

SOIS Educator

JUNE 24, 2019



The 26th graduating class of Osaka International School received diplomas Friday, June 7, in a standing room only theatre. Twenty-two OIS seniors received diplomas and three SIS students were also recognized for completing the IB Diploma Programme. OIS now has 423 graduates in its history.

Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

This is my final month as head of the Osaka International School of Kwansei Gakuin and my last issue of the Educator. The five years as head of the school have flown by since I first arrived in August of 2014. A school community is larger than the sum of its parts and the contributions of any one individual, even the leader of the school, just a small part of the daily teaching and learning. The bold experiment of combining an International Baccalaureate World School and a Japanese International School started in 1991 and our commitment to the 2 Schools Together ethos is stronger than ever. As the steward of the school and its mission, I tried my best to help students, faculty, staff and parents to learn and grow. My goal was to leave the school better than when I found it, and as I "pass the torch" to the next head of school, SOIS will continue to provide a world-class education.

I would like to thank Reverend Musubi Tabuchi, former Chancellor and Campus Supervisor for his belief in my leadership and his never-ending support during my time here. I would also like to thank the leadership teams of both schools. Working so closely together in the past 5 years has helped me grow as a leader and person.

The ever-changing global economy and rapid changes to our society due to technology are challenges for schools and parents. Working together with SIS, we have

tried to be innovative and give our students the best start for higher education and their careers. I am proud of our student achievements, from being accepted to Yale and Cambridge universities, to learning how to be a better friend. I would like to thank the faculty for their dedication and collaboration in the best interests of the students. OIS teachers give a lot of their time beyond regular work hours to help support learning. I recognize and appreciate this

With increasing competition in the international school market in Kansai and Japan, attracting quality international and internationally-oriented families is key for building a healthy and diverse school community for the future. We have challenges due to our location and aging building in recruiting international families. The leadership of both schools and the foundation are happy to announce that as part of the Kwansei Gakuin Grand Challenge 2039 project, the Senri campus will receive a significant grant to completely renovate the campus starting in 2020. The funds will be used to give the school a much-needed facelift and incorporate the latest school design for learning in the digital age. Faculty and administration have put in significant time in obtaining the funding and planning for the project. I am disappointed I will not be able to be here for the improvements, but I feel that this long overdue facilities upgrade will help us compete for expatriate families.

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from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC (continued)

We have improved the campus in small ways through our Learning Spaces projects. This includes the move to an international catering company and new kitchens and cafeteria. The attractive cafeteria has brought community members together and is a place that an international school can be proud of. Health and nutrition are important for student well-being and the cafeteria is now part of the SOIS education for every student. We also decluttered much old equipment and furniture in the classrooms, hallways and storage areas. The foundation financially supported removing over 70 televisions, VHS recorders, etc. The Learning Spaces project looked for areas around the school to improve teaching and learning. The Sabers Fitness Floor on the gymnasium mezzanine provides our student-athletes and faculty/parents with state-of-the-art fitness equipment and routines. The improved fitness of the students increases their resistance to injury and a healthier lifestyle. A disused balcony in front of the elementary classrooms has been transformed into the school garden, with students engaged in growing and nurturing life every morning. We also renovated the early childhood playground and tennis court (Sky Court). We developed a relaxing tatami area and full-length mirrors that the students can be creative and dance. These are some of the projects and SOIS will continue to look for ways that the campus can support better teaching and learning.

Recruiting diversity in our student body will be a priority for the next head of school. OIS enrollment reached an all-time high during my tenure (282 students) and we need to continue to grow enrollment wisely to benefit the students. We continue to work on expanding the Global Futures Program, our international boarding program. The diversity of views and cultures that those students bring to our high school classes has been such a positive benefit for us. This is also a way of recruiting

international students without the expatriate housing infrastructure found in Kobe, Yokohama or Tokyo. We also brought more students into our IB Diploma Programme through aligning high school schedules and encouraging SIS students to complete the full course. The discussions and planning that go into this also had the added benefit of getting both schools talking to each other.

