

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

Evergreen Outdoor Center

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Saint Maur's O'Keeffe Irish dance celebration



Students performing at Saint Maur's recent Irish dance event. SAINT MAUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The second annual O'Keeffe Irish Dance Celebration took place in the Saint Maur Fine Arts Auditorium on Friday, May 24. The Saint Maur Irish Dance Club endeavours to keep Sister Carmel's memory alive by dedicating an Irish dance celebration in her honour at the end of each academic year. Sister Carmel O'Keeffe passed away on October 17, 2011 after serving Saint Maur International School for over 60 years in various capacities including teacher, principal, head of

school, and chair of the board.

Once a week after school, members of the Irish Dance Club meet in the upper recreation hall to practise with their Irish dance instructor, Miss Tomoko Shirasawa, Head of the Ardagh School of Irish Dance, based in Tokyo. Miss Shirasawa, the only certified Irish Dancing Commission instructor in Japan (she holds a TCRG — Teagascóir Choimisiúin le Rinci Gaelacha — certificate), also arranges for Irish Dance Club members to

participate in various events throughout the year, including the Yokohama World Festa, the St. Patrick's Day parades in Yokohama and Tokyo, and events on the Yokosuka Naval Base. She accompanied some club members to an Irish Dance Asia competition in Shanghai earlier this year. Some Irish Dance Club members have competed in the United States and Canada and are looking forward to two upcoming competitions this year in Hong Kong and Taipei. — GILLES GAURY

Horizon students at Earth Festa Kanagawa 2013



Poster created by Horizon Japan International School students for Earth Festa. HORIZON JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Horizon Japan International School (HJIS) students recently participated in Earth Festa Kanagawa, an annual event celebrating various cultures in Japan, that was held on May 12–13 at the Kanagawa Chikyu Shimin Plaza (Earth Plaza).

HJIS secondary students worked tirelessly to complete a beautiful, well-designed poster for display at the event. Each letter of "HJIS" contains different pictures that are separated into four different categories (after-school program, students, internationalism, and sports). The multitude of images shows a school with a positive approach toward intercultural experiences, and students who are truly "Caring and Courageous."

For more information about Earth Festa, see <http://www.earthplaza.jp/earthfesta> (Japanese).

— ALI KARA

Summer program for Nagoya children

International Christian Academy of Nagoya's summer program is running until the 18th of this month. All children aged 5–12 years old are welcome, regardless of whether they are enrolled in the regular school year. Classes run Monday–Thursday, from 9am until 2pm.

Classes on Bible, phonics, reading, writing, maths, science, English, and art will be conducted in English, and the program includes field trips.

Fees are ¥20,000 per week and it is possible to join for just one week. No registration fee is charged and there is a 5% discount for two or more siblings. An application form is available online at <http://www.icanjapan.org>.

Cezars celebrates with graduating students



International School of Sacred Heart students with Cezars Kitchen's Chef Akase (second from right) and kitchen assistant Aki (right). CEZARS KITCHEN

Cezars Kitchen joins in with the international school graduation celebrations by lovingly creating personalized menus together with administrators and parents, and providing a wide range of catering services. Tailored to each school's needs and budget, the scope and style of the event is always taken into account — whether it is a buffet-, plated-, or canapé-style event. Dishes accommodating vegetarian, allergy, or ethnic requirements are also available.

Cezars' professional chefs add special touches to each dish, focusing on exciting flavours, beautiful presentation, and first-class customer service, taking away the stress that can be associated with organizing graduation events and leaving staff and parents to enjoy the celebrations.

"The best part of the graduations is seeing the excited faces of the students moving on to the next step in their lives. It's sad to see the seniors go, but it's good to know you will serve them one last meal from Cezars Kitchen," says Cezars Chef Stephen Wilson at Saint Maur.

International Children's Festival in Sendai

Horizon Japan International School Sendai Campus hosted an International Children's Festival on May 25. The event was open to the local community, and many families with children joined in to enjoy the international atmosphere Horizon Sendai has to offer. Children explored different countries at themed booths and met with people from around the world to learn about other cultures and taste international food. There were also a bazaar, activity corners, and a circus! — BARIS ARUK



The local community enjoying Horizon Sendai's International Children's Festival in May. BARIS ARUK

New International School summer program

This month's orientation at New International School of Japan is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16 in English, and Thursday, July 18 in Japanese. Call 03-3980-1057 to make a reservation for an orientation or for a separate individual appointment.

