

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

Evergreen Outdoor Center

September 2013, #40

Language travel tours for teens



Teenagers enjoying this summer's Education First trip to California. EDUCATION FIRST

Last month, 20 Education First (EF) students spent two weeks in Santa Barbara, California. It was the second time for some to enjoy this trip, so they got to stay with familiar host families as well as brush up on their English skills. The tour included trips to Disneyland and Universal Studios.

EF also organizes a two-week language travel tour for teens during spring break, and will be holding its next one in March 2014. For youngsters who are not used to travelling abroad, or are uncomfortable about flying alone, these language travel tours are great opportunities to help them build their confidence and sense of adventure. The program includes all flights, accommodation, meals, and activities, with an EF tour leader staying with the student group throughout. For more information on the tours, email mayumi.kuwagaito@ef.com or call EF at 03-5774-6210.

For almost 50 years, EF has been offering a wide variety of language courses abroad. Students can choose from 16 countries, joining programs throughout the year for two weeks to five months. For enrolments lasting longer than five months, programs follow an academic semester or year schedule, and admission is during September, January, April, or June. For general information on EF programs, check out <http://www.efjapan.co.jp>.
— WAKANA CATCHPOLE

Horizon's summer success

Horizon Japan International School's summer school ran at full capacity this year, with days that were filled with lots of fun as well as learning. Students enjoyed a variety of activities, and teachers were sorry to have to turn down applicants. The school is considering running next year's summer school with an extended capacity.

It was back to school for faculty on August 21, for a week and a half of preparation for the busy and fruitful year ahead. — SELCUK BASAK

Dual language seminar

New International School of Japan's (NewIS) seminar series continues this month, with the theme "The Whys and Hows of Dual Language Education." Seminars are open to the public as well as to current families at NewIS, and they are professionally interpreted from Japanese to English or vice versa. The next seminar will be held on September 19, from 9:15–11:30am. Please call the school at 03-3980-1057 to confirm attendance.

Karuizawa summer school multicultural mealtimes

International School of Asia, Karuizawa (ISAK) held its summer school from July 18–August 12. There were two 10-day sessions with 25 faculty and 49 students who came from across the globe in order to learn new skills and also enjoy great food.

Cezars Kitchen provided three meals a day, with a wide range of dishes. The menu included an eclectic mix of items such as homemade whole-wheat buns with homemade burgers, German schnitzel, and chicken namban, to name a few. Cezars Kitchen staff took on the challenges of multicultural (halal) eating demands and also allergy concerns involving gluten, dairy, egg, fish, and fruit.

ISAK counsellor Dave Mochel said, "Absolutely everyone raved about the quality of the meals and the warmth of the staff. Cezars Kitchen was fantastic," and Shibuya Makuhari Junior High student Maki Yoshimura agreed, saying, "I loved the food and was excited to come to the kitchen at every meal!" — GREGORY FERRIS



Cezars Kitchen staff Meiko Yoshioka helps 15-year-old Maki Yoshimura to the breakfast buffet during ISAK's recent summer school. GREGORY FERRIS

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Open days and tours

Contact schools directly to confirm availability and details of open days and tours

Sept.	School
2	New International School of Japan
5	New International School of Japan
6	Education First Osaka
8	Education First Tokyo
9–14	Azabu Music Together
10	Hitokoe Yokohama International
16	Saint Maur
17	Hitokoe Yokohama International
18	ABC International School
20	Hitokoe Yokohama International
21	Nishimachi International School
24	Hitokoe Yokohama International
27	Aichi International School
	Education First Osaka
	Hitokoe Yokohama International
28	Columbia International School
Oct.	School
4	Columbia International School
5	Columbia International School
10	ASIJ Early Learning Center
17	Christian Academy in Japan
	New International School of Japan
19	K. International School Tokyo
21	New International School of Japan
24	American School in Japan Chofu
Nov.	School
4	Canadian International School
14	ASIJ Early Learning Center
	Christian Academy in Japan
16	American School in Japan Chofu
23	Horizon Japan (Yokohama)
Dec.	School
9–14	Azabu Music Together
12	Christian Academy in Japan
19	ASIJ Early Learning Center
Jan.	School
16	Christian Academy in Japan
23	ASIJ Early Learning Center
Feb.	School
8	American School in Japan Chofu
11	American School in Japan Chofu
	Christian Academy in Japan
	Horizon Japan (Yokohama)
13	ASIJ Early Learning Center
22	Nishimachi International School
Mar.	School
20	ASIJ Early Learning Center
Apr.	School
10	ASIJ Early Learning Center
29	American School in Japan Chofu
May	School
24	Horizon Japan (Yokohama)

