

# JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

Evergreen Outdoor Center

March 2014, #46

## Japanese Culture Day at Horizon



Primary students dressed up for January's Japanese Culture Day at Horizon Japan International School. HHS

Japanese Culture Day at Horizon Japan International School was a huge success this year, with students having fun and learning all about Japanese culture.

As in previous years, the event started off with a costume parade. Many students dressed in traditional Japanese outfits and posed for their parents. All students were also able to take pictures in front of a beautifully designed backdrop that was created by the older students. After photos

were taken, students participated in four different Japanese activities — mochi pounding, Japanese calligraphy, the Fukuwarai game, and Japanese flute playing.

The school would like to thank all parents for their help and support for the event, which would not have been possible without them. Everyone is looking forward to many more Japanese Culture Days! — KEMAL TEKIN

## NewIS violinists perform at the Hotel Metropolitan

On the evening of February 4, 2014, nine of the New International School (NewIS) violinists (all of the students at the school learn to play the violin by ear) were privileged to have the opportunity to perform at the Hotel Metropolitan in Ikebukuro on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Toshima Ward Private School Association, of which Mr. Takuro Iwata, the founder of Iwata Gakuen (the parent organization of New IS), is the president.

The students performed Bohm's "Perpetual Motion," the theme song for "Ama-chan," an NHK drama, and "Furusato." Among the 70 or so guests was Mr. Yukio Takano, the Mayor of Toshima City, who will have an office near the school once the new high rise Toshima Ward Office is completed.

The event was a great way to introduce the school

to the wider educational community in Toshima Ward, as well as to the mayor. NewIS remains the only international school in Toshima Ward, and the only international school in Japan where the students learn all subjects in both English and Japanese from age 3 to grade 12.



NewIS violinists at the Hotel Metropolitan last month. NEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF JAPAN

## Little League in Tokyo

Until recently it was difficult for the international community to put together student baseball teams that could compete on the Japanese level. In 2012, the Rounders Baseball Club (RBC) took up the challenge, and with the support of international schools, including ASIJ, Nishimachi, BST, the Canadian International School, and St. Mary's, the team has now grown to include many levels of age groupings with squads for both kindergarten through to sixth grade.

A new junior high squad will hopefully play with some Kanto Plains Association of Secondary Schools (KPASS) teams in the spring season of 2015. With the RBC squads being made up of members from different international schools, there is a high level of talent, which means that the international community's youth can now access the high levels of play within the Japanese community.

RBC's current squads play in the Chofu & Komae Rubberball League, which is very advanced when compared to North American Little League — base stealing and pitching start at the earliest of ages, and thus players must learn older players' responsibilities and skills from grade one on.

RBC's general manager is Mitchell Milo, with head coaches Pat Teague and Seiji Kawanabe, and other assistant coaches that include Dave Norris, Dan Schute, Alyson Jenkins, and Gordon Dumesich. The players' families come from many countries, including the Czech Republic, Thailand, Taiwan, Britain, Australia, and English-speaking countries with strong baseball cultures. The team practices at a variety of locations on weekdays and weekends. See <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=rounders>.

Schools wishing to join the RBC program should contact Mr. Milo by email at [rounders@hush.com](mailto:rounders@hush.com) or phone on 03-3878-7239.



RBC celebrating a recent victory over the Toho Pirates at ASIJ. MITCHELL MILO

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## Aoyama International Daycare & Learning Center

Aoyama IDLC welcomes applications from families of all nationalities.

Designed to help families with their children's daycare and English education needs at an affordable rate and with an easy-to-use system.

Parents are welcome to stay anytime to play and work with their children along with other families and staff. Wi-fi and a comfortable workspace is provided for parents who want to stay and work near their children.

Professional, highly experienced English-speaking staff will be on-hand for support and conducting learning center activities throughout the day.



This is where it begins!  
Let's have fun!

### AGE REQUIREMENTS

Age requirements vary depending on a parent's participation. 0 to 2 will require more parent participation. Our base range is ages 2 to 6, and older children are accepted on a case-by-case basis.

### OPERATION HOURS

Monday to Friday from 9am-3pm. Weekends and holidays are being considered, as well as longer days until 6:30pm depending on demand.

### ATTENDANCE

You may participate on a part-time or full-time basis.



Produced by the loving families and Jerry Hanus of Jerry's Home English operating Joy to the World American International School and KES Lepton.