I would like to thank all the SOIS teachers, parents and students for welcoming my family into the community. My children have grown up here and are better people for it. I will miss all of my friends and colleagues at OIS. I will also miss living in Japan, which is like SOIS, a distinctive, one-of-a-kind place. Japan has made me more considerate of the needs of others. I also have a better appreciation of community cohesiveness and quiet humility.

Minoh and SOIS will always have a special place in my heart. Until we meet again...okini!



The timing of the G20 Summit is not ideal for OIS. The two-day conference of world leaders starts on our last day of school, Friday, June 28. There are large scale road traffic restrictions

between Kansai Airports and downtown Osaka, where the meetings will take place. Most schools in Osaka prefecture decided to close from Thursday, June 27 to Sunday, June 30.

We decided to stay open because close to 80% of our families live in the municipalities of Minoh, Toyonaka, and Suita. We understand there may be some families that will experience delays and perhaps may not be able to attend the last day. We are seeking advice from the Regional Security Officer at the United States Consulate in Osaka regarding security measures and traffic.

We are also concerned about community members departing Japan for their summer holidays. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school. OIS is monitoring the situation and will update the community as needed.

from the MS, HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

The seniors have left and many of our students are away on World Scholars Cup. It is already starting to feel like vacation around here. And, I imagine people are quite anxious to begin their holiday but there is one more week of school. With the G20 meeting there was some question about whether we would continue to the end of the week but we are planning on being in session. The final day, Friday, June 28 is a half-day. We will start with an assembly where we will give some awards and say goodbye to those who are leaving our community. Then we will go to homerooms to clean out lockers, take care of other logistics and have a final goodbye party.

School will resume with orientation on the afternoon of August 23. Grade 11 students will start a day earlier on August 22 where they will have a special orientation to the IB Diploma Program. The grade 12 students will also have a meeting on the morning of the 23rd. Look for more information on the Diploma Program meetings from our coordinator Mr. Frater.

As we move into the next school year, one thing we will be thinking about is the student use of cell phones on campus. Some parents have suggested that they be banned, others have indicated that they want to be able to reach their children and a cell phone is the best way to do it. There are also probably a lot of people who would land somewhere in the middle of this question. There is a lot of research on the impact of technology on young people, much of which is contradictory. It is likely that there is some research to support just about every point of view on whether smart phones are harmful or not. If this is a question that interests you and you would like to discuss it or perhaps serve on a committee that addresses the question, please contact me.



As the school year comes to a close, I want to thank everyone for a great school year and for entrusting us with your child's education. If you are leaving our community, I wish you the best of luck. Please stay in touch. As Mr. Heimer likes to say, "once a Saber always a Saber." If you will be here next year, I wish you a great summer and see you in August!

School Calendar:**JUNE**

- | | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 24 | Mon | K-5 picnic @Expo Park
Grade 5 parent meeting @15:45
3F conference room |
| 25 | Tue | Transition Day (K-4), 09:30 - 10:30 |
| 26 | Wed | Grade 5 graduation 17:00 - 19:00
3F conference room |
| 27 | Thu | PTA farewell party & movie night
OIS PYP last day (full day of classes)
Leavers Assembly in Theatre @14:40 |
| 28 | Fri | OIS MYP/DP last day
Assembly @08:45, Dismissal @11:30
no cafeteria service |

JULY

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|---|-----|-----------------------------|
| 6 | Sat | IB Diploma results released |
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AUGUST

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|----|-----|---|
| 22 | Thu | DP Orientation for G11 @08:45
3F conference room |
| 23 | Fri | IB DP Meeting for G12 @09:00
3F conference room
Orientation for new MS/HS students
MS/HS Assembly & Homeroom
@13:00 |
| 26 | Mon | MS/HS Fall Trimester start
ES Orientation for new students
(no ES classes) |
| 27 | Tue | ES Fall Trimester start |

