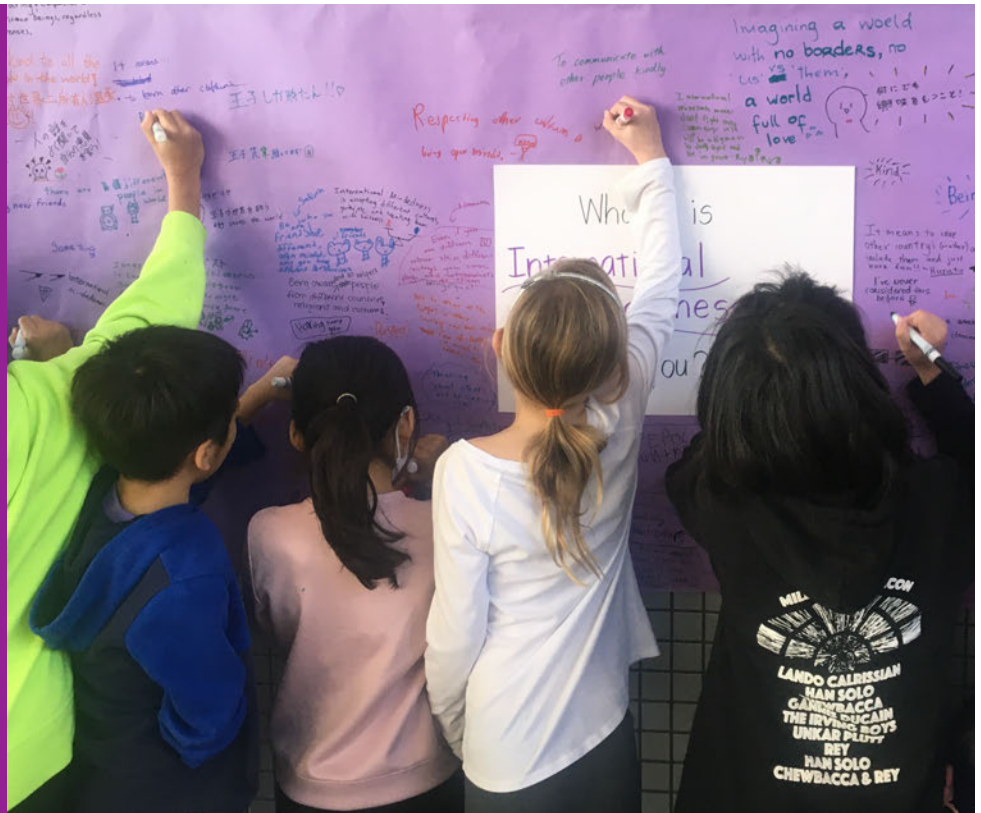


OIS Educator

MARCH 06, 2020



Elementary students participating in one of the many activities arranged for International Mindedness Week (February 11-17). The event helps to foster a sense of friendship, collaboration and open-mindedness. See pages 4-5 for more details.

from the Head of School MYLES JACKSON

All schools in Japan are responding to the Covid-19 situation as best they can. OIS has unique characteristics that require special consideration, but we also have much in common with other international schools. This is a time where the strength of our international networks, such as the International Baccalaureate and JCIS, are becoming a key factor in helping us all to move forwards effectively. This article focuses on the Japan Council of International Schools (JCIS) and explains how it is helping to support our community at this time.

OIS is a member of JCIS (pronounced Jay-kiss!), along with 26 other international schools, each with a commitment to high quality international learning. The heads of JCIS schools are in regular communication and share a lot of information about school policies and procedures. We also meet twice a year and organise professional development workshops.

Recently, JCIS communication has increased greatly and we are in daily communication by email on a wide range of issues such as online learning, attendance,



holiday schedules, school closure procedures, communication from different government prefectures, catering, faculty and management issues. We also frequently survey each other to compare the status in different schools. We also have a whatsapp group, which has been very useful recently, due to the rapid turn of events in the past week. For example: 'Abe is closing all schools. Turn on your tv!'

