

Japan School News

ISSUE 56

MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

JANUARY 2015

The Fukko Calendar Project

Gilles Gaury

I MET Mrs. Narui by chance, at the last Christmas Bazaar at Saint Maur International School on the 16th of November 2014. A small lady with a beautiful picture of an Iwate festival plastered on her back, she proudly held up calendars to sell to anyone interested. She was not loud and boisterous, but simply conspicuous enough to attract attention. I asked her if I could view a sample of one of the calendars, and she readily handed one to me, quickly explaining how she became involved in the Fukko Calendar Project. Mrs. Narui was a member of the Values Department at Sacred Heart International School, teaching world religions to students. She explained to me that after the Great Tohoku Earthquake of 2011, she felt utterly hopeless.

"I can't take human suffering easily. I am weak. When I see so much suffering, I fall into tears and can't do anything at all! I could not shovel soil or debris and was at a complete loss as to what I could possibly do to help my fellow citizens. During one of my trips to northern Honshu, I came across an association called 'Save Iwate.' They started printing calendars with pictures of various festivals representing the Tohoku region. I wanted to help them and offered to make an English version of their calendar containing explanations about the festivals, their origins and their significance to the local people. People should not think that because local festivals are being celebrated, everything is behind them. No, not at all! There is still so much left to do in terms of reconstruction. It will take many more years!"

She continued by explaining that although 12,000 copies of the Japanese calendar had been sold the first year



Mrs. Narui holds up copies of the 2015 Fukko Calendar—a charity project launched to support victims of the Great Tohoku Earthquake. SAINT MAUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

immediately after the earthquake in 2012, only 8,000 copies have been sold in 2014, indicating an unfortunate shift in the interest of the public. In early 2014, she finally convinced the association to allow her to create an English version of their calendar and worked tirelessly over the summer to meticulously complete all the explanations in English. All the work done to produce the calendar is donated to the association. That includes the photography, as well as the printing. All proceeds go directly to reconstruction efforts. Mrs. Narui told me she was very proud to have already sold 200 copies of the calendar's English version on her own.

"You know, in March 2011, the entire country shifted by *this much!*" Mrs. Narui exclaimed as she held up the length of her arm.

This is certainly true, but her heart moved even further and managed to reach so many people on the day of our Christmas Bazaar, as another 100 copies were sold on this day!

The Sanriku Fukko Calendar is part of the Ippan Shadan Houjin Save Iwate Project (sviwate.wordpress.com) Tel: 019-601-6482 / 080-6006-9201 or email: calendar@saveiwate.jp

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Two current Grade Three students at last year's Chinese New Year event. AICHI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Australia Day at AIS

Mark Reed

IN JANUARY 2014 both kindergarten and elementary school students celebrated the Chinese New Year. This was the first time that the school had held such an event, outside of the school's regular annual events, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, all students were invited to wear red (being the lucky colour of China), and the after-school Mandarin teacher came into AIS to give a presentation about the event in her homeland.

In January 2015, AIS will hold an

Australian themed event on Friday 23rd, to celebrate Australia Day (on Monday 26th January). All students are invited to wear yellow/gold and green, and again there will be an Australian themed assembly on this day for both kindergarten and elementary school students.

Having this year's event based around Australia seems appropriate as the school has a growing number of students with Australian backgrounds, and in March 2014 AIS organized its first ever overseas homestay program, to Queensland.

St. Alban's New Year Wishes

Gilma Yamamoto Copeland

HAPPY NEW YEAR from all of us at St. Alban's - we wish you all the best!

The Christmas play and concert was wonderful. The children performed beautifully, and the after party was great too. Thanks Santa! During January we will be ready to learn all about continents and sharing all the experiences we had during our winter holiday. Everyone will have a chance to share their experiences about going home, North and South America, Europe, South Africa, Asia and of course playing in the snow at Hakuba and Hokkaido!



Students perform in the Christmas Play. ST. ALBAN'S NURSEY

A Discussion on Educational Affairs at Horizon Sendai

Horizon JIS

HORIZON JAPAN International School Sendai Campus held a discussion programme about the importance of Immersion Education toward a Global Perspective in schools. Leading this programme was Mr. Masayoshi Shimizu, the Mayor of Ota City and the founder of Gunma Kokusai Academy. In his speech Mr Shimizu detailed their experiences and approach model to date at Gunma Kokusai Academy. Their priorities, and the emphasis of the importance of English Immersion Education to educate Japanese students as global citizens, were highlights.

