

# JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

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MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

<http://www.japanschoolnews.com>

## World Cup fever at Makuhari's International Day!



**Makuhari International School students performing for 250 parents and friends during their International Day last month.** NICHOLAS GUNN

On July 14, Makuhari International School celebrated its second International Day, with over 250 parents and "Friends of the School" attending. It was a very special day where the children commemorated the internationalization the school works hard to achieve.

Each class researched and represented a different country that took part in the Football World

Cup in South Africa. These classes studied each country very carefully as part of their social studies program and investigated the country's culture, music, dance, food, and many other aspects.

On International Day itself, the children performed concerts for their parents that featured (among other things) dances, speeches, and songs from all over the world. It was fun, educational,

and exciting!

After these performances, children were then able to walk around the bazaar and sample food from different countries, some made by the children and some by their parents. They later had another show featuring performances from some members of school clubs such as hip-hop and cheerleading. — PAUL ROGERS

## Yale University Cappella Choir at New International School



**Yale's visiting choir singing at New International School.** NEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Old news, but not forgotten; last May, New International School hosted the Yale University Cappella Choir, and arranged home stays for all 17 of them for ten days. The group performed for the whole school, had sessions with different age ranges of children, and finally sang with all of the children from the ages of 4 to 15 years, to the delight of all.

Upcoming news—New International School is holding an orientation session on August 26, from 9–10:30am, a few days before the start of the new school year, and its first seminar of the new school year will be on September 16, from 8:45–10:15am, on the topic "The Hows and Whys of Dual Language Education." Both events are open to the community. Interested parties are asked to call 03-3980-1057 to confirm attendance. A list of subsequent orientations and seminars will be available on the school's website at <http://newinternationalschool.com>.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

## Taiko drummers at ABC's summer school



**Moko Sensei teaching students at ABC International School how taiko drums are made.** ABC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Students and teachers at ABC International School enjoyed a visit from Taiko Drummers during their summer school. Children learned all about Taiko Drumming during Japanese Festivals week, and had the chance to practise drumming

themselves, as well as dancing along to the beat.

ABC is closed throughout August, and is holding a school-wide Open House on September 3, from 1–3:00pm. Classes start on September 6.

## British Football Academy's Soccer Camp



**British Football Academy "Bulldogs" enjoying a class at Yokohama Country and Athletic Club.** SID LLOYD

The British Football Academy (BFA) is holding its Summer Soccer Camp at the Yokohama Country & Athletic Club on August 16–18. "Football Fun in the Sun" is open to all children aged 3–15 years, and English Football Association qualified coaches will be on hand to teach and entertain these energetic youngsters.

The camp consists of three days of football games and activities, but children are welcome to join on a per-day basis. Hours are 10–10:40am for three- and four-year-olds, 10:40am–12pm for five- and six-year-olds, 10am–12pm for seven- and eight-year-olds, 1–4pm for nine- to 15-year-olds in three separate age-appropriate groups. Daily fees range from ¥2,000–6,000 for BFA members, and ¥2,500–7,000 for non-members.

There will be a ceremony on the final day, where those that attended the full three-day course will receive an official BFA Camp T-shirt and a Certificate of Achievement. For registration information check the British Football Academy's website at <http://www.footyjapan.com/bfat>. — SID LLOYD

## Summer splashin' fun at Treehouse Montessori

Children attending the summer program at Treehouse Montessori School in Yokohama this year are having fun as they play in the pool in their garden, and do a lot of water-based activities.

The school's summer program started on June 28 and runs until August 20. Certified teachers plan theme-based arts and crafts, cooking, and science activities daily. Enrolment is flexible and students from other schools are welcome to participate. Early bird and extended care are both available during the summer program too. For further information please email [jenny@tms-school.com](mailto:jenny@tms-school.com). — JENNY VYVIAL



**Best friends Dawson Drake and Aiden Billing from Ladybug Class at Treehouse Montessori, waiting to go outside and play in the water.** JENNY VYVIAL

## Wonders of the World at English Studio

English Studio's summer school classes begin this month, with four weeks of sports, technology, culture, and activities related to the Seven Wonders of the World. From August 3–27 (four days a week plus excursions), students from kindergarten level to upper elementary can join the classes. Students with all levels of English are welcome. See <http://www.englishstudio.jp> for more information.

## Summer intensive programs at PAL International School

PAL International School's summer intensive program continues for three weeks during August.