## Saint Maur International School Adult Enrichment Program



Japanese calligraphy class (shodo). SAINT MAUR

As a school committed to life-long learning, Saint Maur is unique in that, not only does it offer formal education from pre-school to grade 12, but it also offers activities for toddlers, as well as a vast array of classes and activities for parents on campus—all run by volunteers from the school community, as well as volunteers from the greater community outside of Saint Maur.

The Saint Maur Adult Enrichment Program (AEP), founded in 1992, provides opportunities for parents to develop new friendships and a deeper understanding and appreciation of cultural and religious differences. The shared experiences provided by the program help participants to recognize the role they play as contributing members of a rapidly growing global community,

while clearly demonstrating to the children that education should remain a life-long pursuit.

AEP classes include computer graphics, cooking, various crafts, silk screen painting, porcelain painting, conversation (French, Spanish, English, Thai, and Japanese), a book club, seminars on health, nutrition and faith, a complete first-aid & CPR training and certification program, and classes introducing aspects of Japanese culture, such as aikido, ikebana, shodo, sumi-e, origami, washi doll-making, kimono-dressing, and tea ceremony. Other classes include singing, yoga, basic fitness, and volleyball, as well as seminars on Japanese history and politics, and various half-day cultural tours and excursions.

There is no charge to participate in any of the adult enrichment classes; however, where applicable, a small fee may be charged to cover the cost of materials. Those who do not have children enrolled at Saint Maur are welcome to attend.

In addition to the AEP, many parents and community members participate in the Toddlers' Group, run by Saint Maur parents, offering an opportunity for parents to meet and discuss common concerns in a relaxing, friendly environment. Parents who do not have children enrolled at Saint Maur must be able to communicate fluently in a language other than Japanese. — PHYLLIS ENGSTROM

## St. Alban's Nursery's seasonal celebrations

February was a fantastic month at St. Alban's Nursery, with an awesome Valentine's Party and lots and lots of snow to play with. The students just couldn't ask for any more fun!

March will start with the Japanese celebration of Girls' Day. Children will learn the "Hina Matsuri Song" in Japanese, and try a few Japanese sweet delicacies like the pink, white, and green cakes — pink for cherry blossoms, white for melting snow, and green for the new leaves after the blossoms. Everybody is looking forward to spring's arrival.

The school will then move on to celebrate one of its favourite holidays — St. Patrick's Day. Everyone will come to school wearing green on that day and be excited to see what the leprechauns have up their sleeves this year!

To find out about St. Alban's Nursery, please see <http://www.saintalban.jp>. — GILMA YAMAMOTO-COPELAND

## Making moving pictures at Gregg International School

At GREGG International School in Jiyugaoka, students have been having fun making five-second animations. Students draw and cut out characters, and practise moving them slowly to achieve the stop-motion effect. Students in grades 1 to 3 drew airplanes and made them chase each other and do loop-the-loops. The students in grades 4 to 6 made more complex animations with several layers of

## ISSH annual family festival

Raffle tickets go on sale this month for the 35th annual family festival at the International School of the Sacred Heart (ISSH) on April 26.

This year's "Olympic" theme celebrates Tokyo's winning the hosting rights to the 2020 Summer Olympics. Visitors of all ages can enjoy international food booths featuring cuisine from many countries, musical and dance performances, carnival games, a shopping bazaar, and a raffle for exciting prizes.

The festival will be held from 10am to 4pm, rain or shine, at the ISSH campus near Hiroo Station. Entrance is free of charge. Tickets will be sold to redeem for food, drinks and games. Raffle ticket sales will start March 17 and will continue until 3pm on the day of the event, when winning tickets will be drawn. Generous corporate sponsors donate prizes.

Proceeds will be used for educational programs at ISSH, as well as for charities in Japan and overseas, supporting the healthcare and education of underprivileged children. — WILLIAM AMSDEN



Poppins new principal, Bill Ward. HIROO GAKUEN

## New Principal for Poppins

Bill Ward was appointed as the new principal at Poppins International School, in Ebisu, Tokyo. He started in February 2014.

Bill first came to Japan in March 1996 to help with a joint MIT-JAXA Project called HAYABUSA, formally known as MUSES-C. His next work adventure in Japan was helping with Project Management at Sumitomo 3M, based in Hashimoto, Sagami-hara, which involved travelling to the Sumitomo 3M headquarters in Yoga, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, as well as a manufacturing facility/factory in Tendo-shi, Yamagata-ken.

