

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

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July 2011, #14

MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

<http://www.japanschoolnews.com>

Dramatic events at BST's Showa Campus



Year 7 students recreating a chapter of their English textbook. 37 FRAMES PHOTOGRAPHY

Year 11 students at the British School in Tokyo (BST) performed their final GCSE Drama assessment of "Teachers," a play in which students put on a performance for their teachers and parents.

The new drama facilities at the Showa Campus offer diversity and space to other curriculum subjects as well. One year 9 student has set up an independent dance troupe of nine students in order to pass her Sports Leaders Award, and books the space every Tuesday morning before school.

In a first for BST, examiners from LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) visited the school to assess the LAMDA Communications exam. The exam preparation is designed to give students confidence in public speaking, interviews, and social situations.

The school is proud to report that all year 9 students passed the exam, with eight Certificates of Distinction being awarded. — NANCY JENKINS

International school students JAMOUT with new music school's concert

Music school LiVEJAM held their quarterly student recital (referred to by the school as a "JAMOUT") on June 3 at Peak One live music club in Ookayama.

JAMOUTs give students an opportunity to play live music and display their hard work in an exciting, professional public setting. The most recent instalment included nine groups made up of about 40 different students ranging in age from 13 to 18.

The lineup included some of LiVEJAM's more experienced bands like Paint the City and Prologue, as well as new bands like Crepe x Berry; a band mostly made up of St. Mary's seniors who played hit songs by L'Arc-en-Ciel and The Ataris.

Another band making their debut comprised two students from Yokohama International School and two other students from St. Mary's known as The Green Lights, whose dual singers Juno and Grace captivated the audience with their passionate vocals.

If there were a reward for "most improved" it would be given to Laugh-Orte, a new group made up of six Japanese junior high school students; all thirteen-year-olds who enrolled at LiVEJAM only six weeks before the concert.

Even more remarkable was the fact that they had hardly touched any instruments or decided what they would play before they began. After lots of intensive lessons and long hours spent in the LiVEJAM practice studios, they were ready.

After hitting the last note of a surprisingly energetic performance of "Chisana Koi no Uta" by Mongol 800, a proud smile of accomplishment could be seen on all their reddened faces. One band mother with tears in her eyes said, "The fact that they created something so special between the six of them really hit me as they were playing; I'm so proud of them." Another band mother added,

"I've never seen my son make faces like that. I've never seen that side of him before."

Other highlights of the night included powerful performances of songs by Green Day, Taylor Swift, and Linkin Park. Veteran band Paint the City also shocked the audience by introducing a new thirteen-year-old singer that blew everyone away with her mature and seasoned delivery. The band Prologue also ruffled a few feathers with their cover of the song "Monster" by famous Japanese rock band B'z.

In all, it was a fantastic night filled with the youthful energy of the students who gave it their all on stage. — KEN TAKAGI



(left to right) Kasper from St. Mary's, Utana from YIS, Ryo from St. Mary's, and Julius from St. Mary's at last month's recital by LiVEJAM music school. KEN TAKAGI

Yokohama summer extravaganza at new international school HYIS

Patricia Aldana, founder and headmistress of newly established Hitokoe Yokohama International School (HYIS), brings more than 20 years of experience working in Tokyo's international schools to a summer extravaganza.

The exciting HYIS summer program is open to preschoolers and elementary students alike

from July 18 to August 12, every weekday from 9:30am–3pm. The program offers an interaction-based learning environment charged with a healthy balance of fun and studying, including a mini sports event at nearby Kodomo no Shizen park, learning games, field trips, water play, dance and body movement, arts and crafts, dramatic

play, computer and literacy work, and a "Summer Matsuri" at the campus.

The HYIS mission is to celebrate a child's pride, uniqueness, and sense of discovery in a safe, caring environment. Registration for the summer program is still open. For more details about this or other HYIS programs, see <http://hyis.org>.

Concurrent college courses at Aoba-Japan Int. School

Starting in the 2011–12 school year, Aoba-Japan International School (A-JIS) will commence an innovative high school experience for students in grades 10–12, where students will be enrolled in an online learning program at A-JIS.

