

# SOIS Educator

DECEMBER 20, 2018



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

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

Both the school mission statement of “contributing to a global community” and the International Baccalaureate’s mission of developing “caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect” define SOIS as international schools. We value open-mindedness and understanding different cultures, views, beliefs to form the world view of our students.

One way we grow this global outlook is by diversity within our students and teachers. In looking closely at the nationalities at our school. We have 28 different nationalities represented this year. However, identity and culture for all of our families is complex and a simple passport tally cannot truly portray our diversity. In looking at the overall student body, roughly our students can be grouped into three equal parts. One third of students have one Japanese parent and one foreign parent. One third have two expatriate parents and another third are both Japanese, but internationally-oriented Japanese. “Internationally-oriented” could mean the family lived abroad or the parents studied abroad and they choose an international education. Trends for 2018-2019 show a growth in Chinese and Korean families moving to Osaka. This is true for all international schools in Japan

and it reflects an integration of the economy of East Asia and as Japan’s populations declines and ages, I see this trend increasing.

Our faculty is also diverse with teachers from 11 countries. I am proud that not one nationality dominates, with the largest percentage of teachers (USA) only reaching 26% of the total. We keep this in mind while recruiting and strive for a diverse faculty. It is interesting to note that almost half of our married teachers are in bicultural relationships which mirrors our student body.

Below is a list of our nationalities, if you do not see your nationality in the list, please let me know.

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Australia  | 15. Korea           |
| 2. Belarus    | 16. Kyrgyz Republic |
| 3. Brazil     | 17. Malaysia        |
| 4. Canada     | 18. Mexico          |
| 5. Chile      | 19. New Zealand     |
| 6. China      | 20. Philippines     |
| 7. Germany    | 21. Russia          |
| 8. Hong Kong  | 22. Serbia          |
| 9. India      | 23. Singapore       |
| 10. Indonesia | 24. Taiwan          |
| 11. Israel    | 25. Thailand        |
| 12. Italy     | 26. UK              |
| 13. Japan     | 27. USA             |
| 14. Kenya     | 28. Vietnam         |

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*from the MS, HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM*

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Happy holidays! Whether you are working or taking some time off, I hope that you and your family are able to spend some time together over these next few weeks while the school is on vacation. As we move into the new year, here are a few things to keep in mind.

With the cold mornings and thoughts of snow on the horizon, spring can seem a long ways off. However, the OIS Spring Camps will be here before you know it. Every year, students in the middle and high schools go on a camp during the three days leading up to spring break. This year the camps will take place on March 13, 14, and 15, 2019. Here is what is planned for this school year:

Grade 6	<i>Hike to Katsuoji; team building at Sengari Campsite (KG, Hyogo)</i>
Grade 7	<i>Outdoor Education in the snow at Northstar (Nagano)</i>
Grade 8	<i>Hiroshima and Miyajima Island</i>
Grade 9 & 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bicycle the Seto Inland Sea</i></li> <li>• <i>Snowboarding at Northstar</i></li> <li>• <i>ARK (Animal Refuge Kansai)</i></li> <li>• <i>Creating music videos</i></li> </ul>
Grade 11	<i>Service trip to Cebu, Philippines</i>
Grade 12	<i>Group four (experimental sciences) project on campus with possibly some activities off campus</i>

Note that the grade 7 camp and the high school snowboarding camp to Northstar depart on Tuesday March 12.

More specific details will come out after the break but please keep these in mind as there are some extra costs associated with each camp. Camps are counted as part of our school days so if a student cannot attend, they should still come to school. We have always received very positive feedback from the students about the camps and are looking forward to them again this year.

**Bring Your Own Device (BYOD):** For several years now, we have asked students in high school (grades 9-12) to bring their own device, or laptop to school to help facilitate their studies. There are many times when teachers will ask students to do things on their computers, whether it is writing, research, creating presentations or

any variety of things. In middle school (grades 6-8) we supply Chromebooks for the students but by the times students are in high school, they often have their own device anyway and it is more convenient to have something they can bring back and forth between school and home. We are often asked, what kind of device students should bring. To help answer that question, we have put together a letter that describes the expectations. You can find that letter [here](#). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

I hope you have a great holiday. Please remember that classes resume on Tuesday, January 8.

