

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Joy to the World's annual trip to Hawaii

Joy to the World American International School will be running two summer programs this year — the Tokyo-based Summer Safari program, and its fourth annual Hawaii program.

For three weeks, starting July 26th, children will visit museums, restaurants, beaches, and shopping malls in Honolulu, as well as spend time with children at local kindergartens. While teachers take care of the children, parents can take some time out at the beaches, on the golf course, or go shopping. The program ends with a popular barbecue at Kapiolani Park near Diamond Head.

Principal Jerry Hanus, Hawaiian born-and-

raised and founder of the Hawaii program, says, "It is a great opportunity for children of all nationalities to explore a new culture and use English in a native English-speaking country, but most of all to experience a new environment."

In Tokyo, Joy to the World's four-week program allows children not enrolled in international schools to experience an international school atmosphere. The Summer Safari program includes outdoor water activities, games, songs, and crafts.

Visit <http://www.joytotheworld.info> or phone 03-5684-0247 for more information.



Joy to the World students enjoying a visit to a fire station in Waikiki. JOY TO THE WORLD

English and Japanese summers at New International School

New International School will be holding their second annual summer program during the month of July, for children from the ages of 5 to 14. Children of any nationality are welcome to participate. The program is open to members of the wider community, as well as to their current students.

The schedule will be from 10am–2:30pm Monday through Friday, with a choice of a one-month program from July 5–30, or two-week programs from July 5–16 or 19–30.

School bus service will be available to routable locations, and an aftercare option until 4pm is also offered. Classes will consist of between five and

ten students. School uniform will not be required, but parents will be expected to provide a box lunch and drinks.

Like last summer, the teachers will plan a fun educational program, including reading, writing, maths, science, and music activities. Parents may choose a program conducted only in English, only in Japanese, or a program conducted in English with one Japanese class per day. On the final day there will be presentations, performances, and a picnic or potluck with the participating families.

Interested families are invited to check the website at <http://newinternationalschool.com> for registration information. — STEVEN PARR

Obento Obento Ureshiina! Itadakimasu!



Students enjoying lunch at PAL International School. PAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

PAL International School in Nishi-Azabu has started to incorporate more Japanese culture into its classrooms, including having children sing a Japanese song to show appreciation for their lunch.

Many of PAL's staff have had years of experience working in Japanese kindergartens, and now integrate traditional Japanese activities into PAL's multicultural environment.

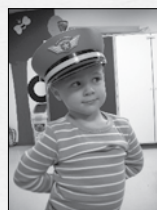
PAL International School's multicultural summer intensive program starts on June 21st and runs for eight weeks (except July 12–16 July). Full- or half-day sessions are available to children aged 12 months and upward. Hot lunches are provided three times per week. See <http://www.pal-school.com>.

Adventures at ABC

ABC International School in Moto-Azabu is expanding their summer school program this July to include an Extended Day Enrichment Program for children aged 15 months to 6 years.

Children will enjoy adventures through the solar system during "Outer Space" week, celebrate Japanese festivals and culture during "Wasshoi Wasshoi" week, and mix and measure at "Science Camp." The program's final week will be spent building sandcastles and finding seashells at the beach.

Contact Elizabeth Minahan by phoning 03-5793-1359, or emailing abcintl@gol.com. See <http://www.abcinternationalschool.com>.



"Captain" Sean Rose. ABC

A decade of summer schools at Treehouse Montessori

Treehouse Montessori School in Yokohama is celebrating its tenth summer school this year. Running for eight weeks from June 28th until August 20th, the summer program is divided into four themed sessions, each lasting two weeks, and can accommodate 20 children.

Head of School Jenny Vyvial says, "The highlight of our summer school is when we set up a huge pool in our backyard where children can splash and have great fun playing in the water." See <http://www.tms-school.com> for more information.

and celebrate their successes?

And for grandparents back home who aren't on Facebook or Twitter, here's something I'm sure they'd love to receive the old-fashioned way!

I look forward to seeing your child or school appear within these pages, and welcome your feedback. Enjoy! — Caroline Pover, Publisher

About Japan School News

For two years, I've immersed myself in the international school community, and discovered interesting people, places, and projects that can now be shared with you through JSN. You may even find stories of my school visits in these pages.

