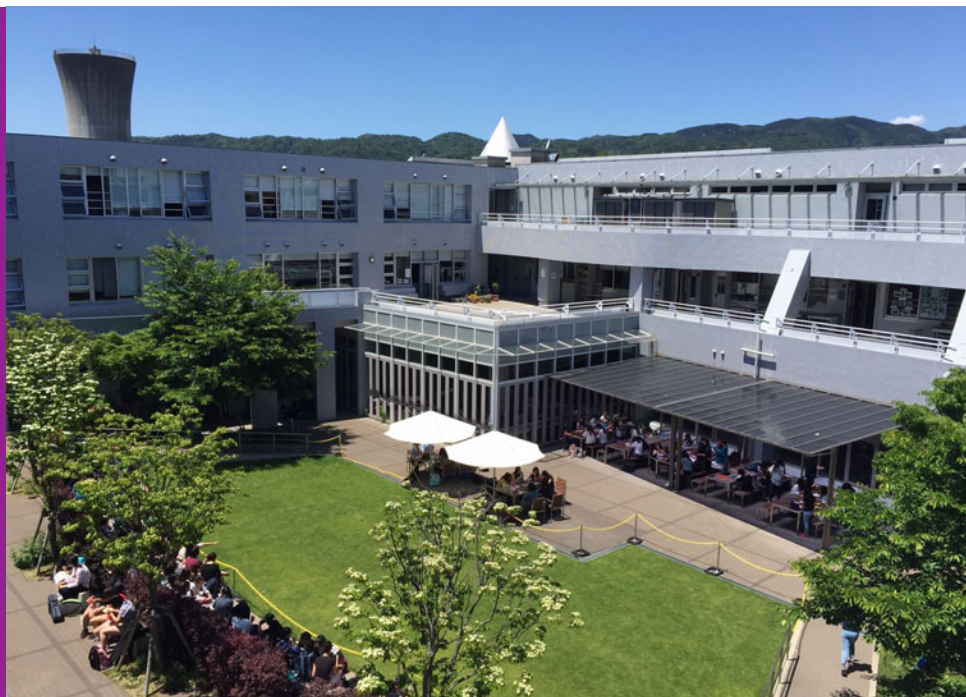


SOIS Educator

MAY 20, 2017



The perfect spring weather continued this month at OIS. More students are taking advantage of the sunshine and eating outside, under the shade. Since the courtyard renovation of 2012, the area is used by so many more community members.

Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

OIS faculty and staff are working on a 13-month study of all aspects of OIS in preparation for next year's accreditation visit. A committee of representatives from the Western Association of Colleges and Schools (WASC) and the International Baccalaureate will be coming in February of 2018 to accredit and authorize OIS. They last visited in 2013.

One of the mandates of the report is to collect feedback from all stakeholders in the community. We will be sending a survey to all parents next week in English and Japanese to collect opinions on how we are doing. The survey is anonymous and we hope to get honest, fair and thoughtful feedback. It will only take 15 minutes to complete and we need a high percentage of families so we can get the full range of views. A summary of the results will be shared with the community and will be in the report. Comments will not be shared with the community, but leadership

and faculty will consider them. We will send a link via SOISmail to the Google form.

As part of the accreditation process, WASC representative Dale Mitchell visited the school last month to inspect our international boarding program, Global Futures. He toured the Akebono dormitory, met privately with the dormitory students, reviewed documentation, observed classes to get a good understanding of OIS and GFP (Global Futures Program). It was reported that we can continue towards accreditation next year with GFP as part of the school! Dr. Mitchell is a retired California superintendent and former National Football League player with the San Francisco Forty-niners. It is always good for a school receive outside assessments to help us provide the best program we can for our students.



School Calendar

May

- MAP Tests (to 16 June)
- 23 Japan Refugee Association Presentation
- 25 Muhlenberg University Ecology Project
- 27 MS/HS School Festival
ES Concert "All about the Learning"
- 29 Author Tad Hills Visit
- 30 G10 Field Study @KG Uegahara Campus
- 31 MS/HS Spring Bands Concert

June

- 1 MS/HS Spring Strings & Chorus Concert
- 2 HS Athletic Awards
- 3 SAT I & II Tests
- 5 MS Student Council Election
- 6 HS Spring Concert @ Maple Hall
- 8 ES Student-Led Conferences
-ES No Classes
- 9 HS Graduation
- 12 SOIS Art Exhibition - Asian Art Night
- 14 PTA Meeting
- 16 ES Super Swim Carnival

Views from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

As I am writing this, the IB Diploma exams are finishing up which I guess is a good indicator that the year is winding down. Winding down may not be the best way to describe it though because so much is still happening. Graduation, of course, is the biggest event on the calendar. As has been the case for many years now, the grade 11 is hosting the graduation ceremony and the junior's parents are organizing the food for the post-graduation reception. I would like to thank them in advance for all of the time and effort they are putting into making this year's ceremony a success.