The artists of Saint Alban's Nursery



Chiaki Nozawa at Saint Alban's, painting like Michelangelo. GILMA YAMAMOTO-COPELAND

Saint Alban's Nursery is back to school with the theme "I can ...," especially to help children build confidence during that inevitable period of adjustment during the first month at school. Giving the children opportunities to be successful in their efforts also gives teachers the chance to assess each child's knowledge and personality and determine how to meet individual needs.

The children will be learning about the life and works of Michelangelo; they will create

their own artwork using Michelangelo's method of painting, by lying on their backs to paint their very own Sistine Chapel ceiling.

Also this month at Saint Alban's Nursery is a welcome coffee morning and open house, on the 23rd. Anyone interested in the program is welcome to find out more about the school directly from parents of children already enrolled. Refreshments will be served and there will be plenty of games and fun for little ones. — GILMA YAMAMOTO-COPELAND

New talks for TELL's Exceptional Parenting Program

TELL's Exceptional Parenting Program (EPP) provides up to seven workshops per academic year for parents, teachers, and professionals on a wide range of issues that affect children with diverse needs and learning differences. Workshops have been available to the public free of charge, thanks to generous co-sponsorships by the Wesley Foundation, Give2Asia, The Mitsubishi Foundation, and Ms. Marcia Ishizuka.

A new series of workshops for the 2013–2014 academic year will start in October. All of the workshops will be available on site at the Wesley Center Seminar Room, near the TELL Counseling Center Offices, and streamed live off site in selected locations outside the Kanto region and/or archived for a limited time online if possible.

Rachel G. Klein, Ph.D., the Fascitelli Family Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine and Director of the Anita Saltz Institute for Anxiety and Mood Disorders at the NYU Child Study Center will hold the first EPP workshop from 10am to midday on Tuesday, October 15. Dr. Klein is an

internationally recognized clinician and researcher who has tracked the longitudinal course of mental health disorders in children. She will speak on the challenges of helping children with a variety of difficulties.

During this 2013–2014 academic year, the program will cover new topics including bullying and cyber-bullying, substance abuse among teens, and independent living for young adults with exceptional needs in the Japanese system. Due to high demand from the community to repeat past workshops, topics such as ADHD and speech and language issues will also be provided.

If you would like to know more about the program or be added to the mailing list, please email excep.parents@telljp.com. More information about workshop formats and the schedule can be found at http://www.telljp.com/index.php?/en/outreach_program/exceptional_parenting_program. The program currently seeks a few volunteers who can help with IT settings. — CHIE SAWA

OBP job fair and new English children's library

The Organization of Bilingual Parenting (OBP) supports parents by providing self-development opportunities and relaxation through art and creativity, and also helps early childhood educators by providing language support. As the parent company of RBR Gallery and Creative Center, OBP offers bilingual art classes and parties for children of all ages, as well as adults.

OBP has recently started free storytelling sessions in its cosy library, which is full of English children's books. Reading Bees, held every Tuesday from 10:30–11:30am, is totally free of charge. See <http://www.rbrart.com/st.html> for more details.

Of interest to schools and educators, OBP is hosting a recruiting fair on September 28 in Tokyo, and October 5 in Osaka. It is expected that up to 400 people will attend this fair, which will focus on bringing licensed bilingual preschool teachers, educators, and other staff together with schools and organizations looking to recruit. Schools interested in having a booth should sign up at <http://www.obpjob.com>, email info@obpjob.com, or telephone 0120-419-150 for more information. Discounts are available for TAIP member schools.

