

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

Evergreen Outdoor Center

March 2013, #34

St. Patrick's at St. Alban's



Elias Nakajo and James Merrit at St Alban's St Patrick's Day celebrations last year. GILMA YAMAMOTO

Last month's Valentine's Party at St. Alban's Nursery was a great success. The teachers were especially impressed with the crafty proficiency of the daddies this year. This month the school celebrates St. Patrick's Day. Children will make their own lep-

rechaun hats and participate in a treasure hunt at the end of a giant rainbow — a rainbow that they make with their own hand and foot prints. It is always a lot of mess, but a lot of fun! — GILMA YAMAMOTO

Literacy — the key to learning at Aoba-Japan

Aoba-Japan International School (A-JIS) believes there is a need to value and acknowledge the language and literacy that students bring from their homes and communities. There is also a need at the school for every student to master standard English and the literacies they will need for success in school and beyond.

As literacy is pivotal to all learning, A-JIS has been reviewing and refining its literacy program to ensure that a balanced literacy program is provided for students. A-JIS has embarked on a whole-school professional development journey with teachers to ensure that they have a common understanding and a common approach to literacy and literacy strategies. This has included the development of a school-wide assessment schedule within which diagnostic reading assessments are conducted bi-annually and writing samples are moderated among year levels to ensure consistency in teacher judgment and to highlight areas of improvement.

As part of this approach, the school has adopted the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Studies.

The standards set requirements and also lay out a vision of what it means to be a literate person in the 21st century. This journey is not a one-way or static journey, but is ongoing. As better evidence emerges, the school's literacy practices will be revised accordingly. — KAREN O'NEILL

International Christian Academy of Nagoya director gatherings

The International Christian Academy of Nagoya (ICAN) offers quality education for students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade.

The school believes that each child is created for a special purpose and strives to ensure that every student realizes that purpose not only at the academic level, but also in the emotional, mental, physical, social, and spiritual areas of their lives.

All instruction is in English, using North American curriculum. ICAN is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

This month's "Coffee with the Director" will be held on March 27 from 9:15–10:15am.

New International School's summer institute on multiage learning

New International School of Japan will be sponsoring a summer institute on professional development with Dr. Sandra J. Stone, Emilie Roger, and Brian Stone of the Multiage Institute at Northern Arizona University (NAU). The program runs every day from August 12 to 16, from 9am to 4pm, with one hour for lunch.

There are two course options: ECI 647 — Multiage Education & Early Childhood Curriculum and ECI 648 — Advanced Multiage Education. Both courses offer three optional university credits.

ECI 647 is an intensive version of the two-week National Multiage Institute summer course offered at NAU every summer. It provides historical and theoretical foundations of effective practice for children in a multiage setting, and practical ideas for designing and implementing the classroom.

ECI 648 is oriented to refining learning process strategies and portfolio assessment as well as broadening the use of centres, play, projects, and problem-based learning. The course incorporates maths and science into these strategies across mixed-age groupings from younger student groupings to older student groupings.

The courses cost ¥60,000, which is payable by August 1, with a discount for members of Tokyo Association of International Preschools.

The courses will be conducted in English; however, they include lots of hands-on activities and visual aids, which means that participants with intermediate to advanced proficiency in English will be able to benefit from them.

Dr. Sandra J. Stone is a professor at Northern Arizona University, and is the Founder of the Multiage Institute. She is a former multiage teacher, author of *Creating the Multiage Classroom*, international multiage consultant, and conference speaker. Emilie Rodger is an Associate Professor at Northern Arizona University. She is a former multiage teacher, national consultant, and conference speaker. Brian Stone is a lecturer at Northern Arizona University, focusing on science and social studies for mixed-age learners. He is a former intermediate multiage teacher and national conference speaker.

Interested participants should see <http://newis.edu.jp> for more information. To learn about the Multiage Institute, see <http://nau.edu/COE/About/Projects/National-Multiage-Institute>.



A presentation at last year's summer institute on multiage learning. NEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF JAPAN

Jingumae International Exchange School's art exhibition



Students preparing for last month's art exhibition at Jingumae International Exchange School. JIES

Every other year, Jingumae International Exchange School (JIES) participates in an art exhibition as part of exchange programs with a neighbouring Japanese elementary school. Artwork by students from both schools is featured.

This year's exhibition was held on February 8 and 9 in the gymnasium. The theme was "Colourful Atsumete." With this theme in mind, each class came up with a title and made a whole-class piece of work. There were also other collaborative art pieces, including a mosaic-style drawing by students from both schools that was hung from the ceiling. A giant flower, a 3D art-piece, was also created by both schools. All parents were invited to the exhibition, where they enjoyed the results of their children's creativity. — KENAN ULU

Malteser First Aid Model at Saint Maur International

Japan is especially prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and typhoons. A study published in September 2011 by the Earthquake Research Institute (ERI) of the University of Tokyo gained much attention as it estimated the probability of an earthquake in Tokyo and Yokohama of a strength comparable to the March 2011 earthquake in Tohoku, to be at around 70 percent within the next three years.

A group of parents and staff at Saint Maur International School grew concerned by the evident need to provide immediate professional first aid for natural disaster-related injuries. They looked into the Malteser model of teaching first aid at school. With its practicability within the normal working week and its sound pedagogy, it appeared especially suitable. It was also flexible enough to allow diverse age groups to be rigorously trained in emergency first aid only, for punctual intervention, or for comprehensive first aid.

The connections between French/German doctor Monica Ledoux and the German Malteser organization, allied with Malteser president Constantin Brandenstein and his ancestor Philipp Franz von Siebold, whose wish was to bring their tried and tested first aid training program to Japan, a country for which Constantin felt a certain affinity, led to the start of classes in Japan in November 2011.

