

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

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MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

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Water, water everywhere: Katoh School goes to Camp Shimizu



Katoh Elementary students enjoying their summer camp. HAMISH ANNEAR

“Go away, rain!” was the resounding chant made by Katoh Elementary’s first and second grade students as they finished their first day of Shimizu Camp with a “campfire” under the grilling shelters.

All fun was not lost to the rain though, as the students and teachers persevered through the wet weather to finish their hike, and enjoyed some wet river play on Thursday. Even a campfire under a shelter couldn’t get anyone’s spirits down, and toasted marshmallows and s’mores brought smiles all round. Friday brought drier weather and more swimming adventures, and before the students knew it, it was time to leave.

The camp provided the first grade students and their second grade buddies plenty of opportunities for leadership, friendship, and team building. Next year, the first graders will become the new leaders, and already they can’t wait to go back. Three cheers for Camp Shimizu 2011! — RACHEL TJADEN

PAL’s summer intensive

PAL International School students enjoyed an intensive summer program during the hot weather.

Children first learned about music — experimenting with many different kinds of musical instruments, and learned a little about reading music. They then learned about dinosaurs and made a huge T. Rex. Later, the children got theatrical as they experimented with using spotlights, sound effects, makeup, and costumes, before acting on a stage. Then it was time to be creative in the kitchen, with lots of cooking going on.

This year’s intensive summer program runs until August 19th, and will continue, following weekly themes, on full- and part-time schedules.

The new school year starts on August 25th, with a new tuition system that includes a 20% reduction in fees. Free trial lessons are available every day. See <http://www.pal-school.com> for more information. — MAKIKO KOIDE



Salvatore and Andrew cutting potatoes for vegetable soup. PAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

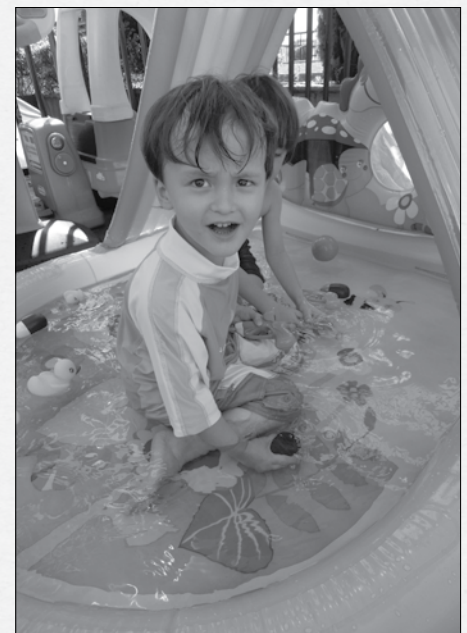
Summer fun at J’s International School

Classes kept cool during Js International School’s sizzling hot Summer Fun Program with water play and weekly popsicle-making using fresh fruit and juices. The daily artwork and crafts displayed the topic of discussion for each day.

This year, J’s had an exciting new program, which catered to children ages 7–10 years. This four-course program included going to museums, aquariums, and bookstores, and doing some gourmet cooking. Children researched the places they were to visit, and wrote reports on their experiences. There were also activities such as ice skating and bowling.

The “big kids” kept teachers on their toes in more ways than one, with their quick questions, fast-paced study habits, and agility. The teachers enjoyed this year’s summer program just as much as the children.

J’s Summer Fun Program is still in session until the 26th of August. Phone 03-3452-2078 or see <http://www.js-international-school.com> for more information. — MANA ORTIZ



Water play at J’s Summer Program. J’s INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

New bus route added for New International School

NewIS will soon be adding a new bus route, this time from Toyosu. In addition, the Early Learning Centre is expanding, increasing both in space and number of teachers, and whereas the children at NewIS have always played the violin from age eight, from this school year they will play from age six.

