

SOIS Educator

OCTOBER 21, 2017



SOIS Sports Day

Elementary School Sports Day article on page 3

Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC

In the spring trimester of 2017, we conducted an extensive survey of OIS parents. Over 90 parents responded to 19 questions gauging agreement on a scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Parents could also comment on any of the questions, including three short answer questions at the end of the survey.

The average positive response (strongly agree or agree) was 75% and negative response (disagree or strongly disagree) was 13%. The highest percentage positive responses were questions about teachers caring for students and the level of communication between home and school, both with an 89% positive response rate. The highest strongly negative response came from the cafeteria, with 46% of parents unhappy with the food services.

The statement, "The Two Schools Together concept is important to me" received a 24% negative response rate. The leadership team and faculty

got the message that more information regarding the benefits and challenges of our relationship with the Senri International School needs to be discussed and promoted in our community.

Two of the response choices that were "I would like more information so I could form an opinion" and "This area is not relevant to my education." We heard loud and clear from the responses from parents that they would like to know more about the role of the Kwansei Gakuin foundation in supporting OIS. We also will consider how to raise the profile of our counseling, English as an Additional Language and Learning Support programs.

The International Baccalaureate curriculum and its commitment to international-mindedness and the Western humanist approach to education was the top reason for families choosing OIS. The family feel and strong connections between students, parents and teachers was also highly valued. When questioned about how OIS can improve, the suggestions were varied, ranging

from upgrading the facilities to improving the food service.

The faculty and leadership team are analyzing and reflecting upon the results. The survey is part of our WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) self-study in anticipation of the accreditation visit in February 2018. Students and teachers also completed surveys and the goal of all of the surveys is to understand how stakeholders view teaching and learning at OIS. Ultimately, we hope to improve student learning and increase well-being for all community members. By reflecting on feedback from many members of our community, we can make improvements.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time and effort to complete a survey. The data helps us immensely in where we should be focusing our energy for the next several years.

Informed, caring and creative individuals contributing to global community.

Views from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

Sports Day, progress reports, volleyball and baseball tournaments, a college workshop, MAP testing, PSAT and not to mention, classes, a lot has happened since the last *Educator* came out. The school year is in full swing now. You should have received a message in your SOISMail account regarding the recent posting of progress reports in ManageBac. The progress report is meant to give you an indication of how your child has started the school year, whether or not they are developing good habits and what they can do to improve. If you didn't receive the message about the progress report then you will need to make sure your SOISMail account is working. As most of our correspondence with home goes through SOISMail, it is important that you get it up and running.

You don't need to have received the email to log into ManageBac. The URL to log in is <https://osakais.managebac.com/login>. Once there, you can click on the "reports" tab to see all of the reports your child has received since we started using ManageBac. You will also find out a lot of other information about your child's progress in their classes. We haven't been using ManageBac that long but this year we are making a concerted effort to make it a bigger part of our communication with parents. Teachers are posting assessment descriptions and results when they have finished checking assignments. Mr. Frater and I did a brief orientation to ManageBac at Back to School Night but if you weren't able to come to that we can arrange another session. Please contact me if you are interested in another session or if you are having trouble logging in to ManageBac.

As we complete this second month of school, here are some other things to keep in mind. On Tuesday, October

24, we will have Kool Sounds @ Kita Senri where many of our music students will perform for the general public. Look for more information in these pages. Next Friday, October 27 is a half day of school. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 and the bus will leave at 11:45. The cafeteria will not be open. The teachers from both schools will be meeting in the afternoon. Friday, November 3 is a holiday so we will not have school. And, don't forget to mark your calendars for middle and high school parent teacher conferences on November 21.

Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

Building a community of learners has continued apace in the elementary school of OIS. As all classes except KA have reached the conclusion of their first units of inquiry, working together collaboratively has been the cornerstone of their learning.