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|-------|---------|--|
| 4 | Wed | OIS PTA Monthly Meeting @09:30 |
| 6 | Fri | ES Back-to-School Night |
| 6-7 | Fri-Sat | HS Boys Volleyball Tournament @CA |
| 12 | Thu | Kansai Regional University Fair |
| 13-14 | Fri-Sat | HS Boys Volleyball Tournament @FIS
HS Girls Volleyball Tournament @MBIS |
| 19 | Wed | MS/HS Back-to-School Night |
| 25 | Tue | G12 College Workshop @17:00 |
| 27-28 | Fri-Sat | WJAA JV Girls Volleyball @SOIS |

from the ES Principal, CAROLYN MARSHALL

We are charging full steam ahead towards the end of the academic year. Today, all elementary students will visit Expo Park to enjoy the outdoors on our annual elementary school picnic. The grade 5 students will be graduating from the Primary Years Programme (PYP) on Wednesday, June 26. Thursday, June 27 is our last day of classes and is a full day of learning. We will have the Leavers Assembly starting at 14:30 in the theatre and everyone is invited to attend. After school on Thursday, the PTA will say farewell to the departing teachers and students with a party in the courtyard. The party will be followed by a movie in the theatre, A Dog's Purpose. Student reports and MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) results will be available for parents to view online starting Wednesday, June 26. Please check your SOISmail for details on how to access them tomorrow.

Thanks to all the parents who attended last week's presentation on the changes to the PYP curriculum.



The "Enhanced" PYP places student voice, choice and ownership of their learning at the center of the programme. Student AGENCY is a key term. The parents enjoyed trying to define the word in English and their mother tongues. Agency basically means that students will decide more of what they learn in school while considering the needs of others. Of course, the teacher will still play the major role in guiding learning, but the student will be encouraged to share their ideas and let them have a go at it. Two other changes include allowing schools to vary the amount of time devoted to each Unit of Inquiry (UOI) and the grade 5 Exhibition will be

more individualized and less group oriented. Students will choose their topic(s) of research instead of the entire class doing the same topic.

I would like to thank the elementary parents, students and especially OIS art teacher Ms. Jennifer Henbest for the incredible and prodigious visual arts exhibition. The hallways have come alive with color and creativity. The projects demonstrate a variety of mediums, both 2D and 3D. Many also have strong ties to the culture of Japan. The work of the parents set the students' works in the perfect context. The architect that designed the school believed the students bring color to the school. The elementary student art show really showed this and it makes the hallways so much nicer than the normal gray color.

The elementary school has been trialing the use of Seesaw (<https://web.seesaw.me/>) an online platform for students to demonstrate and share learning with their classmates, parents and teachers. The online student portfolios make it easier to share classroom teaching and learning. Initial data show a high parent and student engagement.

I encourage all families to spend time together this summer, relaxing and bonding as a family. It is important to try to maintain English language skills, so a bit of reading goes a long way. Thanks for a rewarding school year and on behalf of the elementary school, sayonara!

Ms. Henbest presenting the 2019 Art Exhibition



New Faculty from the Fall



OIS Head of School:

Myles Jackson is originally from the United Kingdom (UK) and studied music at Leeds College of Music on the Jazz and Contemporary Music course. He did his post-

graduate teacher training at Oxford University and then, some years later, he did a masters degree in educational leadership with the College of New Jersey. Altogether, Myles has nearly 30 years of experience in education and has worked internationally for the past 14 years. He is coming to Osaka from Korea, where he is the Principal of the British International Academy (BIA) located on Geoje Island. BIA is a unique, dual program school which offers the International Baccalaureate and the French national curriculum. In a similar way to SOIS, the students at BIA mix together for classes in Art, Music and PE and also for co-curricular activities and sports. Previously, Myles was the Principal of the International School of Koje, which is also in Korea.

Myles will be coming to Japan with his family, wife Hosik and son Benjamin, who will be in grade 9. They will also be coming with their two dogs, Blackberry and Dalgi (which means Strawberry in Korean). They are very excited about joining OIS and meeting all in the SOIS community. In addition, life in a city the size of Osaka will be a considerable change for them and they are particularly looking forward to being able to enjoy the many concerts, museums, galleries of Osaka.



Librarian:

Melissa Cooper will be the new OIS librarian and comes to us from the Canadian International School of Singapore, where she was the primary school librarian. She

is originally from Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

Her family has been living internationally since 2003 and has worked in China, Cambodia, Hungary and Singapore. She is an experienced IB teacher, having taught both PYP and MYP levels and has experience as a Language Coordinator. She is currently completing a Masters of Education in Technology through the University of Ontario's Institute for Technology.