Due to JCIS information sharing, I can confirm that:

- All other international schools in the JCIS group are closed and offering programmes of online learning.
- Most but not all are doing something for kindergarten age students.
- Not all are following the timetable in the way that OIS students in our Middle and High School are.
- Some did not have established platforms for online learning and had to close fully for one or two days before opening again as a digital campus.
- Most are appreciating the educational challenge and learning opportunity.
- Only a few schools are opening their campuses to some students for specific purposes, such as to collect resources or personal belongings, to meet an IB Diploma teacher, or to change books in the library.

continued on page 2

- Some schools have staff members in the building, but most have all or the majority working from home.
- All schools are making flexible plans to cope with extended closure, repeated closure or for other issues, such as travel restrictions impacting families or employees who may travel internationally during the spring break.

So we can be reassured that OIS is not unique and not trying to cope in isolation. We are working in the wider context of the regional and global international education community, who are very actively trying to help each other out at this time. Educators tend to be firm believers in collaboration and our OIS mission has embedded within it an expectation that we should be 'contributing to global communities'. Recent events illustrate why this is important at all levels of the school. From day to day interactions between students, through to whole organisation decisions, being internationally minded in considering others and creating supportive communities is a powerful idea for all of us to reflect on.

Find out more about JCIS [here](#).

All School Production 2020

Congratulations to all students who participated in the ASP this year. It was a wonderful production with so much attention to detail in the singing, acting, choreography, costumes, lighting and staging. It looked interesting from every angle and there were so many magical moments such as the energetic dance numbers, beautiful choral singing, special effects and heartfelt drama. The orchestra was also outstanding, tackling some very complex music at the same time as working hard to maintain a good balance with the singers. Well done everyone, it was a great achievement! Click [here](#) to view and download some photos from the performances.



from the MS, HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

A lot of emails have been sent in the last weeks and I hope you have been able to keep up with all of the news as we run our classes through E-Learning. Running our classes this way has been challenging for teachers, students and parents but we are glad that we have been able to properly complete the trimester and that we will be able to get report cards out on time next week. There have been some adjustments to what the teachers could assess during the recent days but we will be able to wrap up the winter term close to how we normally would have done it.

Information was sent home about camp refunds in an email. The vast majority of families already have banking details on file at the business office and should see a full refund in their account at the end of the month. Families that did not have details on file have already been contacted.

Please note that the camp days are cancelled and we will break for the spring vacation on the afternoon of March 10. Classes are scheduled to resume as normal on April 6 but please keep an eye on the news and your SOISMail over the break in case that changes.

I'm currently transitioning from completing this trimester to planning what we will do if we have to continue keeping the building closed when we return in April. You should see a survey from the school soon about how things went this week. From a strictly academic standpoint, we were able to complete what we needed to do. But, we have concerns about the amount of time the students and teachers are spending looking at a screen and ensuring that the students are remaining active. Please fill in the survey to give us your feedback so that we can make adjustments to the system if this continues. Even if we resume classes normally in April, it is likely that we will be placed in a similar situation again in the future so your feedback will help if that happens.

Wherever we end up after the break, I hope you and your family are able to enjoy some quality time together over the holiday. Stay safe and see you in April.

