

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

Evergreen Outdoor Center

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A Cinderella Christmas in Nagoya



(left to right) Koki Nakamura, Kakeru Nakano, Perseus Morgan, and Kenichiro Takahashi rehearsing for Aichi International School's version of Cinderella. MARK REED

Aichi International School (AIS) students will perform a modified version of the classic tale of Cinderella on Friday, December 7, from 5:30pm, at Moriyama Theater, Aichi.

Entitled "Cinderella at Christmas," the story, written by AIS staff and featuring students from both the kindergarten and elementary schools, includes songs by Billy Joel, Journey, and The Beatles. From

start to finish, the production is in English, with the audience entertained by flying penguins, magical taxi drivers, and lots of other "special friends."

Tickets for this event are totally FREE. However, there is a limited amount of seating. Anyone interested in attending should contact AIS at ais-aichi-international.school@gmail.com. — MARK REED

Academic mentors needed in Tokyo area

ESM is currently seeking qualified, energetic, and engaging academic mentors to assist students with academic instruction and preparing for the SAT and ACT exams, respectively, in the Tokyo area.

ESM Group is an educational services firm that provides strategic college counselling, academic tutoring, and SAT/ACT prep services to students and families in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. ESM's unique method of tailoring its services to meet college applicants' needs allows it to understand the strengths, goals, and ambitions of its clients in order to achieve its clients' desired academic objectives. With insightful, structured, and timely guidance, ESM's coaches around the globe help students gain admission to the most competitive universities in the world.

Since ESM has students all over the world,

tutoring sessions will take place either face to face at the student's home, a local library, or coffee shop, or via Skype. All applicants must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and easy-to-understand teaching methods. Speaking a second language such as Spanish, Chinese, or Japanese is a plus.

Applicants must be native English-speakers, possess at least a bachelor's degree, and have some experience teaching, coaching, and/or academic tutoring. Any experience working with or coaching junior-high and high school age students will be considered to be a major benefit.

Pay is ¥3,000–5,000 per hour. Please submit a one-page introductory letter describing your background, and your resume or CV with three references (include phone and email). Email to tokyo@esmcollege.com. — KEVIN POPE

Treehouse Montessori's busy autumn term

The autumn term has been a busy one at Treehouse Montessori in Yokohama. There have been new classes in both English and Japanese added to the curriculum to further develop bilingualism in the school — this benefits the increasing number of children with multicultural families, and also Japanese families exploring English education. The new PE teacher has been a great success, with classes in both English and Japanese and more bilingual classes to be added in the future.

November saw the children go on their annual potato-digging field trip. Visiting "Oji-chan" and "Oba-chan" at their farm is always a highlight for the children. Treehouse students have been visiting Oji-chan and Oba-chan for the past seven years, and are always welcomed with heart-warming smiles and sincere efforts to make the trip fun and exciting.

The school's Thanksgiving celebration is always a big hit, with children bringing in all kinds of food from home to share with their classmates at lunchtime. The students prepare the entire Thanksgiving party, including decorating the room, arranging the table so that everyone can sit together, and even helping to serve the meal, too.

The classroom window is decorated with a different theme every month. The children discuss the theme, and make their own decorations. For November, the children decided to make acorns out of origami, and the acorns had the children's faces on them. — JENNY VYVIAL

Kspace celebrates world festivals for winter

Kspace in Shirogane went Ghostbuster crazy this Halloween! The entire team got in a party mood and took the children on a special ghost hunt, with trick-or-treating thrown in (healthy snacks only!).

At Kspace there is always something unique on offer to motivate the children and spark their curiosity. Theme-based activities open the children's eyes to wonderful world festivals — coming up is the vibrant Festival of Light (Diwali) and a Christmas period jam-packed with memorable workshops and Santa's cabin!

The Kspace Winter Camp begins in mid-December, offering ESL teaching, academic support, and lots of fun, seven days a week! See <http://www.kspace.to/> for more information. — JULIET ROGOVE

Yokota Air Base helps out at Aoba-Japan

Members of the 374th CES (Civil Engineer Squadron) have been hard at work helping the Aoba-Japan International School (A-JIS) prepare its newly located campus. From paint preparation, painting, before and after clean-up, moving library books, and landscaping, the 374th CES volunteers contributed immensely to the opening of the new A-JIS school to its students, parents, and the local community.