As part of this program, A-JIS will be offering an advanced scholars program where students will be able to take university courses both online and as non-matriculated students at a local college. Students will be able to receive both high school and university credit for courses they complete.

One powerful advantage of the program is that

students will be able to explore post-secondary options while maintaining the structure and support of a high school program. Students within the program will have the opportunity to complete nearly two years of college coursework, demonstrating to universities that they are ready and able to face the challenges of a college or university program.

To learn more about concurrent college opportunities at A-JIS, please visit the Aoba-Japan website at www.aobaonline.jp. — ROYCE JACOBS

Graduation for J's students



Bart and Jin after their graduation celebrations at J's International School last month. J'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

J's International School children sang a loud chorus of "We will always be friends" in acappella style as they closed their end-of-year party. The children looked at their yearbooks, reflecting on all the fun they had had over the past year, and got glimpses of what kind of field trips, projects, and activities would be in store for them during the next year.

As J's wrapped up the past year, the school was also heading into its 11-week summer program, covering themes such as Dinosaurs, Camping, the Jungle, and Stars. Each class investigates a theme in depth, and learns many facts about the different topics through art, singing, storytelling, and discussions. Each day is full of fun and learning as well as time to let off steam!

J's International School summer program started on June 13 and runs until August 16. Attendance varies and can be just one day per week, a week at a time, or even for the full 54 days. Find out more by going to <http://www.js-international-school.com> and looking at the Holiday Classes.



Graduating students at Aoba-Japan International School — soon able to enroll in concurrent college courses. A-JIS

New International celebrates 10th anniversary



New International School's new plaque, unveiled to commemorate the school's 10th anniversary. NEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

On June 22, New International School punctuated its 10th anniversary year with a graduation ceremony where a plaque was unveiled, listing the 42 students who have since the school opened. This year the school had the most graduates ever, with nine, some of whom will be going on to boarding schools, some to Japanese high schools, and some to international schools.

The school remains the only completely dual language international school in Japan, with all subjects studied in both English and Japanese, and with two homeroom teachers per class.

The colleges that graduates have attended, are attending, or are about to attend are Carnegie Mellon, Mount Holyoke College, Bennington College, The University of San Diego, The University of Oregon, Iver Hills Community College, Waseda, Seoul National University (Pre-Med), Chung-Ang University (Law), Temple, Nihon University, Tokyo University of Technology, Sophia, Doko University, and the University of Debrecen Medical School in Hungary.

Most importantly, in the future, graduates may live and work either in Japan or abroad as they have a strong base in English, Japanese, and sometimes even in a third language.

Chateau des Bambini's first field trip

June 4 was Chateau des Bambini Saturday school's first field trip. The destination was the Shinagawa Aquarium. The children left early in the morning, all excited for the trip. As they rode the bus to their destination, they guessed what kind of fish they would see upon their arrival.

The children were energized as they explored each tank and talked about the shapes, sizes, and colours of the different fish. They especially enjoyed being permitted to touch the starfishes inside one tank, and were amazed at how the creatures felt.

The aquarium held two special events during the children's visit — a dolphin show and a sea lion show. The students were curious about how the dolphins could manage to jump so high.

Despite the children's excitement and their reluctance to get back to the bus and head home, they all fell asleep within minutes of boarding.

Joy to the World International School Sports Day 2011



Joy to the World International School students trying their best in the tug-of-war competition. JOY TO THE WORLD

On June 11, Joy to the World invited students, families, and friends to their annual Sports Day held at the gymnasium of Meika Elementary School. The school community always looks forward to this special event in the school year, which recognizes the importance of physical education for the balanced development of children.

A weekend of fun, fitness, and festivals at Katoh Gakuen

In early May, Katoh Gakuen Gyoshu Junior and Senior High celebrated their annual sports and culture festival. The cultural festival is touted as an event "for everyone who wants to have fun," which couldn't have been more true.

The students impressed everyone with their coordinated effort in designing a funhouse of smells, sights, and tasty treats. A variety of foods were served — from curry to Madeleine cookies, stores were created to sell artworks and recycled goods, skits and dance competitions were put on, and everything was thoughtfully intended to raise funds for various humanitarian organizations.