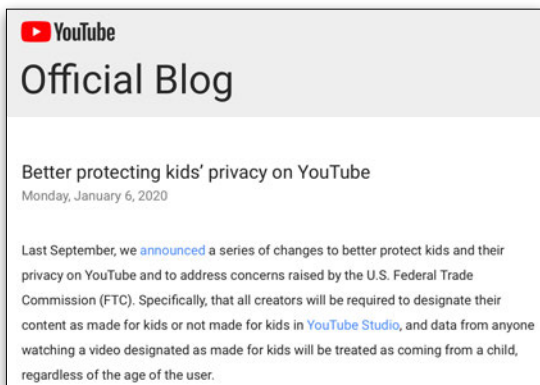


K-12: Library

from the school librarian **MELISSA COOPER**

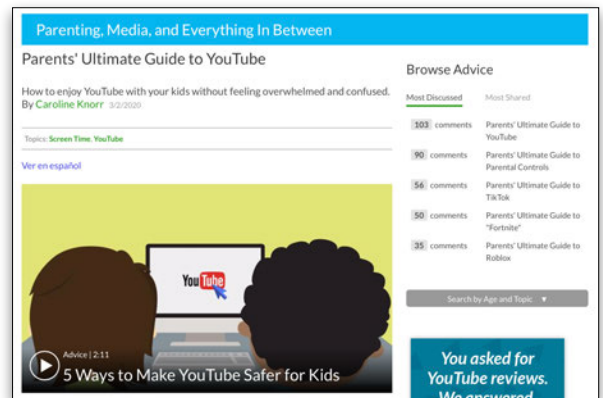
Like many parents of digital natives, I'm bewildered by my 8 year olds delight in watching other people build KinderEggs, watch people play Minecraft or talk about wanting to be a famous YouTuber. It started with watching Baby Einstein videos while jet lagged and has evolved into him having time to watch videos independently for a set amount of time. While I have no problem with kids having 'brain candy' or time to explore and decide what they wished to view; I soon realized that YouTube has an addictive nature to it and that although it is a great resource for families, it needs to be used with caution.

Recently [YouTube](#) has changed its guidelines for the people uploading content and the hope is it will make our children's viewing experience safe. In this recent [blog post](#), it shares how creators must indicate if a content is made for children and these types of videos include educational content, kids characters, toys and games. They also heard the plea to disable or restrict some features on children's content by no longer supporting features such as comments, live chat or saving. Kids YouTube is a great alternative for families and they recommend it for children under the age of 13.



Safety Mode is a great feature that YouTube has provided. It's fairly simple to [set up](#). It allows you to hide videos with potentially questionable material, hide comments and will replace most inappropriate language in comments with stars. Also, it has a locking feature but you need to be aware that it needs to be set up on each browser. Even with the safeguards in place for regular YouTube, parents need to be mindful that the settings are set by creators so it is advisable that you monitor the content your child is watching in order to decide what is appropriate for your family's values.

As a parent, I am concerned about some inherently addictive features of the app. These features can be found in many apps, including Netflix and are designed to keep viewers glued to the screen: automatic play of the next video, the related videos on the right side and the predictive text. As a parent, I watched tantrums happen when we took YouTube away and my son stumbled upon FGTeer which features the dad playing some violent games, which caused some nightmares in our house. When I read this article, [9 signs of screen addiction in kids](#) I realized I needed to manage my son's viewing differently. [Common Sense Media](#) is a life saver. I use it to help decide what resources are best; from buying educational reading apps, games, to movies and books! Commons Sense Media has a fantastic [Parents Ultimate Guide to YouTube](#).



By setting up YouTube's SafetyMode, reviewing [Common Sense Media's parent guide](#) and limiting his viewing to a couple hours in total only on weekends, I feel that I have found a balance that works in our family. My son has the opportunity to explore some of the great content that is available while still enjoying some kids 'brain candy'. I hope these resources will help you find balance for YouTube viewers.

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PYP: International Mindedness Week, 17-21 February 2020

from IM Committee: Ms Mori, Ms Lewis and Ms Summerton



At the beginning of the school year, we decided to change the previous Language Week to a week of learning more about International Mindedness as it's an important part of being a global citizen and being part of an international school.

According to the IB international-mindedness is: 'a view of the world in which people see themselves connected to the global community and assume a sense of responsibility to its members. It is an awareness of the inter-relatedness of all nations and peoples and a recognition of the complexity of these relationships.'