Bill made a career change and moved into education in 2002; his teaching credentials were earned in Boston in 2005. A return to Japan in August 2006 had Bill teaching at a variety of schools over the last few years, including ISS (International Secondary School), ISSH (International School of the Sacred Heart), MPIJ (Maximizing Potential in Japan), CIS (Canadian International School), and Hiroo Gakuen.

Bill can be emailed at [bjward@alum.mit.edu](mailto:bjward@alum.mit.edu).

## Hitokoe students spread their wings and dream

"Dreams" is the theme for this year's recognition and commencement ceremony, held this month at Hitokoe Yokohama International School. The lyrics "we are the dreams come true" were heard throughout the school as students rehearsed their harmonies with their teachers, who always find that they have mixed emotions around this time of year as they have to say goodbye and let the children spread their wings. The dedicated educators at the school hope that the children will maintain their curiosity as they discover what lies ahead in their efforts to be unique, globally minded, and multilingual citizens.

The graduating students will share the celebration with the younger students from the Rainbow and Sunshine classes, who are themselves looking forward to becoming the older students of the school in April, as they begin to pursue their own dreams. — PATRICIA ALDANA



(From left to right) Sae, Ichiya, and Yuika rehearsing their performance for this month's commencement ceremony at HYIS. PATRICIA ALDANA

## Numeracy & Science Week at Jingumae International

February 3-7 was "Numeracy and Science Week" at Jingumae International Exchange School (JIES), where students got the opportunity to collaborate as well as compete with other students and classes.

The week began with the "egg-drop competition," where students had to create a container that would help an egg survive a four-metre free fall. Then on Tuesday everyone lined up in order of height, and created "human graphs" for their favourite subjects, foods, and animals. On Wednesday the school held an "Omotesando scavenger hunt," where each grade had a maths or science question related to a real life example in Omotesando. On the Thursday there was a school-wide Paper Airplane Contest, for which students used their paper-folding skills and knowledge of aerodynamics to try to create the farthest flying paper airplane possible.

Lastly, on the Friday, there was a school-wide inquiry/science fair that gave the students the opportunity to share what they had learned during their inquiry time, as well as learn about what the other grades in our school had been studying.

The students did a great job in working together, developing their presentation skills, and reinforcing what they had learned in class. — KENAN ULU



A student explaining his activities at last month's science fair at JIES. KENAN ULU

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# GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN SECOND EDITION RELEASED THIS MONTH



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## Summerhill 10th anniversary charity gala

Monique and the Summerhill Parents Association are holding the Summerhill 10th Anniversary Charity Gala, benefiting Playground of Hope.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with current parents and teachers, and alumni. There will be a silent auction and raffle, along with dancing, food, and drinks at the Ritz-Carlton on March 7.

The event is "Black & White Attire," so please come dressed in elegant black and/or white (tuxedo is optional). Tickets are ¥13,000 per person.

Playground of Hope connects volunteers with communities in need of a place for kids, parents, and grandparents to play and interact together. Fun, safe modular playgrounds, as well as benches, flower gardens, soccer nets, and more are provided—funded by corporations and individuals. For more information see <http://www.playgroundofhope.org>.



## Joy to the World open school days and hanami

Every spring the children at Joy to the World American International School have a great view over Harimazaka dori, a street filled with beautiful cherry blossom trees. This street is known in Bunkyo ward for hosting its hanami festival every year at the end of March.

Coinciding with the sakura festival, Joy to the World holds its Open School days. Joy to the World welcomes all families to visit the school. The children can enjoy various activities, balloons, and snacks, and can join in on demo lessons.

Visit Joy to the World, enjoy the festival activities and take a stroll under the impressive cherry blossoms along Harimazaka dori. Please check <http://www.joytotheworld.info> for more information.

**Open School days at Joy to the World:** March 29 and 30, 2014, from 10am–2pm.



## Cinderella at New International School

New International School's NewIS Players' annual English musical production directed by Timothy Stearns will be Roald Dahl's expandable cast version of Cinderella. About 80 children from ages 3 to 17 will participate as actors, vocalists, and/or instrumentalists, and the Taiko Drum Club will also perform.

There will be both a matinee and evening performance on March 11, held at Theater Green's Box in Box Theater, Minami-Ikebukuro. Tickets are ¥2,000 and available in advance only (none will be available at the door). For further information or tickets, call 03-3980-1057.

