

SOIS Educator

MARCH 11, 2017



Little Shop of Horrors - All School Production 2017

The entire community enjoyed the four sold out performances of this year's All School Production (ASP). We identified some budding stars of the stage in our production Little Shop of Horrors. The flu bug hit the cast, but everyone rallied together, demonstrating the teamwork necessary for a successful performance. (continued to page 7)

News from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

I was amazed to learn that the SOIS community started a school in rural Cambodia! This came to my attention as the grade 11 students are preparing for a service trip to the SOIS School of Hope near the village of Kamchay Mear in Prey Veng province in southern Cambodia.

The OIS senior class of 2009 led the community in raising \$13,000 US dollars to construct a new school building. SOIS activities director Peter Heimer and OIS teacher Tara Cheney were senior class advisors then. Ms. Cheney recalls that "the students wanted to stretch themselves, to leave a legacy. The idea of working to provide an education - perhaps the greatest gift of all - to less fortunate students got everyone excited." The fundraising project was called "schools2schools" and the money was given to the Tokyo-based nonprofit American Assistance for Cambodia. The SOIS School of Hope began as four-classroom building with little more

than wooden desks and benches, chalkboards, a latrine, and two wells.



Since the SOIS School of Hope opened in March 2009, more funds have been raised to fund solar panels, computers, English teachers, sports equipment, and clearings for a soccer field and volleyball court. Over the years, OIS elementary students and SIS grade 7 students have raised awareness and funds for the school. Heimer and former OIS teachers Karen and Jeffrey Killmer visited the school in March 2010 for an official opening ceremony. In July 2010, former OIS science teacher Gerard Coleman volunteer taught at the school, living in primitive conditions. The January 2010 IB

World magazine featured a short article about the school building efforts. In May 2015, OIS seniors traveled to Cambodia and became the first SOIS student group to visit the SOIS School of Hope. And now the current OIS grade 11 class will travel to the school to interact with the 450+ students there in grades 7 through 9. Electricity recently arrived to the nearby village and SOIS has donated funds to help the school connect to the electricity grid. More information about the school can be found at [this link](#):



Former OIS teacher Jeffrey Killmer joins Pete Heimer in the ribbon-cutting ceremony in 2010.

Service is a component of CAS, Creativity, Activity and Service, and is one of the core requirements of the

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). The IB defines service as an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student. The rights, dignity and autonomy of all those involved are respected. The SOIS School of Hope raises our students' awareness of the challenges of poverty and the power of education.

This year's student group will be leaving on Sunday, March 12. Besides interacting with the students at School of Hope and helping there, the students will spend time in Phnom Penh learning about the Khmer Rouge regime and also travel to Siem Reap to tour the ancient ruins of Angkor Wat.

We hope to continue building on the extraordinary achievement of starting the SOIS School of Hope. This year's group will be delivering funds they collected this year as well as books and art supplies for the school. OIS is living the goal of an IB education to help create a better and more peaceful world!

School Calendar

March

- 12-18 G11 Service Trip to Cambodia
- 15 G2 Puppet Show
- 15-17 MS/HS camps
- 16 G5 Camp
- 17 Winter Trimester Ends
- 18 Spring Break Starts

April

- 4 SIS Entrance Ceremony
OIS Faculty Inservice - No Classes
- 5 Spring Trimester Begins
- 8 ACT Test
- 10 IBDP Art Exhibition
Opening
MS/HS Joint Assembly
- 12 PTA Monthly Meeting
- 14 Middle Eastern Cooking
and Culture

Views from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

With the winter trimester winding down, we only have about a third of the school year left. It is easy to think that is a lot of time but it will go by quickly, especially for the seniors. When we return from spring break, the grade 12 art students will have the final exhibition of their high school career which will showcase what they have accomplished over the course of their two years in the IB Diploma. Not too long after they pack up the art, the seniors will be starting their IB Diploma exams. And, after that, it is only a few short weeks until they graduate. Their last days at OIS will go by quickly!

For other students, the last trimester won't be quite so hectic but it will also pass quickly. Over the spring vacation you will be receiving your child's report card. In there, you will find information on how they have been progressing to this point in the school year. In grades 6 to 10, only the final end of year grade goes in the student's transcript. So if you or your child aren't happy with the progress that was made to this point there is still plenty of time to fix it. Your child should take time to talk to the teachers to find out what they need to do to improve. We do not have an official parent teacher conference at the end of the winter trimester. We want to remind you, however, that it is your right to set a meeting with the teachers at any time. It is just a matter of contacting them for an appointment or we can arrange an afternoon where you meet most of them at once. It is the school policy that if you do have concerns about a class, the first step is to talk to the teacher. Please contact us to do so especially if you feel your child is underperforming. There is still plenty of time in the final trimester to make changes if your child understands what they need to work on.