And, thanks to Saint Maur International School's openness to this initiative, six First Aid Trainers were certified in March 2012. Two of these new trainers are from the German School of Tokyo-Yokohama, the first school in Japan to have a Malteser-trained first aid teacher. Since then, Saint Maur International School has been able to offer first aid courses to more than 220 students and adults. By the end of the academic year 2013, Saint Maur International School will have certified over 50 individuals in first aid! The school's aim now is to stabilize and expand

the training program. Several more courses for teachers, parents, and children are in session.

The pillars of first aid training at Saint Maur International School are the integration of four First Aid Units into the 7th grade curriculum and a First Aid Club for middle and high schoolers on Wednesday afternoons. The club prepares students to take a responsible and caring part in the larger world — an attitude much in keeping with the Saint Maur International School philosophy.

In view of the rapid turnover of international parents, it is of particular value to have long-term staff members as instructors, thus ensuring continuity.

Another 12-hour training session for adults is scheduled on the first four Fridays in March from 9am to midday. Interested parties should email ggaury@stmaur.ac.jp for information and to sign up. — GILLES GAURY



A Saint Maur parent with instructor Monica, learning Malteser First Aid. GILLES GAURY

EF Japan sends international students to UK universities

March is the graduation season for most Japanese schools, so students have recently been thinking about their next steps. After graduating from high school, Hector Sanchez from Mexico joined an Education First Japan (EF Japan) university preparation program, and received a diploma in business and management. A year later he started as a sophomore at Durham University.

The program prepares high school graduates for entry into the second year of a business-related bachelor's degree. International students are required to study for an additional year prior to entering UK universities. The EF diploma combines this extra year of secondary education with the first year of a bachelor's degree so that international students are allowed to enter the second year of an undergraduate degree quickly, after one year instead of two.

Successful graduates from the program are thoroughly prepared for life at university. "For me, the teachers are one of the most important things at EF because they support students in every aspect. They've helped increase my confidence and given me crucial advice," said Hector. In recent years, students enrolled in this program have been placed at universities that include Durham, Exeter, East Anglia, Royal Holloway, Oxford Brookes, and Westminster, to name a few.

The program will be held in EF London and EF Cambridge for 11 months starting in August. A 30-week, fast-track option is available for students who have completed a University Foundation Year, A-Levels, IB, or equivalent.

Email kozue.mitsu@ef.com or call 03-5774-6210. For general information, check out <http://www.efjapan.co.jp/university>. — WAKANA CATCHPOLE



Hector Sanchez from Mexico is now studying at Durham University. EDUCATION FIRST JAPAN

Love and friendship rules at J's International



Emilia (left) and Shuntaro (right), the best of friends at J's International School. MANA ORTIZ

With such a big topic of "Shapes and Colours" at J's International School last month, it was hard to cover everything teachers had planned! The theme tied in beautifully with Valentine's Day and friendship week. Throughout the month the children spent any spare time they had cutting, gluing, drawing, and colouring as they made cute Valentine's cards for friends and loved ones. Once finished, the cards were put directly into a special "LOVE" mailbox. The "mailman" came and delivered all the mail during a fancy dress Valentine's ball. After reading the letters and cards, it was time to dance. Gentlemen in suits bowed cordially asking, "May I have this dance?" and ladies in their beautiful dresses curtsied and moved gracefully.

Apart from creativity, the month put extra focus on social skills, individuality, and friendship. The weather outside was cold but the classrooms were filled with warmth and laughter. One fun activity excluded the children's sense of sight, only using the sense of touch to identify shapes, which brought a whole new dimension to the shapes.

To get regular updates on school activities and events, check out J's International School's Facebook page. — MANA ORTIZ

Personal projects exhibition at Katoh Gakuen

The class of 2015 at Katoh Gakuen Gyoshu is very excited to have just submitted their IB Middle Years Program's personal projects.

The personal project is a culminating event of each student's time in the MYP. It is an important piece of work produced over an extended period: nearly one year. It is a product of the students' interests and motivation to show the skills they have developed in their subjects over the years, and it allows them to showcase their planning, researching, and reflection skills.

This year there were lots of digital submissions, with many students creating products that involved the use of computer software, ranging from original role play games to original architectural designs. The students will exhibit their work this month. — LINDSAY RUDE



From a new school building to a children's book promoting healthy food choices: Nana, Lisa, Tomoki, Kai, Natsumi, Lyra, Haruka, Aya, Angela, and Emi show off a diverse range of completed personal projects. LINDSAY RUDE

Cezars Kitchen feeds children's bodies and minds

Cezars Kitchen plays an important role in children's developmental success through providing well-balanced nutrition and quality food, with the support of dieticians, to the international school community.

Cezars' staff believe that the food children put into their bodies will have a direct relationship to the quality of their education. They are committed to providing schools — from international schools to universities — with food and services that support and strengthen the body and mind, while promoting lifelong healthy eating habits.

Cezars' international-style approach fills a

very specialized niche in Japan, and they work with schools to provide nutritious, fresh food from all over the world. Cezars manage food service programs for clients seeking something different, something unique, and something that fits their culture.

Cezars has provided services to 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.

For more information see <http://cezarskitchen.com>.

From Feb 15th

Heli Tours

Guided Ski & Snowboard Helicopter Tours Operating in The Japanese Northern Alps

Day Trip Includes 3 Mountain Top Drops • Professional Guides
Personalised Heli Groups (3 people per guide)
Avalanche Equipment Included • **Prices from ¥57,500** per person
Enquire About Our 1 Day Private Charter Packages

 **Evergreen
Outdoor
Center**



Hakuba, Nagano, Japan
Tel: 0261-85-4420
evergreen-hakuba.com