A limited number of free tickets are available exclusively to *Japan School News* readers. Please contact the school at the telephone number above, and quote JSN.

See <http://newis.ed.jp> for more information.



## TELL Exceptional Parenting Program workshop

The next TELL Exceptional Parenting Program (EPP) workshop will be held on Monday, March 17, from 10am until midday, at the Wesley Center 2F Seminar Room, 6-10-11 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062.

The workshop — entitled "Evolution of Consciousness in the Individual Lifespan" — will give you an overview of the evolution of consciousness as manifested in any individual life. It will explore different stages and states of consciousness and identify markers of each stage and state in order to more accurately assess where we and our children are on our journeys through life. Participants will also learn what specific practices are helpful and applicable at different stages of development so that we can more effectively respond to developmental needs and help our children reach their full potential.

Presenter Eloise Erasmus is a licensed psychologist at Aslan Institute, which is an integrative mental health clinic in Minnesota. Eloise offers psychotherapy to children, adolescents, and adults. She is trained in psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral and family systems therapies and provides individual, family, and couples therapy. Promoting self-awareness, compassion, and self-empowerment is central to her approach.

RSVP: Chie Sawa, [excep.parents@telljp.com](mailto:excep.parents@telljp.com).

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4 Tokyo YMCA Int'l Sch. open day. BST open day.	5 NewIS open day.	6 BST open day.	7 BST open day. Summerhill's charity gala.	8	9
10	11 Tokyo YMCA Int'l Sch. open day. BST open day. NewIS Cinderella performance.	12 NewIS open day.	13 BST open day.	14 BST open day.	15	16
17 Azabu Music Together open day. TELL EPP workshop.	18 Azabu Music Together open day. BST open day.	19 Azabu Music Together open day.	20 Azabu Music Together open day. ASIJ ELC open day. BST open day.	21 BST open day. Deutsche Schule Tokyo Yokohama open day.	22 Azabu Music Together open day. BST open day.	23
24 Azabu Music Together open day.	25 BST open day.	26	27 BST open day.	28 BST open day.	29 Joy to the World open day.	30 Joy to the World open day.
31 New Hope Int'l Preschool Spring Preschool & Kids English Day Camp starts.						

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## PEI premier visits CIS

On February 7, the Canadian International School had a visit from the premier (first minister) of the province of Prince Edward Island (PEI), whose curriculum the school uses. Mr. Ghiz spent time with the grade 4 class, reading an excerpt from Anne of Green Gables, a world-famous story that takes place on PEI. Later he addressed the whole school at their morning assembly and answered students' questions. — IAN A. M. ROBERTSON



Grade 6 student Delice Johansson, asking Premier Mr. Ghiz a question at the Canadian International School last month. CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## RLC graduation plans

This March is a busy and exciting one for the RLC Preschool. It is the last month of regular preschool for some of the older children, who will be moving upward and onward to "big schools" and kindergartens in April. So RLC will be having a graduation party to celebrate their achievements. Parents are invited to join in the party activities and games, and participate in the graduation ceremony at the end.

Many of the students who are leaving will be returning to the school's Extended Program (EP) that runs from 2-5pm. Students attend these afternoons in order to further develop and improve their English — and the staff are happy to have the opportunity to continue playing a part in the children's education and lives as they get older. Presently, EP is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, but the school is hoping to expand that at the end of March, to include Tuesday and Friday afternoons as well.

The spring term starts at the very end of March, and although the RLC staff always feel a little sad to say goodbye to the older children, they are excited to welcome all the new faces.

There will be a "farm and spring" theme throughout the new term, with projects and activities focused on growing and changing — and on many different animals. It's going to be lots of fun! — ALIY LICKFOLD

## New programs at AIDLC

In response to popular demand, Aoyama International Daycare and Learning Center (AIDLC) added arts and crafts, and daily learning time to their scheduled curriculum from January. Although the school's fundamental mission is to "provide flexible and affordable childcare options to families," staff found that students were increasingly curious to learn new words and express themselves creatively.

There has also been the addition of more advanced curriculum for older children, with the aim of building foundations for reading and writing. These learning activities include short vocabulary-building exercises using cards, posters, and/or puzzles, and worksheets with guidance from staff at various times throughout the day.