The International Baccalaureate introduced its primary years programme in 1997 and so this year the PYP is twenty years old. However, the programme has not remained static for those twenty years. As the number of PYP schools has grown globally and research into student learning has developed, the curriculum has been regularly revised. A new enhanced version of the PYP curriculum is now being introduced and, while collaboration has always been the foundation for learning in PYP schools, these latest changes increase the focus on making the students the centre of the learning process. This means that students have an even more active role in the development of the curriculum.

To inspire student thinking, teachers often start a unit of inquiry with a provocation. For example in grade 1, the students came into their class to find Mrs Mecklem lying on the floor saying she felt too tired to do anything. This helped the students to discuss together the reasons for her

exhaustion and to brainstorm ways in which they could help her feel better.

Throughout their inquiries, the students are given many opportunities to share their ideas which enables them to hear those of others and to build on these to create a more effective plan or solution to that which they would have created individually. To achieve this, the teacher helps the students to build communication skills so that they are both active listeners and speakers. KA used the ideas gathered from a class discussion about where they each came from to paint a worldwide map showing their family origins. Such a map has not been created in KA in previous years, but shows how this particular class of students wanted to share their group learning in a visual form and it has increased their geographical knowledge as well as their knowledge of one another.

During KB's first unit of inquiry, the students plan a menu to show their understanding of who we are. They then cook and present to their parents. Each year this social meal turns out differently due to the different input of that year's students.

Collaboration can also occur at the end of a unit and helps students to reflect on the application of their skills. For example, grade 3 shared their oral and visual presentations about role models with their parents and teachers. The feedback they received about how effective they were as communicators will enable them to develop these skills further in subsequent units.

Similarly, grade 4 displayed their musical and artistic creations in a gallery format to all the elementary classes and visiting parents. This multimedia approach enabled their guests to see the images and hear the music in new ways as each complemented the other. In this way, the students visiting the gallery were inspired to think and their responses fed back into grade 4's understanding of what they had achieved.

Continued

As classes explored their first units, collaboration with visiting experts also proved beneficial. This year, grades 4 and 5 were fortunate enough to work with Ayaka Tanimoto, a professional opera singer and OIS alumnus. Ayaka helped the students develop their vocal skills in a music class. Parents too have contributed their knowledge in the grade 2 art class, helping students to build their sewing skills. There have also been links across the two schools, as grade 3 have shared ideas about children's literature with SIS high-school students, and grade 5 have learned about design and display from two grade-12 students.

Large school events such as sports day also involve collaboration as the

students enjoy field activities in teams made up of different grade levels, and middle school students help to organize and run the events. Feedback from teachers and students helps develop activities for the next year.

The collaboration that goes on in the classrooms is planned by the teachers who meet each week to share ideas and respond to student needs. Together, teachers develop the units as they are taught each year. This trimester, many elementary teachers are also attending PYP workshops where they are collaborating with teachers from other PYP schools and extending their knowledge. This knowledge is then shared with our elementary team to create change

and to ensure the curriculum is dynamic. Units also evolve through the input of each year's cohort of students, and planning refines learning experiences. Thus, student input, whether in direct or indirect form, ensures that the curriculum is never static and develops each year for the benefit of all. Teachers and parents need to be responsive to the students' interests to help them extend their learning. If we notice what our children are interested in, we can seize these experiences as opportunities for learning. Then, as students share their learning, the audience learns too and we build a vibrant community of learners.

Elementary Sports Day *by Leanne Entwistle, ES Physical Education Specialist*

The 2017 Elementary Sports Day was another successful event this year. The students had great fun working together in their teams. The grade 3, 4 and 5 students swam in the pool first, working together to save as many team members as possible, crossing the "poisoned pool" on bottomless boats, then herding little flamingos across the pool and finishing off with the Sunken Treasure. The Big Splash was very exciting and congratulations to Yuito Yanagi Grade 5 and Mary Wang Grade 4 for becoming this year's champions. The Kinder and Grade 1 and 2's 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 to carry huge balls along the gym and use

their eye hand co-ordination to move the balloons around the course.