Presently, her passion lies in the library and all forms of literacy, from digital and information to literature. She loves being a librarian because she is able to engage with everyone in the school community and help bring literacy to all. She is looking forward to learning and reading with the SOIS community.

Melissa's husband, Michael Warford is a teacher and jack-of-all-trades, and they have a seven year old son, Colby, who will be joining the SOIS community with her. The family is looking forward to being part of a small community again as her current school is over 2,000 students, and to enjoy the wonders of nature that Osaka has to offer.



English and ToK:

Tim Seccombe (pronounced sek-cum) will be joining the OIS English department, teaching both the MYP and DP high school English A courses as well as Theory of Knowledge

(TOK) course. He has been teaching English part-time at SIS for three years and OIS TOK classes.

Tim has a first-class honors degree from Sheffield University (UK) and has taught in Egypt, Slovakia and Angola. He is married to ES principal Carolyne Marshall. Mr. Seccombe will miss his SIS students but is looking forward to focusing on one school instead of juggling two academic calendars.



Japanese:

Makoto Sakai will be a part-time teacher in the Japanese language department teaching Japanese B in the MYP and DP and providing Japanese language support in

SIS. Sakai-sensei has a bachelor's degree in English, and a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Gender Studies from the University of Warwick (Coventry, UK). In addition to being a qualified teacher of Japanese as a second language, she is in the final stage of acquiring her full license to teach Japanese in secondary schools in Japan. Sakai-sensei has been teaching Japanese for two years at the Osaka YMCA International School, and has also taught at the Kaohsiung American School in Taiwan.

New Faculty from the Fall



ES Grade 2:

Craig Nelson comes to OIS from the American School of Bangkok (Sukhumvit Campus) in Bangkok, Thailand. The Canadian native has taught in private academies and

international schools for the past seven years in South Korea, Turkey, and Thailand. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Ottawa, Canada. Craig's wife, Theresa, also a certified teacher, is taking time off to pursue a degree in counseling.

On a professional level, Craig will be teaching grade 2 and he is looking forward to deepening his understanding of the inquiry process, incorporating purposeful play into daily learning experiences and collaborating with colleagues and students to continue to learn and grow as an educator. He is an avid hiker and is excited to take advantage of Japan's many mountains, forests and unique natural landscapes.



Art & Design:

Nick Manfred will be teaching visual arts and design in our shared program. He is a graduate of the University of California Berkeley and a native of California. In his 23

years of teaching, he has taught all subjects at the elementary and middle school level. He is passionate about making students feel helpful, creative, included and appreciated at school. Besides his work in public and private schools, he also worked as a production artist for the San Francisco Opera and worked summers as a cycling tour guide in France and Central America. He is fluent in French, Spanish and some Japanese.

Nick's two daughters will be students at OIS and he will also be joined by his wife here in Osaka. They are looking forward to joining the SOIS community.



Music:

Miri Ueda will be the new middle school and high school instrumental music teacher. Ueda sensei is an accomplished Oboe player, which many people consider

the most difficult of all wind instruments. She is a licensed music teacher with an Education degree from Saitama University and a Graduate degree from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She performed with the famous Boston Pops Orchestra from 2012-2018.

Art Collaboration

The Senri & Osaka International Schools Community and the Rochester Public School District (Illinois, USA) recently collaborated on an art project between the schools. Community members contributed a "cool" colored triangle and a "warm" colored triangle. The cool triangles are being displayed in the genkan and the warm triangles in Rochester. The project is led by OIS Class of 2019 graduate Asa Hasegawa-Johnson and her sister Aki, a high school student in Rochester. Asa founded the SOIS Arts Club last year and they have been doing interesting projects similar to this one. The USA-Japan connection also resonates with our community because of the many bicultural families that attend SOIS. Our mission is to contribute to the global community and SOIS art will be displayed on the other side of the globe!