It was a fantastic week with a large part of the OIS learning community engaged and involved. Students from KA to G5 enjoyed the games and hands-on activities - related to friendship, collaboration and being open-minded. One of the DP students, Minami Matsushima, also shared her experiences from MUN and CAS with several different classes.

Parents participation

Parents were involved and they led a variety of cultural activities; from making the Portuguese sweet brigadeiro to Chinese painting, Indian painting, Kenyan bracelets, Japanese origami, Kamishibai theater, Korean jegi, poi dance and learning about the Mexican 'Day of the Dead'. Parents also supported our Language morning, where students after choosing between many different languages, learned a song together in a group which they performed in a mini assembly.



Here are some other international-minded events:

- KB & G1 went to MAFGA cultural centre to learn about different cultures and what's happening in Minoh.
- In the library there was a bookmark contest about IM, and a display with different books related to the topic.
- Several students from MYP and DP led learning engagements they were trained in by the JUMP organisation earlier in the year.

All in all, it was a huge success due to the collaboration of students, teachers, and parents. We hope that next year we will have an IM week for all of OIS, K-12.

Here are some student reflections:

- 'As a JUMP facilitator, I was able to teach younger grades about IM by facilitating different activities with them. It was really an eye-opening and enjoyable opportunity. I really hope that in the future, I will be able to facilitate more grades about IM to raise awareness and for me to practice my skills.' Fred G8



- 'I was one of the JUMP members who facilitated G3 students. It was a very good opportunity to spread international-mindedness through activities and I enjoyed having fun with the kids. Thank you!' Ayaka G8
- 'I think the thing that I most enjoyed about this experience was that I could see the purity and the creativity of the students while they were doing the activity. I also learned that different age groups of people learn differently and need to be taught differently. Thank you again for letting us do our activities.' Lucas G8
- 'I enjoyed working with the fifth graders and listening to their ideas revolving International Mindedness. It was lots of fun seeing them working together, laughing and seeing them enjoying themselves and the activities. One of the activities was drawing what the ideal world looked like to them and it was interesting to see their enthusiasm towards an activity that also includes an important lesson.' Karni G8

continued on next page

PYP: International Mindedness Week (continued)

- 'This week was international Mindedness week. International Mindedness means learning about different languages and cultures, being open-minded, thinker, caring, knowledgeable, risk-takers, inquirers, reflective, balanced, principled and communicators. Grade 3 and Grade 4 also learned the ancient language of Hebrew. We learned that the bible was first written in Hebrew. We also learned different languages like French, Spanish and other languages.' (Dianna and Eun Gyeol G3)
- 'This week was International mindedness week. This week is about being kind to other people. International mindedness means being calm, kind, understanding, and grateful. It also means parts of the learner profiles. It is caring, knowledgeable, open-minded, communicator, inquirers, risk-taker, principled, balanced, thinker, and reflective. The middle school students came to the classroom to do some activities. International mindedness week was really fun.' (Aanya and JiYul)



A huge **Thank You** to everyone who participated and contributed!

SOIS Sabers Sports and Activities

Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER

Sabers Website: click [here](#)

Sabers Facebook page: click [here](#)

Sabers season calendar: Want to know which Sabers teams are playing where and when? Be sure to check out the Sabers season calendar on the Sabers website [here](#).

Sabers results history:

Want to know the tournament results of past Sabers teams, boys and girls, middle school and high school? Who was named to a WJAA or AISA all-tournament team? Past Dr. Fukuda scholar athlete and Sabers athlete of the year award winners? Simply go to the Sabers history page.

Sabers swimmers compete in Tokyo

With no other WJAA schools with a swim team, the Sabers swimmers do not get many opportunities to compete, and when they do they have to travel. In late January the Sabers, with Coach Bertman and Coach Kano, journeyed to the American School in Japan in Tokyo where they competed in the Mustangs Invitational Swim Meet. Top swimmers for the Sabers were Ethan Jones, Rintaro Kimura, and Saaya Hirota, all winning multiple events.



