will be putting a new surface on the former tennis courts on the roof of the building. Work will begin on Monday March 6, 2017. The court will be waterproofed, an artificial turf surface put down and padding will be placed over any hard edges. The project will cost an estimated 18 million Yen. The goal is to make the area safer and to enable more people from our community to use the space. The area will be more conducive for physical education classes, recreation time and other activities. Because of safety concerns, balls will not be able to be used on the rooftop court, but the faculty and staff are coming up with creative ways to use it. The new surface will be completed and ready for use by the start of the spring trimester in April 2017.

Just in time for the Western Japan Athletic Association (WJAA) this weekend, new scoreboards were



installed yesterday. The 65" LCD screens have software that can be tailored to any event. Using this system, scoreboards are placed on both sides of the gymnasium and can be used for a variety of events. New wireless shot clocks were also purchased and are used for basketball games. The KG facilities department took the opportunity to improve the electrical wiring system in the gymnasium. Thank you to the fundraising effort led by SOIS athletic director, Mr. Pete Heimer. Over 1.2 million Yen was raised through donations from the community. These included donations from the International Fair committee, the OIS

Parent Teacher Association and many individual and family donors. The new scoreboards will be making their public debut for the girls basketball games Friday and Saturday. Go Sabers!

The facilities department does an excellent job in maintaining and improving school facilities. Often their work goes unnoticed in small projects. For example, during the recent fall break, they renovated the early childhood lockers and installed LED lights in the courtyard. Keishi Uenoya is the Senri campus office staff person in charge of facilities.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to several OIS students who are leaving next week. Elementary school student Riana Curren, middle school students Alice Bernardo and Taira Seto and high school student Rafael Bernardo will have their last day of school at OIS next Friday. Best wishes for a successful transition and thanks to them and their families for their contributions to the school community. We have several new students arriving in January that we will welcome in upcoming bulletins.

Views from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

2016 is rapidly coming to a close and while it is easy at this time of year to be thinking about the holidays, there are a few things we are working on here before we release the students for vacation.

We recently completed our middle and high school parent teacher conferences. Thank you to all of those parents who were able to take the time to attend. I realize that the timing may not work out for some families but please remember you can always set up a time to meet with teachers either by contacting the school or the teachers directly. Whether or not you were able to attend, I would appreciate hearing from you about our conference system. Please take a moment to follow this [link](#) to complete a short survey. There are some specific questions on the survey and an opportunity to give more general feedback. If you did not make it to the conferences, there are still a couple of questions you can answer that could help us with planning next year.

My note home about report cards mentioned that the MAP results would be posted on ManageBac. At the time I wrote that they weren't there yet. However, they are uploaded to the reports section of ManageBac now. If you have questions on how to find it or want more explanation of how to read the report, please feel free to contact me.

They don't happen until March but camp preparations are already underway. Every year, 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 15, 16 & 17.

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 14 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 which include some local options such as photography, downhill skiing and snowboarding at Northstar among other options. Grade 11 students will do an international service trip. This year's class has chosen to visit the SOIS School of Hope in Cambodia. This school was founded by previous students from our school. Grade 12 will be on campus working on a science project that is required to earn their IB Diploma.

A letter with more details about camps will be coming out soon. Whatever you are doing the December, I hope you have a good holiday season.

Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

Sharing of knowledge enables our students to articulate their understanding. This has been demonstrated in a range of lively ways in the elementary school recently.

Grade 5 presented thought-provoking skits at assembly to show what they had learned about e-waste. Their communication skills are being developed further in their inquiry into How We Organize Ourselves where they are learning how debates are held by legislative assemblies. Two World Scholars' Cup competitors from grade 9 shared their knowledge of debating techniques gleaned from experience of many debates. Grade 5 asked Tyus Sheriff and

School Calendar

December

10	ACT Test
12	Knowledge Bowl (MS) Careers Exploration Day (HS)
14	PTA Meeting
16	OIS/SIS HS Student Council Christmas Party
22	KG Christmas at the Symphony Hall

January

7-8	SOIS Cross Country Skiing Camp
9	OIS Faculty In-Service Day
10	Classes Begin
18	PTA Meeting
27	Russia Cultural Event

