

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

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MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

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J's students travel the globe

Waseda International's first summer school



Alice (left) and Lovisa (right) during their recent travels to India. J's INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Every week in April the children at J's took their passports, boarded a plane, and travelled the globe, getting off at countries such as China, South Africa, Japan, Colombia, India, and the Philippines.

After they went through immigration and got their passports stamped in India, they got a guided tour of the country by their very own local tour guide. They tasted the food and tried on the local fashions, and then observed how the traditional clothing was difficult to put on by themselves, however the food was declared "yummy!" "Namaste" is now frequently heard in

the classroom throughout the day.

In the Philippines a folk dance using bamboo proved to be quite vigorous and left everyone rolling in laughter. In Japan the beautiful sounds of a Japanese *koto* was heard. The children listened intently as one of their mothers played the "Sakura" song.

Despite weather woes, the school's Easter picnic was a big success. Everyone agreed that lunch with mums and dads under the beautiful sakura flowers, along with all the activities, was truly a fantastic way to welcome spring. — MANA ORTIZ

Waseda International School (WIS) is pleased to announce its very first summer school program, and welcomes children to spend the summer at its colourful, state-of-the-art facilities equipped with new learning materials from the United States. The summer school takes place over five weeks between July 2 and August 3, with two camps: Junior Camp for pre-schoolers and kindergarteners aged 3.5–6 years old; and Elementary Camp for elementary school children aged 6 and up. Classes start at 8:45am and end at 3:15pm.

Classes will be small, with a maximum of 15 students, to enable a child-centric approach and ensure individualized attention to students. Every day will be packed with fun and meaningful learning experiences that are fine-tuned to each and every child's specific needs, and a structured schedule, designed to offer rigorous academic programs in the morning and fun extra-curricular activities in the afternoons, will be followed. The extra-curricular activities will differ every day, and will include water-play, gardening, treasure hunts, and music jam sessions, etc.

Every Thursday the children will go on a school trip related to the theme they study that particular week. Week one's theme is "African Animals," with a field trip to a zoo; week two is "Miyazaki's Fairytales," with a trip to the Ghibli Museum; week three is "Ocean Creatures," with a trip to an aquarium; week four is "The Solar System," with a trip to a planetarium; and week five is "Life on Earth," with a trip to the National Museum of Nature and Science.

All daily classes and activities will be conducted strictly in English, presenting a great opportunity for children who do not usually attend international schools to experience an international camp, make new friends, and improve their English.

Students will enjoy participating in educationally stimulating and creative activities, while interacting with students from different countries. Enrolment is open to all nationalities and you do not need to be an existing WIS student to participate, although discounted fees are available for students enrolled in WIS.

Fees range from ¥40,000 (¥30,000 for WIS students) for one week of summer school to ¥140,000 (¥110,000 for WIS students) for the full five weeks, excluding lunch and snacks. Summer school operates five days a week.

Contact info@wasedais.jp for enrolment details or see <http://www.wasedais.jp> for more information. — NATASHA DYTTHAM

Putting the “fun” in fundraising at Gyoshu



Some of the grade 10 Bilingual Class students getting ready for the culture festival. GAY-ANN BAGOTCHAY

Rather than being on the receiving end, students from Gyoshu Junior and Senior High School were giving back to their community on May 12 this year.

The mood was upbeat at the school's annual Culture Festival as students from grades 7 through 12 enjoyed a day of fundraising. This festival has been a long-standing tradition at Gyoshu. The wonderful community event included a variety of foods, live music, games, and activities for people of all ages.

The festival proved a huge success in so many ways, but especially in that students managed to introduce guests from the local community to important charitable organizations such as ARK (Animal Rescue Kansai) and Free the Children.

All planned activities went off without a hitch and many commented that it was truly amazing to see everyone enjoying themselves so much. Ultimately, students wanted to show everyone what wonderful fun you can have while giving back to your community. — CARL HADLEY

The Chateau School diplomats always enjoy their monthly field trip — in April it was to Tokyo Mosque (Tokyo Camii & Turkish Culture Center), the largest mosque in Tokyo.

