

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

Evergreen Outdoor Center

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Katoh student wins Japan Times Spelling Bee



Winner Daichi Hayakawa, 12, displays his prize. JOE MARTINEZ

The *Japan Times* held their fourth annual spelling bee on Saturday, March 23rd and Daichi Hayakawa from Katoh Gakuen was crowned national spelling bee champion. He will now represent Japan in the US National Spelling Bee contest to be held in Washington, D.C. at the end of this month.

The contestants for the spelling bee contest came from 42 schools from across the country to compete for a chance to qualify for the finals in the United States. The students were aged 9 to 14 and they attend international, Japanese, and U.S. military-based schools.

This was Daichi's second time competing in the Japanese national spelling bee championships. Before the contest he was quoted as saying, "I am looking forward to doing better than last year at The Japan Times Spelling Bee."

The contest went an incredible 45 rounds, with words like "eschewal," "tattersall," and "syntrophism" put forward. Daichi won the championship with the correct spelling of "metamorphosis." The school is so proud of him and wishes him good luck in Washington, D.C! — JOANNA POLIKAITIS

NewIS tours and seminars

New International School (NewIS) of Japan's May orientations and tours will be held on the 8th (English) and 9th (Japanese). Both sessions run from 9:15–11:15am. Tours are also available by individual appointment. There will also be an "Open Forum on the Program at NewIS" held on May 28 from 9:15–11:15am. The seminars are open to the public as well as to families with students currently enrolled at NewIS, and are professionally interpreted from Japanese to English and vice-versa. Please call 03-3980-1057 to confirm attendance for tours or seminars.

EF's Santa Barbara tour

Education First (EF) Japan organizes two-week language travel tours for teens during the spring break and summer vacation. This is perfect for those who are not used to travelling abroad, or feel uncomfortable flying alone.

On March 31, EF welcomed back ten happy faces at Narita Airport. Most of the teens were returning from their first time abroad, where they stayed with local host families in Santa Barbara, California. All were keen to go abroad again.

The language travel tour is a complete package, with flight, accommodation, meals, and activities. An EF tour leader goes with the group and stays with them throughout the program. The Santa Barbara schedule included classes and activities for both weeks, Monday–Friday, and sightseeing to Disneyland and Universal Studios on the middle weekend.

The next language travel tour will be held this summer. For information on the tours, please email mayumi.kuwagaito@ef.com or call 03-5774-6210. For general information on EF programs, check out the website at <http://www.efjapan.co.jp>. — WAKANA CATCHPOLE



Students enjoying a boat trip during EF's recent trip to Santa Barbara, California. EF EDUCATION FIRST JAPAN

Little scientists at J's



William, Axel, and Shuntaro conducting science experiments at J's International School. MANA ORTIZ

April brought the theme of "Nature's Science" to J's International School. Science experiments started off with questions such as: Where does rain come from? What is a volcano? How do walrus stay warm? What happens if we mix elements?

The previous month's "space station" was transformed into a science lab, complete with microscopes, test tubes, magnets, and a number of different concoctions in bottles. The children conducted many hands-on experiments and they were encouraged to observe, make predictions, and come to conclusions. They enjoyed examining daily changes in the substances they were experimenting on. These advanced cognitive concepts were intriguing to the naturally curious little scientists.

J's also took advantage of the beautiful warm days of last month by spending time outside having picnics and exploring the local environment. Sketching trees while sitting directly under them, looking at decomposing leaves in the dirt, and getting a closer look at all the bugs that are starting to come out were just a few of the daily activities.

For frequent updates please, "like" J's International School on Facebook. — MANA ORTIZ

Cezars plants foundations for the future

Cezars Kitchen chef Daryl Toms is creating a garden at Seisen International School from which the school's weekly lunch specials will be created. Students are encouraged to plant and tend to the garden whenever possible as they learn about sustainability and to respect where food comes from.

Cezars Kitchen is committed to working with Nagoya International School, Saint Maur International School, The Canadian Academy, St Mary's International School, the German School, and Sacred Heart as well as Seisen to provide food and services that support and strengthen students' bodies and minds while promoting lifelong healthy eating habits.

Creating gardens within educational institutions for the chefs to use is something the Cezars team hopes for at every location.

International Christian Academy of Nagoya's fair

International Christian Academy of Nagoya (ICAN) students show off their creativity and knowledge during this year's academic fair held on March 29. Students worked hard on their projects, which showed what they had learned about a topic they studied during the third quarter. All students, from pre-kindergarten through to 12th grade, took part in the fair. Parents and friends visited the classrooms to see the projects and listen to students talk about what they had learned.

The projects integrated all academic subjects — maths, science, social studies, reading, writing, and art — into this one event. Authentic as-

essment through activities such as the fair is one way that teachers at ICAN evaluate the students' learning and progress throughout the year.

ICAN invites parents to visit <http://www.icanjapan.org> for information on this year's summer adventure program, beginning June 10. Classes are Mondays through Thursdays from 9am–1pm, with weekly field trips. All instruction is in English and classes include reading, phonics, writing, maths, science, crafts, social studies, singing, and games. Students may register for one or more weeks and discounts are available for multiple weeks of attendance and for siblings. — CHERI DOOD



ICAN kindergarten students talking about "time" during last month's academic fair. ICAN

Saint Maur Summer Program registration open

Registration is now open for the Saint Maur Summer Program, which starts on June 17 and runs until July 5 for grades 6–12 and until July 12 for pre-school–grade 5. Students can attend for between two and four weeks, depending on their grade level.

