

# OIS Educator

JANUARY 20, 2018



*Many OIS students created Ikebana flower displays in a recent workshop at school. Soo Hyun Kim created this beautiful arrangement.*

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## *Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC*

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The OIS faculty participated last week in a child protection workshop. It was not the most cheerful way to start the new year, but it is a very important topic. We want to strengthen our child protection program at the Senri & Osaka International Schools. Jim Hulbert, a lawyer and international school consultant from the Jane Group, gave our teachers some sobering statistics on the prevalence of child abuse around the world in his presentation. This should be a wake up call for all of us to raise awareness of the problem and act in protecting children against abuse.

There are many forms of abuse, sexual, physical, emotional, neglect, etc. With the United Nations International Rights of the Child as the base, we have produced a school child protection policy. A child protection team, led by the counselors of both schools, will lead the program. Besides our work with faculty and staff, we are looking to raise awareness and train parents and students to recognize abuse. With the #metoo movement gaining popularity in the USA and the world, OIS students should graduate and be able to recognize and stop harassment.

In addition to protecting children, the workshop discussed ways teachers can protect themselves. The case of Neil Benteleman, a former Canadian administrator at the Jakarta Intercultural School, serving a 10-year prison

sentence in Indonesia, brought the issue to the forefront in the international school community. We are reminding teachers to take precautions and put the welfare of students first and maintain appropriate boundaries between adults and children. However, we value close, caring relationships between teachers and students. Strong child protection measures do not rule out warm relations and pastoral care from teachers.

International schools and OIS in particular, are putting in place stronger criminal background checks and screening of adults working with the students in schools. The idea is to dissuade child predators of applying at our school and other international schools. The recent case of William Vahey, an infamous predator who taught at a variety of international schools, should be a warning to all of us to be aware that abuse takes place. The added measures are mirroring a trend in national schools.

We plan to hold parent workshops later this year to inform parents on what they can do to protect children.



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## from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

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Happy New Year! Whatever you managed to do over the school holiday I hope that you had a good vacation, were able to spend time with family and that your year has gotten off to a good start.

These first few months of 2018 are a busy time at OIS because we are finishing up our self-study and preparing for visitors for the IB and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The two groups will be working together to help us ensure that we have accurately evaluated the school and set ourselves on a good path for moving forward. This week, we uploaded reports and other evidence to the organization and in mid-February the visitors will be here. It is an exciting time because it does help us stop, look at what we are doing well and identify areas in which we can improve. In the long run, it makes us a better school. Many of you gave us feedback over the last year and we appreciate it. Please contact us if you would like an opportunity to meet the visitors on Monday February 19 at 3:45pm in the 3F conference room.

While the self-study has us busy, school life still continues. Our "All School Production" of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* is just around the corner. Next Wednesday on January 24, grade 11 parents and their children are invited in for a college workshop. It is hard to believe but it is already time for the grade 11 students to get ready for college applications. That will take place at 5:00pm in the third floor conference room. The grade 12 is busy finalizing their Extended Essays and other internal assessments and the mock exams are coming in February. Those will be followed by the real exams in May. The

grade 10 students are finishing up their personal projects with an eye towards their exhibition on February 19 at 2:40pm to which all community members are invited. The exhibition of projects will take place on the 2nd floor.

Also on the horizon are the school camps. I wrote about this in the last Educator but you should be receiving more details if you haven't already. We are looking forward to another great camp season.

2018 is going well for us at school and I look forward to working with you throughout the year!

## School Calendar

### January

- 24 College Admissions Workshop for G11 Students and Parents at 5:00pm, 3F Conference Room (High school parents from other grades may attend as well.)
- 26-27 Global Issues Forum -Debate/Collaboration with United World College International School of Asia, Karuizawa @SOIS
- 30 IB Music Recital at 4:00pm, Choir Room

### February

- 7 PTA Meeting
- 10 February Educator
- 18-22 WASC & IB Joint Accreditation Authorization Visit
- 19-22 ES Mother Tongue Language Week

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The next *Educator* is scheduled to be published on 10 February. Until then, you can follow us on:

[Twitter /oisinbrief](#)

[Instagram /soisstories](#)

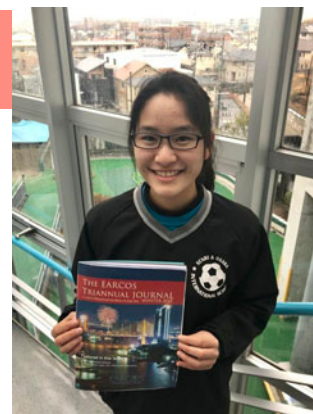
[YouTube /soisvideos](#)

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## OIS Student Featured in Magazine

Nanami Hasegawa, a grade 10 student, published an article in the EARCOS Journal earlier this month. EARCOS is the triennial magazine of the East Asia Regional Council of Schools. 158 international schools from India to Guam belong to EARCOS and the magazine is read by thousands of educators and students throughout the region.