Other events in these last five weeks include MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) testing for grades 1 to 10. I sent a letter to your SOISmail accounts describing that process. The MAP results will provide an extra piece of evidence on how your child has progressed since the start of the year. When coupled with the in-class assessments and the feedback from the teachers, the MAP helps us develop a clearer picture of the students' strengths and weaknesses that we can then target in instruction. The results from the current round of testing should be posted to ManageBac sometime in mid-June.

Concert season is also coming up. There will be a middle school bands and high school concert bands concert in the theater on May 31. This will be followed the next day by a MS strings, choir, and HS concert string performance in the theater. Our annual Minoh City Maple Hall concert, featuring the top level high school string and wind ensembles and choir will take place on June 6. We really have a strong group of talented musicians here who have been working very hard to prepare for the concerts. I hope to see you there.

Last summer, one of our students was able to complete an internship and gain some work experience at a company. That was thanks to the efforts of a parent and his company. This year, a couple of different students have approached me about the possibility of doing something similar. If your company or office could use some extra help which at the same time might give a student or two some valuable experience, please contact me.

Please keep in mind as you make your travel plans that the last day of school is June 29 and it is a half day. The first day students are expected back is on the afternoon of August 25. Students are expected to attend all school days.

Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

Sharing the planet is the concern of many grades at this time of year as they have been inquiring into the unit that focuses on our responsibility for caring for the earth. This coincided with Earth Week, a celebration which we have developed since last year, and which proved to be a great success.

A variety of visitors have helped KA inquire into the needs of living things including a dog and a toddler. They will also visit Minoh Insect Museum to find out how butterflies develop.

KB used the research skills they learned in their previous unit to carry out a survey of plants in school. They were shocked to find there were not plants in every classroom and some teachers were even afraid of them. During Earth Week the students were visited by an organic greengrocer, Mr Deguchi, who showed them seeds and explained how to look after plants. Since then the students have been tending different vegetable plants and making our school a greener place.

During Earth Week itself students focused on many aspects of how to

share our planet responsibly. On Tuesday we had No Power Hour, a time for switching off all our devices, lights and other energy-using equipment. Everyone was reminded that we can learn and have fun without the technology that so many of us take for granted. The following day was Wasteless Wednesday, in which the focus was on the unnecessary packaging that seems to have become such a part of our lives. Students and their parents ensured that waste was kept to an absolute minimum, while in class we also concentrated on avoiding the waste that is so common in large, working communities like schools. Focusing our attention on these issues should stay with us well beyond Earth Week itself and makes us think about the choices we make that affect our environments into the future.

Wasteless Wednesday was of particular interest to Grade 1 students who have been studying the waste we create. They issued each grade with a bag to collect rubbish from their snacks and lunches. Noticing how the contents grew over a week raised awareness of our consumption. At the end of the unit they led an effective assembly as a quiz which showed us how we can change our wasteful habits. Study the large green feet posters in the genkan to lessen your footprint on the planet! Several students are now promoting further action by leading Earth Club so that the momentum for change can be sustained.

Grades 1 and 2 saw the beneficial side of technology when they were able to communicate with a conservationist who has been working in the African bush, helping the local people conserve their environment and that of the wildlife with whom they share it. They asked Charles Summerfield many questions and were inspired to share the knowledge they gained by having provocative conversations with their families.

Continued from page 2

Grade 3 have been researching the concept of Green Cities as part of their unit How We Organize Ourselves. Constructing models of ideal cities they have incorporated some of the initiatives they found. All included green spaces such as parks so people can live together more healthily with nature.

Grade 4 have also been investigating human organizations as they developed their businesses and they endeavoured to have an eco-friendly focus. They tried using fewer materials and up-cycling items. At their market one of the most successful stalls was that run by Yoshiya who sold second-hand items.

