

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

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August 2012, #27

MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

<http://www.japanschoolnews.com>

Waseda International celebrates summer



Waseda International School's summer students at the end of the first week of summer school. WIS

Waseda International School (WIS) is in the middle of its summer school fun. Each week consists of four mornings of intensive language

arts lessons filled with custom-designed lessons for each child. There are individualized worksheets for students attending for just one-

week, and specially selected textbooks for those staying for the whole summer. Guided one-on-one reading and sight words are provided for each child.

There are two afternoons of water play on the school's sunny roof, which also features a flower, herb, and vegetable garden; water tables; and plastic pools. One afternoon included a jam session with Samm Bennett, a country and western style musician who concocted an amazing drum, chant, and dance class based on one week's theme, African Animals.

The students spent a day at Yokohama's Zoorasia to see the majestic creatures of Africa for themselves. The week's theme song was 'In the Jungle' from 'The Lion King,' which was presented to the parents in the lobby on the Friday during an informal concert. The children wore handmade masks fresh from their intensive art class with Guy Millward, Waseda's in-house artist and art program director. The lobby was decorated as a jungle and parents were pleasantly surprised by how well their child performed with only four days of rehearsal.

Students are looking forward to the next few weeks of summer school fun, with great themes and cross-curricular activities, including weekly field trips. — NATASHA DYTAM

Treehouse Montessori's summer fun continues

Treehouse Montessori School in Yokohama continues its "Splashin' Fun Summer Program" this month until August 17.

The program includes week-long workshops with a different theme for each session, with the children learning in a Montessori environment, and daily fun in the school swimming pool.

The program's themes have so far included Japanese summer festivals, sea creatures and animals, food groups and Asian cooking, insects, worldwide cultures, and fruits and vegetables.

Treehouse Montessori School was founded in 2001 to offer quality Montessori education to the children and families of Yokohama. The language of instruction at school is English with introduction to some Japanese. The school is situated in a two-storey home-style building in a quiet neighborhood of Honmoku. It has an outdoor playground space in the front and on both sides of the house. See <http://www.tms-school.com> or phone 045-622-5804 for more information.

New International School of Japan graduating class inspiration for a dual language senior school

In June the New International School of Japan (NewIS) graduated ten students from the upper school's grade 9 — their highest number of graduates ever. At the graduation ceremony, each student gave graduate speeches to their parents, teachers, guests, and the entire student body, as is the tradition at NewIS, most of them in both English and Japanese.

This class did much to inspire the creation of a senior school at NewIS, which will begin in September 2012 from grade 10, and expanding to grade 12 within two years. The school will be the only dual language high school in English and Japanese, meaning that all subjects will be studied in both languages, as has been the case from pre-kindergarten through grade 9 up to now.



Recent graduates on their way to see the Phantom of the Opera in Tokyo, with their teachers and the Principal/Director of Studies (far left), who was also one of their science and maths during teachers the second term of the school year. NEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Sun and fun at Shimizu Camp for Katoh Elementary School



Grade one students Yurika, Karin, Mei, and Kona splashing in style in the river. JANE WILKES

It was that time of year again for Katoh Elementary School's grades one and two to head out on their overnight outdoor adventure. On July 6 and 7, Rainbow and Forest classes spent a day and a half enjoying many exciting activities at the beautiful nature location of Shimizu Camp.

Some of the highlights of this year's trip were a

hike up a mountain with a delicious picnic lunch, wild and wet play in the river, and an evening campfire ceremony that included a dance and lots of fun English songs.

The camp wasn't just fun and games though, it gave the grade twos a chance to be camp leaders by taking care of their assigned grade

one buddies. They did a wonderful job. Some examples of great leadership skills were seen as the helping buddies assisted with making their beds and keeping them safe on the hike by holding their hands. The grade one students are really looking forward to taking on this role next year when they become leaders. — MICHAEL CRAWFORD

Sumo summer at Aichi IS



A group of AIS students with Mr Kawashita. MARK REED

The summer time is always a busy time at Aichi International School (AIS). In July there is the Tanabata Festival, with bon dancing, games, and lots of snacks and drinks. However, this year AIS

added a Science Expo and a violin concert to a hectic summer time schedule. At the Science Expo students from grades 3–6 gave presentations about their recently conducted experiments. At the violin concert all elementary students performed, as classes demonstrated what they had been practising over the first term.

AIS was also fortunate enough to be visited by three sumo wrestlers prior to the Nagoya tournament. The trio answered students' questions, did sumo exercises with the children, and even "wrestled" with them. Afterwards, students were able to talk to, and have photos taken with, the sumo wrestlers. This event follows a recent tradition at AIS of teaching students about cultural and international events through sports and field trips, having visited Nagoya Grampus, Chunichi Dragons, and Nagoya Oceans in the past few years. — MARK REED

Tokyo families wanted to sponsor Disneyland trip for Tohoku children

Families based in Tokyo are wanted to be part of a special two-night homestay program, to enable children on Oshika-hanto, Tohoku, to take a trip to Disneyland next spring. Sponsor families will open their homes for two nights to the Tohoku families, and spend a day at Disneyland together. Sponsor families must be able to treat their guests.

