

Japan School News

ISSUE 058

MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

MARCH 2015



Group ski lesson with Evergreen International Ski Center in Hakuba, the Japan Alps EVERGREEN OUTDOOR CENTER

Family Spring Fun in Hakuba

Nadine Robb, Evergreen Outdoor Center Instructor/Guide

SPRING TIME is a fantastic time to be outdoors; the mountains here in Hakuba still have their white winter blanket, allowing us to enjoy a plethora of activities in the gorgeous spring sunshine. It is always important to make room for some quality family time, and there is no better place to spend it than in the heart of the Northern Japan Alps.

Of course, the biggest draw to Hakuba is the world class skiing and snowboarding available here. With 8 resorts in the valley and over 200 ski runs, it is no surprise that it is a favorite choice for many. Whether you are a seasoned skier or total beginner, 3 years of age or 70 - there is a world of fun to be had in Hakuba this spring.

Here at our Evergreen International Ski School, we have spent over a decade developing and progressing our programs to create the perfect choice for you. The past two seasons have seen the successful launch of

our new Hakuba Hero's (for children aged 7-14), and Yeti Club (for children aged 3-6) programs. Our friendly and enthusiastic professionals simply love to share their passion for snow sports with this generation of youngsters. Alongside these exciting children's programs, we have continued to further our private lessons, allowing you and your family to enjoy and explore other resorts in the valley, whilst improving and strengthening your own ski skills.

Another great outdoor option this March and April is snowshoeing; whether you are looking for a ski/snowboard alternative or would simply love to try something new, snowshoeing is a very underrated activity. It enables you to take some time off of the resort and venture into areas less traveled, allowing you to truly connect with, and experience nature. With breathtaking views and a knowledgeable, local Evergreen guide,

snowshoeing is fun for all the family.

For those powder fiends among us, it is true that there are a few less powder days on piste through March and April, but for those of you seasoned skiers that are not yet ready to put the powder skis away, Hakuba's beautiful backcountry still has a lot to yield. Our professional guides just so happen to know the best secret snow stashes and are ready to take you for some great turns this spring.

I have always loved spring time in the mountains; you get the best blend of beautiful weather, less people in the valley and so much opportunity to try new activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, backcountry touring or even your first ski or snowboard experience. The snow season is very far from being over, and for us here at Evergreen Outdoor Center, we'd love to prove it to you!

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Supporting fishing communities in Tohoku

Caroline Pover

IF YOUR school community is seeking a meaningful project in Tohoku then you may want to consider a project that supports the Oshika-hanto fishing communities in Miyagi-ken.

During the past four years, British woman Caroline Pover (a former long-term Tokyo resident who now shares her time between the UK and Japan) has raised almost ¥15 million, which has included donations from KSpace, Joy to the World, India International School, Meikei High School, Tokyo International Kindercare, Azabu Music Together, Ohana International School, the British School in Tokyo, Kids World, Happy Days, Waseda International School, and Summerhill. These donations have funded a wide variety of projects such as the provision of school uniforms;

building community spaces such as a library, a bus stop, and playgrounds; repairing shrines; and supporting the fishing industry. 100% of this money has gone directly to the projects.

Caroline is currently spending two months in Japan, mostly on the Oshika peninsula, where she is living and working alongside the local residents to support them in their recovery. In December she received an award from Princess Akiko of Mikasa on behalf of the Japan-British Society in recognition of her Tohoku efforts, and she would welcome contact from any school representatives that would like to support this area of Tohoku.

Please see the Tohoku section on her website at carolinepover.info or call Caroline directly on 080-3433-4000.

Spring holiday sessions

Hitokoe Yokohama International School

HITOKOE YOKOHAMA International School welcomes registrations for its "See Spring!" Special Spring Sessions running from **March 25th-April 7th** (Monday-Friday from 9:00-15:00). There are differentiated classes from ages 1.5-6 years old, ESL students and Elementary students from 7-12 years old. There is also English After-School Care from 15:00-18:00.

Contact HYIS at 045-363-3356 during office hours or at contact@hyis.org



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Presenter: AyaNinomiya, Occupational Therapist
Date: **Wednesday, March 11, 2015**
Time: 10:00am-12:00pm
Location: Wesley Center 2F, Seminar Room #205,
6-10-11 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 107-0062
Fee: ¥1,000
RSVP: excep.parents@telljp.com

For more information, please contact Chie Sawa, Exceptional Parenting Program Coordinator.



Art Exhibition at JIES

Kenan Ulu

THIS YEAR Jingumae International Exchange School held its Biennial Art Exhibition, as part of an exchange activity with our neighbouring local public school, Jingumae Elementary School. JIES students were looking at the transdisciplinary unit on “How We Express Ourselves” as part of the IB PYP program, and the exhibition offered a great opportunity for the students to learn more about art. During one of our exchange classes, students joined together to create banners that included all of the students’ faces. Each student drew a portrait of themselves and included their favourite animals. We put all of the work together and hung it from the gymnasium ceiling. Each exchange

group had their own colour which they painted and created decorations with.