K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

DECEMBER

12	Mon	miso flavor ramen noodle soup
13	Tue	milanaise pork cutlet
14	Wed	rice omelet
15	Thu	curry & rice
16	Fri	chicken cutlet

JANUARY

10	Tue	spaghetti with meat sauce
11	Wed	pork cutlet bowl
12	Thu	rice omelet
13	Fri	chicken cutlet
16	Mon	kitsune udon - Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd
17	Tue	cheese burger
18	Wed	ramen with soy sauce based soup
19	Thu	beef stroganoff
20	Fri	curry and rice

Skye Inada lots of probing questions to help them build the strategies they will practise when they present their own debate to grade 4 in January.

Grade 1 are inquiring into how people express themselves in celebrations. They are inviting parents and students from other classes to share the festivities and occasions they celebrate. Guest speakers have shared special objects, food and clothes as they explain their celebrations. After comparing the features of each, the grade 1 students will then prepare a celebration of the 100th day of the school year.

Words are important tools for sharing knowledge but so are kinaesthetic demonstrations. Grade 3 converted the hallway and their classroom into a huge funfair when they built rollercoasters to demonstrate the effect of forces. Visitors from KA and KB marvelled as marbles descended at high velocity along lengthy channels, looped the loop and neatly slowed to a halt.

Visual representation is yet another way that OIS students are sharing their knowledge. In art lessons, grade 2 composed a collage of plastic lids linked by routes of pipe cleaners and threads. This clearly illustrates how transport systems are built in cities to connect people and places. Grade 4 are making

greetings cards of the toys they designed and sewed. These will be sold to raise funds for organizations that promote children's rights which they recently researched.

At the start of the second trimester, class elections were held for new Actioneers. This is one of the ways we organize ourselves in elementary that enables students to share their own knowledge and that of their peers for the benefit of the school. I was very impressed by the election speeches made by the large number of candidates. They showed sharp observation skills and a determination to serve their community. "I'll be a great Actioneer because I will listen to other people's ideas. Also I would think of good ideas. I would change the school to a better place for everybody. I'll be open-minded and caring." (Alona) who was voted as grade 3's Actioneer. Being knowledgeable, open-minded and caring in order to help others is at the heart of our SOIS mission and each day I see our students are building these traits.

Elementary Dance Club by Cary Mecklem

Moa and Aimi were actioneers in the spring of Grade 3. They decided that the elementary students needed a

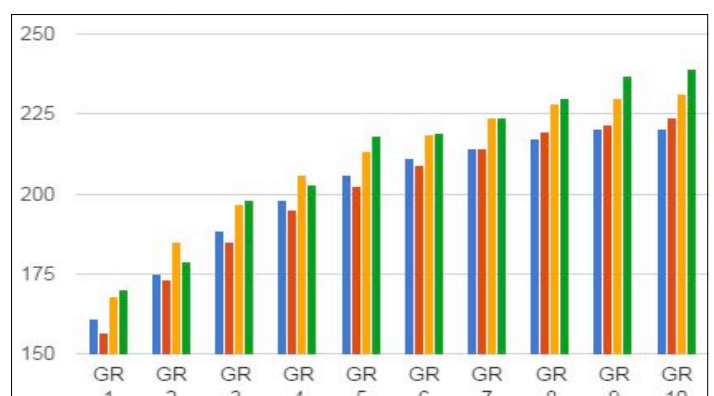
dance club. During the 1st session of clubs this year they offered a dance club on Mondays in the small gym and I was the supervising teacher. Moa and Aimi choreographed a dance and taught it to Grace and Janina in Grade 3 and Noah in Grade 5. They patiently broke down the steps, modeled how to execute them and re-taught sections that were tricky. On Wednesday, November 16 the dance club performed to an enthusiastic audience at the Elementary Assembly. They were also invited to perform today at the Elementary Winter Concert. I admire Moa and Aimi's passion for dance, patience in teaching others and leadership skills. Steve Lewis, our photographer, was able to capture some of their magic which reflects their hard work and commitment.