While these events were taking place, the brass band and choir effortlessly delivered moving performances to crowds of peers, friends, and family who tapped their feet along with the music. The day was full of smiles, enthusiasm, and school pride.

The fun was matched the following day during the sports day festivities. Sports day is a celebration of the community, sportsmanship, and teamwork; an opportunity to unify oneself with a team of

The festively decorated venue was filled with excitement, energy, and laughter as well as the happy faces of almost 200 guests. The teachers had arranged a well-rounded program of fun games, challenging activities, and serious competitions. The students were eager to show everything they had been practising, and gave their all to the races while maintaining a sense of good sportsmanship.

Traditionally, parents won the tug-of-war event against the teachers, but the teachers were able to even up the score by winning the relay race.

Highlights of the day were the parent-child activities. The winners of each event were awarded with medals designed by the teachers. But on this day, the best prize for everyone was having a great time with their classmates, teachers, friends, and family.

The sporty spirit of everyone and the active parent participation in games and as volunteers again made this event a great success and something to already look forward to in the next school year. — JERRY HANUS



Katoh Gakuen students competing in a running race at their recent sports festival. TAKETOSHI ISHIKAWA

healthy, active peers. Cheered on by family and friends, students participated in a variety of activities that included running relays, tug-of-war, and an obstacle course, to name a few. Even teachers were asked to lace up and join in on the fun with a new race for teacher and student teams.

These two events are highlights of the school year and noticeably important to everyone, even graduates, who choose this occasion as a time to revisit their alma mater. Both the cultural festival and the sports day offer important life lessons and strengthen community connectedness.

Katoh Gakuen is proud of its students and it was clear that everyone thoroughly enjoyed participating in all the fun. — LINDSAY RUDE

TAIP's new mailing

In the midst of preparation for the end of the school year and with many schools gearing up for summer programs or finalizing plans for some R&R, TAIP wishes everyone a wonderful summer and safe travels.

This past spring, TAIP started a mailing magazine, focusing on updates from the board, news from

schools, and questions from administrators regarding problems and potential solutions. TAIP hopes to issue the magazine twice a season — the next one is coming soon. If you would like to receive this mailing, please send a request to president@tokyopreschools.org.

Interested parties should also note that TAIP's postponed annual conference is currently being planned for late September/early October.

ASIJ teams take Far East Championship titles

The American School in Japan (ASIJ) ended the year on a high with both the Varsity baseball and girls' soccer teams winning the Far East championships.

The Varsity baseball team received their first-ever invitation to the Far East Baseball Tournament this year, which was hosted in Daegu, South Korea. The 11-team tournament featured squads from Japan, Guam and Korea, and consisted of two days of pool play and two days of single elimination bracket play. Having won their pool, the Mustangs worked their way through the single elimination bracket to eventually meet the Kadena Falcons from Okinawa in the finals. When it was all over, ASIJ had won 11-9 and posted their first-ever Far East Baseball Championship.

The Varsity girls' soccer team also had a very good season and their dedication to soccer and their overall fitness played a huge part in their success. They were fortunate to have the chance to play at the Far East Tournament in Okinawa and came back as champions. The last crazy minutes of the final against Kubasaki really showed that training hard pays off in the end. The road to the championship was not always smooth and there were challenges to overcome this year with almost half the team being new players, and difficult weather conditions, even in Okinawa, but the team rose above these and played consistently well. Overall it was a banner year for athletics at ASIJ with many teams and individuals achieving success.

Next school year will see the opening of ASIJ's new sports facilities, which include new tennis courts, a fitness centre, wrestling room, dance studio, and trainer's room. The school will also welcome a new athletics and activities director, Brian Kelley, who will oversee the athletics program as well the over 100 co-curricular programs that ASIJ offers. Brian has many years of experience working around the world at schools such as the International School of Singapore, International School of Kenya, and American International School of Johannesburg.

With a new director and new facilities, ASIJ is looking forward to another successful season in the fall. — MATT WILCE



Far East champions. ASIJ

Rustic Pathways welcomes students to Thailand



Hokkaido International School students participating in a Rustic Pathways program in Thailand. GEORGE WIED

Rustic Pathways kicked off its summer campaign by welcoming the Hokkaido International School graduates to Thailand for their senior trip.

