

SOIS Educator

NOVEMBER 18, 2017



World Scholar's Cup Tournament of Champions: Yale University, USA

SOIS students Tyus Sheriff, Skye Inada and Noah Izumi finished in 7th place out of approximately 300 teams in the senior division

Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

I just returned from chaperoning the SOIS delegation at the World Scholar's Cup (WSC) Tournament of Champions (TOC) at Yale University, from November 9-16. 15 middle school and high school students from both OIS and SIS participated in the event. The goal of the WSC (<http://www.scholarscup.org/toc/>) is to inspire a love of learning in all students, gain self-confidence in new skills and develop a sense of global citizenship. Students explore guiding questions in history, technology, literature, science and the arts. They apply their learning both competitively and collaboratively through debating, writing and problem-solving.



3,000 students from 50 different countries participated in this year's TOC. WSC, a non-profit organization, partners with the Yale University International Relations Association to host the final competition every year in New Haven, Connecticut. The students get to experience the historic and beautiful campus of Yale University. SOIS students competed in the four academic events and also enjoyed social events like the Scholar's Fair where students share their cultures with each other. Other events were a scavenger hunt, talent show, college panel and a Scholar's Ball, or the "nerd prom" as WSC refers to the dance.



The team of OIS students Tyus Sheriff, Skye Inada and Noah Izumi finished in 7th place out of the approximately 300 teams in the senior division. Tyus also won the overall top scholar, replicating his accomplishment of a year ago in the junior division. The OIS junior division team of Sophia Smith, Euan Lewis and Ken Tran won 9 medals in the various events. Also participating from OIS were Virginia Hwang, Ayana Nakamae, Rena Kawasaki and Mina Allen. All of the OIS and SIS students won medals and made many friends. Congratulations to all the students!



SOIS was one of the three schools in Japan to host regional rounds last spring. Students qualifying there went on to the Global Round in Hanoi, Vietnam. The TOC marks the end of the 2017 season of World Scholar's Cup. The host for the next year's regional round has not been determined, however the 2018 Global Rounds will be held in Barcelona, Melbourne and Kuala Lumpur.

The program continues to grow here at SOIS with more students participating every year. I encourage all students ages 11-17 to join World Scholar's Cup. My favorite aspect of WSC is the raising of academics to the level of sports regarding engagement and excitement. The students really gain confidence in speaking and meeting new people. Teams will start forming in February 2018.

from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

On Monday, MYP students and their parents should have received copies of their MAP reports in their SOISMail account. If you didn't receive it, please ask your children if they got it. If not, please contact us and we'll make sure you receive it. MAP stands for Measure of Academic Progress and the report will give you an indication of just that, how your child has progressed with their education in math, reading and language. The MAP Parent Toolkit has a lot more information. It is important to remember that this is just one test we do to have an outside measure of our students' progress. We also take into account our own assessments, teacher observations and other student work to develop a full picture of a student's progress. Still, the MAP does allow us to make some comparison to how our students are doing relative to other students in international schools and the United States. If you have any questions about the MAP, please contact me. If there is enough interest, we can also hold a parent workshop on the test.

Next Tuesday, we will be having out annual parent teacher conferences in the library. We always do this once a year in November as it is early enough in the year for us to make a difference by working together to help your children strengthen their habits. A letter was sent out earlier in the week but as a reminder, the conferences will begin at 1:00 and should end at about 6:00. Teachers will be at different tables and ready to talk to you on a first come first served basis.

Please remember that you never need to wait for conferences to talk to a teacher. Our teachers are available for appointments throughout the school year. With the combined SIS/OIS courses scheduling time off for formal conferences is very difficult but by calling the office or emailing the teacher, you can readily schedule a meeting throughout the year. You can find teacher email addresses

by logging into ManageBac and clicking on your child's course in the "Progress" tab. That will bring up not only information about the course and how your child is progressing but you will also see the teacher's email address on the right side of your screen.

As the weather gets cooler, the holiday season will soon be upon us. Please be sure to check your calendar and the Head's Update for information on days off and concerts. There are a lot of events coming up.

Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

Student action and agency are at the heart of the new PYP model of learning which is now being introduced by the International Baccalaureate.

