

# SOIS Educator

OCTOBER 26, 2018



Photos from the Association of International Schools in Asia (AISA) Cross Country Meet hosted by SOIS on October 11-12 at Kita Senri Park. Highlights include OIS Grade 11 student-athlete Riki Sampson surprising his opponent from the Korea International School in the final stretch to win the boys event, finishing with the fastest time of any runner. More details in the sports section (page X).

## Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

In April of 2018, the Kwansei Gakuin Board of Trustees approved the Kwansei Grand Challenge 2039 (hereafter, KGC), a strategic plan for long-term future of the foundation. The KGC addresses future predictions that will impact education in Japan and KG schools over the next 20 years. For example one trend will be 30% less 18-year olds graduating from high school nationally. If Japanese universities will need to become more global in their outlook and develop programs for international students if they want to maintain their current enrollments. KG has set a goal of sending more of their students on study abroad programs and accepting more international students. Another big issue is the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and what it means for our students. KG recently signed an agreement with IBM-Japan to develop educational programs training KG students in AI management.

KGC is comprehensive and looks at the financial, educational and campus aspects of the foundation for the next 20 years. I am happy to announce that the foundation has committed a significant amount of funding to the Senri Campus Improvement Project. We are now working on a campus development plan to determine priorities on these improvements. These include the library, classrooms, shared facilities, hallways, campus grounds, etc. The funding will be available to our schools

starting in April of 2019 and we hope to get started on projects as soon as possible, perhaps even this coming summer. We would like to have a master facilities plan in place by next autumn that will guide our renovations.

During the Faculty Forum on October 19, teachers from the two schools discussed the future of classrooms and provided feedback which will be used by the architects in the design of the new classrooms. Big concepts such as flexibility and cleanliness were prominent and specifics like small teacher work stations instead of the traditional big desks



*from the MS, HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM*

The fall trimester is in full swing! Sports Day is complete, MAP testing is taking place, we've had a couple of typhoons, the Kool Sounds @ Kita Senri concert was a success, and the first round of progress reports have been posted to ManageBac. Sometimes it feels as if the school year is already racing by us.

You should have seen a message in your SOISMail account about the progress report that was recently uploaded to the parent portal on ManageBac. These progress reports are designed to give you an indication of how your child has started the school year. Are they developing good habits? Are there things they can do to improve? It is still a bit early in the year to give official grades so the idea of this report is to give you information to help you help your child get the most out of the year. If teachers have posted grades you will be able to see them in ManageBac. Also note that a report card for the first trimester will be posted the week of

November 19 and this will be followed by parent, teacher conferences on November 21.

As the school year progresses, one thing to keep an eye on is your child's anxiety level. It is clear that today's students do suffer from the impact of stress, not just at OIS but around the world. We have been doing things at school to mitigate that but it is important for parents to monitor what is happening at home and how their children are doing. Please keep the lines of communication open both with your child and with us at school. You can always contact me or Ms. Michelle Vogel, our counselor if you have some concerns. The image below is from the GoZen website and accompanies this article. It is one of the many resources that is available to help parents assist their children in navigating the stresses of adolescence.

If you would like to talk about this or anything else, please feel free to send me a note or come in for a visit.

## 8 WAYS A CHILD'S ANXIETY SHOWS UP AS SOMETHING ELSE

- 1. Anger**

The perception of danger, stress or opposition is enough to trigger the fight or flight response leaving your child angry and without a way to communicate why.


- 2. Difficulty Sleeping**

In children, having difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep is one of the hallmark characteristics of anxiety.


- 3. Defiance**

Unable to communicate what is really going on, it is easy to interpret the child's defiance as a lack of discipline instead of an attempt to control a situation where they feel anxious and helpless.


- 4. Chandeliering**

Chandeliering is when a seemingly calm person suddenly flies off the handle for no reason. They have pushed hurt and anxiety so deep for so long that a seemingly innocent comment or event suddenly sends them straight through the chandelier.


- 5. Lack of Focus**

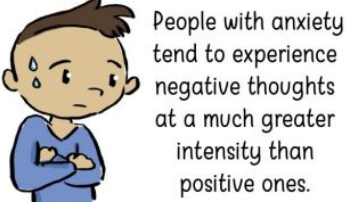
Children with anxiety are often so caught up in their own thoughts that they do not pay attention to what is going on around them.


