

OIS Educator

NOVEMBER 30, 2018



Congratulations to the World Scholar's Cup SOIS delegation for their outstanding performance in the Tournament of Champions at Yale University! All of the students did their best and the many hours of hard work paid off with 1 team winning the Senior Division and the other teams distinguishing themselves.

Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

A delegation of 15 SOIS students participated in the [World Scholar's Cup Tournament of Champions \(TOC\)](#) hosted by the Yale University International Relations Association. Over 4,000 students gathered on the historic Yale University campus in New Haven, Connecticut, USA to compete in four academic events from November 16-21, 2018. The TOC is the culminating event of a world-wide competition and all students must have qualified at one of the Global Rounds.

The team of OIS students Tyus Sheriff, Skye Inada and Minami Matsushima won first place in the senior division. With over 100 students on over 400+ teams making up the senior division, it was a remarkable accomplishment. Tyus, currently a grade 11 student, won the top individual scholar for an unprecedented third consecutive year. Another OIS team of Emily Yoo, Sana Konishi-Atwood and Malka Bobrove finished in 58th place overall. Emily finished in 45th place in the writing competition. A full list of the results in each division and category can be found [here](#).

Chaperones SIS English teacher Steve Sheriff and SIS principal Fran Namba commented on how well the students represented the school and Japan. Due to our success at recent World Scholar Cup events, our school is

getting quite a prestigious reputation with schools around the world. Their success reflects the strength of our faculty, staff and parents and the value we put into education.

A highlight for the students was performing *soran bushi*, a traditional folkloric Japanese dance, with the Japan delegation. Teams from 58 different countries were at the tournament and besides the official academic events, there are cultural fairs, talent shows, keynote speakers from the Yale and tours of the campus. OIS grade 10 student Malka Bobrove received a standing ovation at the talent show for her performance of a Chopin piece. She played in the historic auditorium, Woolsey Hall. The SOIS delegation also took a day trip to nearby New York City and they toured Manhattan.

Congratulations to all the student-scholars. We are looking forward to hosting the 2019 Kansai Regional May 4-5 at our school. All SOIS students from grades 6-12 are eligible to participate and registration and practices will begin in January.

**The World
Scholar's Cup®**



from the MS, HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

Thank you to all of those parents who were able to come to Parent Teacher Conferences on November 21. Whether you were able to attend or not, I would appreciate it if you could fill out [this short survey](#) to give us feedback on the event and a few other ways we try to keep you informed about what is happening at school.