By the time you read this, the students will be just about to

embark on their camps. The students are excited about the days ahead and, I am sure, about the spring vacation that follows. I hope that you and your family are able to spend some time together over that time.

Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

The first annual Language Week was a great success. Students, parents and teachers demonstrated their diversity as communicators and many were also open-minded as they tried learning vocabulary in new languages.

Our *Shout Out* was a joyous celebration of seventeen languages. I was very impressed with the confidence of some of our youngest students who proudly shared their home language by singing solo or leading a small group. Backing vocals were also skillfully provided by a number of parents. Thank you. We all really enjoyed singing the song guided by Mr Ligon and Mr Lira's catchy accompaniment. Next year we'll be sharing it again with perhaps more languages.

In classes during the week students learned from peers how to count in different languages including Arabic and Korean. They were shown how to write Hebrew and listened to stories told from picture books in many languages including German, Spanish, French, Thai and Tagalog.

Grade 5 examined the newly updated OIS language policy. They considered the core beliefs which are the foundation for all language learning at school and noticed how the "Study of language promotes an understanding of our own and other cultures." They recognized that this study is challenging but vital to becoming informed, caring, creative individuals contributing to a global community.

At our concluding assembly classes shared their experiences from the

week. The Actioneers presented their survey findings. Over 60% of our students said they learned their first language from their parents which shows how important these models are for them. A quarter of the students said that books helped them learn languages and a similar number said that school enabled them to learn a new language. There were thoughtful reflections on the need to show commitment: "I learn little by little," Mizusa in G1 noted. "Talk with English every day," said Brian in G2. "Speaking it a lot of times, practice, and learn and listen carefully," observed Yian in G4. Elementary students use a range of methods to develop their linguistic skills. The most popular response was stated by Xiangzhi in KB "Talking with friends;" but there were other more unusual tools: "I was learning to Russian music," said Valentina in G1; "I learn from my brother by his phone's app," wrote Soo Hyun in G2, and Ruho finds "movies with subtitles" helpful as do several teachers.

The week has raised awareness of the importance of sharing our diversity and promoting linguistic richness. The United Nations initiated Mother Language Day seventeen years ago because of a fear that many languages are dying out. We hope to do more at OIS to encourage our students to be caring, multilingual communicators. There are Chinese classes taught as an after school activity and we could also run reading or story-telling activities in different languages if there are parents keen to share their languages. Please contact me if you would like to join this initiative.

Faculty Departures

Japanese language teachers Watanabe-sensei and Sudo-sensei will be leaving OIS at the end of this winter trimester.



Ms Kazue Sudo

Ms Ayumi Watanabe

Kazue Sudo has taught at OIS for 7½ years. She is versatile and has taught all grades, from kindergarten to 12 during her time here. This gave her a good overview of the educational process, especially seeing students she taught in elementary, to later see them in middle school or high school was very rewarding. Sudo-sensei appreciated the International Baccalaureate curriculum and it helped make her a better teacher. Her best memories will be of the students, she will miss them dearly. Sudo-sensei will be supporting and recruiting international university students for Kyoto area universities starting in April.

Ayumi Watanabe is in her third year at the school. She has taught both in the elementary school and middle school. Watanabe-sensei also coached middle school girls basketball and volleyball. Her basketball team finished in second place in the Western Japan Athletic

Association tournament last weekend. She really enjoyed the students, finding them sweet and engaging. She will miss her students and working with children. Starting in April, Watanabe-sensei will continue teaching Japanese language and will be with university students in Kyoto, at Ritsumeikan University.

We will miss both women, thank them for their dedication and efforts with our students and wish them best of luck in their new positions.