All groups came together on the field for some wonderful team work activities; throwing frisbees, kicking soccer balls, hippity hopping and hurdling and guiding each other through the obstacle course.

A huge thank you to the middle school and high school student volunteers for helping with each activity and to the parent volunteers who helped with each team. Of course, also to the wonderful elementary faculty who guided their teams enthusiastically and expertly. A huge thank you too, to the P.E. faculty who were instrumental in helping to run the day.



OIS Students Delight the NHK Hall Audience

For the second year, OIS students provided some light-hearted moments in the performance October 2 at NHK Hall in downtown Osaka. Elementary and middle school students played the role of birds from around the world to help the water fairy clean the canals, rivers, and bays of Osaka in the Noh play, "The Fairy of the Water". Noh is an ancient form of Japanese theatre and actors from the Yamamoto Noh Theatre company trained the students in the art form. The students even got the chance to speak, several of them boasting of the beautiful waterways of their home countries in their mother tongues.

The play was backed by the Kansai Philharmonic, which played pieces of music with a water-theme, including Strauss's The Blue Danube. The theme of the evening was East Meets West and that certainly was the case with European classical music juxtaposed with Noh theatre.



The students designed their own costumes, learned about make up and dance and performed in front of crowd of 1,400 people. The evening performance kicked off the Osaka Beyond 2020 campaign, sponsored by the Osaka city government. The goal is to promote international relations and the fine arts in anticipation of the Tokyo 2020 summer Olympics.

We appreciate the efforts of the Yamamoto Noh Theatre company, OIS parent Chizuko Bobrove and everyone at OIS that made the activity a success.

K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

October

23	Mon	miso ramen noodle soup
24	Tue	fried fish
25	Wed	chicken cutlet with tomato sauce
26	Thu	pork cutlet sandwich
30	Mon	hamburger in stew
31	Tue	fried chicken

November

1	Wed	fried pork stuffed with cheese
2	Thu	rice omelet with brown sauce
6	Mon	milanaise chicken cutlet
7	Tue	spaghetti carbonara
8	Wed	ramen in soy sauce based soup
9	Thu	curry & rice
10	Fri	kitsune udon - wheat noodles in soup with fried bean curd
13	Mon	plate of assorted fried food
14	Tue	hamburger steak with cheese
15	Wed	pork bone broth ramen
16	Thu	pork-cutlet sandwich
17	Fri	fried fish

KOOL SOUNDS @ KITA SENRI

クールサウンズ @北千里

10月24日 (火)
Tues, Oct 24
4:00-5:30

関西学院千里国際中等部・高等部
関西学院大阪インターナショナルスクール
の生徒がお届けするワールドミュージックを
お楽しみください。

**Students sing and play world music.
Please enjoy!**

Presented by
Kwansei Gakuin Senri International School
Kwansei Gakuin Osaka International School

Library News - October/November

Sarah Wakefield, Librarian



Book Week

Our annual Book Week celebration is happening the week of October 30-November 2nd. The Theme this year is "Reading Opens Up Your World." We have some wonderful events planned throughout the week to celebrate books, reading and all that it adds to your life.

First we would like to invite you to the kick off. Monday at 8:40-9:10 we are inviting parents to come and read in the classroom with their child. Please feel welcome to bring a book in your home language to share with your child if possible. We want to foster the importance of speaking and reading in students' home languages. [This link](#) has some great tips on reading a book with your child.

Students will be involved in a variety of activities including:

- DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)
- A Book Character Parade on Wednesday morning
- a Read-a-thon to raise money for home language books in the library
- special activities and "Camp Read-a-lot," guest readers, etc.



We also hope this can be a time when you make personal connections with your child or children and literacy.