After the speech, there was also a discussion section including Mr Itagaki, professor from Miyagi Education University and Mr Morigami, president of Morigami Educational Research Center. Mr Itagaki spoke about the

current issues around English education and English Teacher education in Japan. Mr Morigami spoke about the recent changes and approaches in private schools throughout Japan.

Seventy-five guests attended to promote understanding of this as a key issue in education throughout Japan. Also an officer from the Ministry of Education attended to inform the assembly about the ongoing projects to promote English language education and global education in Japan.

Horizon Japan International School Sendai Campus would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year filled with success in 2015!

We had help designing our New Year's Card from our students.



Grade 5/6 demonstration. JINGUMAE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE SCHOOL

Celebration of Learning (Who we are)

Kenan Ulu

THIS YEAR, Jingumae International Exchange School held their first Celebration of Learning presentation! It was a great opportunity for our parents to see what their kids have explored throughout the unit. Kindergarten showed their All About Me Books and their Inquiry Centre activities. Grade 1 gave us very important clues about how to have a balanced diet and lead a healthy life. Grade 2 showed their video about the JIES Community and completed their

tree representing the communities they belong to. Grade 4 did their presentation about different cultures and lifestyles. Grades 5/6 showed their blog entries about human rights and organized some activities for students.

Overall, it was a great success. All the students were very excited about sharing what they had learnt. They all did a fantastic job and later enjoyed delicious food and drink prepared by their parents.

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Kailua Makani kindergartners in green vests and Lani pre-first graders in yellow vests say aloha on "bonding day". KAILUA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Kailua Kindergarten Classes Bonding Activity

Robert L. Gomez

THEY KNOW they are the older children in the school, and they are aware that it is not just being bigger or a year ahead of the others but more importantly, that they are leaders and role models. Kailua's Makani (The Wind) class and the Lani (The Sky) class are very conscious of the responsibilities that come with their current school status.

They have demonstrated their leadership in various ways, including acting as walking partners for the younger children when going to the play park, the sweet potato farm, visiting

the seniors' house or participating in community activities during festivals and so on. They make sure to have their younger partners take the safer side of the street as they walk. They show the toddlers and the pre-kindergartners what to do during fire and earthquake drills and even console those who are frightened during the drills. And, at the park, without being asked, they give way to the younger ones who want to use the slides and the swings. How else can young leadership be shown?

These two Kailua classes also engage in healthy competitions such as which group can be better at singing and dancing during programs, demonstrating the way to sing and dance the school song, leading the morning prayers, mastering

short and long vowels as well as simple sight words, finishing artworks that are potential contest winners, keeping written work neat and accurate, reading and writing numerals through hundreds and many other learning activities.

The two classes are very close and friendly with each other, and to further bond their friendship, they went on a trip to a sweet potato farm and a large park in Funabashi City, Chiba. After digging four big bags of sweet potatoes at the large farm, they had a picnic and play time at the Funabashi park. The weather seemed to cooperate, as it was a bright sunny day with not a wisp of cloud in the sky. They showed one another their well-developed gross motor skills, climbing the rope ladders with ease, walking skilfully on the wobbly roped log bridge and standing bravely at the top of the tower-like structure. People around were amazed with their ability to engage in lively conversation, switching from English to Japanese and vice versa - young learner bilingualism at its best.

On March 21, 2015, Graduation Day, the Lani Class (pre-first grade), will formally turn over the over-all student leadership to the Makani Class (incoming Lani Class) that will become the Kailua student "seniors" from April 2015 - and the beautiful cycle goes on.

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K. International School Tokyo students debate world issues in Seoul

Craig Larsen

FOR SEVERAL years, K. International School Tokyo has offered a Model United Nations (MUN) club as part of its after-school activities program for students in its secondary school. KIST also hosts an MUN scrimmage in January each year which is open to international schools from Tokyo and surrounding areas.

Furthering its interest in the MUN, eighteen students from grades 10 through 12, accompanied by three teachers, visited Seoul in November to attend a Model United Nations event known as SEOMUN. KIST was one of only two schools representing Japan at the event which was open to schools from around the world.

During the event, students were divided into a number of committees, and each member was allocated as a delegate to represent a different country. The committees were given a number of issues to discuss and

to propose resolutions. Committees included those for human rights, general assembly, economic and social council, environment council, and security council.

