

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

1 Evergreen Outdoor Center

November 2013, #42

Cezars Kitchen's Halloween at Aoba-Japan



Chef Dario prepares to make the students' Halloween designs come to life. GREGORY FERRIS

Cezars Kitchen got into the Halloween spirit with the students of Aoba-Japan International School Hikarigaoka campus, when Chef Dario worked closely with them to design and create their own jack-o-lanterns.

Dario showed the students the professional techniques for removing seeds and carving pumpkins, and in total the students designed more than

20 jack-o-lanterns. The lanterns were paraded around the school as part of Aoba's Halloween celebrations.

Chef Dario said, given that he is usually in the kitchen, it was a great opportunity to spend time with the children, and to be able encourage and support them in their creative endeavours. — GREGORY FERRIS

NewIS Japan and the Coalition of Essential Schools

New International School of Japan (NewIS) is a member of the Coalition of Essential Schools (CES). CES consists of innovative high schools, mostly based in the United States. The organization was founded by TheodoreSizer of Brown University, along with like-minded educators, who worked to redefine what a high school should be, in contrast to the traditional model.

Steven Parr, the Founding Director of NewIS, attended the CES Fall Forum in San Francisco in early November. He was struck by the emergent language that NewIS has already been using in their orientations and seminars: language

such as "standards without standardization," this year's theme at NewIS; "collaboration;" and "formative assessment" (as opposed to summative assessment). The CES schools work to keep a focus on "what I am learning" instead of focusing on the anxiety-related to "how am I doing?" when compared to the other students' performances.

For more information about the Coalition of Essential Schools, see <http://www.essentialschools.org>. For more information about New International School of Japan, see <http://newis.ed.jp>. The school extended to Grade 11 this year, and will add Grade 12 in 2014-15.

St. Alban's Nursery becomes independent

St. Alban's Nursery is proud to announce the beginning of a new phase in its history as one of the longest-serving international preschools in Tokyo.

As of November 1, while still enjoying its prime location just up from Tokyo Tower in the quiet, leafy surrounds of St. Alban's Anglican-Episcopal church, the program became independent and is no longer directly under church management.

Long-term Tokyo resident and businesswoman Roslyn Hayman has taken over as Executive Director, and plans to provide every possible support to program Director Gilma Yamamoto-Copeland in developing and carrying the program forward.

Gilma will continue to run the day-to-day operations of the program, with the same effervescent warmth and professional expertise that she has shown for the past two decades — ably assisted by supporting teacher Nozomi Taguchi, who is also a qualified nurse.

There are no immediate changes planned for the classroom environment — which meets all of the high standards set by Tokyo Metropolitan Government — but the curriculum, as usual, will be full of discovery and new surprises daily, as it has always been.

As the mother of one of our students said, "Learning, love, and laughter" — that sums up the spirit of St. Alban's Nursery and what everyone involved is trying to achieve — bringing out the unique individual in each child, in a highly personalized, confidence-building environment, through a combination of carefully devised challenges, new experiences, and fun. Parents are always very welcome to participate in activities at any time.



From left to right: St. Alban's Nursery's supporting teacher Nozomi Taguchi, Director Gilma Yamamoto-Copeland, and Executive Director Roslyn Hayman. ST. ALBAN'S NURSERY

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Open days and tours

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

Dec.	School
7	Aoyama International Daycare & Learning Center
9	Azabu Music Together (Kichijoji)
10	Tokyo YMCA International School Azabu Music Together (Roppongi Lutheran Church)
11	Azabu Music Together (Roppongi Lutheran Church)
12	Christian Academy in Japan Azabu Music Together (Midtown EtonHouse)
13	Azabu Music Together (Roppongi Lutheran Church)
14	Azabu Music Together (Midtown EtonHouse) American International School Joy to the World
18	Aichi International School
19	ASIJ Early Learning Center
Jan.	
13	Saint Maur International School
14	Tokyo YMCA International School
16	Christian Academy in Japan
23	ASIJ Early Learning Center
28	Tokyo YMCA International School
Feb.	
4	Tokyo YMCA International School
8	American School in Japan Chofu
11	American School in Japan Chofu Christian Academy in Japan Horizon Japan (Yokohama)
13	ASIJ Early Learning Center
18	Tokyo YMCA International School
22	Nishimachi International School
Mar.	
4	Tokyo YMCA International School
11	Tokyo YMCA International School
20	ASIJ Early Learning Center
Apr.	
8	Tokyo YMCA International School
10	ASIJ Early Learning Center
22	Tokyo YMCA International School
29	American School in Japan Chofu
May	
13	Tokyo YMCA International School
20	Tokyo YMCA International School
24	Horizon Japan (Yokohama)
Jun.	
10	Tokyo YMCA International School
24	Tokyo YMCA International School

