

# Japan School News

ISSUE 059

MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

APRIL 2015



JIES students during the science experiment. JINGUMAE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE SCHOOL

## Numeracy and Science Week at Jingumae Int'l Exchange School

Kenan Ulu

JIES HAS been bringing inquiry to a whole new level of fun. We recently celebrated Numeracy and Science Week. A week before, as an anticipatory set, the children made elephant foam with dry ice and warm sudsy water. This wonder made an endless flow of "volcanic lava." The children rotated between centers that included slime making, racing balloon rockets, and propelling marshmallows with Lego catapults. Other center activity consisted of balloon hovercrafts and inflating balloons with chemicals. The students also used a math related game

entitled "Sum Dog" to problem solve during their ICT time. Science Posters of famous Scientist garnished the walls of their facility and teachers talked about the contributions of these people in their class time. To finish off the week, a school-wide outdoor paper airplane contest was held. The only rule for the plane specification was that it needed to be made of paper and tape was allowed. Some of the planes soared to new heights and distances of 17 meters! Needless to say, the week was very well received by the children with curiosity, appreciation and cooperation.



## Stars in their Eyes

Horizon Japan

THE HORIZON Japan International School held their 2015 Talent Quest on Thursday, March 26. Students auditioned for a chance to win one of three prizes for best original performance, most entertaining, and grand prize overall. The audition process was extremely difficult since over half of the student population wanted to sing, dance, perform magic, comedy, or recite a speech, but there's only so much talent that can be packed into 100 minutes.

The Early Learning Centre was standing-room only with parents, grandparents, and classmates eager to cheer on the performers. Some of the highlights were Grade 1 boys dancing to Y.M.C.A., Grade 5 girls dancing to Odoruponpokorin, a keyboard performance of Chopin, and one of the High School rock band's rendition of Drive By.

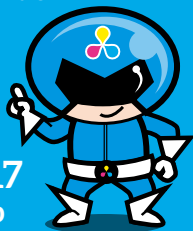
In the end, everyone left with smiles on their faces, relieved that weeks of practice culminated in enjoyment for all. Now it's time to get ready for the Year end Performance to be held in Tsurumi Hall.

## Pixels in a twist?

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## Event

### The Global Youth Conference

# Youth in Action: Education, Society & Government

Jun 18-23 • Kobe

THE YMCA will host its first 3-5 day global youth conference geared towards training both Japanese and foreign young people to get involved in education, social and environmental issues within their local communities and to build their leadership skills. Activities include: learning about Japanese culture & language, workshops and keynote speeches on education, society & government, cultural night celebrations, a model UN style "City Summit Conference" and optional tours of Osaka. Conducted in English.

When: 18th - 23rd June

Where: Mt Rokko YMCA Global Learning Center, Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

Email: [global-engagement@osakaymca.org](mailto:global-engagement@osakaymca.org)

Phone: (06) 6441-5088

Address: Osaka YMCA Global Department, Level 6, 1-5-6, Tosabori, Nishi ku, Osaka City, Japan

## Event

### Aoba Int'l Spring Carnival

Apr 18 • 11am-3pm • Hikarigaoka

AOBA JAPAN International School will be holding its annual Spring Carnival at the Hikarigaoka campus for the third time. There will be food, games, a talent show, and a White Elephant Sale. In addition there is a raffle with prizes that include; iPad, TDR ticket, etc., the raffle tickets are 10 for ¥5,000. Admission to the event is free and will go on rain or shine.

If you would like to join please email us [enquiries@aobajapan.jp](mailto:enquiries@aobajapan.jp) or call 03-5428-4488.

## Event

### St. Michael's International School Bazaar

Apr 25 • 10am-3pm • Kobe

JOIN OUR popular School Bazaar at St. Michael's International School on Saturday 25 April, for a fun-filled day with lots of international food, games, fun stalls & rummage sales, music, dance and a raffle. Raffle tickets on sale until 1pm on the day. Everyone welcome!

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## Send us your event information

Having an event you'd like the JSN community to hear about?  
Send information to: [info@japanschoolnews.com](mailto:info@japanschoolnews.com)



# Helping hands in Tohoku

Caroline Pover

THE OHANA International School community is preparing for its third visit to a remote coastal village that was destroyed in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

For the past two years, **Ohana International School** — along with the Miyabi Arashi taiko drumming group and the British School in Tokyo — has been raising funds to support the repair of Koamikura's shrine. Funds have now reached over ¥2 million.

This money has repaired the steps going up to the shrine (which was damaged not only by the earthquake but also the landslides that followed), and walls of the shrine itself. It has also paid for the repair and re-erection of the shrine's torii (sacred gateway) that remained in pieces on the ground for more than three years after the tsunami.

The Tokyo-based community has also visited Koamikura twice, the first time with a large group of taiko drummers



who performed for the local residents and participated in the first festival the town had had since the earthquake. They are building a special friendship with the town's residents, and are currently planning their next trip.

