

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

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MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

<http://www.japanschoolnews.com>

ASIJ welcomes new Head of School, Ed Ladd



ASIJ's new Head of School Ed Ladd with young alumni who were back on campus as counsellors at the Summer Day Camp. THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN JAPAN

The American School in Japan (ASIJ) welcomed new Head of School, Mr Ed Ladd, who took up his position on August 1, 2010.

Mr Ladd joins ASIJ from Qatar where he was Director of The American School of Doha. He has worked in international schools for the past 25 years, holding leadership posi-

tions at The American School of Taipei, The Walworth Barbour American International School in Israel, and The American School in London. In 2009, he was named International Superintendent of the Year by the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE).

ASIJ's mission statement of developing compassionate, inquisitive learners, prepared for global responsibility, resonated with Mr Ladd's own beliefs as an educator, and he said, "Being in Japan in a culture that embraces both tradition and the ultra modern, and at a school with a history of excellence, provides us with a great context for developing 21st-century learning.

"Our aim is to prepare students for life and an as-yet-unknown future, and I think that our mission and values at ASIJ capture that intent, particularly with regard to global responsibility. The potential for learning how to explore the world in new and different ways is immense, especially in this school in this country at this time, and that excites one as an educator."

Mr Ladd holds degrees in English from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC, and completed his graduate work in English and education for an MAT degree.

Outside of school, he is an avid golfer and photographer, as well as a lover of books, especially fiction. His wife of 25 years, Carol, will work in the elementary school library at ASIJ. They have an English Cocker Spaniel, Johara, and three cats: Tiger, Gray, and Peanut.

Mr Ladd succeeds Mr Tim Carr, who left ASIJ in June to take up a headship at Jakarta International School. — MATI WILCE

RIJ's program raises awareness of refugees among young students

Refugees International Japan is developing its schools program to raise awareness of conflict displacement and the problems faced by refugees. This program will also develop ideas for school activities and show students how they can contribute to alleviating the problems and providing hope for those who have been displaced.

In particular, RIJ is organizing a project for October called Journey to Hope. These mobile learning centres will be taken around town and exhibited in schools and universities. Their aim is to show the Japanese public how they can contribute to projects around the world that help people rebuild their lives, regain their dignity, and prepare for a peaceful return home.

Please email kie@refugeesinternationaljapan.org or peter@refugeesinternational.org if your school would like to host the Journey to Hope.

New learning support program at Aoba-Japan

Aoba Japan International School (A-JIS) has created a Learning Support Program for international school students who require academic, or social/behavioural support beyond what can be typically accommodated by the classroom teacher.

A-JIS recognizes the need for such services, and is excited to have the newly designed program, which functions within the core academic curriculum and educational services that are already in place.

The school has a three-tiered system of support, and students are reviewed by a Student Support Team (SST) that consists of the Director of Learning Support, the Principal, supporting teachers, and related personnel. Decisions are based on observations, assessments, and ongoing monitoring of goals and objectives.

Ms. Kristine Bordner is the Director of Learning Support and is a certified Special Education Teacher with an MS in Education/Special Education from SUNY Geneseo, NY, USA.

With the current resources available, A-JIS is

able to provide a learning support program for students with mild academic or behavioural needs. In the future, the school hopes to be able to provide an educational program for students with more moderate learning needs. For more information please contact the school by telephone at 03-3335-6620.



Playground fun for Aoba-Japan students. A-JIS

BACK TO SCHOOL

Teaching positions available in Nagoya

Aichi International School in Nagoya currently has several teaching positions available for qualified teachers, as follows:

Preschool teacher: must be a Japanese citizen with either an ECE degree or a degree in education from an overseas university or college. The candidate will preferably also possess a teaching degree from a Japanese college or university. High English skills and a TOEIC score of no less than 800 are also necessary.

Kindergarten teacher: must be a native English-speaking teacher or a Japanese citizen with either an ECE degree or a degree in education from an overseas university or college. Experience working with younger children is also preferred.

Elementary school teacher: must be a native English-speaking teacher or a Japanese citizen with an education degree from a university or college.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to the attention of Mr Toshio Kawai at info@nipais.com.

School bus and classroom assistants wanted in Chiba

Full-time kindergarten classroom assistant wanted at Makuhari International School in Chiba, starting in October. Must speak excellent English. Job description and details available on request.

Enquiries also welcome from people interested in being assistants on school buses. Assistants accompany kindergarten and elementary school students on their journeys to school, Monday to Friday, between 6:50 and 9am. Responsibilities include the implementation of safety regulations, and helping students during the trip. Payment is ¥2,000 per shift.