PYP families will already be familiar with action as our students demonstrate this as evidence of their newly gained knowledge. For example, recently many of our students demonstrated the composition, colour and structure skills they have been developing in art classes through the use of flowers and foliage. Forty students participated in an ikebana workshop organized by Mrs Henbest and led by an ikenobo instructor who is part of the SOIS community, Mrs Bobrove. Their action provided a beautiful range of displays that are currently brightening up the second-floor mezzanine, and also resulted in arrangements that were taken to Ronald McDonald House, a hostel that supports families whose children are in hospital.

This example of action links to the concept of student agency. Last year, our students raised money for the Ronald McDonald House and when the donation was delivered by grade 5 some of our students asked what more our school could do to help. They were told that there was a need for floral arrangements to brighten up the social areas and this led directly to the recent ikebana workshop. Thus, agency enabled students to be proactive, sharing ideas, making choices and organizing their own learning for the benefit of all, including the wider community.

The Actioneers chosen by peers from grades 3, 4 and 5 have been models of student agency. One of their election pledges included "wanting to make this school better by having more fun activities" so they met weekly and planned a haunted walk for students. They also visited grade 11 and got five of them to collaborate in the event.

Twenty-five upper elementary students were guided around a creepy campus and thrilled by encountering zombies in the courtyard and basement. Having organized entertainment for the older classes, the Actioneers were keen to prepare fun activities for lower elementary which would not be scary. Book Week provided the opportunity to organize a scavenger hunt for illustrations from favourite picture books which the Actioneers hid in places the students often pass. KA and KB looked very carefully and enjoyed finding and identifying all twelve illustrations. Beyond the classroom is an important aspect of agency. Several girls in grade 5 wanted to establish a cheerleading team so that they could perform routines to support SOIS Sabers sport teams and promote school spirit. They identified an experienced trainer among the class mothers, organized a venue, persuaded Ms Whistle to be their supervisor and encouraged other girls from grade 3 to join in each week's practice. They performed at the AISA boys' volleyball tournament in October as 'the little sabers cheer squad'. They have continued to practise and will be performing at the International Fair and further events.

As the holidays approach, parents can be thinking of ways to encourage agency in their children. If you are planning a trip away, let your child contribute to the organization. You could discuss together items needed for the trip and have them research locations to be visited. Allowing our students to make decisions and fostering a sense of responsibility in their lives is valuable preparation for their journey through the International Baccalaureate programmes and beyond. Agency and responsibility are important, but also tiring. I hope that all our OIS families are able to use the holidays as a time for relaxation, enjoyment and recuperation.



The next *Educator* is scheduled to be published on 9 December. Until then, you can follow us on:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/oisinbrief>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/soisstories/>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClYRfQgSgjT8gdN51z-S6ag>

K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

November

20	Mon	minced meat cutlet
21	Thu	rice casserole with hamburger
28	Tue	cheese burger
29	Wed	stew with hamburger
30	Thu	milanaise rice casserole

December

1	Fri	spaghetti with corn cream sauce
4	Mon	fried chicken
5	Tue	pork cutlet sandwich
6	Wed	fried salmon with basil
7	Thu	hamburger steak
8	Fri	hashed beef and rice
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

School Calendar

November

18	International Fair	★	★
21	Fall Trimester Ends		★
	Regular Day for ES students		
	Half Day for MS/HS students		
	MS/HS Parent-Teacher Conferences (PM)		
22-27	Fall Break		
28	Winter Trimester Begins	★	

December

1	Digital Citizenship Parent Workshop	★
2	SAT & SAT Subject Tests\	
4	SOIS HS Student Council Cleaning Day	
	KG Christmas Tree Lighting Day	
5	HS Holiday Concert @ Mino City Maple Hall	
6	Monthly PTA Meeting	
8	ES Winter Concert	★
9	ACT Test	
15	SOIS HS Student Council Christmas Party	
18	First Day of Winter Holiday	
	KG Christmas @ The Symphony Hall	★

Library News: Book Week and Read-a-thon

Sarah Wakefield, Librarian

A huge thank you to all the parents and OIS community members for helping to make this year's Book Week one of the best we've ever had.

Our theme this year was "Reading Opens up Your World." Students had a fun filled week with special events encouraging them to read and enjoy books.

There was a special kick off video made by the grade 5s, DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), guest readers in the classrooms, the character parade, bookmark making stations, reading passports and Camp Read-a-lot.