The school's summer program starts on July 9 and continues until August 6, with two-week or one-month programs available. Children aged 4–15 of any nationality are welcome to participate. The program is open to members of the wider community, as well as to current students. Classes are held from 10am–2:30pm Monday–Friday, with no school on July 15, which is a national holiday.

The regular NewIS summer program is fun and educational, and includes reading, writing, mathematics, science, and music activities, and features performances and presentations for parents on the final day of the programs. There is a separate summer program available to prepare middle school students for Japanese high school examinations.

For more information see <http://newis.ed.jp>.

Itabashi English programs for summer and term-time

New Hope International Preschool's summer school runs from July 29 through August 23, and is all about shopping. Children will do fun activities, crafts, and games around the theme of shopping for food, clothing, and toys. Classes will be held in English, and children from 3 to 7 years old are welcome. See <http://www.newhopeclc.jp> for information on how to sign up.

The regular full-time preschool/kindergarten program has openings for children from 3 to 6

years old. Classes run from 10am–2:30pm and children can attend for three, four, or five days per week. There is also a weekly one-hour "Mommy and Me" program for parents or grandparents and toddlers, and an afternoon preschool English class for preschool/kindergarten kids on weekdays from 3:40–4:40pm. New Hope also runs English classes for elementary school kids. Classes focus on the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing and are arranged by age and English ability.

JIES sports festival



Building a tower at Jingumae International Exchange School 2013 sports festival. KENAN ULU

Together with a neighbouring Japanese public elementary school, Jingumae International Exchange School (JIES) held its sports festival (undokai) on Saturday, May 25. It was an all-day, Japanese-style event.

The JIES and Japanese school kids practised lots of races and performances for three weeks beforehand. On the day of the event, kindergarten and grade 1 students did a hip hop dance, and grades 2 and 3 performed a traditional Japanese summer dance (yosakoi soran). Grades 4–6 successfully put on a challenging gymnastics display.

The weeks of practising were great opportunities for the JIES students to communicate with the Japanese students and for friendships to grow. — KENAN ULU

St. Alban's Nursery September openings

The St. Alban's Nursery program currently has openings for children aged 2–5 years old, starting in September 2013.

The program is designed to provide educational, physical, spiritual, and social development through experience and self-expression in a well-ordered and nurturing environment. In addition to spacious indoor facilities, the nursery has a large, safe, outdoor play area, in a tranquil setting, and ample parking is available.

For more information, please phone 03-3431-8534 or email at stalban@saintalban.jp. — GILMA YAMAMOTO-COPELAND



Entrance to St. Alban's Nursery. ST. ALBAN'S

Exploring the sea with J's

Last month J's classes dove deep into the ocean to explore its wonders. All the learning about deep-sea animals got the children motivated and excited to visit an aquarium where they could closely observe the aquatic animals that they had studied in class. Water and fish surrounded the students as they walked through the glass corridors, and words that are so commonly used in class like "enormous," "deep," and "fierce" suddenly had much more meaning. Many of the children had specifically been looking forward to seeing the sawfish, which they had studied and drawn pictures of. Some of them even proclaimed it to be their favourite fish, so to see it up close was a memorable experience for all.

For regular updates, please find J's International School on Facebook. — MANA ORTIZ



J's students marvelling at the size of the sea creatures they have been studying. MANA ORTIZ

Summerhill sponsors Tohoku bus stop

A remote fishing village that was destroyed by the tsunami that followed the March 11, 2011 earthquake has been given a unique new bus stop, thanks to ¥200,000 raised by the Summerhill International School community.

Requests made by the head of Ohara village on the Oshika peninsula were repeatedly turned down by the local government, citing lack of funds. The money was raised by the school, and a Saitama-based construction company created the luxurious bus "house," dreamed up by an Ohara supporter.

Inside the bus shelter are two bright red double-seater sofas donated by IKEA, a bookshelf, plants, framed photographs of members of the Ohara community, as well as artwork created by the Summerhill students.

Outside is a terrace area, complete with table and chairs. The bus shelter has been built on land donated by an Ohara resident, who lost his wife, his home, and his business. To thank him for donating the land, his temporary storage building, where he keeps belongings salvaged from the debris, was painted bright blue with red and white hearts.

In addition to the practical benefits in a remote area with a mostly elderly population, the bus stop has now become a popular tourist attraction.



The Ohara bus stop on Oshika-hanto. TORU KONISHI

EF's overseas university preparation courses

95% of university students agree that going to university is a worthwhile experience for a variety of reasons, including improved employability, greater earning potential (according to the Office for National Statistics in 2011 the average annual earnings of a graduate compared to a non-graduate are £12,000 more), and greater promotion prospects.

