

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

Evergreen Outdoor Center

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International Children's Festival and Tohoku fundraiser



Grade 5 students performing the Japanese Sansa Dance. HORIZON JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

International Children's Festival (ICF) is one of the most exciting events of the year at Horizon, and this year's ICF certainly did not disappoint.

The students worked hard preparing a wide array of international dances, and also enjoyed several guest performances from members of the

community. Each class researched and prepared an information booth about an individual country, and the secondary students worked hard on the "Horizon Around the World" display. There was a wide selection of homemade international food available, and the grade 5 class raised almost

¥100,000 for their Tohoku Fundraiser.

The ICF Committee and all of the Horizon staff wish to express their sincere gratitude to all the students and parents who came out to help celebrate their diverse school community. — ALI KARA

Cezars' carnival catering



Cezars Kitchen's chef, Craig Chan, supporting the parents of St. Mary's. CEZARS KITCHEN

St. Mary's International School in Futakotamagawa held an international carnival on May 11, with the theme "Together Along the Way." Students' parents worked together with Cezars Kitchen to cater food for all carnival goers. International foods were on offer, along with games and other activities, helping to keep spirits high even though the rain poured.

Cezars works with all of their international school clients to help provide assistance with similar events, welcoming parents into the kitchen and working side by side to create a memorable event.

"It really brings the community and the kitchen together. We serve their children great food every

day and now we get to do the same with and for the parents," said St. Mary's Chef-in-Charge Craig Chan.

"We are just happy to help and provide whatever the parents need to create a great carnival," says Corporate Executive Chef Gregory Ferris.

Cezars works with schools to provide nutritious, fresh food from all over the world, managing food service programs for clients that seek something different, something unique, and something that fits their culture. Cezars has worked with Saint Maur, the Canadian Academy, St. Mary's, Seisen, and Sacred Heart, among others.

For more information about Cezars' services, see <http://cezarskitchen.com>.

LMFAO's Sky Blu headlines EF Summeranza 2013

Sky Blu of LMFAO is set to headline EF Summeranza 2013, the world's largest music festival for teenagers, hosted by EF Education First. The international music festival will play to an expected audience of 4,000 EF students at Kempton Park Racecourse outside London on July 11, 2013. Sky Blu will headline the festival, and will be supported by the Luminites of the United Kingdom and other international artists.

EF Summeranza is EF's annual music festival offered exclusively to EF students where they can enjoy performances from some of the world's biggest artists. Previous headliners have included William of the Black Eyed Peas in 2012, Ke\$ha in 2011, and DJ Bob Sinclar in 2010. This daylong event includes fun fair games, rides, and attractions.

The closest EF language centre to the event is EF

London. It's a short walk from Waterloo Station, with excellent connections via London's Tube to the Bakerloo, Jubilee, Northern, and Waterloo & City lines. The historic Victorian building has just been renovated with sleek modern interiors and new student facilities such as an expanded café, a student lounge, and technology-enhanced computer labs. The school's spacious outdoor courtyard features café-style tables and chairs, perfect for enjoying lunch or studying in the sun.

On the day of the event, an EF bus will collect all ticket-holders. Tickets can be purchased prior to the immersion program. Event information can be found at <http://www.ef.com/summeranza>.

For general information on EF University Preparation Abroad and other language programs, check out our website: <http://www.efjapan.co.jp>.
— WAKANA CATCHPOLE

Katoh students visit Iowa over spring break



Making "American" snowmen with host family and friends. SANDRA RODGERS

Seventh and tenth grade students from Katoh Gakuen Gyoshu participated in a homestay trip to Iowa this March. Students stayed with American host families and attended middle and high schools in the Iowa City and Cedar Rapids areas.

Each student attended school and lived with the family of their American buddy. They got to try activities such as ice skating, playing in the snow, attending sporting events, trying American food, and going shopping at the mall, all while developing their English skills and learning about a different culture.

They also participated in a scavenger hunt, which required them to do activities related to Iowan culture and build a scrapbook displaying those activities. Activities included students having a photo of taken them feeding corn to livestock and taking a photo of their American host family eating a Japanese meal with chopsticks.