Sports Day at Horizon Japan International School

Sports Day has been a fun and dynamic tradition for all Horizon Japan International School (HJIS) students over the years.

The sporting spirit shone through everyone who took part in this year's event on October 12. Sport develops many good qualities, and there was certainly healthy competition and rivalry, with congratulations going to the Red Team, but everyone was a winner when it came to enthusiasm!

The biggest cheers were for those who pushed themselves over the finish line after the challenge presented by the relay races, for those who were walking using small stilts, hurdle racers who flew through the air, all those giggling their way through

the "Bamboo carrying" race, and of course for the speed and talent of the fastest parent competitors.

The school was very proud of their ELC athletes who played hard and surprised everyone with how long they kept up their tug of war, showing a spirit that was bigger than their little bodies.

It was a superbly organized day, thanks to the Sports Day Committee. Thanks also go to the PTA parents who volunteered to help. And the truly excited parents and supporters who were very patient despite the hot day. Everyone enjoyed the picnic and carried on cheering from the sidelines all morning and afternoon regardless of the heat!

Special thanks go to Kishiya Elementary School for letting HJIS use their grounds. — KEMAL TEKIN

Unique international daycare opens in Aoyama

Last month saw the opening of a new international education facility in Tokyo. The Aoyama International Daycare & Learning Center (IDLC) is designed to help families with both daycare and English education at an affordable rate and with a system that is easy to use.

Parents are welcome to use the facility either as a place where they and their children can play together, or as a workspace for themselves, while their children play nearby with professional and experienced English-speaking staff. The comfortable workspace for parents is complete with Wi-Fi.

Aoyama IDLC is open for babies and children up to six years old, although babies and toddlers require more parent participation than older children. The centre is open from 9am–3pm Monday to Friday, with weekends and later opening times

currently being considered. Parents are welcome to participate on a part- or full-time basis.

Email jerry.hanus@aoyama-idlc.com or call 03-6447-2954 for more information or to schedule a visit during one of the upcoming open days.



Aoyama IDLC's Jerry Hanus with a group of parents and students after last month's opening. Aoyama IDLC

Open house success at J's

J's International School recently held the first open house for their school year. It was a very special morning for the many parents and grandparents that came along to see the children in action in the classrooms.

Children in the Little Lambs and Busy Bees classes dressed paper dolls of themselves in warm clothes such as jackets, trousers, sweaters, and hats. They all chose the outfits themselves, spent lots of time gluing and pasting, and then got to show off their unique senses of style.

In the Ready Rabbits and Clever Cats classes the children learned the difference between cold weather clothes and hot weather clothes. There was much discussion around what clothes we wear when and how this is connected to the weather, and the children enjoyed thinking of questions and finding answers together.

Toward the end of the day, the children and their parents and grandparents went off to the park together, and everyone agreed that the open house was a great success! — ERIKA CABULLOY



Cecilia with her mum Yuko at J's International School's recent open house. ERIKA CABULLOY

Full blast of merriment at Hitokoe Yokohama

Following the theme of “planting seeds for the future,” the children of Hitokoe Yokohama International School (HYIS) have been harvesting potatoes, eggplants, potatoes, and taro from their vegetable garden. As the culmination of their autumn learning and for their Thanksgiving celebrations, the children prepared miso soup and a vegetable salad to go with their roast turkey.

The next collaborative project is the “Wow! It’s Winter!” show that will be held on December 8. Students are busy rehearsing a line-up of entertaining songs, poems, skits, and dances with titles such as “Snowy Day,” “The Joy of Giving,” and “The Snow Angel.” Children are encouraged to develop confidence and stage presence from an early age at HYIS, and values education is woven into every celebratory performance. Their vocabulary and ability to express themselves greatly flourishes through developing their performance skills.

