

JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

Evergreen Outdoor Center

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J's Broadway Lion King performance



(Left to right) Brian, William, Cecilia, Emilia, Ida, and Ye Joon with the J's Broadway teachers. ERIKA CABULOY

One of the after-school program classes at J's International School is "J's Broadway" where children ages 3 to 6 can learn to sing, dance, and act, as well as perform in front of their family and friends at the end of each term. The children work hard for months as they prepare for the special shows.

For the first term the children performed "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" from *The Lion King*. The children were all dressed as yellow, orange, and brown lions, complete with ears and tails. And they danced like lions too, ending the song with a big "roar!" Mums, dads, siblings, and friends who came along to watch loved the show, which was considered to be a great success.

Everyone is already looking forward to next term's performance — great work J's Broadway!
— ERIKA CABULOY

The tradition of giving at Saint Maur International

Saint Maur International School actively supports various charities throughout the year. One of the school's long-standing community and charitable exercises is the Sanagitachi Project, a non-profit organization that provides clothing, medical care, food, work, and housing — known as the Five Pillars of the Sanagitachi Project — to support the inhabitants of Kotobuki-cho, Yokohama.

Kotobuki-cho is a small district (200m x 300m) near Chinatown and JR Ishikawa-cho Station. There are about 110 "doss houses" (simple lodgings where day labourers stay to find work away from home) where approximately 6,500 inhabitants live. By focusing on psychological support, the Sanagitachi Project aims to encourage the homeless and those who may become homeless to become self-supportive and independent.

Saint Maur students this year organized a collection of warm winter clothes in November for the Sanagitachi Project. The response from families was very positive, and the school was able to donate numerous bags of clothes and quite a good supply of soap, shampoo, and other toiletries/hotel type amenities. The elementary school's annual "Rice Drive," which will take place later in the school year, also benefits the same charity. The school collects between 500 and 600

kilos of rice each year, all of which is donated to the homeless of Yokohama.

This year another main charity push leading up to Christmas was to support the "Change for Good Program." This is a program run by airlines that are members of the One World Alliance. Foreign coins from any country are collected, sorted, and exchanged for US dollars to provide cash for the United Nations Children's Fund. One of the Saint Maur teachers has offered to hand the coins to Cathay Pacific Airlines, and with just over three kilos of coins collected, let's hope he does not exceed his weight allowance! — BRENDAN AGNEW



Grade 5 and Grade 6 Saint Maur students with warm winter clothes they collected for the Sanagitachi Project. SAINT MAUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Open days and tours

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

Jan.	School
13	Saint Maur International School
14	Tokyo YMCA International School
16	Christian Academy in Japan
23	ASIJ Early Learning Center
28	Tokyo YMCA International School
Feb.	
4	Tokyo YMCA International 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
18	Tokyo YMCA International School
22	Nishimachi International School
Mar.	
4	Tokyo YMCA International School
11	Tokyo YMCA International School
17-20	Azabu Music Together
20	ASIJ Early Learning Center
22	Azabu Music Together
24	Azabu Music Together

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Gregg's winter wonderland

Gregg International School hosted ten days of "winter wonderland" during last month's Winter School, running from December 9 to 20, from 9am to 2:30pm. Children from 12 months old up to elementary school age joined in the Christmas- and winter-themed activities that included craft-work, science projects, the arts, singing, story time, and lots of outdoor fun.

These seasonal programs are offered three times a year to Gregg students and non-students alike, and are a great way for new families to get a taste of the Gregg International School environment.

Gregg International School is based in Jiyugaoka, and is currently accepting children to the kindergarten and elementary school programs. See <http://www.gis-j.com>.

Language explorations at New International School

NewIS has begun an "exploratory" system at the secondary level, which gives the students several weekly choices during and after school, not for credit, but to be listed on their transcripts. Topics include culinary arts, the basics of Photoshop, advanced violin, calligraphy, animal husbandry, tae kwon do, learning to play the acoustic guitar, community service, bookmaking, woodworking, TEDX-youth, and "Topics in Language and Society."

The "Topics ..." exploratory is offered by the Head of School together with the Director of the Japanese Program. The first topic is kinship terms and their cultural implications. The students made their own family tree, indicating the kinship terms (for example, "older sister") and tried to find out the cultural implications of differences. For example, in Japan, what are the implications of the older sister being called "older sister" and a younger sister by her name? And in Korea, why are the uncles and aunts on the mother's side called by different terms than the uncles and aunts on the father's side?

The final topic for this school year will be proverbs and sayings across languages. For example, finding as many proverbs as possible in different languages in which dogs are mentioned and looking at what they say about dogs as well as the culture. The challenge is to find situations where the proverbs are actually used, because simple translations reveal little. For example, there is a proverb in Japan that says if you feed a dog three times it will never forget its "on" (a Japanese concept related to obligation based on gratitude). A housewife sadly reported that her Japanese husband had used the proverb to reinforce his expectations — he quoted the proverb to her and then added "... but I have been feeding you for ten years ..." implying that she had not been as loyal as he had expected.