On top of these school activities, students busied themselves even more at home keeping track of the books they read and raising money for our annual Read-a-thon. In the end we raised over 120,000 Yen which will be used to enhance our home language library.

We will be asking students to help us select books that they would like to read for that section of the library.



Mr Adam Seward

Retired Professional National Football League player.- Carolina Panthers USA

Leanne Entwistle, Elementary Physical Specialist

The SOIS physical education department has been fortunate to have the services of former American football professional, Adam Seward helping out with classes this month. Mr. Seward is working towards earning his physical education teaching license through the state of California. Adam is coaching the Kyoto University football team. The PE teachers have appreciated his help and insight over the past 5 weeks.

The grades 3, 4 and 5 students were lucky to have Mr. Seward come and speak to us about his life as a professional football player and his journey to get there.

Mr Seward spoke about his early sporting career, his dreams, his role model, his supportive family and how much work he had to put in to reach his goal. He reminded us that you need to make choices in your life to make your dreams come true and that you need to work hard to get there.



He also talked about healthy choices and nutrition and exercise, and how important balance and your choices are in your life. He emphasized that although you can be competitive when playing a game, you need to have respect for your opposition and you need to show good sportsmanship at all times.

He taught us how to throw an American Football and even signed autographs for us.

A strong message Mr Seward tried to get across to the children was that we should all try to be the BEST WE can be- in whatever we do.

The elementary children and Ms Whistle thank Mr Seward for his time and his reiterating of all the important philosophies we feel strongly about in the P.E. department.



SNAG Golf tournament

Kazuya Sakanaka, PYP Japanese Language Teacher

Five Little Saber Athletes (Jean Nishiwaki, Mary Wang, Ellen Tanabe, Celina Taylor, Eikou Tayama) represented OIS in the 10th annual Snag golf Kansai region tournament held at Shiawase no mura athletic field in Kobe. Snag Gold is the golf version of little league baseball. It can be a gateway to becoming a professional golfer. OIS joined in the tournament for the first time in many years. Our students played courageously against the experienced players and showed the Sabers spirit. It was a brilliant autumn sunny day to play golf and our students enjoyed the day and they are determined to come back to the next tournament. Go Sabers!

Thank you so much to Mr Entwistle who assisted with the club and coaching throughout the season and to Mrs Entwistle who chaperoned the group also.



SOIS Supports Speech Pathologists

The Senri & Osaka International Schools in conjunction with the Australian Stuttering Research Centre of the University of Sydney, hosted a stuttering (kitsuson in Japanese) workshop specifically for local speech therapists November 3-5, 2017. Leading the conference were Dr. Brenda Carey, a distinguished speech language pathologist in the area of stuttering and Yokohama International School Learning Support teacher and speech language pathologist, Ms. Elaine Yandeau. Over 50 Japanese speech therapists and researchers received training in the Lidcombe Method, a therapy for young children that reduces stuttering. This was the first of its kind in the Kansai region.

The early intervention therapy for stuttering is new to Japan, so these types of workshops are critical in treating children. It is the goal that the highly successful Lidcombe Method will be used regularly in Japan.

Dr. Carey and Ms. Yandeau graciously delivered professional development workshops to our teachers and met with students and parents about speech development.

The workshop resonates with one of the SOIS belief statements, "We believe that one of our goals is to demonstrate new ideas, practices, techniques, and systems to other schools around Japan and the world."

We are proud to have supported the Australian Stuttering Research Center and the University of Sydney in their work in Japan. A big thank you to Dr. Carey and Ms. Yandeau for helping our community and speech pathologists in Japan.



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

Sabers student-athletes competed in the year's first AISA competitions, 20-21 October, with great success.

- AISA boys volleyball at SOIS: 1st place (repeat). All-tournament team: Tomoaki Ban, Hiroya Kobayashi, Neo Yokoyama.



- AISA girls volleyball at YIS (Yokohama): 3rd place. Sportsmanship award. All-tournament team: Haruna Tomiguchi, Hana Ikeda.



- AISA cross country at KIS (Seoul): 4th place. Top Sabers finishers: Leola Hara, Tyus Sheriff, Yuto Baba.