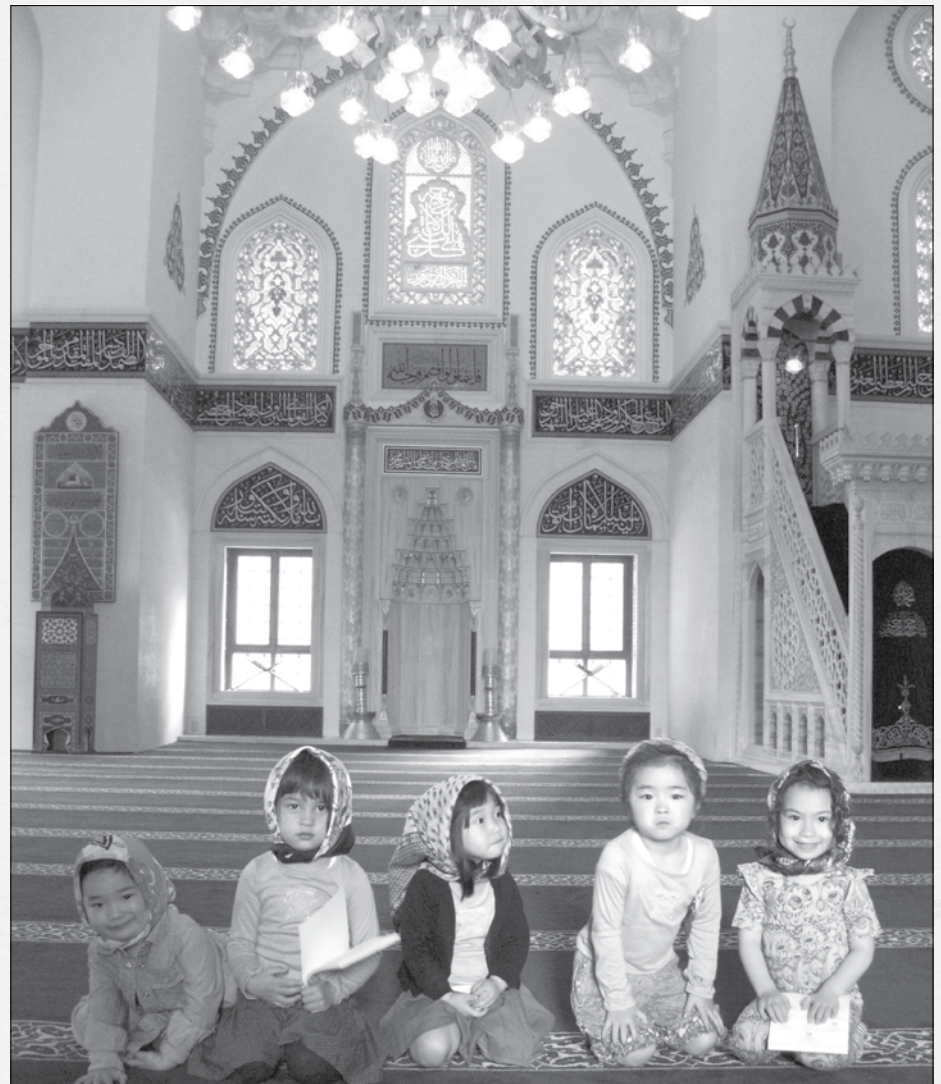
Spring term activities have focused on the Middle East and Africa. In maths, the diplomats were introduced to a wide range of geometric shapes. In language, they converted their names from English to Egyptian hieroglyphs and traced the strokes of Arabic letters. In art, they were introduced to a colour palette specific to the Middle East, and the earth colours of Africa.

At Tokyo Mosque, diplomats covered their heads with scarves and were welcomed at the reception by the mosque's committee, who were bearing Turkish delights. Diplomats were able to touch and learn about the mosaic details on the marble tiles. They also stayed for prayers and listened to the songs of the mosque.

In May, classes focused on Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Turkey. Diplomats' families attended the Jewish Community of Japan centre in Tokyo for their first Shabbat dinner. During the summer term, the journey will continue to the United Nations, Oceania, and Central America, offering more outdoor activities such as swimming, cycling, rock climbing, ceramics, embassy visits, and a trip to the beach. The summer term is available in weekly and termly packages. A detailed calendar is available on Facebook: Chateau Bon Bon.

The Chateau School expects diplomats to be able to comprehend two languages at three years old, and three languages upon graduation. Diplomats are currently taking Chinese and French every week, and from this autumn, Arabic and Spanish will be available after school. The Saturday School offers English (World Diplomacy) and French. — RINA BOVRISSE

Chateau School field trip to Tokyo Mosque



Chateau School diplomats (left to right) Kitty Kondo, Maya Menikoff, Callia Koshiba, Luna Kim, Apple Hutt. RINA BOVRISSE

Golden Week travels for Aichi International School



Aichi International School students out hiking in Nakatsugawa. AICHI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

At the beginning of May, Aichi International School elementary students travelled to Nakatsugawa, Gifu (grades 1–4) and Hiroshima (grades 5–6) for overnight trips.

In Hiroshima, the students visited Genbaku Dome, the museum, and Peace Memorial Park, learning firsthand from survivors about their experiences. The students also went to Miyajima and met the deer on the island. Some

students went to Osaka and spent a day relaxing at Universal Studios.