Coronavirus leads to cancellation of all Sabers sports

All recent and current Sabers teams - basketball, soccer, badminton - have had their seasons cut short due to safety concerns and travel restrictions related to the coronavirus outbreak. WJAA and AISA tournaments have been cancelled, creating a premature and disappointing ending to the seasons. We hope to be up and running again soon.

New Spring season

Sabers Sign Up: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sign-up.html>

When we return to school in April, we plan to start the new spring season of Sabers sports. Sabers athletes will attend information meetings at which they will be instructed to complete the mandatory online Sabers Sign Up forms. At the meetings, we discuss the importance of commitment to an athletic team and of balance among athletics, academics, music, and other interests. We talk about eligibility requirements and costs. We emphasize the importance of appropriate behavior on and off the court or field, behavior that is consistent with our concept of the 5 respects and with our mission of developing "informed, caring, creative individuals contributing to a global community." We tell students that there are three kinds of sportsmanship: poor sportsmanship, good sportsmanship, and – at the very top – Sabers sportsmanship. We have high expectations of our students.

"Sabers Sign Up" is a pair of online sign-up forms – including parent permission – to be submitted prior to participation. All information and forms can be found on the Sabers website under the Forms tab. All students and parents should read the Sabers handbook and complete the Sabers Sign Up – only once per school year.

New middle school Spring season:

Girls' softball, boys' volleyball, table tennis

The middle school spring season is scheduled to start in April. Keep your fingers crossed.

- boys volleyball (head coach TBD)
- softball (head coach TBD)
- table tennis (Coach Matsushima)

New high school Spring season:

Girls' softball, boys' baseball, table tennis

- softball (Coach Hirai, Coach Hikosaka)
- baseball (Coach Sagara, Coach Algie)
- table tennis (Coach Takahashi).

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.

MYP: Using Science to Keep the SOIS Community Safe

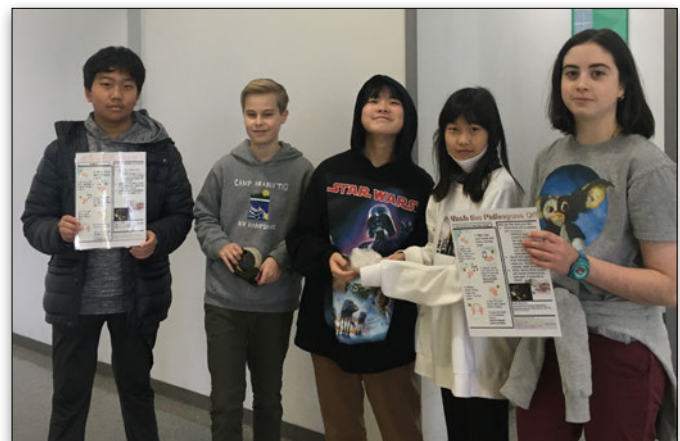
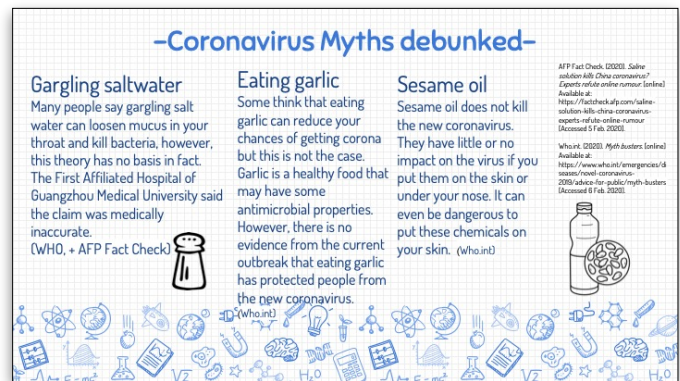
Gr. 8 Saves the World, by Allana Rumble (DP Biology, ESS & MYP Science Teacher)

The current COVID-19 global health emergency offered the Gr. 8 Science class the opportunity to further pursue their understanding of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and in particular the objective of maintaining health and well-being. In the fall trimester the Gr. 8 OIS Science class had a unit on possible pandemics and investigated pathogens and methods to prevent their spread. The current, dynamically evolving situation of the COVID-19 coronavirus public health scenario provided a teachable moment for Gr. 8 Science students to extend their knowledge on this topic and build awareness and understanding in the SOIS community about how to limit the spread of infectious disease.