OIS Class of 2019 graduate Asa Hasegawa-Johnson and her sister Aki, a high school student in Rochester

High School Graduation: 7 June 2019



The 26th graduating class of OIS received diplomas Friday, June 7, in a standing room only theatre. Twenty-two OIS seniors received diplomas and three SIS students were also recognized for completing the IB Diploma Programme. The graduating speech was made by our DP English teacher, Mr. Paul Sommer.

The OIS seniors have received many placement offers from universities and some are still in the process of deciding their future plans. The Class of 2019 will matriculate at universities in 10 different countries. These include Michigan State University, University of Toronto, International Christian University, Osaka University, Leeds University, Paris Institute of Political Studies, University of Sydney, University of Leiden and New York University (Abu Dhabi campus) among others.

Since 2010, the number of graduates staying in Japan is 22.5%. 43% of the students choose North America and 17% in the UK/Europe. The trends in the last five years show more students studying in Japan and in countries other than the UK or USA. More English-language university programs are opening up in a variety of countries, and North American and UK universities are starting programs abroad. It is nice that students have greater choice in their studies, but sometimes it is overwhelming.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019 and to their families. Best wishes for continued success! OIS now has 423 graduates in its history.



OIS Super Swim Carnival

On Friday afternoon, 14 June 2019, 125 Elementary students excitedly converged on the pool for the biennial Super Swim Carnival.

The children had previously chosen what races they wanted to enter, practiced hard and raced with great sportsmanship and enthusiasm. Many parents were involved too, with several participating in the child/parent relay and many cheering from the sides of the pool.

17 new time records were set and there were some outstanding swimmers showcasing their strength and power.

A big THANK YOU to all who made it such a successful day and congratulations to the wonderful swimmers, who challenged themselves and did their best. We are very proud of each and every child.

SOIS Physical Education Teachers - Ms. Leanne "Whistle" and Kano Sensei.



SOIS Sabers Sports and Activities

Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER

Sabers Calendars 2019-2020

The [calendar for the 2019 Sabers fall season](#) is now available for viewing. The Sabers soon enter our 11th year in the [Association of International Schools in Asia](#) (AISA). You can find the [AISA calendar](#) on the Sabers website (under the “calendars” tab). The Sabers host two events next year, girls volleyball (October) and boys basketball (January). Other teams travel to Seoul, Busan, Jeju, and Yokohama. Start planning now.

Sabers Facebook page

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

End of Sabers Athletic Year

As the OIS school year and SIS spring trimester draw to a close, June is a relatively quiet month for Sabers athletics – but not entirely silent. The MS badminton club has practiced diligently, the running club is always up and running, the athletic awards celebration was a success, we are finalizing the athletics schedule for the fall, and we are already preparing for next year’s AISA events. Lots still going on. Please visit the Sabers website for more details, including schedules, results, photos, sign-up and permission forms, and handbooks.

Fall sports: mandatory online sign-up

The fall season starts immediately upon our return in August: HS volleyball, HS cross country, MS baseball, MS girls volleyball. Current OIS 5th graders: you’ll soon be 6th graders, eligible for MS sports – see you in a Sabers uniform soon! All Sabers athletes must submit [sign-up and permission forms](#) online (Sabers website under the “Forms” tab). We’ll help students in August, but you can complete this now; it takes only a few minutes, and you do it just once a school year.

Athletic awards celebration

On Friday, May 31, we held our annual Sabers high school [athletic awards celebration](#). Players and coaches reminisced about the year with slideshows and with speeches from players of the 16 different girls and boys varsity teams. We honored our high school student-athletes with two kinds of awards: 1) three team awards: most improved player (MIP), most valuable player (MVP), and Sabers Spirit Award (SSA), chosen by each team’s coaches; and 2) two school awards: Sabers Outstanding

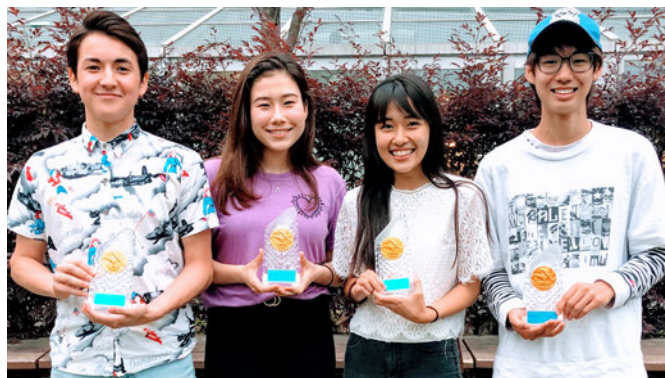
Athlete of the Year and Dr. Fukuda Scholar Athlete of the Year, chosen by coaches and school administrators.