For KIST students, this was their first time to attend a large scale international MUN event and the opportunity provided invaluable experience in developing greater confidence in expressing themselves in front of large groups of people. As one grade 10 student commented: "At first I was very hesitant and terrified since I doubted myself and was scared of being attacked by other countries, but as time went by, I became more confident and open to sharing my thoughts."

K. International School Tokyo is an IB World School fully authorized to offer the PYP, MYP and DP. It is located one minute from Kiyosumi-Shirakawa station in Koto-ku.



Cezar's Kitchen staff gather in Hakuba.
CEZAR'S KITCHEN

Cezar's Kitchen New Year Greetings

Cezar's Kitchen

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KAILUA
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Domo-kun visits New International School

Steven Parr

ON DECEMBER 5, the children in the Panda Class (Early Learning Center) at New International School had a special visitor, the NHK character Domo-kun. He spent the whole day with the children, in preparation for which the class had prepared an original Domo-kun song, a Scottish dance, and numerous other activities. Domo-kun took the role of a student, not a teacher (he is said to be one and a half years old and says only one word—"Domo") and even accompanied the children to the park. He is huge for an infant – taking up four seats in the very back of the school bus – but the children related to him as if he really was an infant, so not a tear was shed. A whole day of filming will be edited down to 4 or 5 minutes and aired on NHK BS Premium in February.

Community News for Nagoya Parents

Rowena Pike-McFadden

STARTING JANUARY, Playpourri will be presenting a parenting course: Love and Logic Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun!™, developed by the Love and Logic Institute. The course was designed to help you find specific answers and actions for some of those difficult moments in child rearing. These simple techniques are effective with children from birth to six years of age.

For more information or to register your interest for this parenting course, please call Trained Independent Facilitator, Rowena Pike-McFadden on 052-761-3188.

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Pictured L to R (2nd row) Sheena Regala, Andrew T. Miller and Ma Rita Alonzo pose with Sullivans Students, (1st row L to R) Sean Walton, Mae Orlosky, and Andrea Lee Santy. Regala and Alonzo received their United States Citizenship in a ceremony on December 11, 2014 at the Chapel Of Hope in Yokosuka, Japan. STEVE PARKER

Sullivans Students visit New Immigrants at Naturalization Ceremony

Steve Parker

YOKOSUKA NAVY Base, Japan — 21 lucky students from The Sullivans School in Yokosuka, Japan had a once-in-a-lifetime-experience viewing a Naturalization Ceremony held at the Chapel of Hope on board Fleet Activities Yokosuka (Fleact) on Dec, 11, 2014. The moving ceremony was organized by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Branch of the United States Embassy in Japan.

The 23 candidates for citizenship hailed from many different countries including Thailand, the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Mexico, Korea, and Colombia among others. The candidates were presented with certificates of citizenship following an inspiring keynote speech delivered by Mr. Andrew T. Miller, Chief of Visa Unit and First Secretary of the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo. Miller humorously quoted Spiderman and also reassured the candidates they would still be able to “root for Columbia in the World Cup Soccer games.” Then he added, “Unless they are playing America.” with a sly wink. The 23 candidates included family members of U.S servicemen and women and 5 sailors currently serving in the

United States Military.

The Sullivans students were captivated by the emotional ceremony which included many real world Social Studies concepts they had previously experienced only in textbooks.

Andrew Doody, a multi-age 4/5 student stated, “We saw people become U.S. Citizens. It was an awesome experience. They got a certificate and a cake!”

Chloe Bogen, another multi-age 4/5 student stated, “It was so cool to see them become Americans! Maybe now, we will become one big cuddly family, but not literally, only in our hearts.”

Kaylee Kong, Sullivan’s student council vice president said, “I felt honored to be there, it was fascinating.”

Many of the family and friends in the audience became inspired as the new citizens voiced an oath of allegiance, and then repeated the Pledge of Allegiance before adjourning to another room for a reception and picture taking. U.S Embassy staff was on hand to accept the new citizen’s applications for passports.

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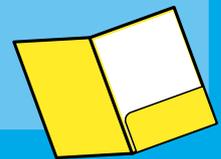
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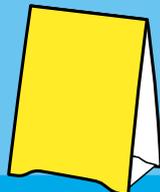
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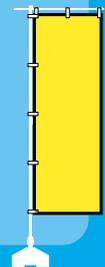
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