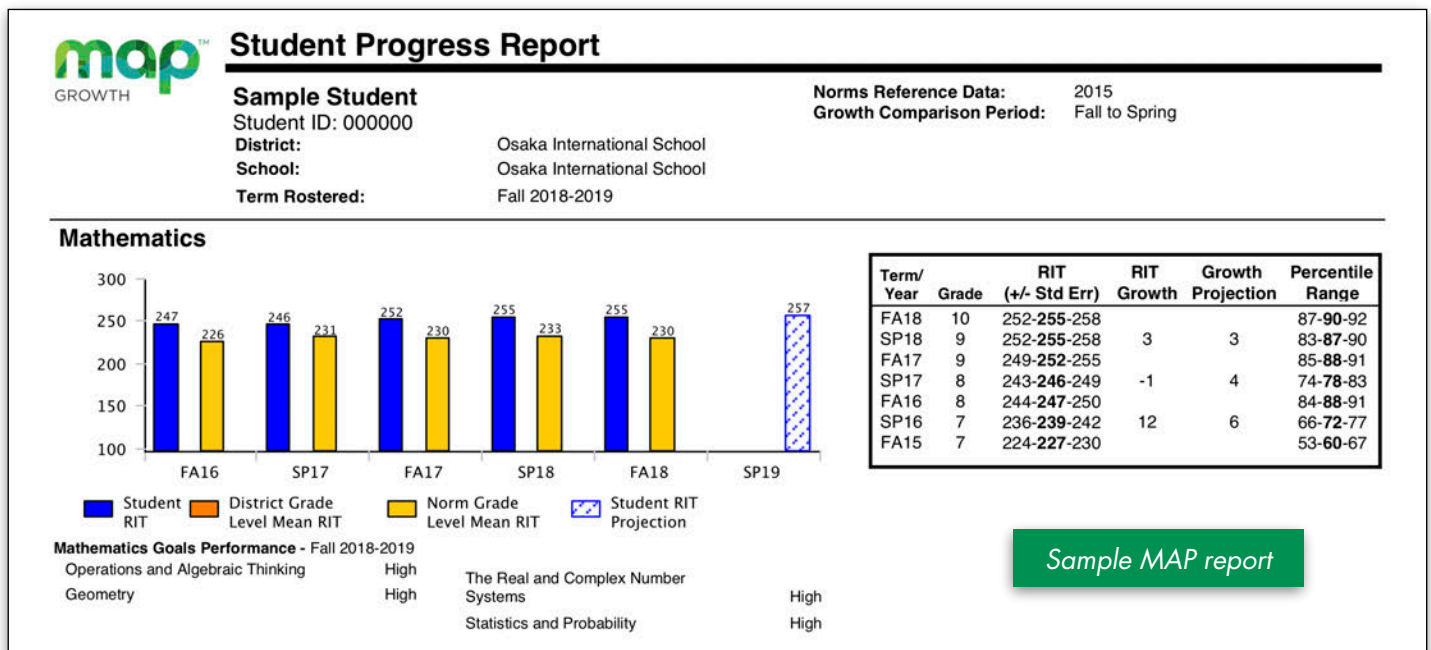
A reminder that we sent all parents a link to your child's report card on ManageBac. If you are having difficulty logging into ManageBac, please contact the school so we can help you get set up. In addition to being able to find report cards, ManageBac is an important way to find information out about what is happening in child's classes as many teachers are posting assignments, grades and other information.

You will also find on ManageBac the most recent report for your child's MAP testing. If you log in and go to portfolio, you should be able to see the report from the test

your child took in October. We give the MAP or Measure of Academic Progress twice a year to ensure that students are reaching their academic potential. It also becomes a point of reference for helping us identify students who might need intervention.

Your child's MAP Growth results are represented as RIT scores. Like centimeters on a ruler, the RIT scale measures in equal intervals, regardless of a student's grade—and it remains stable over time. As a result, we can accurately measure students' growth in between tests and understand if they are performing on, above, or below grade level. RIT scores enable teachers to recognize where to focus attention to optimize your child's learning and to monitor their progress. You can find more information in the [parent tool kit](#) that comes from the publisher of the MAP, the Northwest Evaluation Association or NWEA.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.



Movember

Our fathers, brothers and friends face a crisis that isn't being talked about: men are dying before their time and for no good reason. We can't afford to stay silent! There's a job to be done. We've funded more than a thousand men's health programs, and with your support we'll continue to fight for a world where men live happier, healthier and longer lives. Since its inception in 2003, Movember.com has raised and invested millions of dollars for projects in prostate cancer, testicular cancer and men's mental health and suicide prevention, but our

work is only just getting started as we change the face of men's health. SOIS has been an active supporter for almost a decade. Without people like you, it wouldn't be possible. Please feel free to make a donation into the box. It is not too late! Thank you for your generosity. Movember is a month long annual charity drive whose purpose is to highlight Men's Health issues. For more info see OIS physical education teacher Mr Derek Entwistle or visit [movember.com](#)



from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

PYP students learn to be effective communicators as they progress through the programme. As we conclude our first term of learning together this year, we have been reflecting on the varied ways we build these vital skills.

Throughout each day, classes gather together in meetings to share their thinking and experiences.

Students love sharing their new skills and knowledge. Explaining their learning to different audiences helps them extend their communication skills and builds their confidence to explore further. Buddy classes meet regularly to enable students to share ideas with those of different age groups. Sometimes it's sharing thoughts on reading stories together or how to play a maths game. KA explained to their buddies how they made a giant model of the school from cardboard boxes to show how we organize ourselves. Events like KB's Café enable students to show and tell their parents about what they have inquired into.

