

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

Evergreen Outdoor Center

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Back to school at J's



(from left to right) Axel, Amelia, Shuntaro, William, and Emilia getting ready at J's. ERIKA CABULOY

The Summer Fun program at J's was full of activities and excitement as the children discovered dragons in China, went on safari jeeps, and even became pirates.

Now it is time to get ready for the new school year. Students and teachers are getting excited at the thought of seeing so many faces, both

old and new, as well as getting to know the new classrooms.

J's International School is set in a two-storey house full of comfy chairs and pillows, and a large selection of books, toys, and learning materials. See <http://www.js-international-school.com> for more information. — ERIKA CABULOY

2013 summer institute sponsored by NewIS

NewIS is sponsoring Dr. Sandra Stone and two of the other faculty members of the Multiage Institute at Northern Arizona University to give two courses from August 12–16 at New International School of Japan.

This is a professional development opportunity

for teachers or future teachers, and also for parents homeschooling their children. College credits are available at extra cost.

Sessions will be held daily from 9am–4pm, with an hour for lunch. For further information, see <http://newis.ed.jp>.



(from left to right) Oliver Buerk, Sakura Makita, Amu Tudor, Aryan Raj, and Shotaro Noda enjoying Saint Alban's summer program this year. SAINT ALBAN'S NURSERY

Learning, love, and laughter at Saint Alban's

The Saint Alban's Nursery community had a great time during its summer program and are looking forward to the start of school on August 27. Teachers are excited about showing students all the stories, games, songs, and activities they have planned for the new school year. There are still spaces available. See http://www.saintalbans.jp/?page_id=177 for details. — GILMA YAMAMOTO-COPELAND

Overseas Accelerated College Degree Program

Odbayar Tuguldur is originally from Mongolia. When he was in elementary school, he moved to Japan because of his family's job, and went to school in the Japanese education system until his second year of high school, when he joined Education First (EF).

"I chose EF's Accelerated College Degree Program (ACDP) because, depending on your English level, even if you're a freshman or in the second year of high school, you can enter an American college," says Tuguldur.

Within the Japanese education system, children start elementary school during the year they turn seven years old, whereas children in the United States typically start one year earlier. "I wanted to be finished with schools early," says Tuguldur.

Tuguldur acknowledges that he worried about going abroad alone, studying English, and applying for college, but he experienced so many things that he couldn't have experienced had he remained in Japan. "In an American college, you have to read 100 pages of a textbook before you go to class, so in ACDP, one class focused on reading and discussion skills. Because of this, I had no problem adjusting when I went to college in the States."

This summer, Tuguldur's interest in media communication led him to join EF's student alumni group "EF Ambassador" and make a promotional video showing the activities of the group. Tuguldur is excited about the countless future possibilities that lie ahead of him.

In order to gain admittance to EF's Accelerated College Degree Program, applicants must be in high school. For more information on the course, please email kozue.mitsu@ef.com or call 03-5774-6210. For general information on EF University Preparation Abroad programs, check out <http://www.efjapan.co.jp/university>. — WAKANA CATCHPOLE



Tuguldur and classmates at Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. EDUCATION FIRST JAPAN

HJIS joins the world of IB

Horizon Japan International School (HJIS) is delighted to announce to the international community that the International Baccalaureate (IB) has acknowledged the school's high standards.

HJIS was recently authorized as an IB World School, implementing the IB Diploma Programme. Thanks to the dedication of the faculty and the support of the wider school community, all of the inspections were passed with merit. The outcome of the authorization visit was released in only a few weeks, and the school community was proud to see that they were described as "exceptional" in so many places.

Another important recent event was the high school graduation. The first high school graduation was filled with tears of joy and excitement, and it also demonstrated the commitment of Horizon to educating and nurturing students from preschool age through to university entrance.

Horizon is now enjoying a quieter time with its summer school and would like to thank all of the families for their interest, which resulted in all classes running at full capacity during the 3rd and 4th sessions. — SELCUK BASAK



High school valedictorian, Berfin, before making her speech at graduation. SELCUK BASAK

Teachers/trainers wanted as travel guides in Japan

Due to high demand for Venture's adventures, expeditions, and events in Japan, the company is recruiting travel guides. These positions are suitable for those with teaching or training experience.