Grade 5 have been synthesizing all their PYP skills to produce their exhibition. This year we have moved away from the usual theme of Sharing the Planet to explore Where We Are In Place And Time instead. By shifting to a more geographical and historical focus, the students have been able to research factors influencing human migration. One group has found there are often environmental factors and have learned a lot from interviewing activists working with communities at risk. I hope you will come along to see the exhibition displays now on show in school.

K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

May

22	Mon	tomato flavored hashed beef rice
23	Tue	kitsune udon - wheat noodles in soup with fried bean curd
24	Wed	spaghetti with meat sauce
25	Thu	curry and rice
26	Fri	pork cutlet
29	Mon	ramen noodles in miso flavored soup
30	Tue	spaghetti carbonara
31	Wed	focaccia pizza

June

1	Thu	spaghetti with corn cream sauce
2	Fri	kitsune udon - wheat noodles in soup with fried bean curd
5	Mon	ramen noodles in miso flavored soup
6	Tue	pork cutlet
7	Wed	curry and rice
9	Fri	fried chicken
12	Mon	cheese burger
13	Tue	hamburger meat with tomato sauce
14	Wed	pan-fried noodles
15	Thu	rice omelet
16	Fri	spaghetti carbonara

School Festival - Saturday May 27

Everyone, students, parents and other community members are invited to attend the School Festival on Saturday May 27. The SOIS student council organizes the event with the help of volunteers. This year's theme is Mystery.

There will be games for children, including mini-golf, a haunted house, and water games to name a few. There will be music and food as well.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

8.30: Students go to homerooms.

8.45-9.45: Elementary School Spring Concert "All about the Learning" in the theatre

9.50: Festival starts.

10.30: Performances start.

14.30: Festival finishes and cleaning starts.
All non-SOIS students must leave the school to facilitate cleaning.

15.30: Cleaning finishes and all students must leave the school.

This is a student-led event and an opportunity, for the students to learn leadership and collaboration skills.

Notes:

- * School bus will be operated as usual in the morning but not operated in the afternoon.
- * Elementary students must go home with their parents.
- * Cafeteria will be closed.
- * Please remember there is no parking at school.

Fushigi Week:

The week of school leading up to the festival is called Fushigi Week, which is similar to a "spirit" week in international schools. Students dress up according to the theme of the day. The goal is for the students is to change a regular school day into something a little different and bring a positive spirit to the school. Elementary students will only participate on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, while the middle school and high school will be Monday through Friday. The themes of the week are as follows:

May 22 (Mon): Animal Day
eg. zoo keeper, favorite animal

May 23 (Tue): Class Unity Day
all members of class dress alike

May 24 (Wed): Harajuku/Party People Day
dress colorfully

May 25 (Thu): Time Travel Day
dress in past or future styles

May 26 (Fri): Mystery Day
Sherlock Holmes or anything related to mystery

Come to the Grade 4 Market!

Lora Vimont, Grade 4 Teacher

From Wednesday, April 26th thru Friday, April 28th the OIS Grade 4 ran their own business market as way of helping them inquire into the transdisciplinary theme **HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES** and the central idea: Businesses depend on the ability to produce goods and supply services that can be exchanged. It was an action-packed time for the students as they worked together in business teams of 3 or 4 to sell their goods and services to a varied customer base ranging from elementary students and teachers to parents, administrators and other members of the SOIS community.

Prior to the actual market days, a lot of work went in to preparing for the market. Student teams conducted surveys with the K-5 classes in order to help them determine customer preferences and establish a sense of how to make their ad campaigns more persuasive to attract customers. Each student needed to write out a business plan and work out the materials they needed to start up their business as well as estimate costs.

On the actual market days, each team competed with one another to see who could make the most sales each day and, ultimately, the greatest profit by the end. In order to accomplish this, business teams made use of an array of creative marketing techniques including: lively team cheers, persuasive sales pitches, colorful table displays, eye-catching signs, free samples, product and service demonstrations, sales coupons and a plethora of enticing bargains that promoted businesses within their own teams. For all days of the market, students were asked to record their individual business sales and reflect on their experiences of what went well, what didn't and a way to improve for the next time.

This experience proved to be invaluable in giving our G4 students a real-world taste of the great amount of preparation, patience and problem-solving ability involved in running a small business. Some important things that the students said they learned were that business loans must be

paid back (in this case, to our parents) and that we should always keep track of our expenses (save those receipts)! They also learned that expenses can exceed sales in some cases and cause a business to experience a loss instead of a profit! Many also commented that running a business is really hard work!