The younger students attended an overnight camp in rural Nakatsugawa. Students hiked to a waterfall, made s'mores around a campfire, played outdoor sports, and spent the night in bunk beds. Fortunately, it did not rain and students were able to enjoy a great outdoor experience. — MARK REED

Gymboree's Summer Bubble Pass available from June 11

Join Gymboree this summer and enjoy classes for a discounted price. For those families staying in Tokyo, this is a great opportunity to escape the heat and spend quality time with your little one. For parents with children 30 months or older, Gymboree also offers drop-off classes that enable parents to get some time to themselves during the long summer vacation.

The following three types of passes will be available so parents can choose their desired number of classes based on their summer schedule: A. 4 classes: ¥10,000 (1 class ¥2,500), B. 8 classes: ¥16,000 (1 class ¥2,000), C. 12 classes: ¥20,000 (1 class about ¥1,650). All passes require a ¥5,000 Summer Registration Fee. However, for those who decide to enrol in Gymboree's regular classes after the Bubble Pass expires, the ¥5,000 registration fee is refunded.

Reservations are now being accepted in person at both Gymboree locations and families can participate in classes from June 11 to September 2. Please refer to <http://www.gymboree.jp> for details.

Gymboree Play & Music is the global leader in classes for children 0–5 years old. Please contact Gymboree by phone on 03-5449-2311 (Hiroo) or 03-3723-0651 (Jiyugaoka), email at info-motoazabu@gymboree.jp or info-jiyugaoka@gymboree.jp or through the homepage to sign up for a free trial. — NICOLE YAMADA

NewIS summer program

New International School (NewIS) has school orientations scheduled on June 6 (in Japanese) and June 8 (in English).

The school's fourth annual summer program for children from the ages of 4 to 14 years old runs from July 4 to August 1. There are English, Japanese, and Mandarin Chinese language options, and children of any nationality are welcome to participate. The program is open to members of the wider community, as well as to students currently enrolled at NewIS.

Summer school classes will be held from 10:00am–2:30pm, Monday through Friday, with no school on July 16, which is a national holiday. It will be a fun educational program that includes reading, writing, mathematics, science, and music activities, and it will feature performances and presentations for parents on the final day of the programs.

Students can participate in a full one-month program from July 4 to August 1, a two-week program from July 4–18, or a two-week program from July 19 to August 1. Check the school's website for details at <http://newis.ed.jp>.

Soup-making at Aoba-Japan International School

On April 27, students at Aoba-Japan International School (A-JIS) learned a valuable lesson about community and sharing, and enjoyed a hearty bowl of soup. Each class brought in seasonal green vegetables to recreate the world famous Stone Soup to celebrate Earth Day.

Kindergarteners brought in carrots, thyme, and lentils. Elementary students brought in celery, asparagus, onions, garlic, spinach, potatoes, and Parmesan cheese. The Middle School brought in parsley, macaroni, and cabbage. The High School brought in kidney beans and potatoes. Many more vegetables were added to the stone soup.

Students and teachers learned that with whole school contribution and collaboration they were, as a community, able to create an amazing dish. Not only were their stomachs satisfied, but also everyone learned about fresh vegetables and the true spirit of community.

Starting this month, A-JIS will hold their summer school (June 18–July 12), at the Sugunami campus from 8:45am–2:45pm. A-JIS summer classes aim to give students further opportunities to learn through discovery, in smaller classes than

regular school sessions, usually with a maximum of ten students per class. School bus and lunch services are available. For more information see <http://www.aobaonline.jp>. — ROYCE JACOBS



A-JIS preparing for Earth Day celebrations. A-JIS

New trees at Makuhari International School

As we all know, the outside environment is very important for children, not only educationally but spiritually and recreationally too. That is why the Makuhari International School team is constantly trying to adapt what they see outside the classroom setting, and they were really happy last month when a friend of the school donated and planted three trees on the elementary school field. Children were soon playing under the shade of the new trees. Another 12-metre tree arrives this month ... perhaps Makuhari will end up with a forest! The next stage for the school's outdoor environment is an English Garden, more work on the Japanese Garden, and the development of the "wild" area at the front of the school. — PAUL ROGERS



Newly-planted trees donated by a friend of Makuhari International School. MAKUHARI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Origami art at Treehouse

The children at Treehouse Montessori School are currently preparing for an art exhibition to be held this month, themed "Origami Art — June, the Rainy Season." The exhibition will feature some three-dimensional art and a huge piece made of many different origami works.

The children have been working on their art for more than three weeks as Treehouse staff assist them through the process of building up their creativity in order to achieve a goal. Origami can be very difficult for some children and the teachers are carefully guiding them so that they can produce unique and original pieces of art. The art space on the second floor turned out to be a perfect location for the children to get messy and work creatively. Parents and friends are invited to view this exhibition. — JENNY VYVIAL

GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN



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