Monday 30 October	Tuesday 31 October	Wednesday 1 November	Thursday 2 November
8:40-9:10		8:40-9:30	
Book Week Kick-off Parents please join your child in their class for some quality reading time. If you have books in your home language, please feel free to bring those to read at this time.	Drop Everything And Read! Guest readers visiting classes	Book Character Parade! Students and staff are welcome to dress in their favorite book character for the morning. We will meet to sing "All About those Books" in the small gym and then "parade" all the way down to the courtyard in our costumes. Parents please feel free to join us for the parade!	Camp Read-a-lot Classes will be able to go to the 3rd floor conference room where we will have a special reading camp set up for all students to enjoy reading in a comfy place.



Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER

Sabers Website:

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

Sabers Athletics Facebook page:

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

Recent events

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

- hosting – and winning! – the [WJAA HS JV girls volleyball tournament](#);
- participating in the WJAA volleyball championship tournaments: boys 2nd in Kyoto, girls 3rd in Nagoya.
- placing 3rd (A team) and 2nd (B team) in the MS girls volleyball season-ending WJAA tournament, with SIS 8th grader Ayumi Oka as the A team MVP and OIS 7th grader Nanako Kashiwagi as the B team MVP
- capping off a yet another great MS baseball season by winning the WJAA tournament, both A and B divisions, with SIS 8th grader Mao Higuchi as the A team MVP and SIS 8th grader Yuku Miyamoto as the B team MVP.

Congratulations to all Sabers student-athletes and coaches.

Sabers Sign Up

Once a year – and only once – each Sabers athlete 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.

New middle school seasons begin

Practices Tuesday and Thursdays, games on Saturdays.

[Schedules online](#)

- Swimming coaches: Kevin Bertman, Shigemi Kano
- Girls soccer coaches: Stephen Frater, Allana Rumble
- Boys basketball coaches: Rodney Ray, Bill Kralovec
- Running coaches: Hisashi Munemasa, Tara Cheney
- MS boys basketball, girls soccer trip to Nagoya, October 28. [Information and permission form here](#).

New high school season begin

- Girls basketball coaches: Munetaka Sagara, Ryuhei Okamoto
- Boys basketball coaches: Peter Heimer, Michael Routh
- Running coaches: Hisashi Munemasa, Tara Cheney

AISA events: volleyball, 19–22 October

Congratulations and good luck to all Sabers selected to represent SOIS at the current Association of International Schools in Asia (AISA) events.

- cross country at Korea International School, Seoul
- girls volleyball at Yokohama International School
- boys volleyball here at SOIS:

<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/aisa-volleyball.html>

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.

School Calendar

October

- 24 Kool Sounds @Kita Senri
- 24-25 Yearbook Picture Day
- 26 Fall Music Recital
- 27 Faculty Forum
- Half Day of School*
- 28 Onohara Halloween
- 30-11/2 ES Book Week



November

- 2-3 IBDP Chemistry Lab IA
- 3 Culture Day - No School
- 4 SAT Subject Test
- 6 G10 Career Studies (LHR)
OIS HS Student Council Election
Ikebana for Everyone
- 8 PTA Monthly Meeting
- 10 IBDP Bio & Physics Lab IA
Digital Citizenship Parent Workshop
14:30-15:30
- 13 Asian Rural Institute Presentation
- 18 International Fair

*School buses/Cafeteria on 27 October



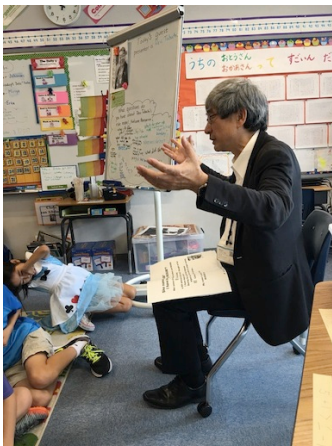
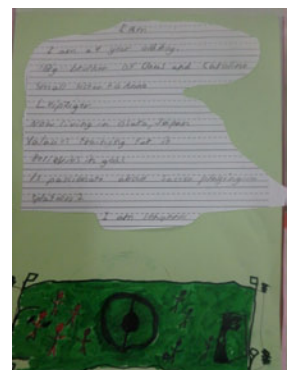
Please note the school buses will operate as usual in the morning but leave at 11:45am. Cafeteria will be closed.

