

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

1 Evergreen Outdoor Center

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Summer at the Chateau School



Diplomat Kiki with Rie Eleni Miyaoka at PIP & POP Sugarland. CHATEAU BON BON

The Chateau School offered an exciting summer program. August started with a journey to the Olympics as diplomats created their own five rings and studied the people of the world through sports.

The first half of summer school was a month spent on Oceania, learning about the landscape and aboriginal art. The children examined the botany of the region and the school was filled with trees and flowers. Ambassador Diana, who practices ikebana, selected flowers from Oceania and the diplomats enjoyed creating their own

arrangements. Each child selected their own flowers, cut them, arranged them on oasis, and decorated them with ribbons as gifts for their parents.

Diplomats also enjoyed their Australian cultural excursion: the PIP & POP expo at Spiral Aoyama, which featured brightly coloured, sugar-based artwork created by an Australian artist. The Chateau School offers at least five cultural excursions every month and diplomats are expected to explore the real world from early age. — RINA BOVRISSE

Wanted: Tokyo families to host Tohoku families for spring Disneyland trip

Every morning on the remote Oshika Peninsula in Tohoku, the sounds of the children from Ohara Elementary School can be heard as they get off the school bus outside the community centre. The principal stands by the bus door, greeting every single child as they step off the bus and run up the little hill to the school entrance. Half of these students come from the nearby town of Yagawa, which was completely wiped out by the tsunami.

Many of the children on Oshika have left the peninsula and moved into the city. The ones that remain now live in tiny temporary housing units, crammed in and with neighbours right next door. The children have little opportunity to express their natural propensity to run about or be noisy.

An exciting trip is being planned for Oshika children and their parents to travel to the big city of Tokyo, where host families will greet them and welcome them into their homes for two nights before the Tohoku families travel back to Oshika. The plan is for everyone to spend the day together at Disneyland—letting the children run riot and giving the parents lots to smile about—creating happy memories with some very special new friends.

If you are interested in hosting a family, please see <http://www.carolinepover.info/2012/07/disneyland> for more information. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide a very special experience for a family that has been through so much, as well as for your own family to have a unique experience.



Explaining a science project to a younger student at New International School. NewIS

New International School of Japan's unique and interactive approach to education

Multi-age and dual-language education at New International School (NewIS) is done in the Vygotskian style, with children progressing developmentally from wherever their current "place" may be, and learning interactively from and with their classmates in a three-year age range, as well as from and with two homeroom teachers per class. As such, diversity is experienced as a positive aspect, as opposed to an inconvenience, or even an enemy of the "system." This means that age diversity, cultural and linguistic diversity, developmental diversity, diversity of learning and thinking styles, etc., exist in every class.

Students can speak and do research in their own languages, without restrictive language policies,

because the school believes that "more language is more language," as the students transfer concepts from one language to another and develop their social as well as academic proficiencies.

Children at NewIS are engaged and enjoy that engagement in an atmosphere and place where they are not compared to one another.

Seminars and orientations open to the public are held monthly with the primary purpose of encouraging thought about education. Orientations are scheduled on September 11 and 21. The first seminar is scheduled for September 20 on the Whys and Hows of Dual Language Education. See <http://newis.ed.jp> for more details.

Sizzling summer school at Aichi International



Miu, Saho, and Riko make a pirate ship during Aichi International's recent summer school. MARK REED

Throughout the summer months, Aichi International School (AIS) held a variety of programs. First, there was a bilingual program in which students conducted science experiments, made crafts, and did gymnastics. Then throughout July and August there were both kindergarten and elementary school programs available for both current AIS students and non-AIS students.

During their weeks at summer school, students learned about pirates, Africa, the Olympics, countries of Southeast Asia, and what summer is like all around the world. Students were involved in classroom-based learning as well as fun outdoor activities, such as splashing around in huge inflatable pools inside the AIS courtyard. — MARK REED

A Treehouse snake!