For both positions, send a resume and a letter of application to Paul Rogers at head@mis.ed.jp.

Yokohama Montessori teaching position

Treehouse Montessori School is looking for an assistant preschool teacher who can work part time. Montessori diploma or teaching qualification preferred. Prospective candidates should email a resume to Head of School Jenny Vyvial at jenny@tms-school.com.

Joyful summers in Hawaii



Summer fun in Hawaii for Joy to the World families.
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL JOY TO THE WORLD

American International School Joy to the World students headed off to Hawaii again this year for their fourth annual Summer Fun Program.

Students and teachers visited the island of Oahu from the end of July to the middle of August, and participated in a structured program of fun activities and visits to local areas of interest.

Parents explored the island independently while children joined the Joy to the World team on six-hour adventures each day.

For information about next year's program call 03-5684-0247.

Hands On Tokyo teens

Hands On Tokyo (HOT) is in the process of finalizing their Teen Advisory Board members for 2011. Board members represent a cross section of high school seniors from various international schools that work together to accelerate the growth of volunteerism in Tokyo.

Last year's Teen Advisory Board organized and led their own beach clean up with children from various schools, and also served as leaders for ongoing volunteer programs throughout the year.

Hands On Tokyo is a bilingual, volunteer clearing house that works with individuals, groups, corporate teams, and students in order to connect them with meaningful volunteer opportunities.

See <http://www.handsontokyo.org> for more information, or contact River Chieko Furuta by email at river.furuta@handsontokyo.org about Teen Advisory Board activities. — STEVE LIN

Back to school at Nagoya International

After a very active and successful summer program, the Nagoya International School new year began with staff orientation and training from August 11–20, with classes starting on August 23 for grades 1–12 and the day after for younger children. Teachers and students alike are already looking forward to the school sports day next month.

More hot lunches at PAL



A student tucking into a hot lunch at PAL International School. PAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

PAL International School is providing hot school lunches for an extra day each week, now totalling four days per week.

Cook Ms Shizuko is very popular with students, who say their favourite meals are hamburgers with vegetable soup, *yakisoba*, and spaghetti Bolognese.

Ms Shizuko gets involved with the children's sweet potato digging trips each autumn, and cooks sweet potato rice and tempura. In the spring, she cooks *chirashi zushi* for Girls' Day.

Vegetarian menus are also available, and special meals can be prepared for students with food allergies. The PAL staff believe in providing healthy meals for children so that students are sure to receive good nutrition, thus enabling them to fully enjoy their school activities.

See <http://www.pal-school.com> for more information. — MAKIKO KOIDE

TELL's support services for schools and families

Tokyo English Life Line (TELL) provides a variety of services to support children and families as the new school year begins.

Formalized assessments are available to children who are struggling in school, and individual and family therapists can help those dealing with challenging issues at home.

For parents of children with learning differences, TELL's Exceptional Parenting Program gives opportunities for parents in similar situations to get together and share resources and support, as well as hear lectures from experts in the field.

TELL organizes school workshops that cover the child protection laws in Japan, and this helps staff in protecting the safety of their students.

TELL has also developed a new suicide awareness program for schools, parents, and the community, which is being launched this year, and the organization continues to bring the Life Line Awareness program for adolescents to schools within the Tokyo area. To learn more about these programs and others that promote the well-being of young students in Japan, see <http://www.telljp.com>. — LORI WIGMORE

Animal antics at RLC

This month RLC Preschool starts its fall term, which runs until mid-December. Director Aliy Lickfold said, "We are excited to be welcoming lots of new faces as well as seeing all of the returnees."

This term starts off with an Asian and African wild animals theme and students will be learning all about lions, tigers, giraffes, monkeys, and crocodiles. The preschool has two bright and colourful window banners that the children love to look at, a large selection of wonderful new books, and theme-oriented new toys that teachers are looking forward to introducing to the children as resources for identifying animals.

Mid-way through the term, RLC is planning one of their termly parent-child school excursions: this time to the zoo. Ms Lickfold said, "We are all looking forward to a fun and stimulating September—activity-packed and full of song, play, learning, and time spent seeing all our old friends again, as well as making new ones!"

NewIS celebrates the start of its 10th anniversary year

New International School of Japan begins its 10th anniversary year on August 30, following an open day for parents to come and meet their children's teachers on the morning of August 27.

