

# SOIS Educator

MAY 21, 2018



The Senri and Osaka International Schools students show off their medals and trophies after the Kansai Round of the World Scholar's Cup, hosted by Doshisha International School on May 5-6. SOIS took top honors in both the Junior and Senior Divisions. Congratulations to the scholars! More information can be found on page 8.

## Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

As the school year comes to a close, it is time to say farewell to families that are leaving our community. It is also a time to honor departing faculty. A recent study of the East Asia Region Council of Schools (EARCOS) showed a yearly retention rate across international schools in the region of 68% of the faculty. That means on a yearly basis, about 1/3 of teachers change international schools. The past 8 years, OIS has a retention rate of 86%, with an average of 5 full-time teachers leaving. Retention rates are determined by push and pull factors which include quality of life in a country or city, salary and benefits, the effectiveness of teaching environment, student interaction, and so on. OIS and Japan score high on many of these factors, hence the high retention rates. The following teachers will be leaving at the end of this year:



Melissa Lamug is our K-12 counselor and in the last 5 years has helped our graduates get into many excellent universities. She is also proud of her work counseling individual students and families to support them in coping life. She will be moving to Singapore and

be joining the college admissions team of the Stamford American International School.



Michael Routh has taught physical education at SOIS for the past six years. He has been instrumental in the PE program in becoming a model of IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) best practices. He also coached basketball and volleyball and his teams won numerous championships. Mr. Routh is moving on to Wellington College, a new school in Hangzhou, China.



Andrew Dieterly taught in the visual arts department for 4 years. His quiet demeanor relaxed students to allow them to find their creative juices and produce beautiful works of art. Andrew will be devoting more of his time to his professional artwork.

Two teachers who have been with us a short time will also be moving on. Karen Zurich arrived in February to take over for Ms. Vimont. She has really made a difference and her third grade students have not missed a beat. She will be teaching full-time at the Osaka YMCA International School. Yukiko Ohata served in the Japanese language department, with classes ranging from kindergarten to MYP. She helped with the transition of Endo sensei, who is starting an IB teacher certification program for Kwansai Gakuin University in 2019.

On behalf of the students at OIS, thanks for making a difference and best wishes for your next adventure.

*from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM*

With the weather warming up, the IB Diploma exams finished, and graduation just around the corner, it seems like the school year is winding down. However, there is still a lot left to do before we break for the summer.

Besides classwork, the big focus at school is on the Festival which will take place this Saturday. Saturday is considered a school day for students and they are expected to be in their homerooms at 8:30. The students have been working hard to prepare their booths and I hope that you will be able to come and spend some time here.

In addition to that, the grade 11 has been busy preparing for graduation. There is a long tradition at this school of the grade 11 hosting the graduation ceremony for the seniors. They set up the pre-reception for the graduates and their families, they organize the actual ceremony in the theater and they, along with their parents host the party in the courtyard that follows. It is a lot and I would like to thank them in advance for all of their work. I also would like to thank the grade 11 parents for the work they are doing to prepare and supply all of the food that will be available at the after party. Their time and effort really does make it memorable for the graduates and their families.

In addition to graduation, there are many other events on the horizon. Please keep an eye on your school calendar and SOISmail for information on end of year concerts, art exhibits, parent information sessions, the PTA farewell party, etc. The best way to keep up to date on these events is through SOISmail. If you don't check it regularly or have it set up to forward to an account you do check often than you may be missing out! Contact the school for help getting it working. Upcoming events are also advertised on the front page of our website, where you can also find links to our social media channels; just go to [www.senri.ed.jp/en](http://www.senri.ed.jp/en)

**School Calendar****May**

- 26 School Festival & PYP Music Concert
- 30 Grade 10 Visits Kwansei Gakuin University

**June**

- 1 Two Schools in Harmony Concert @Uegahara
- 2 SAT Subject Test - SOIS Prom
- 4 MS Student Council Elections
- 5 HS Athletic Awards Ceremony & Banquet
- 7 PYP Student-Led Conferences (ES no classes)
- 8 High School Graduation 6:45 PM
- 13 PTA Monthly Meeting
- 13 MS/HS Spring Bands Concert 4:00 PM
- 13-15 Grade 11 Mock Exams
- 14 MS/HS Spring Strings & Chorus Concert 4:00 PM
- 18-23 World Scholar's Cup Kuala Lumpur
- 29 End of School Year (11:30 dismissal)