Not only did students create a collaborative artwork piece, students also worked in-class to create artwork that they would display. Each class produced work relating to their own classroom inquiries. The displays included visual art, animation, music, and installations. Each piece of artwork was unique and portrayed the different ways which we look at art. The Art Exhibition was held on the 6th and 7th of February. The exhibition was a huge success with many visitors attending from the local community. Thank you everyone who came to support our students.

A Plethora of Performances at AIS

Mark Reed

FEBRUARY AT Aichi International School is always pretty busy, and 2015 was of no exception. The second month of the year is one in which students get the chance to demonstrate their artistic and performance skills.

On Saturday 7th there was a talent show, with around 25 students taking to the stage to dance, perform magic tricks, play violin and piano, read a story, and teach the audience how to play tennis.

Then, on Friday 13th AIS held an Arts Evening. This was the school’s first student-led-conference evening, plus it was an opportunity for the school to showcase the student’s artistic talents. A number of elementary school students demonstrated what they have been learning this term in their violin lessons, plus at the end of the evening there was a fashion show.



Talent Show at AIS. AICHI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Lastly, on Friday 20th AIS held its annual Speech Contest, with around 65 students from the Orca class (the oldest students in the kindergarten) and the whole of the elementary school reciting speeches they’d written themselves on a variety of topics.

After such a busy month, both staff and students are looking forward to the end of school year holidays in mid-March.

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'Robin Hood' a favourite game with many of the kids. FOOTY JAPAN

Football Fun in the Sun

Sid Lloyd

SUMMER'S COMING and that means sunshine (lots of), no school (for the kids), weeks of free time and boundless energy (again for the kids). So what better way to enjoy the outdoors while expending energy, making new friends and learning/honing new skills, than joining one of the British Football Academy's Summer Soccer Camps?

Staffed by English F.A. qualified coaches B.F.A. have been putting on football sessions all over Tokyo and Yokohama week in week out for kids of all levels for the past 11 years. And every year, when summer has rolled round, B.F.A have put on their Summer Camps. These camps run from three days to five days although you can sign up for any one day or any combination of days. Aimed at providing a fun, energetic and safe sporting environment for kids aged between six and twelve these camps combine games, drills and matches all

designed to do two things: improve your child's footballing skills and to have the most fun possible doing so.

"For the past 3 years I have registered my 2 children for the BFA Summer Camps. They really enjoy the time they spend playing soccer with children from different schools and nationalities and learning from experienced coaches who are friendly, approachable and fun. My children come home happy and tired (we parents love that). Not only have they become better soccer players but they also have the opportunity to listen, understand and speak English (their second language). BFA Summer Camps are now a part of our family's summer schedule", explains parent Renaldo Germana.

There are limited spaces available for the camps so if you don't want to miss out, sign up early! For more info: british-football-academy.com

Police visit thrill for St Albans students

Gilma Yamamoto Copeland

THE VISIT of the Atago Police station officers was a resounding success! The children learned some important safety lesson as well as getting to try the Police car and Motorbike! Children and Parents were delighted. We are now looking forward to our next event in the middle of March when the Firemen will bring their fire truck and little firemen suits for the children to try on and climb on a real fire truck.

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Horizon student performing Japanese dance.
HORIZON JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Japanese Culture Day at Horizon Sendai

Bruce Gage

ON FRIDAY February 3rd Horizon Japan International School Sendai held an event related to Japanese Culture Day.

Experts came to the school to teach us about Japanese calligraphy and traditional Japanese dance, with parents participating too.

We were also treated to the traditional Japanese storytelling art of kami-shibai (paper theater) and later participated in a "bean throwing" activity to ward off any bad spirits at our school, as is customary during setsubun in Japan.

The event was enjoyable for all!



Yoyogi Int'l School: Elementary school to open Sep 2015

A CENTER of excellence in early childhood education, Yoyogi International School is located right in front of Yoyogi Park in the heart of Shibuya. The school, founded in 1999 has continued to grow since its inception and this fall will open a full elementary program accepting children up to 5th Grade/Year 6.

Children benefit from a curriculum that incorporates, UK National Curriculum and the US Common Core State Standards and the philosophy of IB (PYP). Our program prepares students for all education systems around the world for the next stage of their academic careers. The hands-on approach in a warm and nurturing environment helps children develop into confident young learners with a passion for learning. The school also has a strong focus on Japanese language and culture. From 2 years of age, children begin daily exposure to the Japanese language and from 1st Grade/Year 2 onwards, Kokugo (Language and Literacy from the Japanese National Curriculum) is taught to children with native level Japanese skills.

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To have news about your own school included, simply submit your article to us before the 15th of the month, together with any accompanying images you'd like to be considered. Space permitting, your article will be published in the following month's issue.

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Japanese cultural experiences at K. International School Tokyo

Craig Larsen

ONE OF K. International School Tokyo's guiding beliefs states that: "The language, customs, traditions and cultural beliefs of our host country, Japan, serve as an important resource in enriching the learning experience." In line with this belief, the school celebrates a number of traditional Japanese cultural events during the year.