The Saint Maur Summer Program promotes the school's philosophy toward lifelong learning by offering English-speaking children a blend of

academic enrichment in core subjects such as language arts, mathematics, technology, science, art, music, and sports. Students do not need to be enrolled in Saint Maur International School during the regular academic year in order to participate in the summer program.

For more details see <http://www.stmaur.ac.jp/learning/summer-program/index.aspx>.



Annie, Yoshito, Allie, Rickie, Jessica, and Angelina enjoying last year's summer program. SAINT MAUR

Literacy Week at JIES

Jingumae International Exchange School (JIES) celebrated annual Literacy Week in the last week of March, with this year's theme being "superheroes."

Teachers wanted the students to think about literacy as a super power that could be used for the greater good, so they designed a number of literacy-related activities to encourage students to have fun while learning about the power of reading and writing. Literacy-based games such as Jeopardy were played in mixed-age groups in order to get children excited about Literacy Week. Students composed their own PYP-based superhero stories. There was also an art competition in which students had the opportunity to design and draw an original superhero based on the attributes of the PYP learner profile.

For one day, everyone could go to school dressed as their favourite superhero or character from a book. There was also an exhilarating school-wide spelling bee. In order to enhance the literary experience, the entire school cooperated in a five-day reading marathon.

Each individual class also created a reading "fort" using cardboard, paint, and other materials found at school. Constructed and decorated were a colourful house, a cat bus, personal water closets, reading pods, and a stately castle that was half haunted. On the last day of Literacy Week, the reading forts were revealed, and plenty of time was available for the children to explore and read in them. The children read on their own or in pairs or trios, and enjoyed the fun environments that they and their peers had created. — KENAN ULU



Aram, Nurullah, and Arthur heading into their reading fort during last month's Literacy Week. JIES

Cherry blossom celebrations at Saint Alban's



Teacher Gilma Yamamoto-Copeland with students Oliver Buerk, Shotaro Noda, Aaryan Raj, Evelyn Richardson, Chiaki Nozawa, and Sakura Makita enjoying hanami last month. SAINT ALBAN'S NURSERY

Following Saint Alban's Nursery celebration of hanami under their very own cherry tree at the back of the church, students and teachers ventured out to the back of Tokyo Tower to get extra water for their tadpoles. This month will be all about science, as the children watch their tadpoles grow,

ants build their tunnels, lady bugs fly around, roly-polies come out, and more. It is the children's favourite time of year. The water table will be out and they will be spending lots of time outside playing, building, and action painting. — GILMA YAMAMOTO-COPELAND

Horizon Sendai 2nd year

Horizon Japan International School Sendai Campus started its second school year on April 8. The day included an enrolment ceremony to celebrate the first day of the new students in the preschool class. The parents of the new students, along with guests, shared the joy of this memorable day.

Horizon Sendai staff are very excited to welcome the new students and are dedicated to providing a warm atmosphere in which all students will feel cared about. — BARIS ARUK



New students at Horizon Japan International School Sendai during its recent opening ceremony. HIJS SENDAI



English Adventure and Evergreen Outdoor Center team up to create the best summer camps in Japan



English Adventure and Evergreen Outdoor Center are pleased to announce their partnership to offer a premium summer camp experience to children in Japan. Both companies have been outdoor industry leaders for over a decade, and their partnership draws on the strengths of both organizations.

English Adventure is one of the largest camp program operators in Japan, known for their authentic American-style camping experiences. Founded in 2003 to serve the returnee and international community, English Adventure's original English Immersion camps are a chance for children who speak English to enjoy nature and the outdoors in a round-the-clock, English-only environment without leaving Japan. English Adventure also offers English Challenge camps where children can learn and practise activity-based English in the outdoors.

Evergreen Outdoor Center, based at the foot of the Japan Northern Alps in Hakuba, Nagano, has been operating guided tours since 2000, and has been instrumental in developing outdoor recreation activities, ecology tours,

and mountain safety courses in Nagano. They have earned a reputation for outstanding service and hospitality, along with the rigorous technical skills and safety training of their guides and outdoor leaders. Evergreen has also operated their own popular summer camps in the Hakuba area, primarily for English-speaking Japanese and international children.

These two companies have partnered to create a series of camps at a beautiful lakeside location near Hakuba. The camps promise to be the best outdoor program available to English-speaking children in Japan. Canoeing, swimming, canyoning, high ropes adventure, campfires, trekking, and many other exciting activities make the most of the beautiful natural setting. Crafts, cookouts, songs and games, and other traditional North American camp activities also help deliver a camp experience that children will remember for years to come. An international team of expert guides and camp leaders drawn from both English Adventure and Evergreen ensure a safe, fun, and enriching time for every camper.

"English Adventure really cares about giving

every single child a quality camp experience. That's why Evergreen is happy to be working together to give children the best of both our programs," says Evergreen Outdoor Center director David Enright. English Adventure director Dave Paddock is enthusiastic about Evergreen's position as the leading outdoor operator in Hakuba, and the expanded range of activities that campers will be able to enjoy thanks to the partnership. "Hakuba is one of the jewels in Japan's outdoor scene, and Evergreen's experience and knowledge of the area are the best. They also have the people and know-how to expand our camp activities to include canoeing, canyoning, and serious outdoor adventure. This is the camp I would have wanted to go to when I was a child."

Multiple five-day and ten-day camps will run from July 22 to August 23, 2013. Camp fees begin at ¥90,000. Interested families can visit <http://www.english-adventure.org> to learn more and to register. School inquiries can be directed to Karl Pisor of English Adventure by email to karl@english-adventure.org or phone on 03-5314-9603. — JAMES ROBB