This year's trip to Iowa was one of the best yet — many of the students made lasting friendships with their buddies, and everyone had an unforgettable time. — SANDRA RODGERS

TELL's Exceptional Parenting Program success

TELL's Exceptional Parenting Program (EPP) provides a forum where parents and professionals can broaden their knowledge of issues related to raising and educating children with diverse needs, seek and exchange information in a supportive atmosphere, and access a lending library of books, magazines, and recorded presentations. Its workshop series features seven free presentations by speakers from a variety of disciplines and those workshops are centred on providing insightful practical information to increase awareness and understanding of various issues associated with raising and educating a child with learning differences/diverse needs.

The program had a great turnout this academic year (September 2012 to May 2013) and covered new topics, including strategies to use when talking to children about difficult topics, gender identity development and sexuality, school absenteeism and

"Hikikomori," motor movement difficulties, bilingual children with academic difficulties, and stigma in child mental health. In order to increase the accessibility of the programs, some workshops were provided in three formats, including an onsite live version, an offsite broadcast live version, and a recorded online version, at a later time. Over 200 people participated in the onsite live version of the workshops.

EPP is in the process of organizing its next workshop series (September 2013 to May 2014), which will include an international expert speaker. Information about the upcoming workshops will be available at <http://www.telljp.com> before September this year.

If you want to know more about the program or wish to receive information about upcoming events, please contact the Exceptional Parenting Program Coordinator, Chie Sawa, at excep_parents@telljp.com. — CHIE SAWA

ICAN's elementary students get in the spirit

May was a busy month at the International Christian Academy of Nagoya (ICAN), with lots of dressing up and also some quieter, more reflective time in the chapel program.

Pre-kindergarten through 4th grade students participated in ICAN's monthly "Spirit Day" by dressing up as a famous person or favourite character. These are always fun days for the students and teachers as they compete to see which class gets the most involved.

Elementary school students also participated in a chapel program, where they sang praise songs, had a short devotion/Bible story, and also joined in a discussion. The elementary students always enjoy interacting with others from the older and younger grades in a relaxed atmosphere.

ICAN's summer program will begin on June 10 and runs until July 18. Students and teachers spend their time in small classes with the aim of learning and being challenged in order to reach their full potential. Classes are held Monday–Thursday from 9am–2pm at the ICAN intermediate/administration building. Thursdays are always field trip days. The summer program is always well attended and application forms are available at <http://www.icanjapan.org>. — CHERI DOOD



Elementary school students at ICAN dressing up for the monthly "Spirit Day." CHERI DOOD

Saint Alban's summer fun

The weather is warm and it is time for summer fun at Saint Alban's! During June, the Tokyo Fire Department will be visiting the school. There will be genuine firefighters in full regalia, and a fire truck that the children can explore. The paddling pools will be out, the children will be cooking once a week, and they will be making lots and lots of crafts! — GILMA YAMAMOTO-COPELAND

NewIS June open days

New International School (NewIS) of Japan will hold its monthly orientations and tours on Wednesday, June 5 (in English) and Wednesday, June 12 (in Japanese). Both events run from 9:15–11:15am. Interested parties should call 03-3980-1057 to confirm attendance. Please note that visitors are also welcome by individual appointment.

Staff wanted for kids' scooter school events



Children enjoying their micro-scooters. MICRO-SCOOTERS

If you enjoy sports and working with kids you may be interested in joining Micro-Scooter's events team — they are currently hiring.

Micro-Scooters Japan is the exclusive distributor of a popular range of micro-scooters for children and adults. Micro believes that scooting should be safe as well as fun, and its scooter events are designed to help kids learn about safety while they improve their scooter skills.

Micro is expanding its scooter school and event programs, and looking for energetic staff (including an events director) to help with events on a part-time or full-time basis. Fluency in Japanese is required and a background or interest in sales, fitness, sports, or children's education is preferred. Weekend work may be required.

This is a great opportunity to help keep kids safe and at the same time become part of an exciting and fast-growing team. If you are interested, you can email [Micro-Scooters Japan at recruit@microscooters.co.jp](mailto:recruit@microscooters.co.jp), including details of your experience. — MICHAEL GERTLER

International Children's Day at Jingumae school



The JIES community enjoy experiencing Turkey during International Children's Day. KENAN ULU

Jingumae International Exchange School (JIES) had "International Children's Day" on April 20. Students, parents, international community members, and embassies worked collaboratively to promote international awareness and develop a curiosity about the world through a wide variety of activities. Participants also enjoyed guest singer, Ayako Ikeda, and dance performances from JIES

and Jinsho students.