K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

MARCH

13	Mon	chicken cutlet
14	Tue	kitsune udon - wheat noodles in soup with fried bean curd
15	Wed	curry and rice
16	Thu	fried chicken bowl
17	Fri	curry and rice

APRIL

5	Wed	spaghetti with meat sauce
6	Thu	kitsune udon - wheat noodles in soup with fried bean curd
7	Fri	potato and meat sauce au gratin
10	Mon	hamburger steak
11	Tue	chicken cutlet
12	Wed	ramen in soy sauce flavored soup
13	Thu	curry and rice
14	Fri	rice omelet

Important 2017-2018 Calendar Dates

Fall Trimester: (Mon) August 28, 2017 - (Tue) November 21, 2017

Fall Break: (Wed) November 22, 2017 - (Mon) November 27, 2017

Winter Trimester: (Tue) November 28, 2017 - (Fri) March 16, 2018

Christmas & New Year's Holidays: (Sat) December 16, 2017 - (Mon) January 8, 2018

Spring Trimester: (Thu) April 5, 2018 - (Fri) June 29, 2018 (half day)

Library News - March

Sarah Wakefield, Librarian

HS Pleasure Reading

Reading at any age can and will benefit you as an individual, but it can also benefit you academically. Students who read outside materials, have bigger vocabulary, understand writing structure better and have an opportunity to explore their interests and gain perspective. A recent article by Charles Chu in "Better Humans" did the math and discovered that the average person could read over 200+ books in the time they spend on social media, or perhaps three times that amount in the time they are watching TV. We have some great titles in the SOIS library and I hope students (and parents) will come and check them out (literally). Here's a sample:

Graphic Novel Biographies

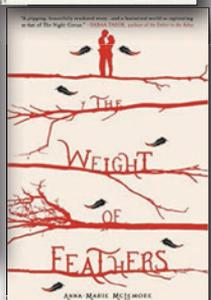
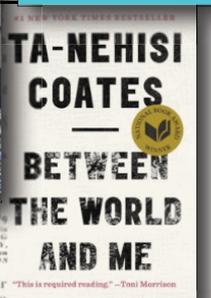
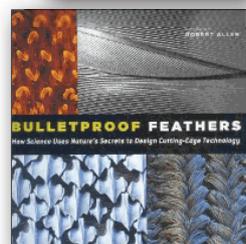
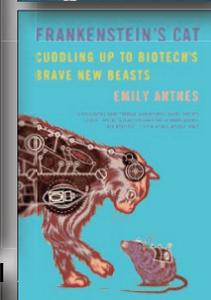
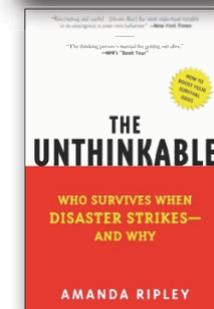
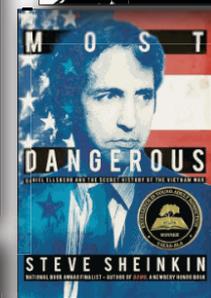
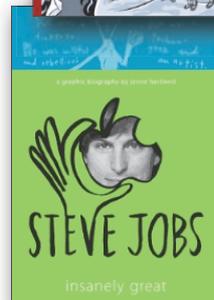
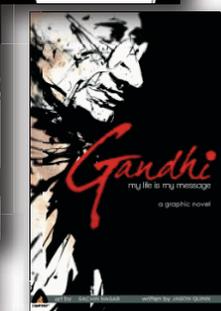
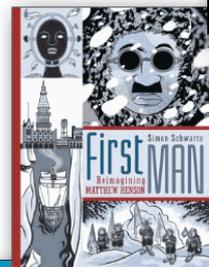
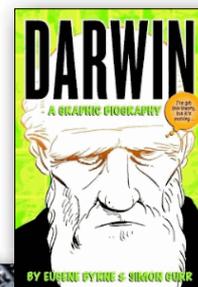
- *Darwin: A Graphic Biography* by Eugene Bryne and Simon Gurr (#92 DAR)
- *Gandhi: My Life is My Message* by Jason Quinn (#92 GAN)
- *First Man: Reimagining Matthew Henson* by Simon Schwartz (#92 HEN)
- *Steve Jobs: Insanely Great* by Jessie Hartland (#92 JOB)

We have some interesting Nonfiction

- *The Useful Book: 201 Life Skills They Used to Teach in Home Ec and Shop* by Sharon and David Bowers (#640 BOW)
- *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* (#959.704 SHE)
- *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes and Why* by Amanda Ripley (#155.9 RIP)
- *Frankenstein's Cat: Cuddling up to Biotech's Brave New Beasts* by Emily Anthes (#616.02 ANT)
- *Bulletproof Feathers: How Science Uses Nature's Secrets to Design Cutting-Edge Technology* by Robert Allen (#570.1 BUL)