A-JIS provides a comprehensive curriculum to nearly 300 students, K-12, from many different countries. Thanks to the outstanding effort of the 374th CES, A-JIS has recently moved into their new campus located in Hikarigaoka.

374th CES's help has made an incredible impression on the faculty, staff, and community of the school, who send thanks to all the volunteers that gave their time, energy, and expertise in renovating Hikarigaoka. Not only did the squadron members volunteer their time on numerous Saturdays, they also saved the school several thousand dollars and acted as ambassadors between the USAF and the A-JIS community.

A-JIS Business Manager Dan Dittmeier said, "This was a wonderful opportunity. Working with the volunteers from the 374th CES was a great experience, bringing members from Yokota Air Base to our international school to work closely with our faculty, staff, and local community to accomplish our objective of beautifying our new school." — ROYCE JACOBS

NewIS 2013 education seminar dates set

New International School of Japan (NewIS) has its seminar series dates set for 2013, as follows: High School and College Options: The Next Step (January 17); Curriculum Development in Multi-age and Dual Language Classrooms (February 13); Concept Development in Two or More Languages (March 28); and The Multi-age Classroom: A Vygotskian Approach to Education and Language Acquisition (April 24). There will also be an Open Forum on the Program at NewIS on May 28.

Founded in 2001, NewIS offers a new and innovative style of education in the context of international schools in Japan. Currently serving children from preschool to Grade 10 (to Grade 11 in 2013-14 and to Grade 12 in 2014-15), it is the first international school specifically established to meet the needs of permanent, international marriage, and/or long-term residents of Japan, regardless of nationality, in the clear and research-based recognition that dual language and multi-age education is good for children. Families temporarily in Japan but with an interest in Japanese as well as English are also welcome to join the school.

NewIS seminars are open to the public as well as to current families of the school, and they are professionally interpreted from Japanese to English or vice versa. Certificates of attendance are issued. Dates, times, and topics are subject to change and other seminars may be added.

Please call the school at 03-3980-1057 to confirm attendance.

Sprouting seeds at J's



Looking at fruits and vegetables at J's International School. J's INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The topic of learning last month at J's International School was "On the Farm and Harvesting." This theme took the children to some amazing places, from burrowing deep under the soil, to watching a makeshift beanstalk grow so high in the classroom that some of them thought they could see a giant at the top!

Students planted various seeds and watched them sprout, making daily picture logs and recording detailed growth from an individual perspective. When the sprouts started to grow, they were replanted into pots. One morning a bean plant seemed parched and droopy, so the teacher said, "It looks sad," to which one of the children promptly responded, "No, it's scared of the giant!"

As the children differentiated between fruits and vegetables, they discovered that many foods they eat are roots, stems, leaves, or seed pulp. They learned how they could reproduce any kind of fruit or vegetable simply by planting a seed. — MANA ORTIZ

Ohana & Miyabi Arashi Oshika-hanto project

Ohana International School and Miyabi Arashi Taiko School have a huge project on at the moment raising money for a small village on Oshika-hanto in Tohoku. Members of the Ohana and Miyabi Arashi schools will be going up there in March 2013 for a matsuri and to present the town with taiko drums as well as funds for other important needs.

Parents have been baking furiously for tri-weekly coffee mornings at the Australian Embassy, and bags of delicious cookies from Sabine Dume are a regular treat for all families.

For more information or to get involved, please email ohana.international.sch@gmail.com. — SHELLEY SACKS

Utah adventures for Katoh Elementary School



Katoh Elementary School students Elena (L) and Haruka (R) getting their first taste of America on the way to Zion National Park, Utah. KUMI SUGISAWA

It is often said that nothing of great value in life comes easily. So at just 11 years of age, 40 Katoh Elementary School students packed their bags and prepared for an overseas adventure that would test them and provide them with a life-changing experience.

The first half of the two-week trip was spent in Utah, where camp coordinator "Big John" gave the students an unforgettable time at Zion National Park. Days were spent exploring and playing in the magnificent wilderness of Zion, and nights were spent under the stars in sleeping bags and tents.