Nanami's article compares high school sports in Hong Kong and Japan. Nanami lived in Hong Kong for 13 years before coming to OIS. It was developed from her Middle Years Programme Personal Project. Nanami has a passion for sports and regularly participates on the Sabers' sports teams.



## *Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL*

Reflection is a cornerstone of learning in the PYP. Reflection enables us to evaluate where we've been and plan where to go next. Students are regularly encouraged to reflect on their learning, but reflection is important for the OIS staff as well. As the IB learner profile states: 'we work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development'. In addition to our day-to-day reflection, for the last eighteen months the OIS community has been engaged in a process of formalized reflection. This is in preparation for a visit by teams of educators from the International Baccalaureate (IB) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) which occurs every five years to assess the effectiveness of the school's operations and to maintain our membership of both organizations. This regular evaluation combines an internal and external assessment of the teaching and learning at OIS to ensure high standards are met.

Since August 2016 teachers have met in varied groups to gather evidence and evaluate progress in our teaching of the three IB programmes. These findings have been compiled in detailed self-study questionnaires which have been sent to the visiting teams this week. Action plans have been drafted from these findings to guide developments over the next five years.

Teachers were not the only people to reflect on practices. To ensure the inclusion of a spectrum of stakeholders in the self-study I met with various groups in June 2017 who completed parts with which they were familiar. Student representatives, the Actioneers, considered practices connected with demonstrating IB philosophy and the learner profile. They discussed their viewpoints then recorded their assessment and comments. The three classroom assistants met to assess teaching and learning from their perspective as they worked in the classrooms. Also, four parents on the PTA met to reflect on the school's provision of resources and support for learning.

This structured self-study process, with input from all sections of the community, enables us to assess our practices and plan the next stages in the development of OIS. It also allows the visiting teams from WASC and the IB to understand our unique context and enables them to 'hit the ground running' when they arrive at the school in February.

From 19 – 22 February the combined teams of eight IB and WASC visitors will spend time at OIS. They will view classes, examine samples of student work and interview teachers, students and parents. They will compare what we have described in the self-studies with what they find at school. Their reports will inform us how effectively we

are teaching the PYP, MYP and DP. They will assist us in developing and maintaining a school community that reflects the standards and objectives of the IB. They will also show how well we are supporting high achievement and meeting the needs of all our students. If we meet all these standards, we will be granted re-accreditation to the IB and WASC.

If you would like to be part of an interview group, please let me know.



## **K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu**

### **January**

22	Mon	ramen noodles in miso flavored soup
23	Tue	hashed beef & rice
24	Wed	assorted pan deep-fried food
25	Thu	spaghetti carbonara
26	Fri	salmon broiled with cheese
29	Mon	white fish fried with basil
30	Tue	milanaise rice casserole
31	Wed	curry & rice

### **February**

1	Thu	white fish fried with bread crumbs
2	Fri	pork cutlet
5	Mon	chicken namban - fried chicken with vinegar & tartar sauce
6	Tue	pork-cutlet sandwich
7	Wed	deep-fried soysauce-marinated chicken
8	Thu	deep-fried pork stuffed with cheese
9	Fri	spaghetti with cream sauce of corn





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## *Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER*

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### Sabers Website:

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

### Sabers Facebook page:

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

### SABERS SEASON CALENDARS

Want to know which Sabers teams are playing where and when? Be sure to check out the Sabers season calendar page on the Sabers website.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SEASON II BEGINS

The start of the new year marks the start of winter sports season II for Sabers middle school student-athletes. Both the MS girls basketball team, coached by Mr. Mecklem and Ms. Nicholl, and the MS boys soccer team, coached by Mr. McGill and Mr. Martin, have started practice, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:45–5:45. Each team has nearly 50 players, reflecting the popularity of our middle school sports program. We have a no-cut policy at SOIS, meaning that all players who want to join a team are encouraged to do so; no players are cut due to limited ability or experience – come one, come all! MS sports seasons last about six weeks with competitions on most Saturdays, culminating in a two-day WJAA championship tournament. Once a year, players and parents are required to complete the “Sabers Sign Up” process by submitting a series of [online permission and agreement forms](#) – thank you for doing so.

### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SEASON CONTINUES

The Sabers boys and girls basketball teams continue their successful seasons. The junior varsity teams competed in season-ending WJAA championship tournaments this past weekend, January 12–13, with the girls finishing 2nd in Yokohama and the boys winning a thrilling last-minute championship in Kobe. Tournament summaries, photos, and videos can be found in the [News section](#) of the Sabers website.

The varsity teams compete in their WJAA tournaments this weekend, January 19–20. SOIS hosts the [boys tournament](#) while the [girls travel to Canadian Academy](#) in Kobe.

And then the varsity teams travel to South Korea for their season-ending AISA tournaments, February 1–4. Lots of basketball action still on tap. Good luck, Sabers.

### AISA MATH MANIA AND LEADERSHIP

February 1–4, SOIS hosts the annual [AISA math mania competition and leadership conference](#). Student leaders and math whizzes from Korea International School, Seoul International School, and Yokohama International School travel to Osaka to participate in these two AISA events. The math mania competition unites mathematicians from the AISA schools to challenge and expand their understanding of mathematics, to engage in friendly competition, and to have fun. At the same time, AISA schools student council members and leaders gather to take part in a collaborative leadership conference in which students develop team-building skills, share common student leadership experiences, and explore practical ideas for promoting school and community spirit.

These are great AISA events that provide new opportunities for our students. Special thanks to the teachers who have prepared the students: Mr. Bertman, Mr. Welburn, Mr. Sheriff, Mitsuhashi-sensei, and Takahashi-sensei.

### NEXT HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SEASON

Next up for Sabers high school student-athletes, after the basketball season: soccer, swimming, badminton. First official practices will be held during the first week of February. Be ready, Sabers. Players can complete the Sabers Sign Up now.

### 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](mailto:pheimer@senri.ed.jp) or at 072-727-2137.



*High School Junior Varsity basketball champions!  
Go Sabers!*



# Please Help Us Help Others!

Dawn Inada, Grade 1 teacher

It is at this time of year, when the weather turns cold, that we most appreciate having a warm home to return to every day. There are many people in Osaka that do not share this luxury that we, so often, take for granted.

Students in grade 1 recognize the importance of a home for keeping us safe, happy and healthy. They will be leaders in our drive to help members of our local community that are less fortunate. We are asking everyone in the school to think about those who are homeless in Osaka and donate what they can.

## Did you know...

...that more than 4000 people are homeless in Osaka?

## Did you know ...

...that these people sleep outside, even on cold nights, with only a piece of cardboard between their body and the ground?

## Did you know ...

...that these people became homeless for many different reasons?

## Did you know ...

...that most of these people try to find work every day? They are not lazy.

## Did you know ...

...that you can do something to help them?

We are collecting items to help the homeless in Osaka. The items that they need most are:

- \* Sleeping bags
- \* Socks
- \* Gloves
- \* Hats
- \* Hand warmers

Sleeping bags, socks, gloves and hats can be used but they should be clean.

## Now you know!

So please be kind, caring and generous.

## Now you know!

So please put your donations in the labeled boxes in the genkan by Friday, January 26th. Donated items will be distributed to those in need by

staff and volunteers from the Sanno Kodomo Center.

## Now you know!

So please help us help others!!

Thank you in advance for modeling a caring spirit with your contribution to this important cause!



## KG Update

### Harvard and Kwansei Gakuin Students Team Up to Discuss Sustainable Development

Sunday, January 7th, five students from Kwansei Gakuin University and five students from Harvard University participated in an open forum entitled "Continue to Challenge for the World Issue - Things We Can Do For SDGs," organized through a collaboration between Kwansei Gakuin University and the student-led Harvard College Japan Initiative. The event was held at the Nishinomiya City University Exchange Center in Nishinomiya.

The opening presentations were given by two mixed groups of students from both universities, and addressed potential ways that localities and countries could work to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. Both groups focused primarily on Goal 11, sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 12, responsible consumption and production.

The first group did a cross-city comparative analysis of three major world cities: Los Angeles, Manila, and Osaka. In one section, they looked at what steps are being taken in each city to limit carbon dioxide emissions, and suggested several specific ways for each nation to step up their efforts, such as constructing more green spaces in urban areas in Japan and building up the public transportation infrastructure in the Philippines. Later, they compared waste management practices in the three cities, and talked about the possibility of adopting biomass recycling techniques in Japan, as well as the need to improve environmental awareness in the USA and in the Philippines.

The second group performed a case study on electronic waste (E-waste) management in Morocco, and proposed ways to improve the current situation, such as the creation of a waste separation plant which would process the E-waste into precious metals for domestic use or for export. The group observed that Morocco already has a strong trade relationship with Japan, as the latter imports Moroccan octopus for consumption, and noted that working together on E-waste management would be mutually beneficial. Both groups emphasized that sustainability begins at the individual level, and that environmental education is essential if nations are going to solve their sustainability challenges.