Treehouse Montessori School in Yokohama had another successful summer school; the summer program has now been running for 11 years.

Each week featured activities relating to a different theme, including "Making Your Own Jig-gly Hat," "Making Your Own Lunch," and "Aloha, Hawaii." But the highlight of every day was the big pool, which all the children looked forward to splashing around in. The summer program ended with a big party that everyone enjoyed.

In other news, a new pet was introduced to the school. "Bolt" is a brown snake that has become a huge hit with the children. They like to knock on his window and watch him poke his head outside his little house. Bolt is very active during the daytime, but he is gentle and doesn't bite. Some of the children had never before seen a snake up close, but weren't scared at all! — JENNY VYVIAL



Bolt in his new home at Treehouse. JENNY VYVIAL

Cezars' nutrition services

Cezars Kitchen provides lunch catering services to schools throughout Japan. Suitable for schools with an international outlook, and a demand for nutritious, fresh food from all over the world, the Cezars' team cooks for schools that are looking for something different, something unique, and something that fits their culture.

Education is a key part of the Cezars' philosophy. Nutrition and wellness are a key elements of Cezars Kitchen School Nutrition Services, from providing healthy recipes to providing advice from a nutrition expert and always focusing on the links between a child's nutrition, physical activity level, and academic achievement. A growing body of knowledge indicates that children have poorer classroom performance, increased behavioural problems, lower test scores, and lower self-confidence when nutritional quality is low. As a result, Cezars Kitchen school lunch services focus on healthy choices that can set students up for success both inside and outside the classroom.

Cezars Kitchen lunches are available at Nagoya International School, Saint Maur International School, Canadian Academy, St. Mary's International School, Deutsche Schule Tokyo Yokohama, Seisen International School, and International School of the Sacred Heart.

Middle School Science Fair at Saint Maur International School

In May 2012, Saint Maur International School opened the doors of its new Science Center to welcome visitors to the annual Middle School Science Fair. Having worked for a month on science investigations of their own choosing, students in grades 6 and 7 presented the results of their research to parents, teachers, fellow students, and the general public. The science fair provides an opportunity for students to put into practice the skills developed throughout the year in a middle school curriculum that puts strong emphasis on developing core scientific skills through a hands-on approach.

Saint Maur was privileged to have four students from the Science Frontier High School (SFHS) in Tsurumi helping to judge the projects. This was just one of many activities done with SFHS, with which the school has a special collaborative relationship that has been strong and worthwhile for both schools. Visitors to the Science Center were also impressed by the facilities, which include state-of-the-art laboratories for the study of chemistry, physics, biology, robotics, and general science; fully supported IT and data-logging equipment; and solar panels on the roof that provide electricity.

Saint Maur's hands-on approach to science teaching in its middle and high schools is probably one reason that Saint Maur students do so well on external tests in the sciences and why so many Saint Maur students go on to university as well as into scientific research and the medical professions. — RICHARD B. RUCCI & DR. MARY SUZUKI

J's International School: Available programs

It's back to school on September 3 for the J's International School community, after a fun-filled summer program.

The 12 weekly themes kept children from three to seven years old busy exploring outside of their usual classroom environment, and ensured that each day brought about the opportunity to learn something new.

Normal term-time classes are available for children aged 18 months to six years old. There are also Japanese classes to assist children in developing bilingual skills, an after-school program for children up to nine years old, and, coming up at the end of the year, is the winter fun program.

This month the school will host a "getting to know you" lunch on September 28. For more information see <http://www.js-international-school.com> or visit the school at Minato-ku, Moto Azabu 2-12-14. Call 03-3452-2078.

First immersion program in Japan celebrates 20th anniversary



Some of the past graduates who attended the 20th anniversary celebration. KATOH GAKUEN

On July 21, Katoh Gakuen Gyosho High School held a celebration commemorating the 20th anniversary of the English Immersion Program. The day included a look back at the past 20 years, speeches from the graduates, and a lunch with current and past students of the program.