Since 2001, Venture has set a first-class standard for adventure travel experiences in Japan. The company's ongoing pursuit of excellence is based on aiming to provide superior service to clients and travel agents through recruiting, training, and developing the best people. Whether you are a seasoned travel professional or a complete novice to the industry, there are leading opportunities at Venture that can open up a whole new world of adventure for you.

From the feeling of walking old pilgrim routes around Kyoto and visiting vibrant Tokyo night scenes with wide-eyed clients to relaxing with a sake after a day of coastal path cycling or sea kayaking in rural areas, our leaders point the

way deep into some of the most magnificent landscapes and memorable experiences in Japan.

Guiding for Venture is not an easy job. It is the rare, dynamic individual who can really do it well. Venture leaders combine a passion for Japan with a flair for seeking out local interaction for clients; they love the outdoors and life on the road and have an affinity to their clients. Venture leaders also have a desire to learn and a talent to teach, and have a flexible attitude combined with a steadfast commitment to responsible travel.

Venture leaders deliver the highest levels of service because they love what they do, love the undeniably special places they visit in Japan, and love having a positive impact on the lives of those who travel with them on their adventures.

For a full job description and application form, email info@ventureea.com or visit <http://www.ventureea.com>. — GARETH JOHNSON

Open days and tours

Contact schools directly to confirm availability and details of open days and tours.

September

21st: Nishimachi International School

28th: Columbia International School

October

4th: Columbia International School

5th: Columbia International School

17th: Christian Academy in Japan

November

14th: Christian Academy in Japan

New edition of Japan international schools guidebook in production

An updated edition of the "Guide to International Schools in Japan" is currently in production and due for release at end 2013. The updated edition will feature six-page profiles of over one hundred international schools throughout Japan, with many of those profiles in full colour. For information on the current and new editions, see <http://www.internationalschoolsguidebook.com>.

ISAK opening ceremony

Cezars Kitchen is once again supporting food services for a new international school in Japan.

The International School of Asia, Karuizawa (ISAK) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month, to mark the completion of the first phase of construction and to pave the way for summer school. Summer school started on July 20 and continues until August 13, with Cezars Kitchen providing three meals a day, seven days a week. The summer school menu has specifically been designed to support farmers in the Karuizawa area.

"We are fortunate enough to be a part of the great concept that is ISAK. Being in the stunning setting and beautiful ambiance of Karuizawa really is a joy," said Cezars' Corporate Executive Chef Gregory Ferris.



Supporters and staff enjoy the delicious canapés at last month's ribbon-cutting ceremony at ISAK. CEZARS KITCHEN

Jingumae International Exchange School excursion



Jingumae students playing in the water park at Kyodo no Mori Museum. KENAN ULU

Jingumae International Exchange School (JIES) students went on a school excursion, along with students from Jingumae Elementary, on June 6. This annual event is just one of the “whole school” activities that both the Exchange School and the Japanese school go on as part of their exchange program.

Students travelled to Fuchu City’s Kyodo no Mori Museum and enjoyed the large outdoors

area including playing in the water pool. Students from kindergarten to grade 6 split into suisha groups (mixed groups with all grades from both schools) for planned activities and playing together. Preschool students, joined by some parents, enjoyed their own activities. Everyone had a good time. It was another great opportunity for students of both schools to build up good relationships. — KENAN ULU

GrapeSEED English curriculum event in Shinagawa

On July 3, eight international schools from around Japan gathered in Shinagawa to hear Mike Shembarger of Michigan talk about using the GrapeSEED English curriculum with ESL students and native speakers.

Mr. Shembarger reported that teachers noticed changes in ESL students within two weeks of their starting the program. Teachers said that non-native speakers were more involved in class and had begun to speak out far more than with previous ESL courses. These improvements were backed

by test results, which Mr. Shembarger presented at last month’s event.

Native speakers also showed accelerated growth in their language learning. At one of the pilot schools in Detroit, 99 out of 100 students got the highest score possible on the test measuring their mastery of grade level skills. This result is unheard of at a school with 100% “at-risk” children.

To learn more about GrapeSEED, please see <http://www.grapeseed.com> or email GSSupport@gmail.com. — JORDAN NOGAKI



Children and parents gathering in the gym for Japanese Culture Day opening. HORIZON JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SENDAI

Japanese Culture Day at Horizon Sendai

Children at Horizon Japan International School Sendai Campus celebrated Japanese Culture Day on July 5th by doing Tanabata Festival-related activities.