If a student is interested in meeting people from different countries and backgrounds, then the university options for that student greatly increase. Education First (EF) has been assisting international students gain entry to North American universities for almost 20 years, and now has over 60 partner institutions in the region, as well as long-standing relationships with a number of prestigious universities around the world.

Graduates of the EF University Abroad preparation program are either guaranteed admission or receive preferred consideration from partner institutions throughout the world. The program is now open for September intake.

"I'm happy with the results I gained in the friendly and professional atmosphere at EF," says Sergey Nikolenko from Russia, who successfully finished EF's Pre-Master course in EF Boston, and was accepted to MIT with a full scholarship a few years ago. Metropolitan Boston has more students than any other American city and is home to some of the country's most prestigious universities, such as Harvard and MIT. EF Boston is located in the student neighbourhood of Brighton, with close proximity to Boston College, Boston University, and Suffolk University.

For more information on EF's university preparation course, see <http://www.efjapan.co.jp/university> or contact Kozue Mitsu by email at kozue.mitsu@ef.com or phone at 03-5774-6210.

— WAKANA CATCHPOLE

Tokyo Association of International Preschools

TAIP provides networking, marketing, and professional development opportunities for teachers, staff, and administrators. Current membership includes:

ABC International School
Aoba Japan International School
ASIJ ELC
Ayla International School
The British School in Tokyo
Canadian International School
Central Forest International School
Chateau School
Columbia International School
Gregg International School
Happy Days International School
Horizon Japan International School
International School of the Sacred Heart
Jingumae International Exchange School
Joy to the World American International Preschool
J's International School
K. International School Tokyo
Keiki Intercultural Preschool
Kincarn International School
Komazawa Park International School
Kunitachi Kids International School
Learning Tree
Makuhari International School
Mitsui Gardens International Preschool
New World International School
Nishimachi International School
New International School
Ohana International School
Poppins International Pre-School
Saint Maur International School
Seisen International School — Montessori Kindergarten
Shikahama English Adventures International Preschool
St. Albans Nursery
Summerhill International School
The Montessori School of Tokyo
Tokyo International Kindercare
Tokyo International School
Tokyo YMCA International School
Victory International Preschool
Waseda International School
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Associate Members
Englishbooks.jp
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Organization of Bilingual Parenting
Rach Inc.
RIC Publications
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Scholastic Japan
Yanagi Educational Group

Individual Members
Bill Ward
Linda Schmidt
Raquel Taniguchi
Teri Suzanne
Yuko Kubo

See <http://tokyopreschools.org> for membership information.

The Ultimate Summer Camp

This year, everyone at Evergreen Outdoor Center is feeling particularly excited for summer to breeze in, bringing with it a whole world of new adventure.

New for this season, following Evergreen's partnership with English Adventure, they have created the "Ultimate Camp" experience for children, carefully combining all of the excitement and activities of the "Summer" and "Extreme" camps into one, 10-day camp. Because it is twice the length of the other two camps, Evergreen has created a balance between adrenaline-pumping action and time to appreciate and absorb the environment — while still including all existing activities and even a few new ones! Nestled on the shores of Lake Aokiko in the heart of the Northern Japan Alps, Evergreen's base camp's sublime surroundings offer an abundance of adventure and opportunity.

Lake Aokiko itself, Japan's third cleanest lake, provides the perfect playground for canoe, kayak, and raft explorations — home to huge carp during the daytime and fireflies at night. It is an incredibly engaging environment for children, a chance to learn and explore Mother Nature at her best. Behind the treasured lake there is a plenitude of forest-covered mountains with hiking and biking trails scattered among them. The Ultimate Camp gives participants the chance to camp out

overnight in the heart of the mountains — with only the stars and each other for company. During those 10 days, children learn names, play games, slip and slide through the canyon, climb through the high ropes, hike, bike, canoe, and swim; build rafts; make crafts, and enjoy a stroke of kayaking ... and when they're done? It's time to snuggle around a campfire, singing songs, sharing stories, and slurping hot chocolate!

As everyone knows, education continues way beyond the boundaries of classrooms and for adults and children alike, facing new sports, social situations, and challenges are fantastic ways to develop as a person and gain new skills. Being away from family and routine gives our children the nudge they need to step into their own niche and realize their full potential.

With both Evergreen Outdoor Center and English Adventure holding over a decade's experience in running children's camps, it is safe to assume that this camp will be very hard to rival and, indeed, will give your child the best, most unforgettably fun camp experience yet!

Interested families can visit <http://www.english-adventure.org> for more information or to register. Quote JSN5000 to get a camp discount. — NADINE WILDING