Weekly assemblies enable students to share their experiences with all the elementary school. We have heard about the diverse range of after-school activities as club participants explained why they enjoyed them. The Actioneers have presented initiatives on healthy eating and introduced Tidy Friday to encourage everyone to be more principled. They are also communicating with the student council of a primary school in the UK whom they are advising on playground redesign.

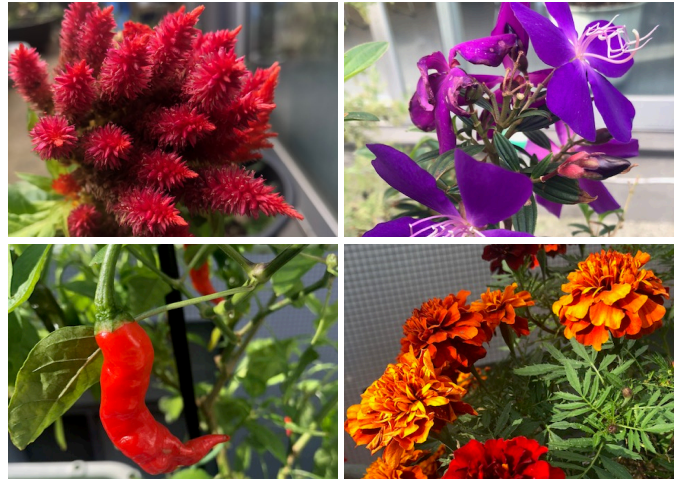
Our new counsellor Ms Michelle Vogel has been teaching the G5 leadership classes with me where we are focusing on responsible digital communication. Our oldest PYP students have made posters and a video to help them share their learning with the community. They were also effective communicators promoting Book Week with their timely video of digital zombies which inspired everyone to read more.

At the International Fair, G4 organized an Eco Booth so they could share their message to a wide audience about using materials responsibly and repurposing items instead of throwing them away.

Field trips enable our students to communicate their questions and seek out answers. G1 visited the open-air Museum of Old Farmhouses where they inquired into historic ways of life.

On 21 November parents receive reports describing each child's progress over the term. Along with comments by all the teachers there are also reflections

made by each student. Teachers have helped the students to consider what they have achieved so far and which aspects of learning they want to develop next. It is important for parents to be communicators too and discuss this with your child to help them plan the ways they can achieve their goal.



Winter flowers and plants in the school gardens

School Calendar

November

- 30** - PYP Parents Workshop
"Developing a Growth Mindset in Students"
 14:40 - 15:30 @ grade 3 classroom

December

- 01** - SAT & SAT Subject Tests
03 - All School Production (ASP) "Shrek"
 rehearsals begin for elementary students
04 - HS Winter Concert: 18:30 @Maple Hall
06 - Parent Conversation: *"Your Child in the Digital World: Is technology using you or are you using technology?"*
 14:40 - 15:30 @Cezars Cafe
07 - 08 HS Boys Basketball Sabers Invitational
 Tournament @SOIS Gymnasium
 - MS Boys & Girls WJAA Championships:
 Boys @Marist Brothers, Girls @CA
10 - 14 High School Student Council Winter Week
13 - Parent Presentation: *"Getting Ready for the Big One: Lessons learned from some of Japan's major disasters"* 16:00 - 17:00 @SOIS theatre
14 - Elementary School Winter Concert:
 14:30 @SOIS Theatre
 - High School Winter Ball:
 17:00 - 19:00 @cafeteria
 - KA-KB Parent Potluck & Reading Presentation
19 - First Day of Winter Holiday:
 Classes Begin on Tuesday January 8, 2019

DP Biology Students Conduct Field Studies



In the final few days of September, 18 OIS senior biology students accompanied by DP Biology teacher Ms. Allana Rumble and TOK teacher Brodie Nicholl, embarked on an adventure to the Kwansai Gakuin Sengari Camp in Hyogo Prefecture. The students designed an individual investigation to explore the ecosystems and biodiversity contained in the pine forests of this region. This involved planning and research from the students in advance of the trip as well as the flexibility to adjust to the surprises that nature decided to put forward for us as well. Fortunately the weather was perfect and the sunny, blue skies and crisp, fresh air were appreciated by all during this break from regular school routine.