OIS Students MAP Test Results

The faculty have been analyzing the data from the recent Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. The Northwest Evaluation Association, a non-profit educational organization, works with over 7,400 schools in assessing student achievement through the MAP. Students are assessed in the autumn and spring, producing loads of rich learning data that teachers can use to adjust their teaching to meet the individual needs of the students. The students complete reading, mathematics and language usage tests.

As you can see from the graph, OIS students performed extremely well. This is only the reading results, but they did equally well in the other tests. The United States norm group is based on over 150,000 students at each grade level. International school norms are from close to 800 schools in 146 countries.



Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER

Sabers Athletics Website

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

Sabers Athletics Facebook Page

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

AISA HOMESTAY HOSTS NEEDED

AISA boys basketball, 2-5 February 2017

A key feature of AISA is the homestay system which promotes greater intercultural communication, encourages friendly competition, and reduces travel costs. In early February, we will homestay 30 male basketball players from South Korea. We would like to show our guests true Osaka hospitality and are looking for homestay hosts.

This is a reciprocal arrangement: when our students travel overseas, they are homestayd there. At past overseas events SOIS students have stayed with wonderful families who made them feel welcome and provided a local experience, and we would like to ask the SOIS community to help by hosting our AISA visitors in February. All SOIS families, especially those with AISA participants, are encouraged to offer a homestay. More bilingual information about AISA homestays can be found in the "[Homestay](#)" section of the Sabers website. 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. 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

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

- **MS boys basketball:** The Sabers boys entered the WJAA basketball tourney at Marist Brothers in Kobe with high expectations. The Sabers A team finished in 3rd place and the B team finished 8th. Well done, Coach Ray and Coach Kralovec and the Sabers players. Special mention to Kazuro Honda who came back from injury to play in his final Sabers basketball game before he moves to the USA. Ren Heimer (A team) and Eojin Lee (B team) were named to the tournament all-star team.
- **MS girls soccer:** On December 2-3, the Sabers A, B, and C teams played in the season-ending WJAA tournament held at Canadian Academy in Kobe. The Sabers A team reached the final, however they were missing their captain for the game and finished as tournament runners-up after losing on penalties. The B team were in joint first place after pool games

in the B division, but had to settle for 3rd place on a coin toss. More info here: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/girls-soccer-latest-news>



- **HS basketball:** By the time you read this, both the Sabers girls and boys will have just played in their WJAA tournaments, the boys at CA in Kobe and the girls here at SOIS. Teams from Yokohama, Kobe, Iwakuni, Sasebo, and Osaka all played. Check the Sabers website for scores and photos.
- The **MS/HS Sabers swim team**, coached by Mr. Bertman and Ms. Cooper, recently competed at the American School in Japan (ASIJ) in Tokyo, a great overnight experience for the Sabers swimmers.

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.

- In January, HS basketball continues, including the junior varsity tournaments in Yokohama, an invitational tournament at SOIS, and AISA tournaments – girls in Yokohama, [boys here at SOIS](#)
- Also, the **middle school winter season II** begins immediately upon our return from the winter holiday: MS girls basketball and MS boys soccer. MS players can sign-up here: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sign-up.html>

AISA MATH MANIA, LEADERSHIP

February 2-5, six Sabers mathematicians and four student council members, along with Mr. Bertman and Mr. Welburn, will travel to Korea International School (KIS) in Seoul to participate in the annual AISA math mania and leadership events. This is an exciting opportunity for our students. More AISA info here: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/aisa.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.

Library News - December

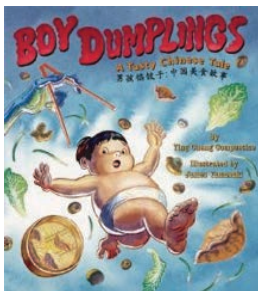
Sarah Wakefield, Librarian

On December 9, we held a workshop for the kindergarten parents on "Creating a Literacy Rich Environment" for their children. What this means is making materials and activities that build literacy available to your children and also making time to engage with your children in order to build both your mother tongue and English (unless your mother tongue is English).

As the holidays approach you may want to think about using books as a way to connect with your child and perhaps even your culture. I love to cook, bake and try new recipes and there are several books in the library that not only have a story connected with a certain food or event, but also books that have recipes within the book or at the finish. I'll outline just a few that you can find in the library and please feel free to ask me to help you find them or others if you are interested.