Fiction

- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates (#F COA)
Coates takes readers along on his journey through America's history of race and its contemporary resonances through a series of awakenings--moments when he discovered some new truth about our long, tangled history of race, whether through his myth-busting professors at Howard University, a trip to a Civil War battlefield with a rogue historian, a journey to Chicago's South Side to visit aging survivors of 20th century America's 'long war on black people,' or a visit with the mother of a beloved friend who was shot down by the police.
- *Bones & All* by Camille DeAngelis (#F DEA)
Maren Yearly doesn't just break hearts, she devours them. Since she was a baby, Maren has had serious trouble accepting affection. Any time someone gets too close to her, she's overcome by the desire to eat them. Abandoned by her mother the day after her sixteenth birthday, Maren goes looking for the father she has never known, but finds much more than she bargained for along the way. Faced with a world of fellow eaters, potential enemies, and the prospect of love, Maren realizes she isn't only looking for her father, she is looking for herself. The real question is, will she like who she finds?
- *The Weight of Feathers* by Anna Marie McLemore (#F MCL)
Although Lace Paloma knows all about the feud between the Palomas and the Corbeaus, she finds herself falling for Cluck Corbeau when he saves her life while both families are performing in the same town.



Celebrate Good Times, Come on!

Dawn Inada, Grade 1 teacher

Under the transdisciplinary theme of *How we express ourselves*, students in grade 1 inquired into how people recognize important events through celebrations and traditions. More specifically, they explored features of traditions and celebrations, symbolic representations of celebrations and traditions, and the meaning people attach to celebrations and traditions.

We enjoyed having a number of guest visitors join us to share their own celebrations and family traditions. Students, parents and faculty members taught us about Hanukkah, Eid, Maori New Year, Chinese New Year, Day of the Dead and Malaysian dance. The students each brought in a personal artifact and explained how it was connected to a special family tradition.

For the unit summative assessment, students planned their own celebration for the 100th day of school. After brainstorming different components necessary for the celebration, they broke into small groups each responsible for a different aspect of the planning – decorations, invitations, activities and food. Students in these groups worked together on their particular responsibility. The handmade invitations, decorations and cones for popcorn were absolutely beautiful.

On Friday, February 17, students excitedly prepared the room for the event to be held in the afternoon. As the guests began to arrive at 2:00, both parents and elementary students, the children were nervous and excited. The activities, created



by the students themselves, turned out to be very popular among our visitors. We had many parents lend their talents to help out at the face-painting station, while others helped with the distribution of popcorn.

Congratulations to the grade 1 students for planning and carrying out a fun-filled celebration! Many thanks to everyone who supported our efforts and celebrated with us!

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/>

Middle school girls basketball, boys soccer

The SOIS Sabers middle school girls basketball team and boys soccer team wrapped up their winter II seasons with successful performances at the WJAA tournaments, April 3-4, 2017.

- The girls basketball team, coached by Mr. Mecklem and Watanabe-sensei, played at Marist Brothers International School in Kobe and won both pool games comfortably on Friday, but faced a difficult championship round on Saturday when 4 players could not play due to injury and sickness and schedule conflicts. Nonetheless, the short-handed Sabers advanced to the championship game where they fell to a dominant KIUA team. This was a great improvement on last year's 4th place finish. This was Coach Watanabe's final tournament with the Sabers as she will leave the school this year.
- The boys soccer teams, coached by Mr. McGill and Mr. Stone, played at Canadian Academy and won WJAA titles in both the A and B divisions for the 4th year in a row – a double “four-peat”. A quadruple double? Considering that this makes it 6 years in a row that the Sabers footballers have won the A-division title, why don't we just call it “total dominance”? The top goal scorers for the Sabers A team were Ken Tran and Keigo Igarashi. The stingy B team gave up exactly 0 goals in the tournament. This was the final Sabers tournament for Coach Stone who, after a multi-year run as a Sabers coach, will leave the school.

New middle school seasons: girls softball, boys volleyball, table tennis, running/triathlon

The next MS sports are

- boys volleyball (Coach Van Plantinga, Coach Routh)
- girls softball (Coach Nakamura, Coach Yamashiro)
- table tennis (Coach Takahashi, Coach Yamada)
- running and triathlon (Coach Baba, Coach Cheney)

MS athletes, be ready to start right after the spring holiday.

High school: soccer, swimming, badminton, softball

- “Repeat” is the key word for both the HS girls and boys soccer teams, both WJAA and AISA. Undefeated on the season, the boys, led by Coach Haske and Coach Entwistle, are optimistic of a repeat title at Canadian Academy. Coach Frater and Coach Kono have high hopes for the girls, who travel to Yokohama. For AISA soccer in April, both teams

travel to South Korea to defend their respective AISA titles, the boys to Busan and the girls to Seoul.