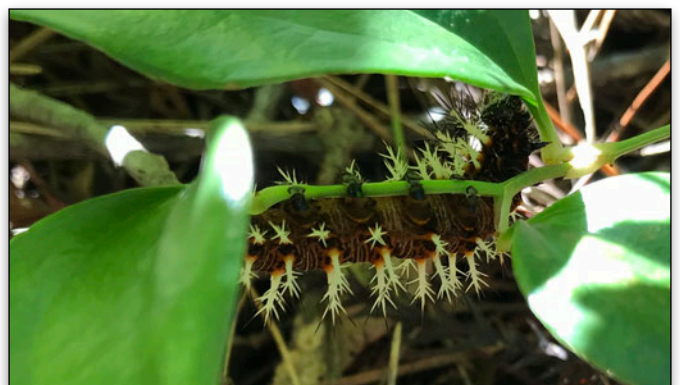
When our crew of teachers and young scientists first arrived at the KG Camp they were excited to explore the natural landscape and test their gear to ensure their investigations would run smoothly the next day. Once these tasks were complete students settled into the atmosphere of the countryside and enjoyed a life lesson from Mr. Nicholl in how to start a fire for a BBQ and then the whole group grilled their dinner over open flame under the setting sun. Everyone worked together to ensure a fine meal was prepared and shared together. This left just enough time for the group to gather around the campfire to sing some songs, toast some marshmallows and to appreciate the beautiful moon shining down on the forest. For many students this would be their last school trip together and an opportunity to appreciate the friendships that had developed during their time at SOIS.

The next day as soon as the sun was breaking over the horizon creating a mist from the nearby river in the trees the group were awake and ready to investigate their surroundings. All students spread out across the camp boundaries and began the process of authentic

field research. Some students were at the river collecting samples of algae or measuring river flow rate, other investigators were carefully creating transect lines with quadrants to calculate estimates of biodiversity. Some students used traditional methods for data collection whereas many used newly purchased, state-of-the-art portable technology to measure variables such as soil moisture, pH, canopy cover, or light intensity.

All students were respectful in their exploration of the ecosystem, and significant local biodiversity in flora and fauna was observed, including snakes, frogs, birds, and many fascinating insects. One student's research into local arachnids led to the discovery that golden orb weaver spiders in the region produce webs that are up to one meter in diameter larger than the reported average, with some webs measuring three meters across!

Once all necessary samples and data had been collected by our team of field researchers the group made the journey back to school wiser and more connected to the environment around us. This was overall a fantastic experiential learning experience showcasing that significant learning can happen in classrooms without walls and this will hopefully now become an annual trip for the course.



K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

CEZARS™

KITCHEN

December

03	Mon	Beef Lasagna, Pita Bread, Mixed Salad, Sweetcorn Soup
04	Tue	Smoked Salmon Pasta, Potato Salad, Garlic Green Beans, Tomato Soup
05	Wed	Pulled Pork Fajita, Tortilla Bread, Mixed Seasonal Leaves, French Onion Soup
06	Thu	Cajun Chicken, White Rice, Sautéed Broccoli, Spicy Bean Soup
07	Fri	Juicy Beef Burgers, Potato Wedges, Tomato Relish, Cauliflower Soup
10	Mon	Roast Pork Loin Herb Stuffing, Butter Parsley Potatoes, Braised Red Cabbage, Broccoli Soup
11	Tue	Bolognese Pasta, Garlic Bread, Salad Leaves, Clear Vegetable Soup
12	Wed	Southern Fried Chicken, White Rice, Mixed Cabbage Salad, Pumpkin Soup
13	Thu	Christmas Roast Turkey, Crushed Potato with Bacon, Buttered Green Beans, Potato Leek Soup
14	Fri	Honey Glazed Ham, Mustard Mash Potato, Mixed Green Vegetables, Barley Soup
17	Mon	Mediterranean Perch, White Rice, Ratatouille, Asparagus Soup
18	Tue	Meat Lovers Pizza, Pasta Salad, Steamed Broccoli, Minestrone Soup
19 ~		— Winter Break —

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](#).