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*from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL*

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It is important that all the OIS community learns together and adults role model being learners for our young students. Several recent workshops for parents have enabled us to share PYP (Primary Years Programme) learning processes with parents. The workshop on developing a **growth mindset** enabled five teachers to share their knowledge from studying the Harvard University course on "Creating Cultures of Thinking". Many faculty recently completed an online course through Harvard University's Project Zero examining the work of education expert Ron Richart. I was delighted by the enthusiasm shown by the large group of parents who attended. This is a fascinating area of research and due to popular demand we will be running Part Two as a workshop on Thursday, January 24, 2019. If you were not able to attend the first one please look on the class blog where the presentation slides have been posted in the parent information section.

A similarly useful workshop was presented by OIS Librarian Sarah Wakefield and OIS English as an Additional Language Teacher Cary Mecklem on developing a rich reading home in KA and KB. All parents attended and engaged in a range of activities with their children.

Finally, OIS Counselor Michelle Vogel and OIS Technology Learning Coach Oscar presented a workshop for parents supporting their children manage their online, digital life. Based on feedback from parents, more workshops in this area will be offered in 2019.

During the holidays I hope everyone enjoys quality time with their families and can discuss and share learning together. This will really help everyone develop as a happy PYP student.

# K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

# CEZARS™

## KITCHEN

### January

08	Tue	Winter Meat Pie/Green Peas & Carrots/Mixed Leaves/Tomato & Basil Soup
09	Wed	Chicken Massaman Curry/White Rice/Tomato & Cucumber Raita/Spicy Lentil Soup
10	Thu	Baked Perch Mornay/Mashed Sweet Potato/Garlic Green Beans/Clear Vegetable Soup
11	Fri	Balsamic & Honey Roast Pork/Crushed Olive Potato/Seasonal Green Vegetables/White Bean Soup
14	Mon	<i>Adults' Day - No School</i>
15	Tue	Neapolitan Meatballs/Pesto Penne Pasta/Mixed Leaves/Cauliflower Soup
16	Wed	Grilled Chicken w. Bearnaise Sauce/Potato Rosti w. Spring Onion/Ratatouille/Broccoli Soup
17	Thu	Southern Fried Chicken/Green Peas Rice/Red & White Cabbage Salad/Sweetcorn Soup
18	Fri	Winter Pork Stew/Mash Potato & Edamame/Sautéed Broccoli/Minestrone Soup
21	Mon	Chicken Fajitas w. Tortillas/White Rice/Sweet Corn & Tomato Salsa/Mexican Soup
22	Tue	Portuguese Tomato Baked Fish/White Rice/Seasonal Vegetables/Red Pepper Soup
23	Wed	German Pork Schnitzel/Bacon Potato Salad/Braised Red Cabbage/Barley Soup
24	Thu	Beef Stroganoff/White Rice/Mixed Green Vegetables/Pumpkin Soup
25	Fri	Meat Lovers pizza/Parmesan Pasta/Mixed Leaves/French Onion Soup
28	Mon	Juicy Beef Burgers/Potato Wedges/Mixed Leaves/Asparagus Soup
29	Tue	Cajun Sausage Gumbo/White Rice/Corn on the Cob/Clear Winter Soup
30	Wed	Chicken Enchiladas/Corn Chips/Mexican Vegetables/Carrot & Orange Soup
31	Thu	Herb Crusted Pork Steak/Lyonnais Potato/Garlic Spinach/Mushroom Soup

Cezars Kitchen also produces three menus every month for Middle and High School students; an **International Menu**, a **Japanese Menu**, and a **Vegan, Vegetarian Menu**. You can find PDF copies of these menus [here](#).

The image shows three overlapping calendar grids for January 2019, each with a different menu theme. The top grid is the 'International Menu', the middle is the 'Japanese Menu', and the bottom is the 'Vegan & Vegetarian Menu'. Each grid lists the day of the week and the corresponding lunch menu items for each day from Monday to Friday.

## School Calendar

### January

- 08 Classes begin
- 11-12 HS JV Basketball Tournaments @CA & @YIS
- 12-13 East Asia Regional Council of Schools: Weekend Workshop @OIS
- 14 Adults' Day - No School  
OIS Faculty Inservice Day
- 15 Monday's schedule
- 16 PTA Monthly Meeting  
9:00am @3F Conference Room
- 18-19 HS WJAA Basketball Tournaments @SOIS & @CA
- 23 Grade 11 College Workshop  
7:00pm @3F Conference Room
- 24 PYP Parents' workshop  
Cultures of Thinking (pt2)
- 29 IB Diploma Music Recital

## Update from MYP Humanities and DP History: Tara Cheney



### Reenactments

Last trimester OIS grade 10 students conducted World War I reenactments pertaining to a variety of events within this horrific war. Tomomi Nishibe, a technician at the school, expertly captured on film each of the group reenactments (click [here](#) for her video footage, shot on location in the school courtyard). The importance of reenactments as a means to better understand political, economic and social implications from the past cannot be underestimated. In a recent [BBC Front Row](#) documentary, the importance of reenactments providing more than a text analysis is emphasized.