For more information about OBP see <http://www.b-parenting.org>. — JOEI LAU

Robotics activities for Saint Maur students

Robotics is a great way of making science and technology exciting and Saint Maur certainly knows how to do it. This year, Saint Maur students in grades 3–12 will have a lot of fun and exciting robotics activities available to them. All Saint Maur robotics clubs and activities operate out of the robotics lab in the Saint Maur Science Center.

Elementary school students in grades 3–5 can participate in the Lego Mindstorms Club. Students complete building projects and missions using Lego Mindstorms NXT robots and compete in the Robo Sumo Friendly in May.

Elementary and middle school students in grades 4–7 can participate in the school's First Lego League team. First Lego League is an international robotics competition currently offered in over 70 countries. Students compete in a robotics game, and complete a research project on a global issue that has been selected as the theme for that year's competition. This year's theme is "Nature's Fury." In this year's challenge, members will have to build and program a Lego Mindstorms robot, and

investigate and find a solution to a problem in their community caused by natural disasters.

Middle and high school students can participate in the middle/high school robotics club. In the autumn, club members will participate in the VEX Robotics Competition held at ASIJ. This is an international robotics competition that is currently being offered in 20 countries. In the winter season, club members can work on Maker projects, and in the spring, club members can build sumo-bots to compete in the Robo Sumo Friendly.

Every year in mid-May, Saint Maur hosts the Robo Sumo Friendly, an autonomous Robot Sumo tournament. Categories include elementary Lego Mindstorms, MS/HS Lego Mindstorms, and MS/HS VEX. The tournament is open to members of Saint Maur robotics clubs, teams from other international schools, and teams from Japanese public and private schools. See <http://robosumofriendly.wordpress.com> for more details. The tournament welcomes visitors. — MATTHEW ROSE

Summer chefs at J's International School

This summer, little chefs at J's International School were busy making all kinds of yummy food as they became experts in making butterfly pizzas and bunny rabbit pancakes. Their favourite recipe was for making fruit smoothies, perfect for cooling down on a hot sunny day.

The children enjoyed measuring and mixing soy milk and frozen fruits, and squeezed in some honey before watching the ingredients blend into summer smoothies. Now all of them can help cook at home with their families.

J's International School, based in Moto-Azabu, caters to children aged 15 months to 6 years old. In addition to the regular program, J's also offers an after-school program, extended-care hours, intensive English classes, and holiday classes. The curriculum is based on monthly themes such as nature, underwater explorations, animals, and dinosaurs. For information see <http://www.js-international-school.com>. — ERIKA CABULOY



Yeon Hu making smoothies at J's International School this summer. ERIKA CABULOY

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

Evergreen Outdoor Center programs for international schools and students



Education and exploration in the outdoors is our passion at the Evergreen Outdoor Center. Hands-on activities that any age group can partake in, ecological studies, team-building programs, and specialized school camps are just a few of the things we like to do. With our scenic lakeside spring and summer base, schools and groups can really feel like they are “getting away from it all” while learning and playing in nature. Our friendly professional guides and instructors aim to allow for the growth and development of the human spirit through personal interaction with the natural environment, physical challenge and teamwork, along with a strong emphasis on individual needs and safety.

Evergreen is always happy to create new programs for international schools and their students — such as our new summer program called Kids On Air, a fantastic fun-filled camp that had the K–G2 kids making pizza in the Roots café outdoor, brick, wood-fired oven, going on a firefly canoe tour in a 12-person voyageur canoe, going for early morning nature walks and treasure hunts around the Himekawa River headwaters, and riding the Happo Gondola up the mountain for a hike to Happo Pond, plus lots more!

Evergreen is also excited to assist in the British School in Tokyo's Duke of Edinburgh award program — organizing a four-day bike and camping tour of Northern Nagano for which students have to plan their own routes and prepare all their own gear and food. Evergreen is proud to be working alongside teachers and students in the creation of the school's very first Gold Award trip. — DAVE ENRIGHT



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