- 6. Avoidance**

Children who are trying to avoid a particular person, place or task often end up experiencing more of whatever it is they are avoiding.


- 7. Negativity**

People with anxiety tend to experience negative thoughts at a much greater intensity than positive ones.


- 8. Overplanning**

Overplanning and defiance go hand in hand in their root cause. Where anxiety can cause some children to try to take back control through defiant behavior, it can cause others to overplan for situations where planning is minimal or unnecessary.



gozen.com

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*from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL*

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The introduction of the Enhanced PYP to all IB schools at the end of this month will have a major impact on teaching and learning. After twenty years the PYP is now going through a reorganization. The OIS team of teachers has been actively preparing for these developments.

“Student Agency” will be at the heart of the programme. You may be wondering what this looks like. Each student will be expected to become fully engaged and responsible for their individual development. To achieve this, students will be given more opportunities to demonstrate their own voice, choice and ownership. They will be helped to question, guide and direct their own learning. They will be defining and reflecting on their own learning goals. They will participate in decision-making, proposing and initiating action. Teachers will support students throughout the planning and taking action.

Student agency is already being practised at OIS in a variety of ways. Here are some examples: At the start of the school year all classes used their voices to discuss and set their class behaviour goals. These are displayed as Essential Agreements and are regularly reviewed to promote respectful behaviour. Student voice was also demonstrated in the organization of several classrooms where students discussed and drew designs to decide the most efficient layout of furniture. Every grade holds regular class meetings to provide a safe forum for students to voice their observations, feelings and challenges. In addition the peer-elected group of Actioneers also provides students with an influential voice to change life in the elementary school.

Student choice is being encouraged in a range of ways. Students’ reflections at the conclusion of units are being included in the teachers’ planning document so we can adjust our organization next year. Increasingly when students prepare their summative assessments they are given the opportunity to present their knowledge in a way of their choosing. This is most noticeable in the G5 exhibition when our oldest students choose a current issue to investigate using all the skills they have learned through their years of being PYP students.

Ownership is developed by students being involved with their learning from the initial planning. Last year’s Creativity Day was a great example of this. At an assembly students proposed the activities they wanted to explore and how they would be in mixed age groups.

Teachers facilitated the activities. It was a wonderful day of active learning.

Ms Ingela Summerton our new PYP coordinator brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of the PYP which is helping us to extend our teaching skills. I am really enjoying learning with G3 as they define their learning goals for the year.

Teachers are role-modelling being active learners. Six teachers in PYP along with two from MYP are participating in a four-month course with Harvard University called Creating Cultures of Thinking. This is providing us with diverse strategies we can utilize to help our young students develop independence and agency.

Towards the end of the course we will be sharing our learning with parents at a workshop. Please come along on Friday 30 November when you can find out more about how you can be part of the OIS learning community and support your child’s agency.

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## **School Calendar**

### **October**

- 24 Head of School Coffee  
*(9:00am Cezars Kitchen Cafe)*
- 25 Fall Music Recital (4:00pm theatre)
- 27 Onohara Halloween Festival
- 29 ~ Elementary School Book Week

### **November**

- 02 Elementary School Book Week:  
assembly & character book parade  
*(2:45pm small gym/courtyard)*
- 02-03 IBDP Chemistry Lab IA  
MS Girls Soccer Tournament @ SOIS
- 03 National holiday (Culture Day)  
SAT & SAT Subject Tests
- 05 OIS HS Student Council Election
- 07 PTA Monthly Meeting  
*(9:00am 3F conference room)*
- 09-10 IBDP Physics Lab IA
- 09 KG Board of Trustees Meeting
- 13 Instrument Fair  
*(4:00pm choir & band rooms)*
- 17 International Fair "Fun! Fun! Fun!"
- 21 MS/HS Parent-Teacher conferences  
MS/HS half day of classes
- 21 Fall Trimester Ends

## The Inaugural SOIS Service Fair

Finding ways to serve others is central to our school. It is part of our mission statement to “contribute to the global community”. The motto of the Kwansai Gakuin Educational Foundation is “Mastery for Service” which comes from the fourth chancellor of KG, C.J. Bates. The idea was to train young people on how to serve others. Service is also a component of International Baccalaureate curriculum, most prominently in the Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) requirement of the Diploma Programme.