Teachers, parents, students, and even people from outside of school may offer exploratories. Please phone 03-3980-1057 if interested.

Christmas Music Festival for KIS and YP

Kanagawa International School (KIS) and Yokohama Preschool (YP) had their annual Christmas Music Festival on November 30, at Totsuka Forum in Yokohama.

The show started off with each class going on stage and singing Christmas carols. The children wore costumes, which had been made either by their parents or by the children themselves during class time. Following the carol singing was a talent show, which included piano playing, dancing, and more singing.

The Christmas Music Festival was a great experience for students, who grew in confidence and also enjoyed themselves immensely. The whole event shall happily remain in the KIS and YP community's memory. — ORIE NISHINA



Students from Kanagawa International School and Yokohama Preschool performing at their recent Christmas Music Festival. — ORIE NISHINA

Home away from home at St. Alban's Nursery

St. Alban's Nursery celebrated Christmas with a special performance from the students, for their parents and friends. Mums and dads are always very welcome to join in the activities at the school, irrespective of what time of year it is. One father recently noted this as being one of the reasons he chose St. Alban's, "It might not be the newest or fanciest nursery school. But our boys feel at home there."

St. Alban's Nursery was founded in 1978 and teacher Gilma Yamamoto has been in charge for 23 years. That continuity bears fruits in an unpretentious intimacy that comes with time, not just by design. Suffused into Gilma's expertise and ebullience are qualities of wisdom, stability, and neighbourliness. "Our boys think Gilma lives at St. Alban's and that this little nursery school is a fun and friendly home in their teeming Tokyo neighbourhood. Being an expatriate means living away from extended family. So we found St.

Alban's doubly helpful: it was a gentle way for both our boys to take their first steps into schooling and a wonderful place for them to meet caring, friendly adults outside home."

For more information about St. Alban's, please see <http://www.saintalbans.jp>. Everyone at St. Alban's would like to wish *Japan School News* readers a very Happy New Year!



(Left to right) Saki, teacher Nozomi, Sakura, Reyko, Amu, Savannah, Lena, Chrissy, Paul, and teacher Gilma at the recent Christmas concert. — ST. ALBAN'S

Big and small for the RLC Preschool New Year

December was a wonderful month at the RLC Preschool — there was a fantastic Christmas party for the children and their parents. Even Santa stopped by to give out some gifts, which was very exciting!

The New Year is also going to be great fun, and RLC has a lot of interesting activities planned for the new Winter Term starting in January. The new term's theme will be "Big and Small," which gives a lot of scope for exciting art-work, general play and development activities, as well as language learning of vocabulary that relates to size, opposites, and comparatives. The children can't wait to get started!

RLC Preschool is located in Roppongi Hills and accepts children age 18 months to four-and-a-half years. The school has been running for over 25 years. For more information see <http://www-rlcpreschool.com>. — ALIY LICKFOLD

Horizon aids Philippines typhoon survivors

With "caring and courageous" being the school motto, the community at Horizon Japan International School felt the urge to do their best to help the victims of the recent typhoon in the Philippines, and decided to organize some fundraising activities to help the people who are suffering from the disaster.

The school has arranged a sponsored sporting event and a bazaar, and students have been busy designing posters and selling tickets. Students have been working extremely hard to run the events themselves, and staff have been impressed by the students' desire to reach out to people suffering in another part of the world.

With such strong efforts by the students and a high level of support from parents, the school feels that "caring and courageous" not only describes the school but also the Horizon community as a whole. — KEMAL TEKIN

Cezars Kitchen nurtures teachers as well as students

Cezars Kitchen and Cezars Café had the privilege of being part of this year's Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT) conference in Kobe. Flexing his catering might, Cezars Kitchen's chef Vince Borino organized and produced two-and-a-half days worth of pastries, bento, and gourmet appetizers for over 1000 JALT attendees.

During the event, Cezars Café served everything from premium roast coffee, fresh baked cheddar scones, and chocolate chip cookies, to homemade pizzas and focaccia sandwiches to fuel the busy teachers gearing up to motivate the globe.

When the day's events began to wind down, Cezars Kitchen donned their chef coats and provided canapés, light snacks, and beverages for the evening enjoyment of the educators.

Chef Borino said, "At Cezars Kitchen, we take pride in the service we provide. Cezars Kitchen seems like a perfect fit for the JALT events. As Cezars' presence in international schools grows, the number of educators we encounter and the meals they share with us reflects on the shared responsibility that food service providers and teachers have in the development and nurturing of the future leaders of tomorrow." — GREGORY FERRIS



Cezars Café staff fuel JALT educators on the way to their next meeting. GREGORY FERRIS

The bucket-filling community of Hitokoe Yokohama

The 2013–2014 Hitokoe Yokohama International School (HYIS) school year started with a shared reading of "How Full Is Your Bucket?" and the song "Bucket Filler." The school community, parents and students alike, have been actively engaged in promoting how to be "true-blooded" bucket-fillers; i.e., being kind and thoughtful to others.