The Suzuki Method has the children learning initially by ear, and parents as well, if they would like to join the oya ko (parent-child) violin club. The school provides the violins and there is no need

to practice at home. There is also an abundance of keyboards, xylophones, taiko and shime-taiko drums, guitars, recorders, and other instruments, and of course the children sing. This summer, one of the teachers was delighted to discover that even 4–6 year olds know Justin Bieber songs.

NewIS teachers find that the musical training enhances students’ language faculties. Children happily learn all subjects in both English and Japanese, and about half of them learn Chinese.

Tanabata festival at Aichi International School



Grade three and four students enjoy the yagura (tower) in the centre of the AIS "Tanabata dance hall." AIS

Before AIS students disappeared for their summer vacations, both the kindergarten and elementary classes came together to participate in a Tanabata festival on July 1st.

There were games such as ring toss, foods such as shaved ice (kakigori), and lots and lots of dancing for the students to participate in. All students and staff wore jinbei or yukata on the beautifully hot

sunny day in Nagoya.

After the summer vacation, students will return to AIS with other events, such as the annual Sports Day and Autumn Festival, on the horizon. So, after a restful summer vacation it is hoped that both staff and students will return refreshed and ready to face the upcoming challenges of the second term. — MARK REED

HYIS cools off with smiles and shouts of celebration

Each morning this summer, screams and shouts of celebration surrounded the school as the Hitokoe Yokohama International School (HYIS) kids tested out their slick new mini-pool and mist cooling system on the natural grass lawn. It was truly a scene of refreshing gaiety!

This year's HYIS Summer Extravaganza found students enjoying a fishing trip, bug hunting, volcano making, and watermelon bashing, as well as many other enjoyable theme-based discoveries. It was topped off with students and their guests dancing together in their lovely yukata, celebrating the end of the school year and the start of vacation. It was truly a celebration of summer at HYIS!



HYIS students enjoying their homemade popsicles as part of the school's summer program. HYIS

HYIS is proud to announce web cameras and extra child-safety features in each of the new rooms on the first floor. The school also has an enclosed garden with sandboxes and a beautiful green grass lawn where the HYIS students play when there's no time to go to one of the many nearby parks. A two-minute walk from campus brings students to the HYIS vegetable garden, where they grow eggplants, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, and other delicious vegetables for their families.

HYIS is now accepting applicants for fall-term registration, and is offering special programs for working parents as well as after-school English programs for those children attending Japanese nursery, elementary, or high schools. There are also evening classes for adults. Childcare is available at HYIS on a drop-in basis.

The Saturday program (from 10am–12:15pm) is open to children aged 3–15 years, and includes exploratory activities. Private and group lessons are also available. Most HYIS programs include learning how to play the piano and the steel drum. And the school is proud to include body percussion as part of its child-centred curriculum, along with Hip Hop Dance activities. See <http://www.hyis.org> for more information. — PATRICIA ALDANA

Fathers' Day fun

It was daddy's day out recently at Summerhill International School as the fathers spent some time away from their offices and came out on full form to enjoy fun gymnastics with their children!

To celebrate Fathers' Day, the school organized a special outdoors activity time at Arisugawa Park called "Daddy and Me." Gymnastics teacher Yamada Sensei made the fathers stretch, run, jump, hop, and crawl around with their children.

All that sweat and workout definitely seemed worth it as the children were so excited to play with their daddies, and the daddies enjoyed the pleasant break from work! Quality time with each other — the best Fathers' Day gift! — TENIE B. SANGMA



Summerhill's Fathers' Day in the park. SUMMERHILL

Montessori summer school extension

Moto-Azabu's Chateau des Bambini, formerly Rainbow International Montessori School, has extended its summer program to the end of August. The school provides a summer program for children up to the age of six years, with activities based on the Montessori method of education.

Classes include activities that provide real-life skills, develop the five senses, promote numeracy, encourage bilingualism, and enhance cultural understanding. Ukulele, hula, and yoga sessions are also available.

Classes are from 8:45am until 3pm, although children may be dropped off at 8am and collected at 6pm. Fees are between ¥8,000 and ¥10,000 per day, depending on the child's age.