Reminiscent of newsletters from the school days of the parents' of today's generation, JSN is

intended to be a little bit nostalgic in its look and feel, and to focus on individual and school news and achievements.

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of the doom and gloom I hear about in other news. What better way to regain a bit of faith in the future than to look at the smiling faces of the next generation

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

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MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

<http://www.japanschoolnews.com>

Invention Convention at Nagoya International School



The Grade 5 inventors from Nagoya International School pose after their day-long Invention Convention. Creating an invention was the culminating task for the students' technology unit in the elementary school's Primary Years Program. NAGOYA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

An array of original inventions made by fifth graders at Nagoya International School were displayed at their annual Invention Convention in March, sponsored by Raytheon. Invented items included an automatic shelf, a homework reminder, and a portable desk.

The inventions were borne from a six-week technology unit within the school's elementary program. Grade 5 students were immersed in a review of technology and its effect on societies, and kept track of their thoughts and ideas in an Invention Journal and an Idea Book. Although students would sometimes grow frustrated by their lack of ideas, teachers reminded them of Albert Einstein's spontaneous thinking and diligent note-taking, Alexander Graham Bell's

persistence, and Bill Gates' combination of both.

Students persisted until they found an idea, formulated a product, then built and tested it. They then spent Convention Day explaining their invention to teachers, parents, and other students.

The Grade 5 teachers have grown to love this annual project because of the wide variety of disciplines that are drawn upon. "Creating an invention is the perfect learning tool!" said one of the two Grade 5 teachers. During his speech at the opening ceremony, the other Grade 5 teacher said, "Creating an invention challenges you like no other task in school! Every student in this room can add 'inventor' to their profile!" — BRIAN WEBB

Annual conference for preschools

Tokyo Association of International Preschools held its annual conference on Saturday, March 13, hosted by the International School of the Sacred Heart.

TAIP presented a full-day program with a choice of two workshops in the morning. Robert Skinner, Head of the ESL Program at Columbia International School in Saitama, presented on "Differentiated Vocabulary Instruction," and Mayumi Murata and Joei Lau from Right Brain Research, Inc. taught participants how to tap into

their imaginations and creativity through art.

During the afternoon, Diane W. Frankenstein, author of *Reading Together: Everything You Need to Know to Raise a Child Who Loves to Read*, shared her thoughts on raising children who love to read. Ms. Frankenstein is an educational consultant and lecturer based in San Francisco, and she visited Japan especially to speak to TAIP conference participants.

For more information about TAIP's activities, go to <http://www.tokyopreschools.org>.

Scholar-in-Residence Program Launched by ASIJ

Alan Gratz, who took the world of young adult literature by storm with his first published book, *Samurai Shortstop*, is currently in the middle of his six-week residency as ASIJ's first Scholar-in-Residence.

A Tennessee native who began his professional life as an eighth grade English teacher, Gratz is visiting ASIJ to work with all grade levels in the Middle School, with a focus on seventh grade language arts and social studies. Introducing students to the writing process — researching, outlining, plot and character development, critiquing, and revision — Gratz is guiding them toward producing a short story anthology of historical fiction. With sixth graders, he's working on short story writing, and with eighth graders, on writing one-act plays.

On the last day of Gratz's stay, the Middle School student body will gather in the Ricketson Theater for a "writing celebration," a multimedia presentation featuring highlights of his time at ASIJ.

Samurai Shortstop was named one of the American Library Association's 2007 Top Ten Books for Young Adults. His second novel, *Something Rotten*, was a 2008 ALA Quick Pick for Young Adult Readers. Gratz has two other novels currently on bookstore shelves — *Something Wicked* (2008) and *The Brooklyn Nine* (2009), with three more under contract. Gratz has also written plays, magazine articles, and, occasionally, for TV.