The students from Sapporo joined other students and staff from over ten countries at the Rustic Pathways Ricefields Base outside of Udon Thani. The Ricefields Base offers 12 service projects ranging from teaching at schools and working at orphanages, to building homes and farming. This

summer, Rustic Pathways offers weekend side trips to Bangkok, Luang Prabang, a Buddhist Retreat, and a May Thai Self Defence excursion.

The Hokkaido International School students were welcomed to Thailand by monks and a string ceremony.

Later in the week the private group was joined by individual students from different high schools in the United States travelling on Rustic Pathways' programs. With one-week programs, students are able to continue on from the Ricefields to many other programs such as the Elephant Conservation Program and the Hill Tribe Orphanage Project.

Rustic Pathways still has openings for summer 2011, and welcomes enquiries from students interested in travelling to Thailand or one of the other 20 countries hosting programs. Interconnecting one-week programs allow students to create the summer of their dreams.

Interested students can visit <http://www.rusticpathways.com>. — GEORGE WIED

New cooking room at Makuhari International

Makuhari's fully equipped new cooking room is now being used by enthusiastic students.

The new facility is furnished with three large workstations that incorporate state-of-the-art cleaning and cooking equipment that allows a class of 24 to cook at the same time, in spacious and modern surroundings.

The children have already been cooking pizzas and various other dishes and staff look forward to seeing what else the students come up with. The cooking room combined with the school's new computer rooms and playground have made for an exciting start to the new academic year.

Also last month, MIS held an open day for school

parents and also for other parents or guests interested in seeing the school in action. For details about future open days please refer to the school website at <http://www.mis.ed.jp>. — PAUL ROGERS



Makuhari students enjoying their own homemade pizza. MAKUHARI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Hot lunches at PAL's summer intensive program

PAL International School is pleased to be providing hot lunches to all participants of their nine-week summer intensive program this year.

Shizuko-san, the school chef, is a great hit with the students, as she visits Tuesdays-Fridays to cook nutritious meals to help the children get through their busy school day.

PAL students often visit the kitchen to check out

the daily menu, which consists of both European and Japanese food. The students' top three meals are curry rice, macaroni gratin, and miso soup.

The children love trying out new dishes and discovering new favourites — students of ten ask Shizuko-san for recipes to take home.

For more information about PAL's summer program, please see <http://www.pal-school.com>.

AIS students collect PET caps for earthquake relief

Aichi International School students have been collecting PET bottle caps to help with March 11th earthquake relief.

Students collect as many caps as they can and those caps are turned into cash donations that are used to restore the affected areas and assist those affected by the earthquake. Each class tallies up their caps and the class with the most caps receives a little prize as well as the gratification of being able to help someone in need. This past May, grade 1

students collected 2,306 caps.

In addition to raising funds for the earthquake relief, grade 5 and 6 students visited Awaji Shima this past June as part of their school trip to learn more about earthquakes and how to protect themselves in case of one, and also to feel what it is like to be in the midst of a magnitude 7 earthquake. It was an experience the students are sure to remember for a lifetime. — SHEILA PATTON

Sunset Class students shine at Summerhill

Summerhill's Sunset Class is especially proud of two milestones its students have recently reached.

Teachers have lately noted how students have "grown so much" in their communication skills, responding to encouragement in the areas of sentence development and the expression of feelings.

Toilet training is such an important part of growing up, and the team of Sunset teachers, along with parents, celebrate each step the children take.

The school is proud of the teachers leading the Sunset Class; each teacher is qualified in a different area, which makes for a very balanced team. The class enjoys learning new things, and every day there are new activities and projects in which to engage the children and cultivate an environment of growth. Arts, crafts, theme days, language development, phonics, music, Japanese, mathematics, science, dance, drama, story time, free play, and visiting a variety of parks in the local area are all part of a weekly class schedule. Through all these activities the children in Sunset Class graduate into the Half Moon Class with a new sense of independence. See <http://www.summerhill.jp> for more information. — TESS PHILIP



Sunset Class sharing a story together. SUMMERHILL



Aichi International School students and the thousands of PET bottle caps they have been collecting. AIS