The children greatly enjoyed listening to a kamishibai picture story about Tanabata, eating okonomiyaki and cotton candy, and decorating a bamboo tree with “I want to be a ...” cards. Many of the children’s parents participated in the day, helping with and enjoying the activities. — BARIS ARUK

Tokyo Association of International Preschools

TAIP provides networking, marketing, and professional development opportunities for teachers, staff, and administrators. Current membership includes:

ABC International School
Aoba Japan International School
ASIJ ELC
Ayla International School
The British School in Tokyo
Canadian International School
Central Forest International School
Chateau School
Columbia International School
Gregg International School
Happy Days International School
Horizon Japan International School
International School of the Sacred Heart
Jingumae International Exchange School
Joy to the World American International Preschool
J’s International School
K. International School Tokyo
Kailua International School
Keiki Intercultural Preschool
Kincarn International School
Komazawa Park International School
Kunitachi Kids International School
Learning Tree
Makuhari International School
Mitsui Gardens International Preschool
New World International School
Nishimachi International School
New International School
Ohana International School
Poppins International Pre-School
Saint Maur International School
Seisen International School — Montessori Kindergarten
Shikahama English Adventures International Preschool
Saint Albans Nursery
Summerhill International School
The Montessori School of Tokyo
Tokyo International Kindercare
Tokyo International School
Tokyo YMCA International School
Victory International Preschool
Waseda International School
Willowbrook International School

Associate Members

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Scholastic Japan
Yanagi Educational Group

See <http://tokyopreschools.org> for membership information.

Clear waters, cool air ...

Elude the city swelter this summer and enjoy a refreshing respite in Japan's Northern Alps!

We all enjoy summer for lots of different reasons; be it Sunday afternoon barbecues, the prospect of a vacation, or simply the opportunity to soak up the outdoors. However, as I am sure we can all agree, sometimes our summers here in Japan, especially in urban centres, can feel less like enjoying the sunshine and Frisbee and more about feeling hot, humid, and flustered! Inevitably, living and working in warm temperatures in a busy city takes its toll during the summer months, and at some stage we all need a break!

Fortunately, due to Japan's diversity in climate and landscape, we can retreat into its Northern Alps and take a few days to refresh and restore ourselves. The mountains, some still holding snow and permanent snow fields, lend us some of their cool air and fresh water, while the forests, lakes, and rivers keep the surroundings gorgeously green and full of life. The lush landscape around us is largely thanks to the waterways we have here, and the part they play in maintaining the wildlife and environment. Hakuba is home to Lake Aokiko, perhaps a name you have encountered before, which claims the title of Japan's third cleanest and clearest lake! One of the reasons for this is that no motorboats are allowed on the lake, meaning that you can float around at your leisure without the rumble of a boat engine, grease in the water, or having to constantly peer around to check that you are not in the path of an oncoming wake boarder!

Another reason for Aokiko's purity is that it is fed by hundreds of natural springs. A testament to this comes in the form of the curious little creatures that come out at night, giving us a glimpse into their unique world; I am talking of course, about fireflies.

Imagine yourself in a canoe, gliding silently across the surface of the lake after the sun has retired for the day. The only noise and light around you come in the form of paddles swirling the water and the twinkling of stars and fireflies. Venturing onto the lake after sundown is a surreal experience, it could not be further removed from the hustle and bustle of urban living.

As well as our lovely Lake Aokiko, which can be enjoyed by canoe, kayak or voyager canoe all summer long, we have two rivers whose cool, clean waters keep us replenished and relaxed. The Himekawa or "Princess River," begins its 40km journey to the Sea of Japan here in Hakuba; its source is nestled into a cluster of shaded trees that are alive with wildlife and vibrancy. It is a fantastic spot for a stroll or picnic. The backdrop to our second river, the three peaks of Hakuba, with the source of the Matsukawa concealed high up in them, ensures that the air around the river is always pleasant. The banks of the Matsukawa are big and grassy, trapping its microclimate of cool air and consequently making it a great place to enjoy being outdoors in summer.

Escaping to Hakuba for a few days of relaxation and rejuvenation is an ideal way to break up the routine of daily life and get away from summer's sizzling heat. To enjoy the best of Hakuba and all that it has to offer you this summer, Evergreen Outdoor Center is ready to show you exactly why WE love this area, and why we have been operating outdoor tours here for the past 13 years. Come and see for yourself the allure of the area and why more and more people are coming to enjoy this little piece of paradise in the midst of a long, hot summer. — NADINE WILDING