Interested parents should call the school at 03-5771-3668.

Rustic Pathways teen travel now on Facebook

Teen summer travel program Rustic Pathways recently announced the release of “highlight reels” of their programs. Photographic galleries of summer programs can now be found at <http://www.facebook.com/RusticPathways> so that students and parents can learn about the trips that Rustic Pathways runs throughout the world.

In addition to the summer photo galleries, Rustic Pathways is excited to announce a student video contest. This year, Rustic Pathways is providing a platform for students to share videos, with rewards for outstanding submissions. Information regarding the contest can be found at <http://www.rusticpathways.com/videocontest>. Prizes include an iPad, a GoPro video camera, and a copy of Final Cut video editing software. — GEORGE WIED



The Rustic Pathways program of adventure for teenagers throughout the world. RUSTIC PATHWAYS

ASIJ students volunteer to teach Fukushima children



Relief fund coordinator Marty Tromburg with high school volunteers. AMERICAN SCHOOL IN JAPAN

In June, 18 high school students from The American School in Japan (ASIJ) volunteered to teach English to children from Fukushima who are staying in an evacuation centre in Tokyo. The children had their school year tragically disrupted, and many are worried about fitting in and keeping up when they are eventually able to return to school.

ASIJ students not only lent their English language ability, but also provided companionship and brought positive energy to their volunteer work. Students from high school grade, including

recently graduated seniors, jumped at the chance to continue helping with relief efforts in the best way they could during summer vacation. Undoubtedly, it was also a learning experience for them as they embodied ASIJ's mission of “developing compassionate, inquisitive learners prepared for global responsibility.”

The school hopes to continue to have opportunities to partner with the Japanese NGO Kids Door that has put together these much-needed summertime classes at the evacuation centre. — MATT WILCE

International Day hits MIS

Makuhari International School (MIS) continues to grow, and this year's International Day was even bigger, with even more varied events than last year.

The day began with groups of classes working together on performances that centred on four of the world's continents. Children explained, sang, danced, and gave wonderful shows for the parents to watch. There were football dances from South America and a dragon from China, along with other performances inspired by different parts of the world.

Outside guests from Ghana, Hawaii, and other countries were also invited to perform, and the highlight of the day was possibly the taiko drumming. The whole school reverberated to the amazing sounds of a hall full of taiko drums — the children beamed and simultaneously covered their ears.

Parents had prepared food from around the world; after the children had eaten, they performed more shows. This was followed by an “eco assembly” where children renewed their vows to Renew, Reuse and Recycle, and were treated to a visit from Eco Man!

The sponsored Litter Hunts began in the afternoon, when children explored the local school area to collect as many bags of litter as they could find. All proceeds from this sponsored event went toward helping those affected by the disaster in Tohoku.

To finish off the day, the PTA held a Mystery Movie Night, where tired children could relax while watching a movie, and even more tired parents and teachers could enjoy refreshments and a chat together. It was a wonderful day!

Makuhari International School opened in 2009, offering international education to returnee Japanese and non-Japanese families. It is located halfway between Narita Airport and the centre of Tokyo, and school buses are available. The school is supported by the Chiba prefectural government and is the first international school in Japan to be granted Article One status, making it possible for students to join the Japanese education system at a later date, thus giving them more options in addition to international education.

For more information about MIS, see <http://www.mis.ed.jp> or call 043-296-0277. The school frequently holds open days, to which members of the public are welcome. — PAUL ROGERS



MIS children singing at the school's International Day. MAKUHARI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Class of 2011 graduates from The British School

Students, staff, and parents celebrated the GCSE graduating class of 2011 with a formal ceremony held in June at Tokyo American Club. Diplomas were also presented for outstanding achievements in sports, the Worldwide Mathematics Olympiad, and completion of the International Award.

There were speeches from the Year 11 students, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Head of School David Williams. The student speeches were particularly well received, delivered with maturity and confidence beyond their 16 years.