Typically, in the afternoons, AIDLC's staff direct students in creative and artistic tasks that usually include cutting and pasting to create signs and toys they can play with during their stay and/or take with them after they leave for the day. Since AIDLC operates on a flexible time schedule, participation by children and parents is encouraged, but not mandatory.

For more information about AIDLC's programs and philosophy, please see <http://www.aoyama-idlc.com> or check the school's Facebook page. — AKIL WATSON

## Tokyo Association of International Preschools

TAIP provides networking, marketing, and professional development opportunities for teachers, staff, and administrators. Current regular 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
- Hello Kids Preschool & English School
- Horizon Japan International School
- International School of the Sacred Heart
- Jingumae International Exchange School
- Joy to the World American Int. Preschool
- J's International School
- K. International School Tokyo
- Kailua International School
- Keiki Intercultural Preschool
- Kincarn International School
- Komazawa Park International School
- Kunitachi Kids International School
- Learning Tree
- Makuhari International School
- Mitsui Gardens International Preschool
- The Montessori School of Tokyo
- New International School
- New World International School
- Nishimachi International School
- Ohana International School
- Poppins International Pre-School
- St. Albans Nursery
- Saint Maur International School
- Seisen Int. Sch. — Montessori Kindergarten
- Shikahama English Adventures Int. Preschool
- Summerhill International School
- Tokyo International Kindercare
- Tokyo International School
- Tokyo YMCA International School
- Victory International Preschool
- Waseda International School
- Willowbrook International School

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

### Associate Members

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- National Geographic Learning
- Organization of Bilingual Parenting
- Rach Inc.
- RIC Publications
- Scholastic Japan
- Tokyo Bees
- Tokyo CPR & First Aid
- Yanagi Educational Group

## JSN Listings

### Saturday programs

**Saturday Preschool** at New Hope International Preschool is for children from two-and-a-half to six years old. Join us for songs, games, stories, crafts, and a light snack. March 8 and April 12, from 10am to noon.

### Holiday programs

**Spring Preschool & Kids' English Day Camp** at New Hope International Preschool from March 31 through April 4. Preschool is for children from 3 to 6 years of age, and camp is for children from 7 to 12. Contact Jeremy Seminoff at [jseminoff@newhopeclj.jp](mailto:jseminoff@newhopeclj.jp).

**Spring and summer sessions** for Hitokoe Yokohama International School students and guests have been decided. The spring session will be held on March 24, 25, 27 and April 1-4. Annual summer sessions will be held from July until August 22. Call 045-363-3356 or email [contact@hyis.org](mailto:contact@hyis.org).

### Study abroad

This **Sarasota, Florida** study program and homestay run by Hitokoe Yokohama International School is open to children aged 2 to 9 years if accompanied by a parent/guardian. Interested parents should call 045-363-3356 or email [contact@hyis.org](mailto:contact@hyis.org).

### Employment offered

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### Reader offers

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### Announcements

**Manabiba Bilingual Preschool** has moved to a new location, and can now be found at 202 Rokubancho Mansion, 6-4 Rokubancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0085.



For a free estimate call us toll-free now!

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# *Evergreen Outdoor Center*

## Evening Snowshoeing in Hakuba

Our first taste of snow in Japan was catching big fat snowflakes on our tongues.

Our family hails from Melbourne, so winter landscapes and minus temperatures are not our everyday fare, and getting acclimatized to the snow here in Hakuba when we arrived took a bit of getting used to. The kids, however, took to it like fish to water and were off playing in the snow within minutes. We also discovered that we could snowshoe here, and it turned out that it was something we all could do as a family. Interestingly enough, we ended up doing a night snowshoe tour on one of our free evenings in town. After getting the right boots and sizing up snowshoes, we headed off with our guide, Aurelian, a hugely entertaining Frenchman who pointed out animal tracks in the snow along the way and kept

us laughing with his antics. The snow was beginning to fall increasingly harder as we continued on the tour but we soon made a snow-couch and table and tucked into the yummy dessert that Aurelian prepared: chocolate fondue with fruits, accompanied by hot spiced wine! It was great to have a comfy seat and warm drinks in hand while the snow was still coming down.

Probably the most fun was on the return leg, running and jumping back down the hill, tripping over our snowshoes and falling face first into the soft snow! It was one of our many Japan trip highlights that we took back with us to Australia.

If you are interested in snowshoe tours, contact the guys at Evergreen Outdoor Center. — BOB FREDRIKSON



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