The first ever 2 Schools Together Service Fair took place on October 9 in the school cafeteria. The goal of the fair was to raise awareness of service opportunities and organizations at our school. All of the SIS and OIS middle schools and high schools attended the fair. They had a chance to talk with leaders of 25 different service projects. SOIS has numerous on-going service organizations with a history at the school like the “Yomowari” (night patrol) at the Sannoh Children’s Center in a poor ward of Osaka.

There were several new opportunities as well! These included the Japan chapter of Amnesty International, the largest human rights organization in the world, the Global Issues Network an organization that empowers young people to collaborate and create project-based sustainable solutions for our shared global issues. There is also a School Photography Crew that will provide inspirational photos of our community to use on our website and publications, etc. Another group is developing a Lost & Found mobile app to alert users when lost articles are turned into the office.

Parents are invited to join any of these projects or even start one of their own. Please contact our CAS coordinator, Mr. David Myers (dmyers@soismail.jp) if you would like to learn more.



## Elementary Sports Day: Leanne Entwistle, ES PE Specialist

The 2018 Elementary Sports Day a great day this year. The students had fun working together in their teams. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 swam in the pool first, racing sharks, demonstrating water safety concepts with safe jumps, hurried swims, HELP positions and huddles and tows. They finished off with playing the game, Sunken Treasure. The “Big Splash” contest was very exciting and congratulations to Jishi Shi in Grade 5 and Celina Taylor in Grade 4 for becoming this year’s champions.

Students in kindergarten and Grade 1 and 2 had great fun working together in the Big Gym, swinging on the ropes, climbing through obstacles and giving their little toy animals a ride on the parachute. They had to work together for the “Team Bobsled” game and to make many “Hula Huts”.

All groups came together on the field for some wonderful team work activities and the cheers were LOUD as they began; kicking soccer balls, hippity hopping for donuts, over and under chickens and back to back balloons. The students finished off guiding each other blindfolded through the obstacle course.

I would like to thank the MS and HS student volunteers for helping with each activity and to the parent volunteers who helped with each team. Mr Kralovec was a great master of ceremonies and of course, also, thanks to the dedicated elementary faculty who guided their teams expertly and were so enthusiastic. A big thanks also to the physical education faculty who, as always, were instrumental in helping to run the day.

See page 6 for some photos of the event.

# K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu



## October

22	Mon	Meat Casserole, Steamed Green Beans, White Rice, Minestrone Soup
23	Tue	Southern Fried Chicken, Cabbage Salad, Roast Potato, Sweet Potato Soup
24	Wed	Grilled Fish (Tomato Salsa), Baked Potato, Broccoli, Curried Butternut Soup
25	Thu	Stir-Fry Ginger & Honey Pork, Sesame Cabbage, White Rice, Miso Soup
26	Fri	Beef Stroganoff, Braised Beans, Herb Bread, Lentil Soup
29	Mon	Grilled Lemon Chicken, Chickpea Salad, Potato Wedges, Soy Bean Sprout Soup
30	Tue	Beef Bulgogi, Radish Salad, White Rice, Wakame Soup
31	Wed	BBQ Chicken, Corn On The Cob, Pasta Salad, Red Pepper Soup