The spirit of Christmas is definitely around the corner at HYIS, with a pre-Christmas bazaar where children were able to go shopping for goods. They then hung ornaments on the school Christmas tree, while singing “We Wish You a

Merry Christmas.” They also collected donations for the African children supported by World Vision, the school’s chosen charity.

HYIS will be holding special winter classes from 9am–3pm from December 16–20, then again on Dec. 24, 26, and 27. For information, call 045-363-3356 during office hours. — PATRICIA ALDANA



Happybies and Sunshine students hanging the ornaments on the Christmas tree at Hitokoe Yokohama International School. HYIS

Family Fun Day at JIES

Jingumae International Exchange School celebrated with a “Family Fun Day” on October 24. The Parent Teacher Association did a fantastic job planning this special event, and the teachers did a great job of making the necessary materials.

Students and their families were able to participate in a variety of activities in the gym, including: Giant Twister, Put the Pen in the Bottle Challenge, Three-Legged Race, Bean-Bag Toss, and Fishing for Prizes. In the preschool room, students played Just Dance, and had their faces painted. Families were also able to enjoy yummy pizza, muffins, fruit, juice, coffee, and tea.

The children, parents, and teachers alike had a wonderful time, and the school can’t wait to do it again next year!

For more information about Jingumae International Exchange School, see <http://jies.jp> or call the school at 03-5413-6090 to attend their next open day or schedule an appointment to visit. — KENAN ULU

December fun at RLC

December is always such a fun month at the RLC Preschool. The colder weather means that new and different materials for arts and crafts get brought out, and, as we approach Christmas, the children work on a variety of projects, from those using simple, rustic leaves in different colours, to fun, sparkly, glitter.

Probably the most exciting thing the school has planned in December is the Christmas party for all the children, with parents and grandparents being invited, too. The room gets decked out in an abundance of wonderful Christmas decorations and the children come to school wearing their party clothes. Each family brings in a small plate of food for the party buffet.

During the party, the children make special art projects that they can take home, and they play games and win prizes — something for everyone! And Santa might even stop by and drop off some toys and gifts ... depending on how good everyone has been! — ALIY LICKFOLD

Schools information day for Japanese speakers

On Thursday, December 12 from 9:30am–3:30pm at Temple University Japan there will be a free information day for Japanese speakers about international schools in Japan.

Presentations will include topics such as the history of international schools in Japan, raising bilingual children, international education options for the early years, international school program options compared with Japanese school program

options, and the merits of the IB Programme.

This event is being sponsored by J’s, the German School, Hiroo Gakuen, New International School of Japan, K. International School Tokyo, Temple University Japan, Kspace, Shikahama English Adventures, Organization of Bilingual Parenting, and the *Guide to International Schools in Japan*.

RSVP at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RDFJJDM> by December 5.

Tokyo Association of International Preschools

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

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Youth freestyle, race, and freeride ski programs

With winter soon approaching, it's time to dust off your skis and get your winter jackets out of the closets. As a devout snow hedonist 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 so they enrolled me in a race-training program. This suited me fine, because I could ski as fast as I wanted. It also pleased them, because it was supervised by coaches and developed my technique.

I later went on to higher levels of ski racing across Alberta, then moved on to become 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 a love of being outdoors and just having fun on the mountain.

This year here at Evergreen, besides our regular lessons, we are offering young people the opportunity to get involved in programs similar to those that I took part in. First timers are more than welcome to join in with our certified ski and snowboard coaches, who will get them going in either a race- or freestyle-oriented program. Including a freeride component in their program is also encouraged in order to allow children to ride the entire resort while working on style and finesse.

Our aim is to give children 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. While skiing and snowboarding their own are

wonderful activities, besides being just a pastime for youth, the added element of challenge and competition allows participants an avenue through which to focus their energy. There is something contagiously exciting when one of your children or students lands their first 360, or beats the fastest time of their teammate on the course. It's not all about winning either: camaraderie, having a laugh, learning the proper methods, and doing all of that in a safety-conscious manner are foundations for love of the sport and a love of the outdoors.

With supervised transport from the Tokyo area to and from Hakuba, meals and accommodation provided, and professional coaching from Evergreen, these programs can make a great weekend getaway for kids and parents alike. We may even create a few future Olympians in the process! — JAMES A. ROBB



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