After making final calculations, the G4 class earned 57,100 yen in total SALES. After deducting their expenses, they made an overall PROFIT of 5,700 yen which shall be donated to a children's charity.

All students did a fantastic job! The winning team with the highest profit in the end: PPAB Island (4,583 yen)! Congratulations!

During the upcoming School Festival on Saturday, May 27th, the G4s will be open for business again and ask that everyone COME TO THE G4 MARKET!



Team ASGS



Team PPAB Island



Team Smiley Village



Team LAHR



Team M.E.D.



Team Yinakiji City

Library News - January

Sarah Wakefield, Librarian

Author Tad Hills to Visit OIS

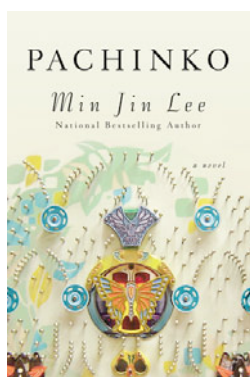
We are very excited to have author Tad Hills visit our school on May 29th. He will be doing presentations across elementary and possibly a workshop focused on illustrating for some of our older children. Tad Hills writes the popular duck and goose books and is both an author and an illustrator. He is spending most of May touring Japan and visiting a few different international schools. In conjunction with his visit I have access through Best Books to reserve copies of some of his books in case you would like to purchase them and have them signed. I will send more information about that home to families soon.

Please have a look at his website if you like: <http://tadhills.com/>

New Books

We have new books that have just arrived and will be available for check out soon. A focus of this order was on updating some of our secondary nonfiction.

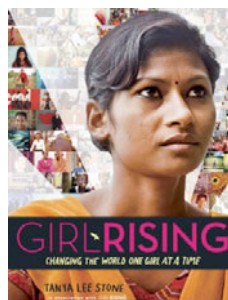
Some of our great new books to check out:



Pachinko by Min Jin Lee (F LEE)

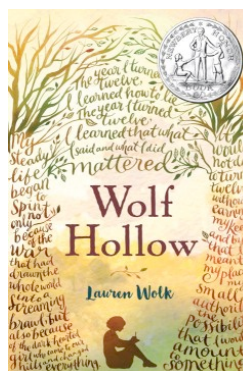
This book follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young tubercular minister offers to marry and bring her to Japan. So begins a

sweeping saga of an exceptional family in exile from its homeland and caught in the indifferent arc of history. Through desperate struggles and hard-won triumphs, its members are bound together by deep roots as they face enduring questions of faith, family, and identity



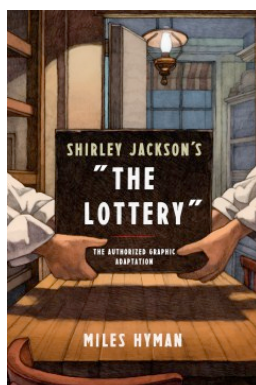
Girl Rising: Changing the world one girl at a time by Tanya Lee Stone (371.822 STO)

Follows girls who are coming of age in the developing world and confronting barriers to their education



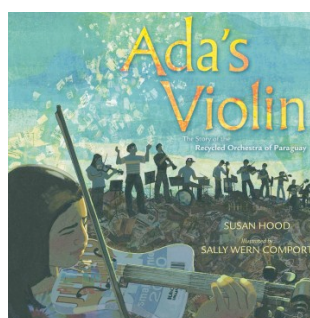
Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk (JF WOL)

Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran



Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" : the authorized graphic adaptation by Miles Hyman (GN F HYM)

A graphic novel adaptation of Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" in which the people of a village perform their annual lottery, with startling consequences for the recipient of the one paper with the black spot.



Ada's Violin: the story behind the recycled orchestra of Paraguay by Susan Hood (E HOO)

A town built on a landfill. A community in need of hope. A girl with a dream. A man with a vision. An ingenious idea.

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 results: swimming, soccer, April 13-16, 2017

SOIS hosted the 2017 AISA swim meet in the Sabers pool. Our high school swimmers finished 3rd behind Seoul International School and Korea International School, and the Sabers middle school team finished 4th. The top Sabers female swimmer was Natsumi Takeda, who finished in 5th place overall. The top Sabers male swimmer was OIS grade 7 Yoshi Kamegai, who finished 9th overall. For results and photos, please visit the [AISA swim meet webpage](#). Congratulations and thank you, Coach Bertman and Coach Kano.