August 2–6 is all about water, with plenty of outdoor water play and activities to keep children cool during the summer heat. August 9–13 focuses on the stage, drama, and movies—children get to learn acting skills, develop facial expressions, and

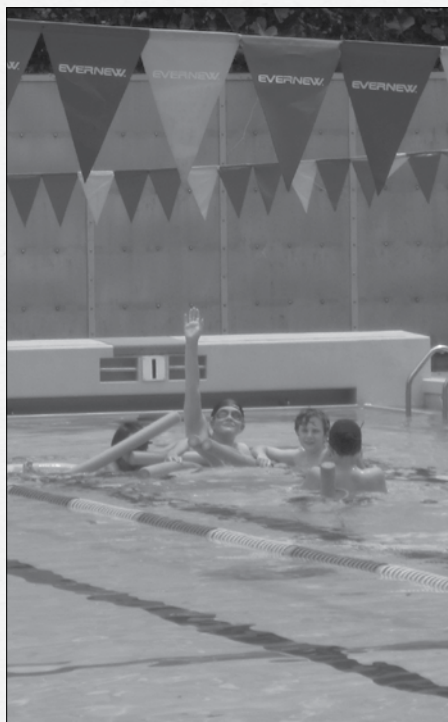
use their voice as they dream of becoming actors and actresses. And, finally, August 16–20 will inspire the bookworm in your child as this week is all about stories.

Classes are open to children aged 12–30 months (Super Starfish Class), 30 months–5 years old (Fantastic Flying Fish Class), and five

years and upward (Dynamic Dolphins Class).

The intensive program can be taken from 8:30am–1pm, 1–3pm, or all day (8:30am–3pm), and children can opt for the remaining three weeks or just pop in for one week. Contact PAL International School by telephone at 03-5770-8166 or email at [info@pal-school.com](mailto:info@pal-school.com).

## Summer success at TIS



**Students from grades six and seven at Tokyo International School enjoying their school pool. TIS**

Teachers and students at Tokyo International School's Summer School this year say it has been one of their best yet! Last year TIS opened their doors to children from other international schools for the first time, and this year they welcomed many of those children back, along with a lot of new families. Including their own TIS families, this year the Summer School had almost 100 children for each of the three weeks.

Teachers worked hard to create an exciting, fun, and academically challenging array of programs for the children. Swimming lessons, music, art, maths, language, ICT, sports, Japanese, and creative dance and drama were included this year. The children participated in each class two or three times a week and so never had a minute to be bored ... there was plenty of time to be tired though! The children and teachers also went on weekly field trips, this year including Shinagawa Aquarium, Kidzania, Summerland, Round 1, and Zoorasia.

Children's excited comments included "I thought Summer School was fantastic!" (Yuu Yasunaga, 11 years old); "Summer School was great! All the classes were so fun. I really liked sports!" (Sarah Nakanishi, 11 years old); "The field trip was awesome and swimming was fun too" (Gina Bae, 14 years old); and "Summer School was very nice and field trip was also good" (Jessica Lim, 13 years old).

The TIS Summer School starts from the end of the school year, and was this year held from June 21st to July 9th. Next year is set to be even bigger—be sure not to miss the application deadline in March 2011. — CASSIE KITANI

## Summer fun continues at RLC Preschool

August sees RLC International Preschool's second month of summer school before the new school year starts in September.

This month, children continue their beach and water theme with a visit to an aquarium, where they can look at the fish, crabs, and other creatures they learned about in July. The children are especially excited about the possibility of seeing an octopus!

Students enjoy the summer months at RLC particularly because of the introduction of the water tubs. Some days the tubs contain plastic creatures in them for fun and imaginative play as well as identification games, and on other days children use them with pouring and measuring containers. Sometimes teachers bring out magnetic fishing rods for numbers or letters—these tubs lend themselves well to either free play or a number of fun guided activities.

The school also has a beach area for dressing up and role-play. A beautiful beach is featured on a wall, and the beach area is complete with towels, armbands, and flip-flops, tools for playing in the sand, and many other beach-related items for stimulating the imagination and having loads of fun.

Every week, RLC students focus on a different animal or aspect of the beach, and create simple yet fun artwork around that weekly theme—the children love taking home their fish or sand artwork. And there are plenty of books on hand for the children to read alone or with an adult, so that they can see pictures or hear stories that reinforce the fun activities that they've been doing.

To sign up for RLC's second month of summer school contact [info@rlcpreschool.com](mailto:info@rlcpreschool.com). — ALIY LICKFOLD

## Katoh's annual camping trip in the wilderness

Grade one and grade two students from Katoh Gakuen Elementary recently enjoyed an exciting school camping trip.

During the first two days in July, 100 students as well as 10 teachers attended a camp in the Shimizu wilderness area. The beautiful scenery and glorious weather helped to make this a magnificent camping experience.