This is the biggest Year 11 graduation class at BST to date. Last year's cohort produced outstanding GCSE results with 100% achieving A* to C grades and 64% achieving A* and A grades, competing with the best independent schools in the United Kingdom. The school looks forward to even better results in August from this graduating class and to seeing many of them in Year 12 starting their A levels in September. — NANCY JENKINS



Students from BST celebrating their GCSEs at Tokyo American Club. THE BRITISH SCHOOL IN TOKYO

LiVEJAM amps up international music teachers



Musicians from Spain, Japan, Canada, and the United States are now teaching at LiVEJAM. KEN TAKAGI

LiVEJAM, Tokyo's premiere music school for teenagers, is growing and constantly evolving. Its diverse staff now come from a range of international backgrounds and musical experiences.

Guitar teacher Alberto Garcia comes from Spain and has toured California and Mexico, collaborating with some of the best musicians in Los Angeles. Another guitar teacher, Shimpei Kambe, is Japanese and has created music for iPhone applications as well as written guitar study books. Guitar teacher and vocal coach Nikolas Faraguna comes from Canada and has played drums for Jennifer Hudson live on Japanese TV. Bass teacher Merlyn Kelly is from the United

States, and has toured 25 countries and performed with Willie Nelson, Gwen Stefani, and Derek Trucks. Drum teacher Dustin Cassidy is also American, and has toured extensively in Japan with American heavy metal band Guerilla Mind Society. Vocal and electronics teacher Caroline Vallis is American/Japanese and has performed at festivals throughout the world. Vocal and narration teacher "Ambi" is Japanese and has performed in New York, Jamaica, Cuba, and Thailand; and keyboard and composition expert "T-Ibe" is known for fusing electronic and traditional Japanese music.

For more information about LiVEJAM see <http://www.livejam.co.jp>. — KEN TAKAGI

Outstanding Service Awards for female staff in international schools in Japan

On March 4th this year, Caroline Pover — as publisher of *Japan School News* and author of the *Guide to International Schools in Japan* — was given an Outstanding Service Award by the US-based Women's Information Network (WIN) for her contributions to schools in Japan. This award was part of a global recognition of women's activities in their communities, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

Fifteen women in each US state and one woman in each of the 176 participating countries throughout the world were honored for outstanding service in the areas of family; business; school or church; community or women's organization; and country, government, or military service.

Ms Pover shares her award with all the women in Japan who have dedicated many years of their lives to education, and have touched the minds of thousands of young people. She invited the international school community to nominate women they believed deserved to be recognized.

The following women were recognized for their outstanding service to education in Japan:

Kristine Bordner

Aoba-Japan International School

Aoba-Japan International School (A-JIS) recognized Kristine Bordner for establishing and administrating the A-JIS Learning Support Program and her continued dedication to educating children with special needs.

Noriko Akahane

Canadian International School Tokyo

Canadian International School Tokyo recognized office manager Noriko Akahane for her listening ear, wise counsel, and ready smile, as well as the care and concern she shows for everyone's needs, difficulties, and requests.

Sachiko Tawa

Gymboree Play & Music

Gymboree Play & Music recognized Sachiko Tawa for her strong commitment to Gymboree, and for making it her priority to attract as many new customers as possible through her direct teaching and as lead trainer.

Kyoko Goto

Horizon Japan International School

Horizon Japan International School recognized their accountant, Kyoko Goto, for her outstanding dedication to the school, and the exceptional relationships she has helped build among the members of the Horizon community.

Yukiko Nakajima

International Community School

International Community School (ICS) recognized Japanese coordinator Yukiko Nakajima for her hard work in developing and teaching a creative curriculum, and for helping foreign children progress at Japanese public schools.

Kumi Sugisawa

Katoh Gakuen

Katoh Gakuen recognized Kumi Sugisawa for the incredible job she does in keeping the immersion program running and the tireless support she provides the staff — always with grace, kindness, and a joyful heart.