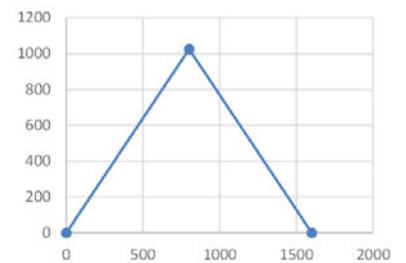
Grade 9 Mathematics: Climbing Mountains

Our task was to create different mountains and find out how far would a person have to climb to reach the top

Erika Hatsuda

The investigation begins with a simple mountain with the base starting at (0,0) then going to (800,1024), and going back down to (1600,0)

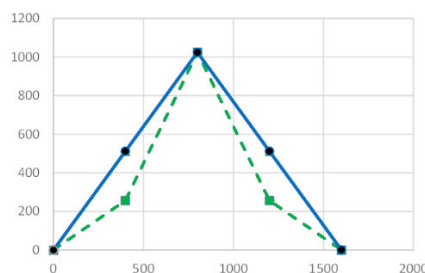
Aoto Utsugi



Achyuta Muthuvelan

How far is it to climb up the mountain by repeating the algorithm up to step 5? Or up to step n ?

Lee Jun Foo



Aimelanie Hamazaki

The y-coordinate of the middle of each line segment must be increased or decreased by 25% of the height of the line segment

Kokoro Ishiuchi-Ray

Mountain Step 5



Ryan Jeong

Step 5

$$= \sum_{s=1}^6 \binom{5}{s-1} \sqrt{\left(3^{s-1} \left(\frac{1024}{4^5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{800}{2^5}\right)^2\right)}$$

$$= 1452.72$$

Tadayoshi Kamegai



Koki Ogawa

OIS Elementary Reducing Plastic Use at Our School

Last spring the OIS Parent Teacher Association (PTA) asked Mrs. Henbest and Mrs. Inada if the elementary school would like to make use of the pet bottle caps, traditionally collected by the PTA, to make an ECO Awareness booth at the International Fair in November. As much of the learning during the PYP 'Sharing the Planet' units revolves around conservation of our beautiful earth and it seemed to be an idea worth highlighting. Many people in our community are concerned about the overuse of plastics in our lives.

According to a study done last year by an IBDP student, our school consumes over 30,000 pet bottles annually. Countless plastic pet bottle caps are used by our community and quickly discarded. This trimester, led by Grade 4 teacher Ms. Lewis, students developed math skills as they explored the abundance of plastic in our lives and made important connections to their unit focusing on children's rights. For children, the right to play is perhaps one of the most meaningful of all UN children's rights. As a result, grade 4 has traditionally made toys in art to explore the fact that many children in the world work and don't get a chance to play. Sadly, many children in the world actually work handling scrap plastic garbage; the very garbage we discard.

Ms. Lewis, Mrs. Henbest, Mrs. Inada and the class parents, worked with the students to take action. Students thought of inventive and creative ways to raise awareness at the first-ever OIS Elementary ECO booth. The grade 4 used their voice, choice, and ownership and got into groups making pet bottle cap art, miniatures, games, and a very popular art activities area where children could make their own art. In art class, the students used the pet bottle caps to create sculptural multiples that could be sold

at the fair. They also wrote and distributed a petition to raise awareness about our school's pet bottle problem, and to request that the school facilities department to install dual-purpose refilling station/water fountains for easy refilling of non-disposable water bottles. In addition, the students took donations to raise money for a new water station in the elementary area to replace an old-style fountain that is just for drinking, not refilling.

This class exemplified what real PYP action is. Creativity and conservation connect when a whole community gets together to make a change. We learned that we can help our planet by bringing our own water bottle or cup whenever we can! There are so many ways we can make our school, our community and our world a better place! Now that is worth getting excited about!



Minoh Nanohana Project Comes to OIS

The Minoh City Nanohana Project comes to SOIS annually to share their knowledge about the many benefits of growing Nanohana (*Brassica napus*), also called Canola or Rapeseed. The non-profit project grows canola on abandoned lots and schools in the city. They raise awareness that Japan grows less of its own food than in previous times.