Alan Gratz's work at ASIJ was funded through the generosity of the 2008–09 Annual Fund and the Chofu PTA. The next Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Robin Bradbeer of the City University of Hong Kong, will mentor robotics students in the fall of 2010. — MATT WILCE



Scholar-in-Residence author Alan Gratz works with students on historical fiction at ASIJ. DAN SMITH/ASIJ

Cherry Blossom Fair at TIS

Despite forecasts of snow, Tokyo International School held its Cherry Blossom Fair on Saturday, April 17. Visitors were welcomed free of charge to an all-day celebration of music, performance, arts, and games. Entertainment included songs from the TIS choir, a performance by school musicians, hula hooping, a magic show, taiko, gymnastics, and calligraphy.

With ball games, water games, face painting, nail art, and a climbing wall, there was plenty to keep the children occupied.

The food stalls allowed adults and children alike to sample delicious dishes from around the world, and the bazaar stalls offered special household items at bargain prices.

Sponsors such as United Airlines, Hilton, Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, Conrad Tokyo, Mikoya Kosho Co. Ltd., Coach Japan Inc., Coca Cola, Kagome, Ken Corporation, and Aramo Overseas Company B.V. generously donated prizes for the Grand Raffle.



Grade 3 students Hana Perkins and Carolina Martinsen after face painting at Tokyo International School's Cherry Blossom Fair on April 17. TOKYO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Tokyo schools support children in South Africa

Friends of Child Protection (FCP), a non-profit organization based in South Africa, are holding their second annual contest for schools in Tokyo.

FCP was established in 2002 and has since assisted over 40,000 children who have been affected by political, economic, and HIV-AIDS-related issues in South Africa, where a serious crime is committed against a child every six minutes. FCP provides children with comfort packs and food parcels, and supports organizations within the Child Protection System.

The 15 schools participating in the contest ask students to draw a picture or write a story about how they would change something in the world to help those less fortunate. A donation of ¥1,000 per entry is encouraged.

For more information see <http://www.friendsofchildprotection.com>.

Kspace celebrates ten years in the international community

Over the last five years, Kspace International School in Shiroganedai, has become increasingly involved in charity work and support for children across the world. Working together with the Room to Read Foundation, the Kspace community raised enough money to build two entire schools in Sri Lanka, and to purchase thousands of schoolbooks.

Most recently, Kspace enjoyed a friendly union with other Tokyo schools to raise money for The Philippine Christian Foundation. Once again the success of this project has led to hope for hundreds of children living in extreme poverty.

Kspace International wishes to thank the international community for their support during a decade of continuous growth, expansion, support, and alliance with expatriate and local families. The school will be celebrating their tenth

anniversary with many new projects, kicking off this summer with the launch of a showcase of teacher talent directed at a wider Tokyo audience. Kspace proudly presents "Jack & the Beanstalk" — with a twist. Kspace founder Juliet Rogove said, "Our production of this amazing puppet show has wowed hundreds of participants already, and viewers are guaranteed to leave singing one of the catchy songs." The play is designed to be a feast for the senses, and the interactive nature of the plot allows children to join in with the handcrafted puppets. Multimedia visuals display a backdrop for a humorous and enthralling plot.

Jack and the Beanstalk will be showing on Friday, June 4, with 50% of all ticket sales going to charity. More details are available on the Kspace website at <http://www.kspace.to>. Contact Kspace on 03-3446-3478 or email juliet@kspace.to.

Japan School Jobs

Montessori Teacher, Yokohama

Treehouse Montessori School is looking for a qualified kindergarten teacher who holds a Montessori diploma and can work part-time or full-time. Prospective candidates should email a resume to Head of School Jenny Vyvial at jenny@tms-school.com.

Preschool Teacher, Moto-Azabu

ABC welcomes applicants with a teaching degree or at least one year's preschool teaching experience. The school will especially consider applicants with positive, energetic personalities and a genuine love for teaching children. Send resume with a brief introduction to abcintl@gol.com.

Japanese Language Teacher, Chiba

Makuhari International School is seeking a temporary Japanese language teacher to cover maternity leave from Sept. 2010 to Mar. 2011. Job description and details available on request. Send resume with letter of application to Paul Rogers at head@mis.ed.jp.