Outstanding Athletes of the Year: Yulia Ikumi, Euan Lewis

This award is presented to Sabers student athletes, female and male, who have shown high levels of athletic skill, team leadership, and personal determination as a member of at least two varsity teams. Recipients of this award are positive role models and good representatives of SOIS. Yulia Ikumi (recent SIS graduate) and Euan Lewis (OIS 10) are very deserving recipients.

Dr. Fukuda Scholar Athletes: Leona Yanagi, Neo Yokoyama

This award is presented to Sabers student athletes who have achieved high academic levels and have played active roles in school and community service while a member of at least two varsity teams. The winners of this top award show that one can maintain high academic standards and contribute to the school community while participating in sports. The coaches and administrators were very proud to present the Dr. Fukuda Scholar Athlete awards to Leona Yanagi (SIS 12) and Neo Yokoyama (SIS 12), both first-class Sabers athletes with very high grades.



From left to right: Euan Lewis, Yulia Ikumi, Leona Yanagi and Neo Yokoyama

Yulia, Euan, Leona, and Neo all epitomize what we expect our Sabers student-athletes to be: full of [Sabers Spirit and Sabers Sportsmanship](#). We congratulate and thank all Sabers players, coaches, administrators, and parents.

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Sabers Sports updates (continued)

Farewell

At the awards celebration, we bid farewell to a Sabers coaching great, Mr. Bill Kralovec, who came to SOIS in August 2014 and for the past 5 years has served admirably as middle school and high school boys basketball coach, basketball referee, baseball umpire, elementary baseball coach, and AISA homestay host extraordinaire, playing a major role in the Sabers sports scene, all while serving as OIS head of school. Coach Kralovec is moving to the Tashkent International School in Uzbekistan. Thank you, Coach Kralovec, and best wishes to the entire Kralovec family. As we say here: Once a Saber always a Saber!

Good Luck to Soccer Players Grades 2 & 4

Several students will be representing OIS in an Asia Pacific Soccer Tournament. Grade 2 students Liu Michael Kai and Kanata Miyabayashi, and grade 4 students Aaron Sen, Dan Nishimura & Shumma Nawa will play alongside Australian children and Japanese teams in Hirakata and Hirano-ku on July 8 and July 12. We wish them all the very best and hope they make many new friends, play some great football and have a great time.

Thanks

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.



Elementary School: Girls on the Move!

Girls On The Move is an elementary school after school club for girls in grades 3 through 5. Girls build self-confidence and self-esteem through discussions of issues important to women, such as body image, career development, relationships, etc. Besides just talking, the girls train to complete a 5-kilometer run. Many do not think they can do it at the start of the club and for almost all of them, this is the longest they have ever ran.

The perfect weather conditions on Saturday, June 8 helped the students, teachers and parents who gathered together early to run the 5-kilometer course. Everyone completed the course that wound through Kita Senri Park to the Suita Fire Station and back to the school. Congratulations to the students who made it to the finish and thanks to the teachers and parents who supported the activity.



Saving the Environment Through Sewing

On Saturday, June 8, students learned how to sew during a day-long workshop led by SIS parent, Monica Rankin. The students and parents made cloth shopping bags to sell at the International Fair in November. The bags are meant to be used to reduce plastic use and the focus was on Sustainable Development Goal #12, Responsible Consumption. Not only did the students learn a life-long useful skill, but they are also helping the environment.

There will be a second sewing workshop held in October to make some more bags to sell at the International Fair which will take place Saturday, November 16, 2019. Please contact Monica (f182062@soismail.jp) for more information.



Have a Great Summer everyone!

Important Numbers

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