Parents have had their fair share of being bucket-fillers too, as they volunteer to support the school's events. The school's annual *omochitsuki* (mochi-pounding) is just one of the many events the children are looking forward to. The Sunshine and Super Kids students take turns partnering with the younger students as they pound the glutinous rice to make mochi. These opportunities to cooperate and also mentor prevail throughout every day at HYIS — from the moment students arrive in the morning, through to playtime, class time, and dismissal, and can be seen during school-wide activities and learning centres. HYISians try their best to be bucket-fillers throughout their time at school, during the formative years, and it is amazing to see how kind words and acts nurture each individual child and become such a significant part of their education.

As 2014 commences, the HYIS students look forward to continuing their bucket-filling acts for others. The winter is blanketed, not with snow, but with the warmth of the children's friendly smiles and greetings that radiate throughout the entire school and neighbourhood.

For details on information sessions and trial lessons for the 2014–2015 academic year, please phone the school office at 045-363-3356 or email contact@hyis.org. HYIS welcomes children from ages one year and five months to six years old.

The bucket-fillers of HYIS wish *Japan School News* readers a very happy new year! — PATRICIA ALDANA



A Smiley student handing out the coats for her Rainbow friends on a nippy day. PATRICIA ALDANA

Aoyama daycare facility launches YouTube channel

Akil and Jerry, from the newly opened Aoyama International Daycare & Learning Center (Aoyama IDLC), have launched a series of learning videos on YouTube. Videos range from less than 60 seconds to up to six minutes, and feature the two educators teaching a variety of topics including days of the week, and even reading stories to the camera. The video channel can be found at aandjj2thew.

Aoyama IDLC opened in November last year, not only providing daycare facilities for students, but also a workspace with wifi for parents who like to work close by. The centre is open Monday–Friday, from 9am–3pm, and accepts children up to six years old. For more information, see <http://www.aoyama-idlc.com> or check the centre's Facebook page.

Tokyo Association of International Preschools

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

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ASIJ ELC
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The British School in Tokyo
Canadian International School
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Happy Days International School
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Saint Maur International School
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See <http://tokyopreschools.org> for membership information.

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Ski Hakuba, Japan this winter with Evergreen Outdoor Center

Planning to ski Japan? Located in Japan's Nagano Prefecture and put on the map globally by the 1998 Winter Olympics, for decades Hakuba has been famous in Japan for skiing and boasts some of the best resorts and snowfall in the country. Located around four hours from Tokyo, there are many ways to travel directly or otherwise from Narita Airport. Hakuba has many hotels, restaurants, shops, rental services, etc., and is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in skiing in Japan or outdoor activities in Japan in general. One look at the many peaks towering to nearly 3000m above the village and it is easy to see why. The season can start as early as November, but the best conditions can generally be found from Christmas to late February, with March perfect for spring skiing and some of the resorts staying open until the first week of May.

Operating in Hakuba for a decade and based on the slopes of Happo-one, arguably one of Japan's biggest and best ski resorts, Evergreen Outdoor Center has something for everyone — whether you are seeking a professional ski school for ski and snowboard lessons in Hakuba, avalanche skills training, deep powder backcountry tours, or just a place to drop the youngsters off while you explore the area.

Ski & snowboard lessons

Whether you are a beginner looking for ski/snowboard lessons to learn to link turns on the green runs, an advanced skier/snowboarder ready to take it to the park and work on your freestyle skills or somewhere in-between, the Evergreen ski school offers friendly, personal and professional service. All instructors speak fluent English, hold first aid and instructing certificates and come with glowing recommendations; some instructors also speak French, Spanish, and more.

Backcountry & snowshoe winter tours

Though Evergreen specializes in backcountry tours from the alpine mountains towering above Hakuba to some of the world's best tree runs, they also offer snowshoe tours, evening snowshoe fondue tours, and cross-country tours on Olympic courses — there's a way for everyone to experience Hakuba powder away from the resorts and get a taste of outdoor activities in Japan.

Avalanche skills training

David Enright is a member of the Canadian Avalanche Association and has instructed on recreational and professional avalanche courses for over a decade. The Avalanche Skills Training (AST) courses have been developed by the Canadian Avalanche Center and are considered the standard in recreational avalanche training.

Children's daycare service

For young children that may not be ready for the slopes yet or kids just wanting to have a fun day playing indoors and out, daycare service is available for children from 18 months to 5 years of age.



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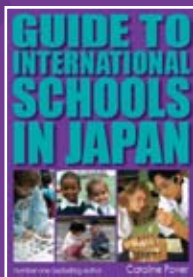
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