This is an annual trip for all of the school's bilingual students, and most activities are done in English.

The students enjoyed many activities, including hiking, playing in a river, roasting

marshmallows over a campfire, and leading daily ceremonies. The grade two students helped their grade one buddies to learn about nature and showed them how to behave when camping. All of the students had a chance to be a leader in some way, and many enjoyed helping to prepare meals, speaking at the ceremonies, and raising the camp flag.

The grade two students are already buzzing about their camp next year when they become grade three students and spend three days at Yatsugatake in the Japanese Alps! — MICHAEL BOSTWICK



**Katoh Gakuen students balancing their way through the Shimizu forests during their school camping trip in July. KATOH GAKUEN**

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

## Sayonara headmaster Tim Carr

This summer the American School in Japan bids sayonara to headmaster Tim Carr, who is leaving the school to take up a new headship at the Jakarta International School.

"The last seven years have been a period of tremendous growth and development of the quality of an already good school. This has been a team effort, and it has been an honour to be a part of it," Carr told the ASIJ community. "The proudest moments for me are those when I see our students shine. Kindergarten students, microphones in hand, telling stories in the traditional Japanese kamishibai method; elementary students leading our composting program; middle schoolers performing poetry readings to robust applause from their peers; and high school student teams claiming victory in an international robotics competition in Japan."

Tim Carr and his wife Barbara, who worked in the elementary school library, were honoured at the end of the school year with a fun run that raised money for a student-led project to build a school in Cambodia. As faculty advisor to the Global Issues Network student group, the project is one that was very close to Carr's heart. "Barbara and I will move on to Jakarta with tremendous gratitude, treasuring the wonderful chapter that we've had in Japan and at ASIJ," he said.

Ed Ladd, who joins ASIJ in August from the American School of Doha, will succeed Carr as head of school. —MATT WILCE



ASIJ's departing headmaster Tim Carr and his wife Barbara. — THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN JAPAN

## TAIP membership

The Tokyo Association of International Preschools was established in 2005, with the mission to support international preschools in the Tokyo area in terms of networking, staff development, parent education, and publicity.

Current member schools include 25 international preschools throughout the Tokyo area, and four associate members: RBR Inc., Scholastic Japan, RIC Publications, and the publisher of *Japan School News*.

For information on how to join, see <http://www.tokyopreschools.org>.

## O'Barry speaks about *The Cove* at NIS



Activist Richard O'Barry speaking to Nagoya International School students. — NAGOYA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Dolphin-trainer-turned-activist Richard O'Barry visited Nagoya International School on June 14 and spoke with middle and high school students about dolphins, the cruelty of capturing dolphins for the sea-park industry, and his role in the academy-award winning documentary, *The Cove*.

Students were able to hear first-hand about O'Barry's involvement with the controversial movie, and ask a wide-range of questions about the movie, dolphins, the whaling industry, the media's role in Japan, and activism in general. — ERIK OLSON-KIKUCHI

## "Lost Mitten" performance at Joy to the World

On July 7 Joy to the World held their third term performances and graduation at the Bunkyo Civic Centre.

Every year, the older classes at Joy to the World perform a play. This year the K2B and K3 classes joined together to perform the Japanese folk tale, *Lost Mitten*.

The children really looked forward to it and enjoyed acting out the characters. It was great to see the children's confidence as they acted on a real stage with their very own audience.

Activities such as these are helpful opportunities for the children to experience English. During rehearsals children were asked to discuss the meanings of words in the play's dialogue, and to think about different ways to show those meanings through physical expression. This often led to some very funny situations during rehearsals as well as on stage! — EUFT VAN DEN BERG



Students at American International School Joy to the World enjoying a round of applause at their end-of-term performance. EUFT VAN DEN BERG

## Birthday party fun at Kspace

Kspace in Shirogane offers its school up to the local community for birthday parties and other celebrations.

Already providing mother and child classes for children up to four years old; preschool, kindergarten, and after-school sessions for children aged 14 months to six years; as well as a busy summer camp, the unique facilities are also available for private parties.

Parties can be based on themes such as cooking, football, art, magic, science, disco, movies, music, and gym, and can include exclusive use of the

Kspace gymnasium. All materials, balloons, and prizes are provided. Children's entertainers can also be arranged, along with party food and a birthday cake.

Kspace is known for its multi-talented and creative teachers, who enjoy performing and encourage students to share their enjoyment. The school's staff can also create a special 3-hour "extravaganza"! Kspace has long been committed to supporting community events and welcomes enquiries by email at [juliet@kspace.to](mailto:juliet@kspace.to) or telephone at 03-5421-4186.