- The Sabers swim team, with Coach Bertman and Coach Kano, hosts the AISA swim meet in April.
- The badminton squad, coached by Hasegawa-sensei and Mr. Lewis, plays in the WJAA and APAC tournaments in April in Kobe.
- The HS girls softball team holds its season-opener against CA this Saturday on the Sabers field. Coach Hirai and Coach Hikosaka and the girls practice during the spring holiday.



AISA HOMESTAY HOSTS NEEDED

AISA swimming, 13-16 April 2017

In mid-April, SOIS will homestay 32 male and female swimmers 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. Much useful bilingual information about AISA homestays can be found in the “[Homestay](#)” section of the Sabers website.

Thank you

As always, thank you for your support of the Sabers activities program. Please contact me any time: in the AD office, room A-240, near the business office; by telephone at 072-727-2137; or via e-mail at pheimer@senri.ed.jp.

Rehearsals from the 2017 ASP: Little Shop of Horrors



(continued from the cover page)

We are already thinking about next year's ASP, and are open to suggestions. I would like to thank the OIS parents for their support of this year's ASP. From plenty of food and coffee available for cast and audience members to supervising the elementary students and making costumes, the level of performances were definitely elevated through the efforts of the parents.

Thank you!



INFORMATION

Middle Eastern Culture and Cooking

SOIS parents are invited to attend this special event. OIS community members from Saudi Arabia and Egypt will be sharing their best recipes. Come and learn how to make typical dishes from the region and eat delicious food. The fun begins at 4:00 PM in the Home and Family Life room on the first floor on Friday April 14. Babysitting will be available.

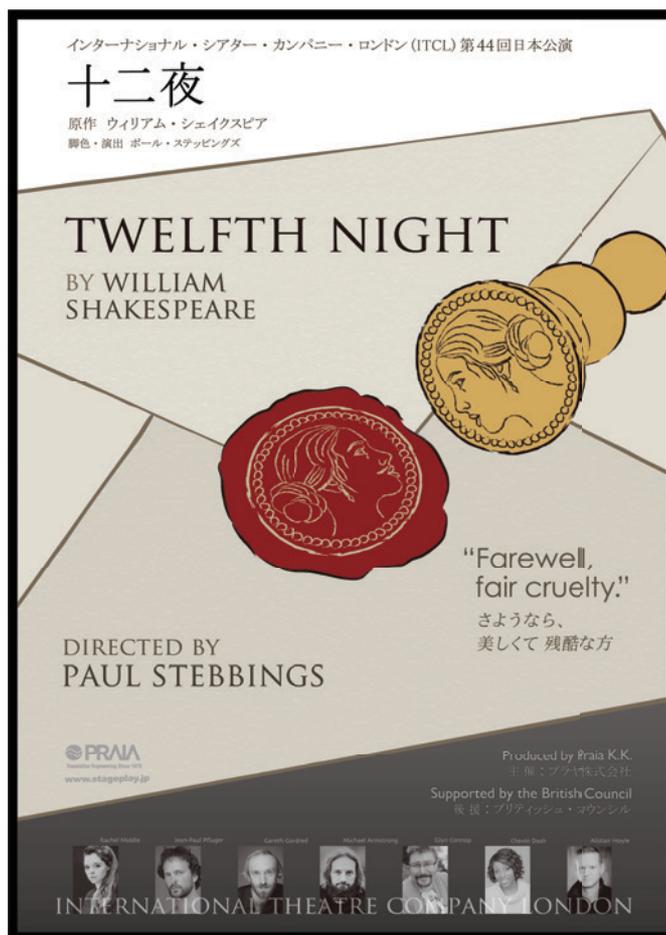
Please RSVP the administrative assistant, Chiaki Aotani (caotani@senri.ed.jp) as space is limited.



MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURE & COOKING

**Home & Family Life Room
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Friday
April 14**

All OIS and SIS parents are invited to attend. Saudi Arabian and Egyptian cuisine will be featured. Babysitting will be available. Please RSVP Chiaki Aotani (caotani@senri.ed.jp) - limited to 20 people - send email to reserve a place and let us know if you need babysitting.



Twelfth Night

The International Theatre Company of London is presenting Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* on Tuesday May 16 starting at 6:00 PM in the SOIS theatre. Actors from the company will also be leading a theatre workshop after school on the day of the performance. More information on tickets and the workshop will be coming in the spring trimester. Mark the date in your calendars!

The next *Educator* will be published on Saturday 14 April. In the meantime, you can find past editions of the *Educator*, *Interculture* and *Tango* in the [newsletters section](#) of the downloads page on our website.

Important Numbers

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