On January 28, the students and staff celebrated Japanese New Year. This annual event provides an opportunity to welcome the New Year while introducing aspects of Japanese culture. Once again this year, students took part in a mochi pounding activity in which they made Japanese rice cakes to eat, and also participated in mock bouts with sumo



Students enjoying a mock bout with a sumo wrestler. K INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

wrestlers who visited the school from a local sumo stable.

Then on February 3, students from K1 to K3 (3 to 5 year olds) celebrated setsubun by singing a song together in Japanese, chanting phrases in Japanese and throwing beans to oust three colorful demons.

With a student population representing just over 50 different nationalities, including Japanese, celebrating these and other traditional Japanese events helps students to understand more about the culture in which they live.

Kinnick Culinary Arts Shows in Far East Competition

Steve Parker

STUDENTS FROM Nile C Kinnick High School's Culinary Arts Team won first place at the Culinary Arts Far East Festival held on February 5 at Yokota Air Base.

The Culinary Arts team was coached by Charlotte Chandler, longtime culinary arts teacher at Kinnick. The team won their first place medals with a menu that included the following: Tuna Tataki, a seared tuna coated in white and black sesame seeds with fresh cucumbers and a tangy ponzu sauce; Japanese Garlic-Miso Steak served on a bed of dashi sesame spinach with a side of pickled carrots, garlic pilaf and lotus root chips; and Layered Crepe Cake, filled with a light whipped cream, hazelnut chocolate, and slivered almonds, topped with a tart raspberry sauce.

When asked about this year's team, Chandler stated, "I am so proud of the team because they work very well



The winning culinary arts team from Nile C. Kinnick High School in Yokosuka, Japan

together and help each other when needed. They came up with the dishes and have worked hard practicing the past few months. They wanted to win and make their families proud. Two of the members' fathers are in the culinary field so it is in their blood. They worked with a smile on their faces!"

The next step for Kinnick's award winning culinary chefs is the ProStart Nationals Competition. This year, it is to be held in Anaheim, CA on the 17-20 of April 2015. All of the first place winners from 43 states, Guam, DoDEA Europe & DoDEA Pacific will compete. Teams are judged on Safety, Sanitation, and Knife Skills. Competitors will prepare a 3-course Menu in 60 minutes w/ only two burners- nothing electrical. Participants must also clean up and prepare a book with pictures of each dish, recipes and cost calculations.

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Kailua 2013 graduates will soon be 3rd graders. They continue to hold the GOLDEN MEMORY in their hearts. KAILUA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Kailua graduations become golden memories

Robert L. Gomez

SATURDAY MARCH 21 is kindergarten graduation day at Kailua. The graduation march "Pomp and Circumstance" will set the mood as, parents, grandparents and guests will fill the Kailua Hall in eager anticipation of the arrival of the Class of 2015. The graduating students, in shiny gowns and togas, will be led by their homeroom teacher to begin the celebration of the completion of the first leg of a long educational journey.

As is tradition, the ceremony will open with a short prayer in Hawaiian and English, this year led by Okuto Kuroda, a five year-old kindergartner. After a brief welcome address by the principal, individual homeroom performances, all dedicated and in honor of the graduating class follow - "Roll Your Hands" by the Toddlers Class, "I Am the Music Man" performed by the pre-kindergarten homeroom and "You Are Wonderful to Me" performed by the kindergarten group. The graduating students themselves have three numbers to perform - karate demonstration, pianica pieces, and a short Hawaiian-themed musical - The Legend of the Coconut Island.

The Class of 2015 will march into the hall with the applause enthusiastic and sustained, until the children reach their pre-assigned places. Four guest speakers

will deliver inspirational messages: Mr. Tetsuya Kimura of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, Funabashi City councilman Mr. Hiroshi Koishi, Funabashi Councilman Mr. Toshimitsu Yabuuchi and Principal Mr. Harunobu Nagano of Tachibana Kindergarten. The homeroom teacher presents the class of 2015 to the administration, and then, the principal, on behalf of the whole school community, acknowledges and accepts the 2015 Lani Class as graduates of Kailua. Nagomi Ebine, Yousei Otsuki, Eito Takayama and Tomoki Yamaguchi will each receive their diplomas and then sing Ichinensei Ni Nattara. The incoming Lani Class, led by Ruka Fukui, will accept the responsibilities of being the next graduating class and will vow to continue the very good job that the Class of 2015 has done. Kotobani dekinai, time to say good bye, thank you very much for being with us, remember us in your heart, this is the message of the song by the teachers and staff that concludes the beautiful ceremony. As Pomp and Circumstance reverberates one more time, the class of 2015 proudly marches out of the hall. Graduation 2015 is sure to become another Kailua golden memory.

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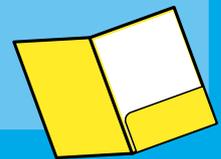
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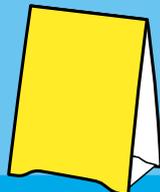
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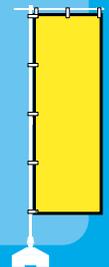
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