

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

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MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

<http://www.japanschoolnews.com>

Saint Maur's new program for working parents



Students in the music program at Saint Maur. SAINT MAUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Saint Maur International School is constantly on a path to modernize and adapt to the needs of the Yokohama community. From responding to the pleas of the international community 140 years ago for the establishment of an institution that would educate their children, to introducing

Montessori education in Japan to 1972, as well as instituting a program of on-site classes for parents and community members in 1992 (the Adult Enrichment Program) and a French school in 2007 (Ecole française de Saint Maur), Saint Maur continues in its quest to meet the needs of

a growing number of families by introducing yet another new program called the "Prime Time Program," which will begin service this coming academic year. The aim of this program is to assist working parents who find it difficult to pick up their children by 4:30pm after daily extracurricular activities have ended. The Prime Time Program will allow parents to collect their children (preschool age to grade 3) at any time up until 6pm.

Additionally, in response to the ever-expanding needs of the Internet community, the IT department has recently revamped the school's website to include features that will help both existing and prospective parents and students. Some of the new features include single sign-on for Saint Maur Google Apps, E-learning, and Intranet; full, respective intranet pages for parents, students, and faculty/staff; built-in social media integration with Twitter, Flickr, and Vimeo; full touch-screen and mobile device integration (swipe to change landing page background picture, swipe up to reveal news and calendar, swipe down to remove page contents to view full background pictures); and a permission-based content management system for faculty and administration.

The new site can be found at <http://www.stmaur.ac.jp>. — GILLES GAURY

Twirling at Treehouse

For over two months, the children at Treehouse Montessori School earnestly practised for the June 7 Baton Performance. Parents gathered around to see the children's hard work pay off.

Older children memorized a routine and performed without teachers' guidance. They twirled their batons to the Beatles' "Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da" and thoroughly impressed the audience. The younger children kept the joyful mood going with their cute baton performance to the song "Mary Had A Little Lamb."

The school hopes to make this a regular feature in its calendar of events. — JENNY VYVIAL



Performing to the Beatles at Treehouse. JENNY VYVIAL

Promising the best at J's

J's International School's tenth annual graduation ceremony was a joyous event as parents cruised around Tokyo Bay enjoying a lovely lunch and being thoroughly entertained by student and teacher performances.

It was a beautiful moment when the graduates got on stage and recited their poem, which ended with "and I promise to be the BEST person that I can be." The whole school is proud of Austin, Jinsoo, Yukari, Noah, and Tony and wishes them the very best of luck.

As the school year wraps up, J's enters the summer with full force, offering a 12-week program with exciting topics such as: "Creepy Crawlers," "Reptiles and Amphibians," "Crazy Colours," "Monsters," and much more.

The summer program is available for children aged 3-7 years old and gives them opportunities to step out of the classroom environment and explore the world around them. Children can attend on a daily or weekly basis and non-J's students are welcome. For information, call the school at 03-3452-2078 or check out <http://www.js-international-school.com>. — MANA ORTIZ



Noah and Dani at last month's graduation. MANA ORTIZ

Chateau School concept on national TV news



Diplomats Masaichi Maehara and Apple Hutt with grains and spices from different regions of the world during a recent cooking project. RINA BOVRISSE

The Chateau School diplomats started the summer term with a United Nations theme. This summer, diplomats from 1–6 years old are learning about and comparing worldwide cultures and diversity to create “my world” projects through which they present the world of their dreams.

Also last month, Chateau School was introduced on TBS national morning news, selected as an example of a new concept in international education. The school's unique program of Montessori methods combined with global cultural excursions, where each morning children check in at “customs” with their passports, was featured as indicative of a school for future members of a cosmopolitan society.

The multilingual, early education program was also highlighted. Currently, 3–6-year-old diplomats are learning English, Chinese, Japanese and French. Arabic and Spanish are scheduled to start this fall.

In a weekly group project, diplomats learn about international cooking, including local ingredients and traditional table manners. Each diplomat has a “My Recipe” booklet that they individually complete. After a full year, the booklet is expected to have 50 recipes from around the world. Next month's theme is Oceania. — RINA BOVRISSE

New International School adds dual-language high school

New International School (NewIS) graduated a record ten students from grade 9 on June 20. To date, about 40 percent of graduates have gone abroad for high school, 35 percent have gone to international schools, and 25 percent to Japanese high schools. The interest in going on to Japanese schools has increased in the past few years as the NewIS dual-language approach in all subject areas makes that option a realistic possibility.

Graduates can enter Kanto Kokusai Gakuen, for example, as transfer students, meaning that, upon recommendation, they are exempt from a written exam. However, the biggest news for the coming school year is that NewIS is beginning its own high school program, and it will be a dual-language school, just like the rest of the school.

Staff are convinced that a dual-language option is essential and will prepare students in the fullest possible way for more options in the future. Japanese children often remain in Japan or return as adults. NewIS believes that a dual-language education through high school is a great way to increase their opportunities for living and working happily in Japan in the future, and for having the intellectual and social benefits of a dual-language, multi-age education, wherever they live.