There was a wide range of visitors (more than 400 people) representing many different countries, as well as visitors from the local community.

Each class was responsible for an individual country. Students searched for information, organized games and activities specific to their countries, and decorated their classrooms in cooperation with parents and embassies. Kids also had a chance to win amazing prizes from different countries during the raffle. The students, after visiting the booths of a number of countries, had Turkish ice cream.

Guests and visitors enjoyed the different countries' booths, the Turkish ice cream, a delicious bake sale, and prizes from the raffle. They all appreciated the endeavours of the JIES community and expressed their sincere gratitude to everyone for their diligent hard work. — KENAN ULU

Reduce, reuse, recycle at J's International



Clockwise from centre: Mr. Robot, Brian, Yohji, Yuki, Amelia. MANA ORTIZ

Did you know that PET bottles can be recycled into fibre for carpets, fabric, fleece jackets, fill for sleeping bags and winter coats, and various packaging? J's found out that they could even be recycled into an awesome giant robot. "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" was the theme of the school's special show-and-tell day. The staff were amazed at the creative ideas the children came up with for this project. Most importantly, they were happy to be able to raise environmental awareness among the children.

J's is currently accepting applicants to its 12-week summer fun program. For more information see <http://www.js-international-school.com> or email office@js-international-school.com. — MANA ORTIZ



We are an organization for Educators, Schools and Parents
Tokyo Association of International Preschools

If your school has not joined TAIP yet, do it NOW! Parents and individual members are also welcome. You can enjoy several services such as networking, meetings, workshops, seminars and much more. To become a member, please visit our website to learn a little more about us. Then click the Membership button.

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Education in the outdoors



At the Evergreen Outdoor Center in Hakuba village in Nagano prefecture, staff aspire to reconnect youth and adults with nature by creating fun, safe, and educational outdoor experiences. The first step to achieving this begins not with lectures, but with immersion into Hakuba's natural areas while participating in recreational activities. Evergreen is an ecologically sustainable tour operator that has been arranging recreational tours and instruction in Hakuba for more than a decade.

Evergreen's range of outdoor programs includes week-long summer camps for children and customized school trips. Activities such as going up the mountains, onto the lake, into the rivers, and exploring the forests firsthand come easily to children and they can get their feet wet (literally) in many exciting outdoor sports. Canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, and canyoning are not competitive in their objectives but do instill and require friendly teamwork, the support of friends, and, of course, the element of excitement and adventure. From sleeping in lakeside tents and camping in the hills to cooking and eating all their meals outside, children have a chance to get back to nature and just be kids.

Evergreen uses these outdoor activities as catalysts for discovery of the natural world as well as self-discovery, so that children of all ages realize their personal strengths and philosophies while developing creative ways of solving problems. A holistic approach to outdoor education is also encouraged, teaching kids how the weather, water cycle, and flora and fauna all interact, and how humans can influence these natural systems. Evergreen also aims to impart a sense of stewardship toward one's local environment, be it an urban area or rural countryside. Students can also try their hand at orienteering and map reading and then apply these skills to real world environments. Curriculum-based studies are supplemented by learning about the geology of the mountains and seeing the effects of erosion. Groups often include community service in their adventure, assisting with local cleanup of lakes and rivers.

A number of Evergreen's package tours are family-oriented, so parents and kids, even grandparents, can participate. An instructional canoe or kayak tour on crystal clear Aoki Lake on a warm summer day or an evening "Firefly Canoe Tour" can be a truly magical experience. For the more adventurous, the professional guides at Evergreen would love to dress you up in neoprene and lead you into the spectacular "Kamoshika Canyon" for a day of thrills, jumping and sliding into deep crystal pools, and descending on ropes and wire zip lines alongside steep canyon walls.

Evergreen also caters to large groups, schools, and corporate events, and can assist you and your team with arranging transport, accommodation, and nightlife activities to suit your needs and budget. Just give them a call at 0261-72-5150 or send an email to tours@evergreen-outdoors.com.

— JAMES ROBB