Many graduates from the earliest years of the program returned to talk to current students and to reconnect with old friends and past classmates. Graduates shared memories of their experiences in the immersion program, what they have done

since graduating, and how the program affected their lives. All the graduates stated that their experience as a student in the high school Bilingual International Baccalaureate Program gave them opportunities that they know they would never have had otherwise.

Although many of the graduates are still at university, the earliest graduates have begun their careers in Japan and abroad. In many cases, their bilingualism is a skill that is essential to their professional lives. Some of the professions that the graduates have em-

barked upon include: hotel management and tourism, computer programming, engineering, international sales and promotion, teaching, and work with non-profit organizations. Some of the companies represented in the group include Google, TDK, Intel, Mitsubishi, and Hilton Hotels.

The day reaffirmed the sense that everyone associated with Katoh Gakuen's Bilingual International Baccalaureate Program—past and present—is an integral member of a bilingual “family.” — MIKE BOSTWICK

New faces at Aoba-Japan International School for the 2012–13 school year

Aoba-Japan International School (A-JIS) is happy to announce that a large group of new faces is joining the staff for the 2012–13 school year. Among those joining the Hikarigaoka Campus are seven excited and enthusiastic new teachers, as well as an elementary principal and a business manager.

The school is very proud to be bringing in the best staff available from around the world. All of the incoming staff received their qualifications from the United States, Canada, or Australia.

Homeroom teacher Courtney Collins was born and raised on the Connecticut shoreline. While studying at Fordham University in Bronx, New York, Courtney started tutoring students at a nearby high school and was inspired to pursue a degree in education. She graduated with a BA in sociology and a New York State and City Certificate of Teaching in Elementary Education. Courtney taught for five years in the New York City public and parochial school system while attaining an MA in literacy and reading

at Fordham. Courtney also taught courses in the English Language Institute at Choate Rosemary Hall Summer School. She taught for one year in Miami before moving to Venezuela, where she has been teaching for the past three years at The British School of Caracas.

Another homeroom teacher, Gordon Vanstone, grew up in Victoria, BC, Canada. After high school he received his BEd at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Vancouver. Gordon then completed his Professional Development Program at SFU and became certified as an elementary school teacher with the BC College of Teachers. He has taught at international schools in Tokyo and most recently at Overseas Family School in Singapore. Gordon is looking forward to returning to Tokyo and contributing to the educational environment at Aoba-Japan International School as a grade 5 teacher.

Homeroom teacher Heidi Yoko Yamada was born and raised in California. After graduating from UC Santa Barbara with a BA in Japanese and communications, she spent three years in

Okayama on the JET program as an assistant English teacher. Her stay in Japan solidified her love for teaching and she returned to the United States to study at UC Santa Barbara where she earned her Elementary Teaching Credential and MA in education. For the past 13 years Heidi has taught elementary school in the United States.

The school is especially honoured to have hired an alumnus to teach in the kindergarten. Many of the students at A-JIS may be following the footsteps of Harukako (Haru) Ikeura who grew up and attended international schools in Tokyo. She received a BA in economics from Boston University but quickly realized her passion for teaching and obtained a Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) certificate. Recently, Haru received an MA in teaching from the University of Southern California and also taught grades 1 and 5 at an elementary school in Honolulu, Hawaii. Haru has taught students from various backgrounds and age groups. — ROYCE JACOBS

Evergreen Outdoor Center's successful summer camps in Hakuba



On the way up to the Togakushi Okusha Shrine at the middle gate. EVERGREEN OUTDOOR CENTER

Evergreen Outdoor Center's summer camps were a great success again this year, with fabulous weather, lots of fun, and big smiles from campers and counsellors alike.

The "Japan Alps Summer Camp" and "Water Wizards Camp" are two great programs for children looking for fun and adventure, provided each summer by Evergreen Outdoor Center (EOC) in Hakuba.