The Sabers boys and girls soccer teams competed in season-ending AISA tournaments, the boys in Busan and the girls in Seoul. Both teams played very well, but both fell just short of repeating their AISA titles, losing close matches in the finals. All-tournament players were:

Girls: Ami Eldridge, Airu Mukaiyama,
Haruna Tomiguchi, Elena Benfield

Boys: Kento Moriguchi, Hiroto Inui, Tommy Ban,
Shutaro Hisamatsu

Congratulations and thank you to coaches Stephen Frater, Mitsuhiro Kono, David Haske, and Derek Entwistle. Great seasons, Sabers.

Table tennis

The Sabers high school and middle school table tennis teams do not get as much recognition as other teams, but thanks to Coach Takahashi, Coach Matsushima, and Coach Yamada, the two teams are popular and going strong. The teams played in a season-ending competition against Nakayama-Satsukidai Junior High School in Takarazuka City on Saturday, May 13.

WJAA tournaments

Two SOIS high school softball teams – “black” and “white” – competed in the WJAA tournament last weekend, May 13-14, at Marist Brothers in Kobe. The black team finished in 3rd place, and the white team

finished in 4th place. Thank you, Coach Hirai and Coach Hikosaka.



Softball Black



Softball White

Three Sabers teams compete in season-ending WJAA championship tournaments this Friday and Saturday, May 19-20. Good luck to all coaches and teams. Come to the Sabers gym to cheer on the [MS boys volleyball team](#).

- MS girls softball @Canadian Academy, Kobe
- MS boys volleyball @SOIS, Osaka
- HS boys baseball @Nagoya, going for a “4-peat” championship

Final MS season

After the school festival, the final sports season for middle school begins: badminton. Practices are held Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, beginning May 30.

One more big Sabers event

On Friday, June 2, we hold our annual SOIS high school athletic awards celebration. At 4:00 PM in the theater we recognize all teams with photos of the seasons and announcements of most valuable players and most improved players for each team. From 6:00 PM, we enjoy a light meal in the cafeteria, where we announce two major awards: the Dr. Fukuda Award to the top SOIS scholar-athlete, both male and female; and the Outstanding Athlete of the Year Award to the best all-around Sabers athlete, both male and female. This is a fun, important event that celebrates all of the many positive aspects of the Sabers athletics program. We encourage all Sabers athletes, fans, and family to attend.

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.

SOIS Students Shine at World Scholar's Cup

Over 120 students from 8 different schools competed in the Kansai Round of World Scholar's Cup on the weekend of April 28-29. This is the third year we hosted the event and it was the largest ever. SOIS students were competing against Nishiyamato, Ritsumeikan Uji, Doshisha Kokusai, Chigusa High School, among others.

World Scholar's Cup founder Daniel Berdichevsky wrote, "That's why the World Scholar's Cup may look like a competition, but isn't one at all. It's a celebration of learning. (Just ask the "ninjas" who raided the Taiwan Round in 2012 to demand more guides to study.) It brings together many subjects, because before we can begin to specialize, we need to see the big picture. It challenges teams to work together, because there's nothing harder or more inspiring than knowing that someone else depends on you. And it deals with serious global issues without taking itself too seriously, because I'm convinced that before we can fall in love with learning, we have to find the fun in learning."

The students competed strongly in all the events. They are separated into junior (up to age 14) and senior (age 15 and above) divisions and compete in four events. In the showcase debate, students argued the motion, "Japan's success is a result of good luck". Students develop presentation skills, self confidence and how to form a logical argument. Other events are collaborative writing, Scholar's Bowl (timed trivia questions) and special subject knowledge in the Scholar's Challenge. In the Junior Division, SOIS swept the top three places and finished first and third in the Senior Division.



Junior Division

1st: Minami Matsushima, Noah Izumi, Owen Kralovec

2nd: Ken Tran, Euan Lewis, Sophia Smith

3rd: Emily Yoo, Malka Bobrove, Sana Konishi-Atwood

Senior Division

1st: Skye Inada, Tyus Sheriff, Nanami Hasegawa



3rd: Irina Setoyama, Halyard Freyder, Sho Sakura

Many OIS students qualified for the Global Round held in Hanoi, Vietnam June 26 - July 1. We are sending a delegation of 31 students and three SOIS chaperones will be participating. Students who do well will be qualifying for the Tournament of Champions at Yale University in November.