Students investigated the three topic areas of effective hand-washing techniques, cough/sneeze and mask etiquette, and mythbusting misinformation about the current COVID-19 virus and then worked collaboratively in groups to create educational and engaging posters for an audience of either Elementary or MS/High School students. Students had to fact check any information that would be placed on the poster thoroughly and ensure that all information came from multiple, reliable, international sources which they would reference with appropriate citations. Appreciating the Two Schools Together model each group also created a Japanese translation of their poster as well.

Students put their learning into action by then placing these posters around the school in high-traffic areas to ensure that community members would have access to this valuable information. Courageous representatives of the Gr. 8 OIS Science class also spoke on SNS TV to ensure the idea behind the information campaign was shared with all SOIS community members.

The whole process took a week and involved some flexible thinking and quick action but we hope the effect the students' efforts have is positive in helping to keep our community safe as safe as possible. Please enjoy looking through their work in the pages that follow and remember to wash your hands, cover your cough, and think critically about information while making data-informed decisions to protect yourself and others.

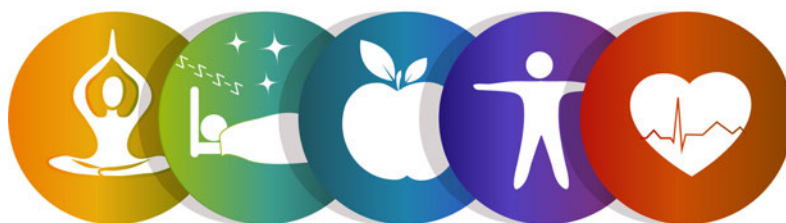


Right: G8 students placing health information posters around the school

School Calendar

April

- 6.....SOIS Spring Trimester Begins (classes resume)
- 8.....Head's coffee morning 8:30 AM
@3F Conference Centre
Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting 9:30 AM
@3F Conference Centre
- 10-11.....WJAA High School Badminton @Canadian Academy
High School Girls Softball @Nagoya
- 11.....Sabers High School Futsal @SOIS
- 16-19.....AISA HS Boys soccer @Korea International School
AISA HS Girls Soccer @Yokohama
AISA HS Badminton @KISJ
- 17.....OIS PTA Grades 4-5 Parent-Student Dance
- 20.....SOIS Club and Service Fair
- 21.....Spring Music Recital 4:00 PM @Theatre
- 27.....OIS Grade 12 Study Leave Begins
- 29.....SOIS MS/HS Class Visitation Day



Important Numbers

Myles Jackson	Head	072-727-5080	mjackson@senri.ed.jp
Kurt Mecklem	MS/HS principal		
	IBMYP coordinator	072-727-5050	kmecklem@senri.ed.jp
Carolyne Marshall	ES principal	072-727-5050	cmarshall@senri.ed.jp
Steve Lewis	Business Manager	072-727-5090	slewis@senri.ed.jp
Mike McGill	Admissions Director	072-727-5070	mmcgill@senri.ed.jp
Stephen Frater	IBDP coordinator	072-727-5050	sfrater@senri.ed.jp
Ingela Summerton	IBPYP coordinator	072-727-5050	isummerton@senri.ed.jp
Michelle Vogel	Counselor	072-727-5061	mvogel@senri.ed.jp
Peter Heimer	Activities Director	072-727-2137	pheimer@senri.ed.jp
Natsuko Inoue	School Nurse	072-727-5050	ninoue@senri.ed.jp
Student Attendance		072-727-2305	