Thank you to everyone who helped with homestays, the banquet, and event support for the AISA boys volleyball

- The recently completed AISA boys volleyball tournament was a great success. Several SOIS families hosted 30 boys from Seoul and Busan. Many people

at the school helped with the preparation for and running of the tournament. Hosting international sporting events requires a school community-wide effort; I thank everyone very, very much for their assistance. I have been at this school long enough to know that there will always be people willing to help, but I am still very appreciative of it. (Next up: AISA math mania and leadership in February.)

WJAA

- Middle school season winter season I (boys basketball, girls soccer) is fully underway with games and matches nearly every weekend, including the Sabers Invitational MS girls soccer tournament held last week, at which the Sabers finished 4th. WJAA championship tournaments are December 1-2 in Kobe.
- The middle school swim team practices twice a week with Coach Bertman and Coach Kano in preparation for a meet at ASIJ in Tokyo, December 8-9, along with some high school swimmers. The deadline for the **signup for the Tokyo swim trip** has passed. See Coach Bertman with questions.
- The HS boys and girls basketball teams have played their first games, winning most. The Sabers host the WJAA boys tournament in January (girls at CA in Kobe), and then both teams travel to South Korea in early February for the AISA tournaments, the girls in Busan and the boys in Seoul.
- **Season schedules** are on the Sabers website.

SABERS SPORTS COUNCIL

A brief introduction to the **Sabers Sports Council** (SSC): The SSC is a group of SOIS student volunteers who assist the AD office with Sabers events throughout the year. Among other things, these students handle the official scoring for home events, they organize tournament setup and hospitality for WJAA and AISA events, they create the athletic awards celebration photo slideshow, and they help the AD maintain his sanity. Without their help, we would not be able to create the kind of welcoming, professional atmosphere that our events have become known for. The SSC has perfected its year-to-year turnover: the older members mentor the younger members throughout the year so that there is a smooth annual transition as the older members graduate and the younger members take over. The job they do is a highly skilled, high-pressured one, but the SSCers always have a smile for everyone. There are currently 12 members of the SSC: Riho Shimomura, Mariko Akita, Hiroki Yoshino, Tomoya Kishigami, Shuri Kozu, Chisato Suga, Nanako Fukuda, Akiho Ueyama, Fuka Nagahashi, Karin Iwaki, Azu Sugihara, and Maki Mukaida. These students work hard, but enjoy much fun and camaraderie. Thank you, SSC.

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.

KG Update

KG Alumnus Hiroaki Taniguchi Takes Top Prize at International Piano Competition

Hiroaki Taniguchi (1994 graduate of the School of Law and Politics, section chief of the Civic Cooperation Promotion Department at Nishinomiya City Hall) shone at the 15th Washington International Piano Artists Competition, held in Washington, DC this August. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, Mr. Taniguchi has continued with relief activities for the town of Minamisanriku in Miyagi Prefecture, performing mini concerts in the local area as well as traveling to Paris to hold charity concerts. "I'd be happy if my news could lift the spirits of everyone in Minamisanriku," he said, delighted.



In addition to all his rehearsals, while also working at Nishinomiya City Hall, Mr. Taniguchi has also won awards at many competitions up to now, both domestically and abroad. He entered an international competition in Paris four times, and took third place in 2005. He thought "My style of performance isn't suited for competitions," and for a time, he gave up on his

dream of winning an international competition. However, when he noticed with alarm that his skills had begun to decline, he was spurred into jumping back in. "I really felt that I had unfinished business, and in terms of age, it was my last chance." He decided to take on the challenge of international competitions once again. While balancing work and fatherhood, he strove to make use of his spare

moments to get in an hour and a half of practice every weekday, in addition to up to five hours of practice a day on the weekends.

In the finals, he hit the wrong notes in the early stage, but even as he felt depressed, he reflected that "By remembering the gentle, peaceful seas of Minamisanriku, I was able to calm down and keep playing. There were many tears of disappointment up to this point, but through those experiences, I developed the ability to cope with various situations." Regarding his future, Mr. Taniguchi said, "First, I want to have a successful winner's concert in Washington in April. Then, I'd like to continue the activities which have been helpful for my performances, like supporting Minamisanriku."

Mr. Taniguchi will perform at the "Christmas Concert: A Celebration for Hiroaki Taniguchi, Winner of the Washington International Piano Artists Competition," on December 19th (Tuesday) at Frente Hall in Nishinomiya! For more details and information on how to apply, consult the URL below.



<http://www.nishi.or.jp/contents/0004433100040003400093.html>

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