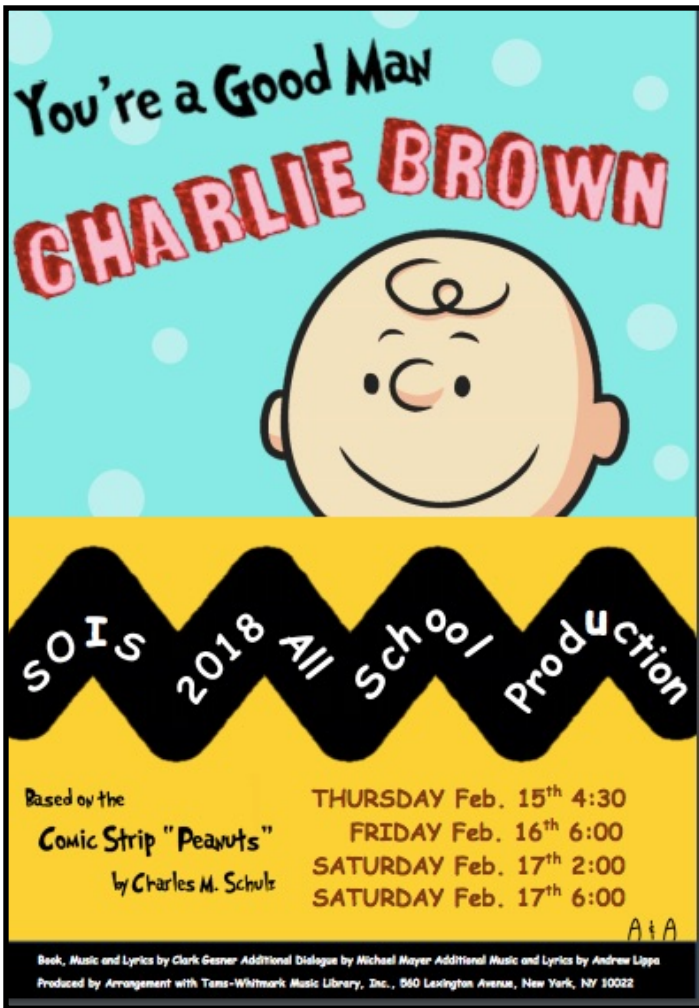
After the group presentations, there was a panel discussion with the five Harvard students about controversial global issues. The students spoke passionately about the current American administration's stance on climate change and renewable energy, and how it would affect the global effort to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Some students felt that America's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and focus on fossil fuels would have a strongly negative impact. Other students disagreed, saying that other countries such as China, Japan and India would take the lead on combating climate change and developing renewable energy sources.

Finally, to close out the forum, the students formed small groups with audience members for a lively exchange of views. Amanda Mozea, a senior majoring in Social Studies at Harvard University, remarked after the event that "People asked a lot of fascinating questions, 'think about how to solve the world' questions, which I think is awesome." Haruki Ume, a junior at the KGU School of Policy Studies, said "I really enjoyed the opportunity to talk with the Harvard students. We discussed sustainable development, which is very complicated, but they helped us, and this event made me stronger for my future dreams."

The Harvard exchange with KGU, which is shepherded by Prof. Shun-ichi Murata of the KGU School of Policy Studies, began three years ago and was originally just a one-day event. It now spans three days, and with this year's forum event also a great success, students at KGU and Harvard can look forward to continued fruitful cooperation in the future.

# All School Production

Frances Namba, Producer & Daniel Ligon, Director



The cast and crew of the 2018 SOIS All School Production are hard at work getting ready for their performances of You're A Good Man Charlie Brown. All your favourite Peanuts characters will be there singing, dancing and trying to answer some of life's more important questions: What ice cream flavor is the best? What do peanut butter sandwiches tell us about people? Whose fault is it really when a student gets a D on an assignment?

Performance dates are:

**Thursday, Feb 15th from 4:30**

**Friday, Feb 16th from 6:00**

**Saturday, Feb 17th from 2:00 and 6:00**

Tickets will go on sale to cast and orchestra members from January 23rd.

Members of the public can purchase tickets on January 25th and 26th from 3:30 to 4:30 and from January 29th during office hours (8:15-12:00 & 1:00-4:00).

If you would like to buy tickets for the 6:00pm performance on Saturday, please keep in mind that there is a limit of 5 tickets per person.

Prices are ¥1500 for adults, ¥500 for elementary age children and all SOIS students.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Important Numbers

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