### Investigation

On November 14, OIS grade 10 MYP Humanities and SOIS grade 11 DP History students carried out an investigation of the **Osaka International Peace Museum**, at Morinomiya. Investigating is an important skill in MYP Individuals and Societies with the whole of criterion B dedicated to students being able to:

- i. formulate a clear and focused research question and justify its relevance
- ii. formulate and follow an action plan to investigate a research question
- iii. use research methods to collect and record appropriate, varied and relevant information
- iv. evaluate the process and results of the investigation.

From the *MYP Individuals and Societies Guide*, May 2014. ([www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org))

Investigating is also an important skill in DP History as students are required to carry out an investigation worth 20% (Standard Level) or 25% (Higher Level) of their DP History marks. As the DP History guide indicates, the students could use this museum field trip to carry out their historical investigation:

- a historical topic or theme using a variety of written sources or a variety of written and non-written sources
- a historical topic based on fieldwork, for example, a museum, archaeological site, battlefields, places of worship such as mosques or churches, historic buildings
- a local history study.

From the *DP History guide* (published Jan. 2015 for first exams 2017) p. 87

Therefore, the content within the museum is particularly useful, as it relates to the curriculum within both grade 10 and 11 courses and acts as a provocation for interesting student led investigations.



# Updates from around the school: Bill Kralovec



### Tatami Area

Thanks to the generous support of many people and groups within the community, a new tatami area has been built in the school. The OIS PTA, SIS PA, SOIS student council and alumni groups came together to fund the building of tatami and Japanese culture area on the second floor south stairwell. SOIS faculty are looking to develop learning spaces around the school in our large corridors. Some areas are for relaxation, socializing, quiet study, student collaboration and teaching.

The tatami area is a place of relaxation and is central to our mission of connecting to Japanese culture. The calligraphy classes made beautiful hangings to go with the shoji walls. Chizuko Bobrove also designed a peaceful and contemplative plant arrangement to complete the design. Students and faculty have been using the area to study or relax.

We are working on developing other areas as part of our school-wide action plan.



### Winter Concert

Christmas is a time for children, and our youngest students performed at the elementary winter concert on December 14.

### PTA

The new 2019 representatives of the Parent Teacher Association took over from the outgoing 2018 PTA reps during the December meeting. SOIS may be unique in the international school world in requiring all parents to help the PTA and International Fair by being a representative for one year while their children are enrolled in OIS. I would like to thank to 2018 PTA, especially co-presidents Lee Foo and Keiko Sheriff. We are looking forward to the continuing dedication of the OIS PTA to support student learning in our community.



### Cheerleaders

The high school cheerleaders and parents are working together to teach elementary students the sport of cheerleading. The "Little Sabers" Cheer Squad has been practicing diligently. They recently performed with the high school cheerleaders to open the Sabers Invitational Basketball Tournament. Many spectators in the gymnasium before the first game, watched the girls perform a dance and gymnastics routine that demonstrated creativity and athleticism.



## SOIS Sabers Sports and Activities (<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp>)

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

Dear SOIS families:

I think most of you are familiar with our participation in the *Association of International Schools in Asia (AISA)*. As you probably know, SOIS families each year host visiting students from overseas for a homestay experience while they participate in AISA events at SOIS. You can find much information about homestays [here](#).

I am writing now to ask for your assistance with homestays for an upcoming AISA event in January 2019. Would you please consider opening your home to visiting students from Korea?

We especially encourage families of our SOIS AISA participants to be hosts. Remember, our students are kindly hosted by families when they travel overseas; it would be nice for us to return the hospitality. But any students, middle school and high school, can be a homestay family.

It is better if you live close to school and/or can provide automobile transportation to school. But if you live far from school or cannot transport the students by car, that's OK, too.

Thank you so, so much for your help and generosity. We have such a wonderful, caring community here at SOIS, and I know we can offer a warm welcome to our guests.

Please feel free to write or call in Japanese. Please send messages to Mitsuhashi-sensei, too, at [tmitsuhashi@senri.ed.jp](mailto:tmitsuhashi@senri.ed.jp).

Sincerely,

Peter Heimer  
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