Oshima trip for Aoba-Japan International students



Aoba-Japan staff and students returning from their recent trip to Oshima. AOBA-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Aoba-Japan International School students enjoyed a two-night residential trip to Oshima last month. Activities included scuba diving, cycling to a ranch, hiking up a volcano, walking on the beach, visiting a zoo, taiko drumming, and swimming at the hotel pool, as well as lots of other fun activities.

Staff were impressed at the students' perseverance during the four-hour hike up the volcano, and also to see so many students overcome their nerves in the water during the scuba diving session, and to return from the sea excited about everything they had seen. — SHOKO ENDO

Katoh Elementary School's 40th anniversary sports day



Katoh Elementary School's grade 1 and 2 beanbag toss during their May sports day. MIKE BOSTWICK

After two weeks of seemingly non-stop practice, that particular Saturday in late May dawned warm and clear as students, teachers, and parents began to arrive for Katoh Elementary School's 40th anniversary year sports day.

The program of events changes little each year and includes most of the classics popular in Japanese sports days throughout the country.

There were the exciting individual dashes for every child in the school, with coloured sleeve ribbons for those who placed. There were the relay events involving small teams carrying a long bar or a huge daruma doll around a short course, as well as an event that required tossing beanbags into an elevated basket. Then there was the obligatory tug-of-war with parents joining in.

The highlight for the grade 6 school leaders was the cheering competition where they competed to out-sing, out-dance, and out-perform the opposing team. This year's overall winners were the red team, but there were so many examples of perseverance and good sportsmanship from all taking part that everyone was a winner! — GEOFF PARMENTER

AIS International Festival

Seven years after Aichi played host to the Expo, Aichi International School (AIS) held its own international festival. Around 100 families attended the event on a sunny Sunday in June.

AIS students and visiting children were able to enter ten different "countries" from around the world, including the USA, Guatemala, Mexico, and, of course, Japan. In each country's room they participated in an activity connected to that country; for example, they could make boomerangs in the Australia room and origami pandas in the China room. There were worry dolls, slime, and paper weaving in other rooms. To visit each of these nations students were provided with a passport that was stamped as they entered each room.

As well as these activities, students were also able to taste snacks from around the world,

have their faces painted with different countries' flags, and play on the bouncy castle in front of the school building.

Overall, everyone went home with faces painted, hands covered in slime, and faces sticky with candy floss, having had a great time in the sunshine! — MARK REED



AIS student Kaisei Sawada making an ojo de dios in the Mexican room. MARK REED

Summer at Waseda

Waseda International School's (WIS) summer program starts this month and runs until August 3. Preschoolers and kindergarteners aged 3.5–6 years can attend the "Junior Camp," and elementary school children aged 6 years can attend the "Elementary Camp." Enrolment is open to all nationalities and you do not need to be an existing WIS student to participate.

The daily schedule is packed with fun and meaningful learning experiences that are fine-tuned to each child's specific needs. Classes and activities are conducted strictly in English, presenting a great opportunity for children who do not usually attend international schools to experience an international camp, make new friends, and improve their English. For more information, see <http://wasedais.jp>. — NATASHA DYTAM

British Football Academy summer soccer camps at Makuhari, BST, and TIS



(Left to right) Marina Takemura, Keoni Schubert, and Will Thygeson enjoying soccer with British Football Academy. BRITISH FOOTBALL ACADEMY

This summer, British Football Academy (BFA) will be hosting nine soccer camps at various locations in Tokyo, Chiba, and Yokohama. These fun-filled, three-, four- and five-day camps are suitable for children aged 4–14 years old.

Younger children (4–8 years old) will be split into two groups in the mornings for 80-minute or two-hour sessions, while the older children (9–14 years old) will have a three-hour session in the afternoons. English FA-qualified coaches aim to deliver structured games to develop the children's

football skills and tactics, culminating in matches at the end of each session. All children will be awarded participation certificates and children who sign up for the full three-, four-, or five-days will receive a coveted BFA Camp T-shirt.

Three-day camps are running at the British School of Tokyo Showa Campus on July 3–5, 10–12, and 17–19, from 10am–noon and 1:30–4:30pm. Four-day camps are running at Miyashita Koen on July 24–27 from 10am–noon and 1–4pm and at the British School of

Tokyo Showa Campus on August 20–23 from 10am–noon and 1:30–4:30pm. Five-day camps are running at Makuhari International School on July 30–August 3 from 10am–noon and 1–4pm, Tokyo International School on August 6–10 from 10am–noon and 1:30–4:30pm, and Yokohama Country and Athletics Club on August 13–17 from 10am–noon and 1–4pm.

For all information on camps and to sign up on-line, please go to <http://www.british-football-academy.com>. — SID LLOYD

GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

"Offers the most in-depth account of Japanese international schools available."

— American father living in Japan

By bestselling author Caroline Pover, the guide features six pages of detailed research on over a hundred schools, complemented by photographs. This is an essential resource for expatriate parents, bicultural families, internationally-minded Japanese parents, teachers in Japan, and those thinking of setting up their own school here. 692 pages retailing at ¥5,000.

<http://www.internationalschoolsguidebook.com>