**August**


- 28 Fall Trimester Begins (MS/HS)
- 29 Fall Trimester Begins (ES)


**K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu: June**


- |    |     |   |
|----|-----|---|
| 1  | Fri | fried chicken   |
| 4  | Mon | deep-fried pork stuffed with cheese                       |
| 5  | Tue | pork cutlet   |
| 6  | Wed | hamburger steak   |
| 7  | Thu | baked salmon with cheese                                  |
| 8  | Fri | kitsune udon - wheat noodles in soup with fried bean curd |
| 11 | Mon | chicken cutlet topped with cornflakes                     |
| 12 | Tue | chicken & egg rice bowl                                   |
| 13 | Wed | pork broth ramen  |
| 14 | Thu | cheeseburger  |
| 15 | Fri | hashed beef and rice                                      |
| 18 | Mon | chicken cutlet  |
| 19 | Tue | curry and rice  |
| 20 | Wed | ramen noodles in miso soup                                |
| 21 | Thu | fried chicken bowl  |
| 22 | Fri | minced meat cutlet  |
| 25 | Mon | cheese omelet with meat sauce                             |
| 26 | Tue | fried chicken   |
| 27 | Wed | ramen noodles with gyoza dumpling                         |
| 28 | Thu | pork cutlet sandwich                                      |
| 29 | Fri | fried fish fillet topped with cornflakes                  |

Upcoming and recent events:

  
SOIS School Festival  
May 26


  
SIS Mini Open Campus  
June 2


  
Sabers Sports Awards  
June 5


  
OIS HS Graduation Ceremony  
June 8


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See the latest news on our social media channels:

  
OIS in brief

  
SIS in brief

  
SOIS Instagram stories

  
SOIS Videos

## OIS PYP Creativity Day

All of the PYP faculty, both homeroom teachers and specialists, collaborated to make Creativity Day (March 16) a special one for our students. "Creative" is in our mission statement and the PYP students took advantage of the SOIS middle school and high school students being away from campus.

There were many teachers and parents who put in extra time to make the event special. Thanks to the guests from the Minpaku Museum who helped the students find creativity in mini gardens, cooking, dancing and sound and music, engineering and building, language and words. Part of the goal of the day was to find connections with the June Art Show, with the theme, "Our Creative World". It was a meaningful and fun day.

by: Jennifer Henbest, ES Art Teacher



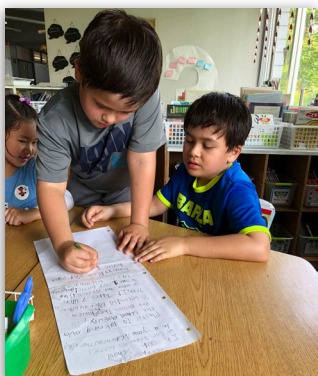
## Plastic Is Taking Over the School

### At SOIS we use 30,000 pet bottles a year!

*(You read that right.)*

Plastic is taking over the school, especially pet bottles. The problem is becoming bigger and bigger each year.

- It takes about 3 litres of water and a lot of oil to make one pet bottle! The amount of water to make 30,000 pet bottles is 90,000 litres of water. Pet bottles can take more than 450 years to decompose. Most of the money when you buy a pet bottle goes to making the pet bottle.
- Plastic is causing many deaths to creatures. Plastic breaks down into microplastics. When plastic breaks down, small fish think it is food. Fish eat plastic and we eat fish. Would you like plastic for dinner? Sea animals think plastic is food so they eat it and starve to death. Some animals get caught in plastic and then die.



The solutions are as follows:

1. Don't buy pet bottles.
2. Bring your own water bottle.
3. Drink from a water fountain.
4. Reduce single-use plastic.
5. Rethink your purchases and refuse what you can.
6. Take care of the earth!



By Grade 1 students Miyu Arimitsu, Mir Lee, James Robertson and John Robertson. The Grade 1 students collaborated with OIS grade 12 student, Elena Benfield who did a study of the vending machines in our school.

*Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL*

The first half of this trimester has been a period of active learning in the PYP. G5 presented a very polished exhibition and demonstrated to over 150 visitors an impressive range of skills. Events such as Osaka Olympics and Earth Week have enabled us to get outdoors and be active. Amongst the after-school activities this trimester I am pleased to see that two are led by students. G6 student Ethan Jones is running his very popular swim club again enabling swimmers to extend their skills and stamina. Yolyn Yan from G2 is running the new PYP Unicorn Newspaper. The front page of their first edition is printed here so you can read about the news in elementary from the perspective of the student reporters.