SOIS elementary students grow Canola each year in the fall, to then view lovely huge yellow flowers in the spring, and ultimately collect the seeds in the summer. Mr Kohsaki comes with his group of informative

volunteers and shows our students what 'Seed to Oil' really means. This year KA, KB, Grade 4, and Grade 8 enjoyed the demonstration of pressing our canola seeds into oil. The wonderful PTA set up the popcorn machine so everyone could really try the beautiful fresh and organic oil. OIS students love to support our earth with organic products. All our plants are fertilized by worms castings and we use no chemical compounds in the school gardens. All of the students enjoyed the tasting and there are lots of connections to the IB science curriculum. A special thanks to the volunteers and teachers whose efforts make this possible.

Sabers Sports and Activities

from Activities Director, *PETER HEIMER*

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

Sabers Facebook page: [click here](#)

Recent events: AISA

Thank you: AISA cross country – homestays, event support, banquet. Last month's AISA cross county event was a great success thanks to the support of the Sabers community. Several SOIS families homestayd 28 runners from Seoul. Many people helped with the preparation for and running of the event, especially Coach Munemasa, Coach Cheney, and Mr. Kralovec. Cezar's Kitchen and SISPA parents prepared the banquet food.

Hosting international sporting events requires a school community-wide effort. I thank everyone very, very much for their assistance. I have been at this school long enough to know that there will always be people willing to help, but I am still very appreciative. (Next homestay: AISA girls basketball in January.)

High School Basketball Update

The HS boys and girls basketball teams have played their first games, winning some and losing some. The Sabers host the WJAA girls tournament in January (boys at CA in Kobe), and then the girls AISA tournament the week after (the boys travel to Yokohama).

New middle school seasons up and running

Middle school boys basketball and girls soccer are fully underway with games and matches nearly every weekend, including the recent Sabers Invitational MS girls soccer tournament, at which the Sabers finished 4th and 5th. WJAA championship tournaments are December 7-8 in Kobe.

The middle school swim team practices twice a week with Coach Bertman and Coach Kano in preparation

for a meet at ASIJ in Tokyo, December 14-15, along with some high school swimmers. The deadline for the sign-up for the Tokyo trip has passed, see Coach Bertman with questions.

Sabers Sports Council (SSC)

The SSC is a group of SOIS student volunteers who assist the AD office with Sabers events throughout the year. Among other things, they handle the official scoring for home events, they organize tournament setup and hospitality for WJAA and AISA events, they create the athletic awards celebration photo slideshow, and they help the AD maintain his sanity. Without their help, we would not be able to create the kind of welcoming, professional atmosphere that our events have become known for. The SSC has perfected its year-to-year turnover: the older members mentor the younger members throughout the year so that there is a smooth annual transition as the older members graduate and the younger members take over. The job they do is a highly skilled, high-pressured one, and the SSCers always have a smile for everyone.

There are 13 members of the SSC: leader Shuri Kozu, Chisato Suga, Nanako Fukuda, Akiho Ueyama, Fuka Nagahashi, Karin Iwaki, Azu Sugihara, Maki Mukaida, Rina Nakanishi, Konatsu Yasuda, Tsubasa Terado, Kei Fukushima, Taichi Murayama. These students work hard, but enjoy much fun and camaraderie. Thank you, SSC.

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 or at (072) 727-2137.



Sabers middle school girls soccer team, with Coach Nikolic and Coach Rumble

OIS Book Week 2018

A huge thank you to all the parents and OIS community members for helping to make this year's Book Week one of the best we've ever had. Our theme this year was "Find Your Treasure." Students had a fun filled week with special events encouraging them to read and enjoy books. There was a special kick off video made by the

grade 5s, DEAR (Drop Everything And Read), guest readers in the classrooms, the character parade, Find Your Treasure Reading Challenge, First Annual Book Exchange, Treasured Books Display and the ever popular Camp Read-a-lot. We hope that the excitement and commitment to reading lasts through the whole year.



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