G8 Humanities

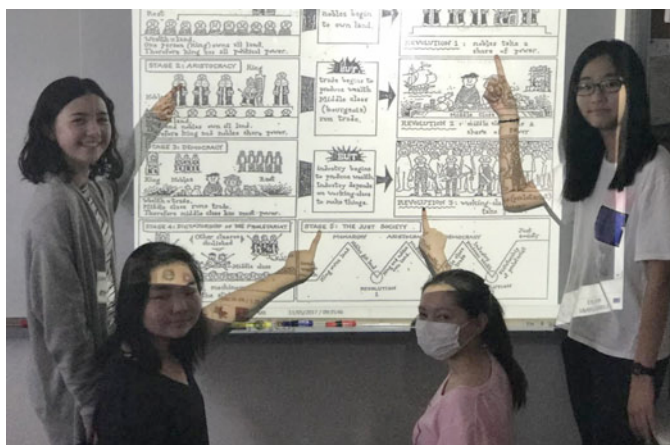
The current unit of study for grade 8 Humanities is the Industrial Revolution. The statement of enquiry for the unit is: "Changes in economic systems bring new opportunities but also social and ideological conflict".

Part of the unit entails the study of communism and how it challenged the ideology of capitalism. In conjunction with the unit, students are reading Orwell's *Animal Farm*, an allegory of the Russian Revolution and the rise of Josef Stalin.

To better understand Marx's idea that the whole of history inevitably leads to communism, students were placed in groups to identify and explain the three revolutions Marx said all societies would pass through before communism would be established. Students were given pictures and verbal clues in random order which they had to re-arrange into a coherent "narrative". They then had to explain how class conflict became the engine of history, driving it forward through feudal, bourgeois, and proletarian revolutions to create the just society, at least

Michael J. McGill,
Humanities Teacher

as depicted by Marx. Some students were then selected to articulate this scheme of history before their peers.



In the coming weeks, students will be comparing the relative benefits/shortcomings of capitalism and communism in order to provide some answers to the unit's statement of enquiry.

KG Update

KG Launches 5th Annual Rainbow Week on the Uegahara Campus



Kwansei Gakuin University launched its 5th annual KG Rainbow Week on May 15th, a weeklong series of activities which will run from May 15th to May 19th on the Nishinomiya Uegahara campus and from May 22nd to May 26th on the Kobe-Sanda campus. KG Rainbow Week is intended to celebrate diversity and deepen student understanding of the issues facing sexual minorities, both on campus and across the

world. Held annually since 2013, the date of KG Rainbow Week was chosen to coincide with the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO or IDAHOT) on May 17th, a day for people in over 130 countries to unite in support of the recognition of human rights for all, irrespective of gender identity or sexual orientation. This year, the theme of Rainbow Week is 'A Kwangaku Where I Am Accepted as I Am.' The university will hold a variety of events, including exhibits, movie screenings, discussion panels, talk sessions, lectures and joint chapel services, aimed at celebrating diversity and increasing awareness of LGBT issues.



During his opening remarks, Professor Joe Takeda, of the university's Institute for Human Rights Research and Education, emphasized his wish for KG Rainbow Week to serve as a call for

real social action, in order to ensure that Kwansei Gakuin University is a place where everyone feels

accepted. University President Osamu Murata declared, "One aspect of being a global citizen is being able to understand and acknowledge differences in sexuality, and I hope that we can take advantage of this opportunity to create a space where we can have frank discussions with each other." The opening speeches were followed by moving musical performances from volunteers, including the student cappella group 'Crescent Party.'



To close the launch event, Waka Kobayashi, a Kwansei Gakuin alumna and Kobe IDAHO event organizer, spoke about her own experiences and offered words of encouragement. "While these actions now might be small, you have friends on this campus who still feel like they can't say that they are sexual minorities. I really hope that you will all continue to carry on the work of Rainbow Week."

Since its founding in 1889, Kwansei Gakuin University has aspired to create an educational environment that accepts people from all walks of life, with a deep concern for human rights based on the university's guiding Christian principles. In that spirit, the university released an 'Inclusive Community Declaration' in September 2010, a mission statement aimed at bringing about a barrier-free KG which recognizes strength in diversity. Faced with an era replete with complex and ever-changing challenges, KG continues to work toward building a community that respects diversity and acknowledges different values, in order to empower individuals to make contributions to society and the world at large.

Important Numbers

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