News of events coming up soon: Thursday 7 June will be student led conferences. This is the highlight of our PYP year when each student explains their learning to their family. Please ensure you come with plenty time to spend trying out the activities your child will share. In preparation for this event, **on Thursday 31 May at 14:40 in the G4 classroom I will lead a parent workshop** to help you make the most of your child's conference. I look forward to seeing many parents there.



# The PYP UNICORN

Editor Yolyn Yan

Read and  
Discover

## Henkel Helps the World

On April 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 some workers from a company called Henkel came to talk about the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

They also showed a weird video that the earth is living on the earth with humans!

G1, G2 and G3 watched it and talked about it. We colored some pictures of homes showing sustainability. Last they gave presents of shampoos, conditioner and glue sticks.

Reported by Mizusa & Lisa

## Learning in Nature

104 students from KA to G5 went to Kita Senri Koen on 19 April and met nature. We all went to learn and see a lot of trees and birds. G3 had a music class. We made our own music with castanets. Mr Ligon wanted us to hear the noise of nature like different kinds of birds and the bamboo moving. G3 and G4 had art when we also found out we can make colors with natural materials like soil, little flowers, sticky grasses and two different muds – light brown and dark brown. We used them as part of our waterfall landscape project.

Reported by Celina and Angelina

## How The World Is Happening Now

We had Earth Week from 16-20 April and did lots of activities to help us learn about and appreciate nature.

The Actioneers organized a competition. We were collecting garbage from our lunches and snacks and the class who had the least trash wins. Guess who was the winner?

1<sup>st</sup> G1 with only 70g of trash

2<sup>nd</sup> KB and G4 with 100g of trash

3<sup>rd</sup> KA and G5 with 500g of trash

4<sup>th</sup> G2 with 700g of trash

G3 were unable to give in their bag.

Although G2 had a lot of trash most of it was banana peels which can be composted.

G1 had No Power Hour the whole day except for Japanese class.

In G4 some people used paper dividers in their lunch boxes but we noticed that it is better to use rubber, washable dividers. There was also a project called White Elephant. We brought in an object that we used to use, wrapped it in recycled paper then exchanged with others so we got something new.

Reported by Eikou, Aanya, Miyu and Yuuka

The winner of the unicorn logo contest was Yuuka Ogawa. This picture is chosen because it is realistic. It was a really hard choice. The Editor

## Greening The School

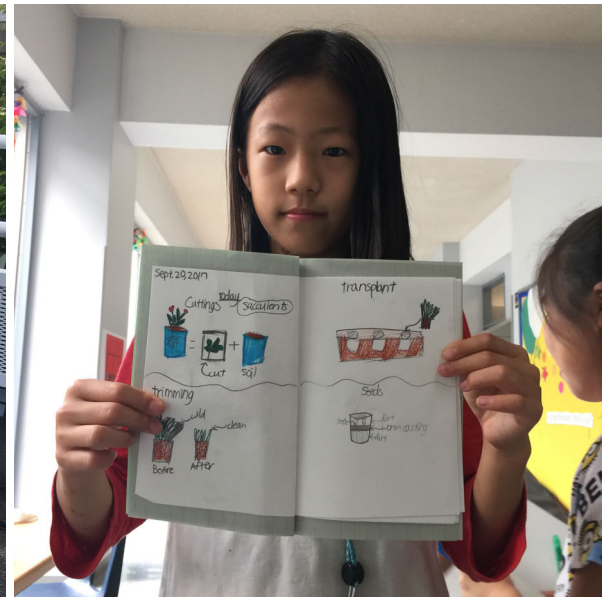
Art and gardening seems to have a connection to service and relaxation and helping our planet. Artists love beauty and feel the need to sit in nature and breathe clean air and to be around fresh flowers and bright green leaves. We love to see goldfish swim and feed our aquaponics goldfish tanks and see medaka dart under the water plants. The PYP unit "Sharing the Planet" focus on conservation of our precious home - Planet Earth. What better way to connect to creative thinking to the outside world by helping insects and fish, and learning about how plants grow. That is why we enjoy making an organic garden at school! We use real worm stings as fertilizer too.