These children have had very few opportunities to simply be children in recent months. This is a unique chance for you to provide a very special experience not just for the Tohoku families, but also for your own. Email caroline@carolinepover.com for more details.

Chateau School's Saturday French School

Chateau School offers multi-lingual programs as an important part of early childhood education. For children attending other schools, Chateau's Saturday School has become popular.

The Saturday French School is a condensed French immersion program, running from 9am to midday. The first hour is academic covering the alphabet, spelling, and maths; the second hour covers art and music; and the third hour is spent on cooking. The program aims to provide an experience similar to that of a French lycée. Children are exposed to French-style art, chanson, and cook their own madelene and traditional cuisine. At the end of the program, they learn how to socialize at a "French dinner table" as they taste the French cuisine they prepared and cooked themselves.

Parisian Ambassador Marie teaches the Saturday French School. The Saturday School is under The Chateau Club enrolment, and costs ¥31,500 for a one-time-only admission fee, which includes a diplomat passport and badge. Each three-hour class costs ¥5,250.

Chateau School is scheduled to expand its facility and programs this fall. For more information, please visit <http://www.chateaubonbon.com>.

Chateau Bon Bon provides international school education for children ("diplomats") from newborn to six years old, Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm, where they can explore worldwide cultures through firsthand experiences. After-school and weekend classes are available for children up to the age of twelve years. Chateau Bon Bon also provides workshops, parties, and has space available for rent.— RINA BOVRISSE



Ambassador Marie Abraham and Italian-Japanese diplomat Shiori, who attends Japanese nursery during the weekdays. CHATEAU SCHOOL

Slithering summer snakes at J's International School



J's International School summer students create their own 6-metre snake. MANA ORTIZ

Week Four of J's Summer Fun Program introduced reptiles and amphibians. In the heat and humidity of the Tokyo summer, children discussed reptile characteristics and habitats while wishing they were cold-blooded like them! To get a good idea of how big a 6-metre snake is, the children lay on the floor to create a long human snake, slithering across the floor trying to stay connected. Later a large paper anaconda was created using different materials to create the right texture for snakeskin. This life size,

realistic snake was strategically placed outside the school on display, surprising passersby as well as parents when they arrived to collect the children. Each child made a baby anaconda to take home.

This was just one day in J's 57-day program. Every day the students learn about something new. Visitors are welcome at Moto Azabu 2-12-14, Minato-ku; where the doors are always open. Call 03-3452-2078 for more information. — MANA ORTIZ

GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

"Offers the most in-depth account of Japanese international schools available."

— American father living in Japan

By bestselling author Caroline Pover, the guide features six pages of detailed research on over a hundred schools, complemented by photographs. This is an essential resource for expatriate parents, bicultural families, internationally-minded Japanese parents, teachers in Japan, and those thinking of setting up their own school here. 692 pages retailing at ¥5,000.



<http://www.internationalschoolsguidebook.com>

Kanagawa International School's annual performances



Kanagawa International School students performing at last month's annual music festival. ORIE NISHINA

Kanagawa International School had their annual music festival in July. The children enjoyed performing songs and showing off their talents.

The next big performance for the students will be the drama festival in December, and on sports day in April. The children are already practicing very hard and looking forward to both their future

events. KIS performances and event information can be found at <http://www.kischool.com>.

After graduating from Kanagawa International School, some of this year's former students joined international schools in Yokohama such as St. Maur International School, Yokohama International School, and Yokohama Overseas

Chinese School. Other students moved overseas and joined local schools in their home countries, or other international schools in their new geographical location. Another group of graduates entered Japanese school and continue to attend KIS by joining the Sunday classes to maintain their English skills. — ORIE NISHINA

New kindergarten and elementary school principal at Aoba-Japan



Karen O'Neill, new principal at Aoba-Japan. A-JIS

Karen O'Neill is an educator with over 30 years experience as an early and middle phase teacher, an administrator, and a principal project officer in Queensland, Australia. She began teaching in 1982 and as a lifelong learner has completed her Bachelor of Education and a Master of Learning Management. Since 2000 Karen has held leadership positions in elementary schools in Australia as Assistant Principal and Principal. For the past two years Karen was working across the State of Queensland as an early literacy Project Officer for Education Queensland to collaboratively develop statewide professional development in literacy and English as well as supporting teachers and schools with the transition from a state to a

national curriculum.

Karen is passionate about working with teachers and school communities, to enable them to support children to develop the knowledge and skills to succeed in a global community. She is an instructional leader who has worked extensively within her own schools to enhance the capability of teachers to develop skills in curriculum, assessment and instruction.

Karen is married to Paul who also works in Tokyo and has two children who are currently studying in Queensland, Australia. She is delighted to have the opportunity to be joining the leadership team at Aoba-Japan International School and to live in Japan.