The final week provided students with unparalleled challenges and rewards as they assumed the life of a typical American student in Portland, Oregon. Host families and schools opened their doors to the students with the expectation that they would lose their shyness and hesitation to speak English. It was with enormous effort that the students transformed themselves, and in doing so they made lifelong friends and learned the true value of being bilingual.

For more information about Katoh and its English immersion program, please see <http://www.bi-lingual.com>. — CAMERON BARNARD

Education First students in the Halloween spirit



Students at this year's Halloween party at the Tokyo EF office. EDUCATION FIRST

In late October, alumni and prospective students of Education First (EF) International Language Centers got together for their annual Halloween parties. The EF Tokyo office held one for the students who had returned to Japan.

This year, the party was planned and organized by active members of the "EF Ambassadors" student group. When students have finished their study abroad program and had time to consider the life-changing experiences that came with it, many feel they want to share their memories with friends who haven't travelled overseas. Members regularly meet at the local EF office to plan student events or help prospective students prepare for their forthcoming study program abroad with pre-departure English lessons and discussions.

"Lest we forget" with Meikei's Kizuna program

Meikei Gakuen is a coeducational junior high and high school, located in Tsukuba, Ibaraki. The curriculum is taught in Japanese but the school has a very international outlook, and applications from students with overseas experience are encouraged.

One example of this international outlook is the Kizuna program offering students from overseas and Japan, who are living in prefectures affected by 3/11, a unique chance to come together.

It started when Meikei collected money for instruments for Sumiyoshi Junior High School in Ishinomaki. Around 40 Meikei students visited Ishinomaki to present them, and also to learn more about the disaster from the Sumiyoshi students.

EF awards the active ambassadors with special seminars, internship positions, invitations to an annual ambassador meeting held in Singapore, invitations to one of the continental ambassador tours and opportunities for international travel to a city of their choice in order to continue their studies.

In organizing the Halloween party held in Tokyo, ambassadors learned how to submit ideas and make proposals, as well as developing skills in planning, budgeting, and marketing. "It was amazing to see how enthusiastic the students were about planning the event. After spending time away from their familiar friends and families in foreign countries, not only do they return to Japan speaking another language, but they also become very independent. I don't have to help them too much," said Mami Yasui, Marketing Coordinator of EF Japan in Tokyo, who also takes a supervisory role with EF Ambassadors.

With the EF Ambassadors' enthusiasm to learn and dedication to the event, this year's Halloween party in Tokyo was a great success, and guests were delighted to be there.

EF's Academic Year Abroad and University Preparation Course Abroad are available to anyone aged 16 years and older. Check out the website at <http://www.ef.com>. — WAKANA CATCHPOLE

Chateau School exclusive method

Chateau School offers an exclusive method created to flow with their Montessori education. For piano, a brain-training program is created by one of the top six solo pianists at the International Chopin Festival in Vienna. Through this brain-stimulating method created exclusively for Chateau School, diplomats learn to be sound conscious, to control their speed (playing fast and playing slow), and to rest when needed by staying still and silent.

Meditation is another method offered, through a certified yoga instructor and therapist, who has a Master of Science in Psychoanalytic Developmental Psychology and worked closely with children with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, learning difficulties, autism, ADHD, and other developmental challenges. Since the 3/11 Great East Japan Earthquake, she has been involved with psychosocial support after disaster, as well as treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Christmas is coming soon and diplomats will be "travelling" to the Scandinavian countries, where they will examine the simple but stylish wooden furniture, explore the mystery of the northern lights, and visit a planetarium to discover the beauty of space.

In other news, Chateau Bon Bon recently launched a new website at <http://www.chateau-school.com>, focusing just on the school. — SHIORI ANDO



Chocolat diplomats Kito Kondo and Apple Hutt with Lollipop diplomats Sara Kashiwaya, Comeru Yaginuma, and Masaichi Maehara during their recent Halloween celebrations. CHATEAU SCHOOL

Saint Alban's Nursery Christmas concert & party

The children of Saint Alban's Nursery will be performing their annual Christmas concert on Friday, December 7. The little ones have been rehearsing Christmas carols with their favourite pianist, Kyl Timmer, from the British Embassy Choir. The concert will take place in the Saint Alban's chapel, and will be followed by a party in the church hall, where Santa is expected to visit! The concert is open to the public, but please RSVP so that Santa knows how many gifts to bring.