The year will feature a number of 10th anniversary seminars, all open to the public, and beginning with "The Hows and Whys of Dual Language Education" on September 16 from 9am (with coffee or tea from 8:45am) to about 10:30am. This seminar will be given in English, with simultaneous interpretation into Japanese.

NewIS seminars are of interest to parents and educators of any nationality, regardless of what school their child attends or with which they may be affiliated. Homeschooling parents are also welcome.

Telephone 03-3980-1057 for reservations. For the full list of seminars, see <http://newis.ed.jp>.

TIS welcomes almost 100 new students



The welcoming gate and school bus at Tokyo International School. TIS

Despite concern regarding expatriate families leaving Japan, Tokyo International School is thriving, as they maintained numbers by welcoming 98 new students this year. Nine new staff members from all over the world also joined the TIS community. School started on August 23.

ABC students kick off the new year with yoga



Students and teachers at ABC International School enjoying a yoga class. ABC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ABC teachers are looking forward to the new school year and welcoming students to their new classes, including their popular yoga class!

Teachers are back to school with a training day on August 30, and families are welcome to visit during ABC's orientation and open

house from 1-3pm on September 3. The first day of classes is September 6. <http://www.abcinternationalschool.com>.

Fun, family, and tradition at Katoh Gakuen Kindergarten's summer festival



Teachers and students wore traditional festive clothing and big smiles! KATOH GAKUEN

On a hot July afternoon, over 240 young students of Katoh Gakuen Kindergarten, along with their families, enjoyed the annual Summer Festival. Almost everyone was dressed in traditional festive clothing.

Many grandparents attended and many PTA and volunteer parents happily pitched in to make this event a huge success. The Japanese and English teachers organized a wide variety of fun events, giving everyone many chances to experience Japanese culture in both languages.

Since the kindergarten is located in Numazu city, regional traditions and specialties were

included in the festivities. Children and their families made crab masks for warding off bad luck, and among the yummy array of festival food treats was grilled local horse mackerel.

At the closing assembly, everyone got together for traditional dancing (*bon odori*) and one of the dances was about Numazu.

Other features were a funny monster house and outdoor picture story shows. In all aspects of the festival, the theme of "tradition and fun with family" was felt by all and, most importantly, the children had a great time. — LISA SANO

Sports day plans for English Studio families

On Sunday, September 26, English Studio will be holding its 7th annual sports day at Tokyo International School in Minato ward in Tokyo.

Each year, English Studio has around 70 students competing, aged between 3 and 12 years. Students, divided into similarly aged groups, compete in junior and senior competitions, vying to win the coveted Champion School flag. Events include an obstacle relay, balloon races, ball tosses, bowling, and a water relay. Parents

also get to compete against the teachers in a winner-takes-all running relay at the end of the day!

The English Studio Sports Day is a wonderful family event and is open to everyone, but places are limited so get in early by calling 03-3798-5829 or emailing anzu@jiec.org.

Mums and dads should be sure to come armed with cameras so that they can capture that perfect shot. — SHANE THOMPSON



English Studio students competing for the Champion School flag at last year's sports day. ENGLISH STUDIO

New venue option for family and school events in Tokyo

New York-style restaurant and lounge, Fifty Seven, in Roppongi, is not the first place that comes to mind when planning a family activity. But with the recent conversion of Fifty Seven's lounge into a play centre for young children on weekends, General Manager Nick Dempsey is welcoming enquiries from those

planning school and family events.

The lounge area, which is approximately 20 metres square, is full of playmats, balls, soft toys, and activity centres, with friendly staff looking on. With the arrival of well-known chef Frederick Bowden last month, Fifty Seven brunches are

becoming a hit with expatriate parents and their little ones.

Schools or parents interested in holding events at Fifty Seven should contact Mr Dempsey by calling 03-5775-7857. See Fifty Seven's website at <http://www.fiftyseven.co.jp>.



Summer fun in Treehouse Montessori School's backyard pool. JENNY VYVIAL

Toddlers now accepted at Treehouse Montessori

Treehouse Montessori School has begun accepting children at the age of twelve months and onwards. The change in program has so far been very well received by parents.

Due to the cosy nature of the school's classroom and small number of staff, places are limited—the class is already full for the upcoming fall semester. Parents interested in securing a place for their child in future semesters are advised to get in touch as early as possible.

This year's summer program was a great success, but for the children, it was rather hard to say goodbye to the large pool that is set up every year in the backyard.

Children who enjoyed the summer program and pool sessions will have to wait until next year for everything to be set up again! — JENNY VYVIAL