Makuhari's televised opening ceremony

Makuhari International School started its second academic year on April 5 amid much excitement and a television crew. Chiba TV filmed the school's opening ceremony, which welcomed an additional 50 students and several new teaching staff, including a full-time librarian and four kindergarten support teachers.

This month Makuhari introduces a new preschool group on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, so that young children can get used to a school environment. The school's Curriculum Evening on May 26 will allow parents to learn more about Makuhari's programs.

Those wanting to find out more about Makuhari International School will find next month's Open Day on June 24 useful. Head of School Paul Rogers said, "We are always happy to show new parents and children around our purpose-designed school — not only to show off our excellent facilities, but also our wonderful teaching staff."

Spring Festival at Gregg

Gregg International School in Jiyugaoka held its Spring Festival on April 25, from 11am–2:30pm. The event included games for the children, international cuisine, a raffle, a flea market, and a performance from a jazz band.

Kinder Kids opens new school in Nagoya



Children at Kinder Kids International. KINDER KIDS

The Kinder Kids International School franchise opened a new school on April 12, offering nursery and toddler classes in Nagoya. With 11 other schools throughout Japan, Kinder Kids offers an environment where non-English-speaking children with a Japanese parent can be immersed in English.

Started in 2000 by Kimiko Nakayama, Kinder Kids have developed their own curriculum based on materials from English-speaking countries.

The Nagoya school contains seven classrooms, a playroom, a kitchen, a medical room, a gym, and large schoolyard. The school is located near a park with a pond for outdoor adventures, and is a 7-minute walk from Irinaka Station.



Four-year-olds at Summerhill International School with Caroline Pover. SUMMERHILL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Local author meets Summerhill children

Caroline Pover, author of the *International Schools in Japan* guidebook, visited children at Summerhill International School in Moto-Azabu on April 12 to read to the four- and five-year olds.

Ms. Pover had previously visited Summerhill to give a talk to the parents, after which Director Monique Keller invited her to read her favourite

story to the children. The first short story in *Elephants Don't Sit on Cars*, Ms. Pover's favourite as a child, was followed by a class favourite, *Walter the Farting Dog*. The class teacher later reported that the students were evenly split in choosing their favourite, and are looking forward to another visit in June.

Training teachers on the Yamanote line

English Studio is especially proud of the new teacher-training program the school implemented last month. Many staff have been working at English Studio for several years, and Managing Director Shane Thompson says, "Instead of spending energy getting new teachers up to speed, we could focus on improving the level of teaching."

This year's training included team-building activities, such as a treasure hunt around the Yamanote line, followed by time spent reflecting on the mission behind English Studio's three schools: Inspiring confident, expressive, English communicators for personal and social

responsibility.

As the majority of classes at English Studio are for pre-kinder, kinder, and elementary aged students, and include both EFL and returnee level classes, there are a wide range of strategies and techniques that teachers explore. This year, staff paid particular attention to Learning Centres and how to use them to address differences in student ability and level.

Mr. Thompson said, "We have all come away from training with a wealth of new ideas and a burning desire to get into the classroom and use these ideas to enrich the educational lives of our students."

Is a new British school coming to Japan?

The Chief Operating Officer of Harrow International Management Services was in Tokyo last month, researching British-style education needs in Japan. Dr. J. Mark Hensman is responsible for establishing new schools in Asia under the Harrow School name, and met with several education and business leaders during his five-day trip.

Harrow International is an entrepreneurial venture focused on establishing a network of international schools outside the United Kingdom. It currently operates schools in Bangkok and Beijing, working closely with Harrow School and the John Lyon School in the United Kingdom. Its Hong Kong school will open in 2012.

Change of name for Musashikoyama

Tokyo Musashikoyama International School in Japan has changed its name to Embrey International School of Performing Arts.

Keeping the same academic classes, the school has added training in salsa dance, acting, and music, including classical piano and guitar, electric guitar and bass guitar, and African drum. Vocal training and violin classes will start from June. Accomplished professionals teach all classes, and a monthly art class commences in May, taught by a local artist.

Regular daytime students may take advantage of these special classes at no additional charge. Starting this month, classes will be made available after school for adults, as well as other children.