Thanks to the energy of new teachers Ms. Rumble and Ms. Lewis and to parent volunteers Ms. Mizutani and Ms Bobrove we now have some great greening happening. PYP students led by Ms. Mori and MS and HS student service groups are also contributing to gardening at OIS.

Parents can donate plants, outdoor furniture or be a "water warrior" and join these gardening projects. We are especially looking for people with expertise in aquaponics. Contact Mrs. Henbest if you want to help. It is good for children to care for plants and animals. Grade 11 OIS student Ruo Yue Sun is leading a project adding planters to the white railings of the second floor balcony near the science department. The school architect envisioned plants in this area and it is nice that Rue Yue is making his vision a reality.

Here are some pictures from a variety of gardening activities this year in the art classroom, the garden club, the Ikebana club, out in nature, in our school garden, and with the student greening service at school.

By: Jennifer Henbest, ES Art Teacher



## SOIS Sabers Sports and Activities

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

#### **AISA Results - HS Swimming and Soccer**

The Sabers high school swimmers finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place behind Seoul International School and host Korea International School at the 2018 AISA swim meet in Seoul. Thank you, Coach Bertman and Coach Kano.

The Sabers boys soccer team competed in its season-ending AISA tournaments in Seoul and made it all the way to finals, falling just short to finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Thank you, Coach Entwistle and Coach Routh. Congratulations to all-tournament team members: Neo Yokoyama, Keigo Igarashi, Liel Tanaka, Evan Tsubaki, and Leo Sakamoto.

The Sabers girls soccer team completed a strong season by capturing the 2018 AISA championship in dominating fashion, outscoring opponents 15-2 over 4 matches in Yokohama. Thank you, Coach Frater, Coach Kono, and chaperone Ms. Deklinski. Congratulations to all-tournament team members: Ami Eldridge, Elena Benfield, Airi Sano, and Yulia Ikumi.

#### **WJAA Results: HS Softball & Baseball**

Two SOIS high school softball teams ("black" and "white") competed in the WJAA tournament last weekend, May 18-19, at Marist Brothers in Kobe. The black team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and the white team finished 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Coach Hirai and Coach Hikosaka. Congratulations to the Sabers all-tournament team members: Yulia Ikumi (black) and Kikka Okuda (white).

The high school boys baseball team captured its 5<sup>th</sup> WJAA championship in a row May 18-19, in Nagoya. Thank you, Coach Sagara and Coach Algie. Congratulations to the Sabers all-tournament team members: Keita Sasaki and Tye Gazzard.

#### **WJAA Results: MS Softball & Boys Volleyball**

The SOIS middle school softball teams traveled to Canadian Academy in Kobe, May 11-12, for the WJAA tournament, with the Sabers A and B teams finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each division. Thank you, Coach Ogawa and Coach Yamane.

SOIS hosted the [WJAA middle school boys volleyball tournament](#) here in the Sabers gym, May 11-12. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, both the A and B teams captured the championship in their respective divisions. Thank you, Coach Sugishita (A team) and Coach Routh (B team). Special mention to Coach Routh who led the B team to its 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive title, a fitting end to Coach Routh's Sabers coaching career before he moves on to China.



*MS Boys Volleyball: WJAA champions for three years in a row*

#### **Table Tennis**

The Sabers high school and middle school table tennis teams do not get as much recognition as other teams, but thanks to Coach Takahashi and Coach Matsushima, the two teams are popular and going strong. The teams play in a season-ending competition at Nakayama-Satsukidai Junior High School in Takarazuka City on Sunday, May 27. Good luck, Sabers table tennis players.

#### **Final MS season**

After the school festival, the final sports season for middle school begins: badminton. Practices are held Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, beginning May 29. Bring your own racquet. No Saturday competitions; just fun intrasquad matches in the gym. Thank you, Coach Minakuchi and Coach Mishima.

#### **One more big Sabers event**

On Tuesday, June 5, we hold our annual [Sabers high school athletic awards celebration](#). At 4:00pm in the theater we recognize all teams with photos of the seasons and announcements of most valuable players and most improved players for each team. From 5:30pm, we enjoy a light meal in the cafeteria, where we announce two major awards: the Dr. Fukuda Award to the top SOIS scholar-athlete, both male and female; and the Outstanding Athlete of the Year Award to the best all-around Sabers athlete, both male and female. This is a fun, important event that celebrates all of the many positive aspects of the Sabers athletics program. We encourage all Sabers athletes, fans, and family to attend.