The next *Educator* is scheduled to be published on 17 November.

Grade 3 Explores WHO WE ARE Through Personal Role Model Choices

Lora Vimont, Grade 3 Teacher

For the past six weeks, the Grade 3 class has endeavored to discover more about themselves and the impact that personal role models have in shaping their lives through our inquiry into WHO WE ARE and the central idea "Choices of role models reflect the beliefs and values of people."



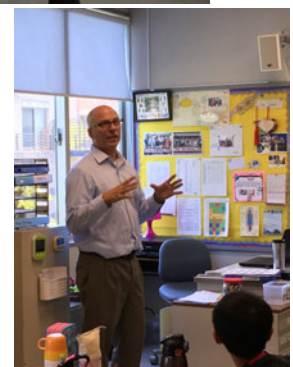
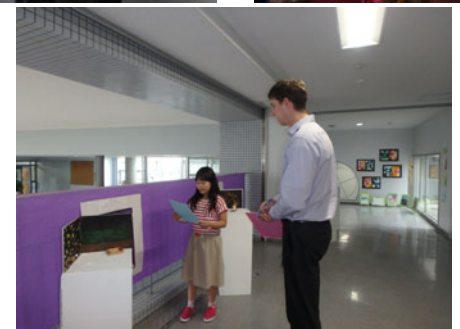
In order to help them gain a better understanding of the meaning of "role models," several faculty presenters came in to share stories about personal role models and the enduring impression that these people have made on their personal choices. In addition to this experience, students listened to and read the biographies of several famous people and were asked to

interview their parents about their personal role model choices before finally beginning their own inquiries.

After deciding upon 2 or 3 personal role models, students were invited to think of their own questions they had about these people and the ways they would go about researching to find the answers. It was interesting to see the variety of famous and not-so-famous choices of people the students said they looked up to as role models! For their research, they used books, websites and personal interviews.

After about a week of research, the students began the process of putting together what they learned by preparing individual speeches and "role model tree" posters in art class. On Thursday, October 12th, G3 parents were invited in to hear what their children learned about themselves through their inquiries including personal goals and realizations of beliefs and values that they have acquired from the influences of these special people in their lives. The students proved themselves to be effective COMMUNICATORS on this day through their sharing and ability to answer questions about their learning. A great time was had by all!

Many thanks to the teachers, administrators and parents who volunteered their time and talents to help us on our learning journey to discover WHO WE ARE in Grade 3!



SOIS International Fair 2017

November 18TH (Sat.) 10:00 - 15:00

OIS International Fair Committee

<https://sites.google.com/a/soismail.jp/2017-sois-international-fair/?pli>

★IF Orientation ★ (Booth, Entertainment, and Lip Sync)

Oct 19, Thu 12:30 - 13:30 (parents mainly)

15:45 - 16:45 (Students, school staff, and those invited)

Place: The conference room on the third floor

Entry fee (500 yen) for the performers will be collect at orientation.

▶ Volunteers

All volunteers are welcome to the International Fair. The yellow boxes on the attached spreadsheet highlight the jobs where we need volunteers. We would appreciate your time.

▶ Sports

Play interceptor, ultimate, and capture the tail.

- Who can apply?: It depends on the game
- Sign up: November 16th

▶ Eco (Plastic bottle caps)

Please take off all stickers on the caps and wash thoroughly.

- Receiving caps: Until November 16th
- Where to recycle: In front of the library

▶ Book Sale

Please donate used books, CD's, DVD's, game software, and board games. Any language is acceptable as long as they are in good condition.

- Receiving goods: Until November 16th
- Where to donate: In front of the library

▶ Bazaar

Please donate stuff you do not need (*the items must be NEW). Food needs to be within the expiration date. *No alcohol, cigarettes, or used clothing

- Receiving goods: Until November 16th
- Where to donate: In front of the library

Important Numbers

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