While the nursery, founded in 1978, is one of Saint Alban's Church's many programs, it is non-denominational and encourages respect and

tolerance for all. Children aged 2-5 years from all religious backgrounds are welcome.

The nursery materials and activities are based on Montessori methods, and run in an English-speaking environment, with classes of 15 students. The nursery has a garden so the children are always close to nature and the changing seasons.

For further information please see <http://www.saintalbans.jp> or email the program director, Mrs. Gilma Yamamoto, at gilma.yam@gol.com or call her on 03-3431-8534. In addition to the regular schedule, exciting, fun-filled activities are also provided during Christmas holidays.



Santa visiting Saint Alban's Nursery at last year's Christmas concert. SAINT ALBAN'S NURSERY

Freestyle, race, and freeride with Evergreen's Snow School program



EVERGREEN OUTDOOR CENTER

With winter soon approaching, it's time to dust off your skis and boards and get your winter jackets out of the closets. As a devout snow enthusiast from a young age I always got excited with the prospect of the first family ski trip to the slopes in Canada each winter. After a few years of skiing with my folks, I think they realized that the enthusiasm of youth surpassed their concept of what a pleasurable ski day was for them, and therefore enrolled me in a race-training program. This suited me fine, as I could ski as fast as I wanted and please my parents as I developed my technique while supervised by coaches.

I later went on to higher levels of ski racing across Alberta, and then moved on to becoming an instructor. Now I am a ski guide here in Hakuba and help manage a ski school. Those initial years of structured race training and skill development, not only fostered a strong drive to train and compete, but also instilled in me a love of being outdoors and just having fun on the mountain.

This year at Evergreen, aside from our regular lessons, we are offering youth the opportunity to get involved in similar types of programs on the resort. First-timers are more than welcome to join in with our certified ski and snowboard coaches who will get them going on either race- or freestyle-oriented programs. The freeriding component of this program is also encouraged to allow kids to ride the entire resort while working on style and finesse.

Our aim is to give kids the opportunity to try either of these disciplines at a level structured to their ability, and to allow them to create attainable goals in their skiing or snowboarding. Of course, skiing and snowboarding by themselves are wonderful activities; however, besides being just a pastime for youth, adding an element of challenge and competition allows participants to have an avenue to focus their energy. There is something contagiously exciting when one of your kids or students lands their first 360, or beats the fastest time of their teammate on the course. It's not just about winning; however, but also about camaraderie, having a laugh, and learning the proper methods; and doing it all in a safety-conscious manner while creating foundations for a love of the sport, a love of the outdoors, and a love of setting and achieving goals.

With supervised transport from the Tokyo area to and from Hakuba, meals and accommodation provided, and professional coaching from Evergreen, the program should be a great weekend getaway for kids and parents alike. We may even make a few future Olympians in the process!

For more information please see Evergreen Outdoor Center's website at <http://www.evergreen-hakuba.com> or phone 0261-72-5150. — JAMES A. ROBB

FREESTYLE & RACE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday

07:00 Meet at Shinjuku
 07:30 Depart on Super Azusa
 11:30 Arrive at Hakuba, Shuttle to Evergreen
 12:00 Lunch
 12:45 Get geared up
 13:30 Free ride (FR) session starts
 16:00 Finish FR session, shuttle to accommodation
 16:30 Free time
 17:30 Dinner
 19:00 Night gate training
 21:00 Return to lodge and get ready for bed

Sunday

07:00 Rise and shine
 07:30 Breakfast
 08:00 Get ready to hit the slopes
 08:30 Free ride session
 10:30 Warm up and break
 11:00 Gates training
 12:30 Lunch
 13:15 Hot spring or shower
 14:10 Shuttle to station
 14:30 Board train for Shinjuku
 18:30 Arrive at Shinjuku / meet parents