The Japan Alps Summer Camp takes campers on a week-long adventure at the EOC camp at Lake Aokiko. Activities include canoeing, swimming, playing on rafts, and viewing fireflies by voyageur canoe on this beautiful lake that is a jewel of Japan. From day three, campers venture further afield as they mountain-bike through a local forest trail, go canyoning in a naturally carved river canyon, and participate in nature games to learn more about the environment and the balance that the forest brings to our lives. Day four is spent hiking to an overnight tent location.

Evenings around the campfire and stargazing are always a big hit with the campers, as is the final day's activity of walking high among the trees on the "Ex Adventure" high ropes course before a farewell barbecue at Roots Cafe and travelling back to Shinjuku aboard the Super Azusa Express.

The Water Wizards camp (which always starts on the Monday following the Japan Alps Camp) explores the cycle of water, with exciting and educational activities revolving around this theme over a five-day period. There is canoeing and kayaking on Lake Aokiko on day one; mountain-biking through spectacular forests and along the Himekawa River on day two; rafting even further down the Himekawa and swimming in the river current on day three; and a bus trip all the way to the Sea of Japan on day four, to swim in the waves at the mouth of the river that campers followed all the way from its natural spring origin, 55 kilometres due south, back at Hakuba.

Everyone then traveled back to the mountains

by bus, just like evaporating water, to float like clouds on day five when they paraglide back to Earth to start another full cycle of water.

The campers that stay with Evergreen for a full 12 days join both these two great camps, along with a weekend in Togakushi, a village steeped in mystery and legend. They camp for two nights and explore the Togakushi forest by mountain bike, and hike to the Okusha Shrine — a place that is sacred in Japanese folklore and Shinto scriptures. The Shinto priests planted some of the trees in this forest 1,000 years ago.

The Togakushi camp provides possibly one of the most memorable meals of the entire summer, as campers roast hot dogs over the fire to enjoy with fresh summer corn and veggie sticks. The icing on the cake, however, is the banana boats cooked in the coals of the fire, served along with hot chocolate.

The weekend camp and visit to Togakushi would not be complete without two very important elements — soba noodles and ninja! Irrespective of the fact that kids just love ninja (!), these two items are a special part of the history of this small mountain village. So a visit to the Togakushi Ninja Village and a soba lunch are musts before returning to Hakuba for an evening of making pizzas and watching a movie at Roots Café, after which new campers will be joining for the Water Wizards program.

This summer, the Evergreen team felt that they had some of the best campers (and weather!), with lots of familiar faces from past camps. The campers got plenty of fresh air, clean mountain water, and a healthy dose of nature, as well as lots of adventures in the great outdoors. And EOC hopes to see everyone again next year, along with many more new friends and younger siblings.

For more information about Evergreen Outdoor Center's camps for children, families, or corporate team-building exercises, please telephone 0261-72-5150 or check out <http://www.evergreen-hakuba.com>.

Dear Japan School News readers ...

I would like to express my excitement and pleasure to be working with Caroline Pover to relaunch the Japan School News in colour, refresh the website, and to continue providing an avenue for international schools and the international community in Japan to share information and news.

Evergreen Outdoor Center and I have enjoyed various opportunities to support Caroline's endeavours in the past, but really feel that Japan School News is a very meaningful project that we truly wish to support and contribute to wholeheartedly. One of my longstanding wishes is to work with schools and students alike to provide an outlet for artistic and literary expression and reward participants for their talent and effort with outdoor adventures and professional guiding

from Evergreen Outdoor Center.

I ask you to please stay tuned for and get involved in projects by Evergreen, which will be announced each month here in Japan School News.

I hope you like the new design and are looking forward to heading back to school and sharing with friends and colleagues all the fun stories you have from the summer.

Enjoy,

Dave Enright

EVERGREEN OUTDOOR CENTER