## November

1	Thu	Chicken Enchiladas, Corn Chips, Mexican Vegetables, Mixed Bean Soup
2	Fri	Grilled Salmon, Asparagus Risotto, Mix Garden Salad, Clear Vegetable Soup
5	Mon	Beef Lasagna, Herb Focaccia, Steamed Broccoli, Tomato & Vegetable Soup
6	Tue	Tandoori Chicken, White Rice, Indian Style Vegetables, Chunky Vegetable Soup
7	Wed	Beef Stroganoff, White Rice, Green Salad, Cauliflower Soup
8	Thu	Cezars Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans, French Onion Soup
9	Fri	Juicy Beef Burgers, Potato Wedges, Caesar Salad, Pumpkin Soup
12	Mon	Baked Perch, White Rice, Roasted Vegetables, Asparagus Soup
13	Tue	Chicken Cacciatore, Garlic Bread, Green Vegetables, Italian Vegetable & Macaroni Soup
14	Wed	Taco Rice, Toasted Tortillas, Green Leaves Salad, Corn Soup
15	Thu	Pepperoni Pizza, Penne Pasta, Sautéed Corn, Mushroom Soup
16	Fri	Chicken Pad Thai, White Rice, Thai Salad, Hot & Sour Soup
19	Mon	Greek Chicken, Olive Focaccia, Roasted Pumpkin, Barley Soup
20	Tue	BBQ Chicken, Parsley Potato, Corn & Green Beans, Vegetable Soup
21	Wed	Stir Fry Pork & Asian Vegetable, White Rice, Honey Glazed Carrots, Sweet Corn & Egg Drop Soup
22-27		— Fall Break —
28	Wed	Meat Ball Subs, Baked Potato, Mix Salad, Carrot & Orange Soup
29	Thu	Chili Con Carne, White Rice, Corn Salad, Potato Leek Soup
30	Fri	Roast Chicken Mushroom Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Garlic Spinach, Green Pea 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 menu grids for October 2018. The top-left grid is the 'International Menu' with columns for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The middle grid is the 'Japanese Menu' with columns for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The rightmost grid is the 'Vegan & Vegetarian Menu' with columns for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Each grid lists various dishes such as 'Mediterranean Fish', 'Hayashi beef', 'Fried Tofu', and 'Vegetable Gratin'.

## Elementary Students Participate in Falcon Cup

On September 28, twenty-nine students in grades 3 through 5 traveled to Rokko Island to participate in the annual Falcon Cup. The Falcon Cup is an elementary school futsal (soccer) tournament. Eight different schools attended the tournament, including teams from Nagoya, Kyoto and Kobe.

The emphasis in elementary sports is learning the fundamentals of the sport, handling winning and losing with grace and being part of a team by working

together. The “Junior Sabers” futsal club is one of our elementary after school activities and the team practices every Wednesday.

The students were happy that all five OIS team entered into the competition won at least one game each! Many students scored goals and made brilliant plays. Most importantly, the students practiced good sportsmanship and made some new friends.



## Elementary Sports Day *continued*



## SOIS Sabers Sports and Activities

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

#### Sabers Website

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

#### Sabers Facebook page

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

#### Sabers Sign Up

Once a year – and only once – Sabers athletes must submit 2 [online sign-up forms](#). All information is on the Sabers website under the Forms tab. Students and parents must read the Sabers activities handbook and submit the online forms.

#### Recent events: WJAA

There has been much Sabers activity since the start of the fall trimester, with Sabers teams playing every weekend. Highlights include:

- hosting – and winning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row – the [WJAA HS JV girls volleyball tournament](#);
- placing 2<sup>nd</sup> (A team) and 1<sup>st</sup> (B team) in the MS girls volleyball season-ending WJAA tournament;
- capping off another successful (albeit rainy) MS baseball season by winning the WJAA tournament A division and placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the B division.

#### Recent events: AISA

More details can be found on the Sabers website [here](#).

- girls volleyball at Seoul International School: champions!

- boys volleyball at International School Busan: 4th place.
- cross country hosted here by SOIS at Senri Kita Koen: Team - 3rd place. Individual - OIS grade 11 Riki Sampson captured first place, boys division. Details and photos [here](#). Our special thanks go out to the AISA cross country homestay host families. ありがとう！

#### New middle school seasons up and running

- boys basketball, girls soccer, swimming, running
- details [here](#): sports, coaches, schedules
- don't forget [Sabers Sign Up](#).

#### New high school seasons begin Monday, October 15

- sign up meeting: Monday, October 15
- girls basketball: Coach Sagara, Coach Okamoto
- boys basketball: Coach Morioka, Coach Kralovec
- a copy of the season schedule can be found [here](#)

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.



## Kool Sounds at Kita Senri

On October 16 155 SOIS students from grades 5-12 performed at the Dios Kita Senri stage at the Hankyu Train Station. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of our schools and promote a positive relationship with the local community.

The grade 5 class, middle school and high school choirs and the high school strings ensemble performed to a large audience of SOIS community and Suita city commuters. The grand finale featured a medley of songs from the musical, The Sound of Music. Congratulations to all of our SOIS musicians and music teachers.



### Important Numbers

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