"Boy Dumplings"

A tasty Chinese tale" by Ying Chang Compestine:



When a very hungry ghost threatens to gobble up a plump little boy, the boy tricks the ghost by convincing him to prepare an elaborate recipe first. Includes a cultural note on the Ghost Festival and a recipe for dumplings.

"Rainbow Stew" by Cathryn Falwell:



On a rainy summer day, three children and their grandpa pick vegetables in his garden and then cook and share a delicious meal of his famous Rainbow Stew. Includes recipe.

"Cora Cooks Pancit" by Dorina Lazo Gilmore:



When all her older siblings are away, Cora's mother finally lets her help make pancit, a Filipino noodle dish. Includes recipe for pancit.

Library Schedule over the Winter Break

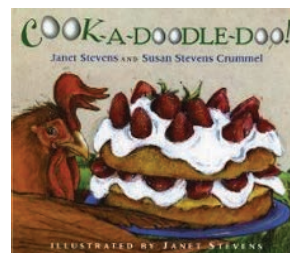
15 December.....Open as usual
 16 December.....8.00am-4.30pm
 (No extended opening)
 19 December - 9 January ...Closed for winter holiday
 10 JanuaryOpen as usual

From 5 December, MS/HS students can borrow books for winter reading. These books should be returned by 11 January.

ES winter check out began at each class on 12 December. These books should be returned by 11 January.

"Cook-a-doodle-doo"

by Janet Stevens and Susan Stephens Crummel:



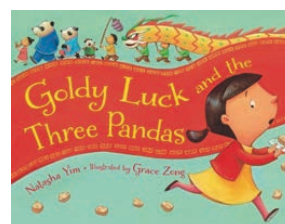
"With the questionable help of his friends, Big Brown Rooster manages to bake a strawberry shortcake which would have pleased his great-grandmother, Little Red Hen. Includes a recipe for strawberry shortcake.

"Crepes by Suzette" by Monica Wellington:



Suzette sells a variety of her crepes, French pancakes, from the street cart she takes all over Paris, in a story that includes a recipe and a short glossary of French words used.

"Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas" by Natasha Yim:



One Chinese New Year, her mother sends Goldy Luck to the pandas next door with a plate of turnip cakes, but the pandas are out and disaster follows. Includes a recipe for turnip cakes and an explanation of Chinese New Year.

KG Update

THE FIGHTERS - Kwansei Gakuin University Football Team

American football has a surprisingly long history in Japan. American missionary Paul Rusch introduced the sport in 1925 to the Yokohama and Tokyo YMCAs. The sport grew with three Tokyo universities (Waseda, Meiji and Rikkyo) having popular programs in the 1930s. Some speculate that the combination of power, technical precision, discipline and team spirit matches well with traditional Japanese values.

Kwansei Gakuin University's football team is nicknamed "The Fighters" and they are the most successful university club in Japan. They have won the Japan national championship 25 times and will be going for title number 26 on December 18 when they play Waseda University in the Koshien Bowl. The game starts at 13:05 in Koshien Stadium. The winner plays in the Rice Bowl on January 3 against the X League, or company-sponsored club in the Tokyo Dome. The X League representative has won the past seven years. Kwansei Gakuin last won the Rice Bowl in 2002.



The future looks good for *The Fighters*:

- KG High School will play in the national championship December 23 against Kosei High School of Tokyo.
- KG Junior High School will play for the Kansai championship against Ritsumeikan High School on December 18.

Good luck to all of the Kwansei teams!



OIS Administration, faculty and staff wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy & prosperous 2017!



The winter holiday begins on Monday 19 December and many of our families it is also time to celebrate various festivals. Many families will be traveling to visit family and friends, both close and far away, and we hope that you make the best of such moments which are very precious in our busy lives.

We would like to thank all parents for their support during the last term, and would like to wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

The OIS *Educator* is published once a month for OIS parents. Those who wish to receive paper version, please contact Ms Aotani (caotani@senri.ed.jp). The next *Educator* will be published on 20 January.

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