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.

#### **Sabers Website:**

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

#### **Sabers Facebook page:**

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

## Cultures of Service Conference



### *MYP Service Coordinator, Sarah Wakefield*

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of May, staff and students from six Kansai area international schools, as well as Yokohama International School, came together for a student centered service learning conference hosted by Kyoto International School. The “Cultures of Service” conference was focused specifically on the student’s perspective. The goal was to give them the opportunity to see how other schools encourage service activities, create a student service network between our Kansai schools, and make collaborative partnerships to help student leaders overcome the challenges that arise. Our school was represented by high school students Pansy Pan, Sho Sakura & Noah Izumi as well as MYP (S&A) and DP (CAS) service coordinators Ms. Wakefield and Mr. Myers.

The day started with introductions followed by an opportunity to visit booths that shared each school’s current service activities, and how service is managed at their school. With six schools in attendance it was easy

to interact with students from each school and make good use of the time to ask questions about topics of interest. Later we broke into small groups and students shared challenges they face at their school, and later teachers and students had an opportunity to brainstorm ways of overcoming those challenges.

Since we happened to be visiting on a day when two regular service activities at KIS take place, we were able to spend part of the day joining students with their activity. Some of our group went to an elder day care center to make Mother’s Day Cards while the rest of us helped to clean up a nearby river walkway.

Upon our return we formed mixed groups and brainstormed what we want to accomplish when we return, how we can support each other, and how to grow and expand the recently formed Japan Service Learning Network. All members agreed that we are interested in having both student and teacher conferences again next year. Now individuals and groups will begin to plan for school year 2018-2019 opportunities for connections.

# World Scholar's Cup: A Celebration of Learning

Over 50 SOIS middle school and high school students competed in the Kansai Round May 5-6 hosted by the Doshisha International Junior and Senior High School. There were over 200 students competing in debate, writing, and knowledge bowl events. Many of our students qualified for the Global Round taking place June 18-23 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. WSC always inspires students to learn more and make friends.

SOIS swept the overall team awards with all top three places, and two students won the overall top scholar awards, including OIS grade 10 students Tyus Sheriff. Congratulations to the group and good luck in the global round.

### Seniors Category Teams

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Skye Inada, Minami Matsushima, Tyus Sheriff
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Emily Yoo, Sana Konishi-Atwood, Malka Bobrove
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Owen Kralovec, Curtis Noguchi, Kaiyo Freyder

### Juniors Category Teams

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Koki Ogawa, Satone Fujiwara, Yuka Childers (all SIS)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rena Kawasaki, Genny Hwang, Ayana Nakamae
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Lee Jun Foo, Own Mecklem, Tadayoshi Kamegai

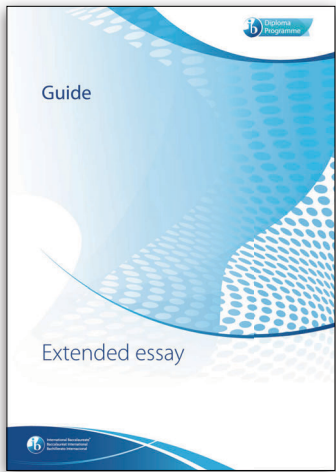


## Extended Essay Cafe

**What:** The Grade 11 students will present the findings of their Extended Essay research to the school community. All parents, students and teachers are invited to attend and will have the opportunity to ask questions. The Extended Essay is a 4,000-word, university level research paper that is mandatory of all International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students. It gives students the opportunity to conduct independent research in a topic of interest.

**When:** Friday, June 22, 3:45 - 5:00 PM

**Where:** Third Floor Conference Room



## Important Numbers

Bill Kralovec, head  
072-727-5080  
bkralovec@senri.ed.jp

Kurt Mecklem,  
MS/HS principal/  
IBMYP coordinator  
072-727-5050  
kmecklem@senri.ed.jp

Carolyne Marshall,  
ES principal /  
IBPYP coordinator  
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

Melissa Lamug,  
counselor  
072-727-5061  
mlamug@senri.ed.jp

Peter Heimer,  
activities director  
072-727-2137  
pheimer@senri.ed.jp

Miyoshi Iwata, school nurse  
072-727-5050  
miwata@senri.ed.jp

Student attendance  
072-727-2305