If your school or community group would like to get involved with supporting the fishing communities on the Oshika peninsula as they rebuild their lives, please see: [www.carolinepover.info](http://www.carolinepover.info)

## Tokyo Association of International Preschools

TAIP PROVIDES networking, marketing, and professional development opportunities for teachers, staff, and administrators. See [tokyopreschools.org](http://tokyopreschools.org) for membership information. 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
- CFIS Sports & Music Kindergarten Tachikawa
- Chateau School
- Columbia International School
- Eton House International Preschool
- Gregg International School
- Happy Days International School
- Hello Kids Preschool & English School
- Honey Tree Tots Cooperative Preschool
- 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
- Kailua International School
- Keiki Intercultural Preschool
- Kincarn International School
- Komazawa Park International School
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- Learning Tree
- Makuhari International School
- Mitsui Gardens International Preschool
- The Montessori School of Tokyo
- New International School
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After school children, mostly from Japanese Elementary Schools, enjoy a special time on Halloween Night. KAILUA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## The Days' Learning Fun Continues With Kailua's After School Program

Robert L. Gomez

KAILUA IS POSITIVELY challenged by a constantly increasing number of students enrolling in its after school program. When the children stay after a full day of regular school and engage in more learning activities for two to three hours more, then we are tasked to make the courses really worthwhile.

The school's after school program caters to the interest and needs of regular Kailua students, graduates of the school, students from other international schools, Japanese private schools and a large number from Japanese kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. The age range is from two years old to junior high school level and the maximum number set for each course is 10 students.

The main objective of the program is acquisition and improvement of English communication skills and the sub-objectives depend on individual courses. The afternoon is divided into three one-hour sessions: 3-4pm, 4-5pm, and 5-6pm. The parents and their children are given the full list of courses and they decide which ones in which to participate. The students are able to be in three different courses if they are enrolled for the full three hours.

Individualized Studies is a session designed for children who prefer this

highly academic area with concentration on English (reading, vocabulary, grammar, writing and spoken English). English And Math Play Fun is a course for the younger children. Eiken Preparation trains the kindergarten to middle school students for the UN Tests, and the Eiken Levels Bronze, Silver, Gold, Grades 5 to 1. Grade 1, being the highest, is the level for middle school and high school. Some advanced students will be able to take two levels of the tests within the year. Performing Arts is open to students from kindergarten to junior high school. This culminates in the staging of two or three full musicals during the year term. Soroban for kindergarten to elementary strengthen computation skills. Piano levelled instruction from kindergarten to elementary school pupils will schedule two performances for parents and friends.

Junior Funk Dance, kindergarten to elementary school to further develop rhythm and movement skills, plans two to three public performances.

Kailua teachers and three parents, all with extensive experience related to their courses, make sure that the days' extended learning fun continue at Kailua.

[kailua-international-school.info](http://kailua-international-school.info)

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### Write for JSN

Japan School News is looking for freelance writers with a passion for education and parenting issues. Please send examples of previously published pieces and your story pitches to [info@japanschoolnews.com](mailto:info@japanschoolnews.com)



## Children Work Exhibition and Open House at St. Alban's

Gilma Yamamoto Copeland

ST. ALBAN'S Nursery will be holding an open house and art exhibition on Wednesday, April 29. The event is an opportunity for family and friends to view a collection of artwork produced over an entire year by their very own artists, and for prospective students to check out the facilities. Judging by last year's photographs no one will go disappointed. The Nursery offers a large playground with bikes and climbing equipment and will feature special events such as face painting, nail art, fishing and more throughout the event, and the art looks pretty impressive too.



Open House at St. Alban's. ST. ALBAN'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The Nursery will open from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
For more information contact [gilma.yam@gol.com](mailto:gilma.yam@gol.com) or 090-6480-4542.

## Local Students Attend Japanese-American Soroban Contest

Steve Parker

ABOUT 150 students from several local area Department of Defense (DoDEA) elementary schools and several local Japanese elementary schools attended a local Soroban contest on Friday, March 27, 2015.

The contest was sponsored by the Yokohama branch of the Soroban Association of Japan. The Japanese schools were from the Kanagawa Prefecture and the American Schools included Ikego Elementary School and Sullivans Elementary School from Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), John O. Arnn Elementary School of Sagami-hara Housing Area, Camp Zama and Shirley Lanham Elementary School from Naval Air Station Atsugi. The contest was held at Kanagawa Kenritsu Hoken Fukushi Daigaku, the Kanagawa University of Human Services in Yokosuka.

After school students from 3rd through 5th grade participated in the contest which included written and oral questions.

Mrs. Dana Chandler, one of the oral questioners and Sullivans Elementary

School Principal stated, "It's a great opportunity for our American students to learn about the Japanese abacus, while also giving them a real life experience with the Japanese culture. We so much appreciate the Soroban Association of Japan for giving our students this wonderful day!"

The soroban, or counting tray, is an abacus developed in Japan. It was derived from the Chinese suanpan, and was imported to Japan in the 14th century. The Soroban has an interesting history of fostering Japanese American relations. On November 12, 1946, a postwar contest was held in Tokyo between the Japanese soroban, used by Kiyoshi Matsuzaki, and an electric calculator, operated by United States Army Private Thomas Nathan Wood. The basis for scoring in the contest was speed and accuracy of results in the four basic arithmetic operations with one additional problem which combined all four. The soroban won 4 to 1, with the electric calculator prevailing only in multiplication.

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**Mahalo nui!**  
**Thank you very much for ocean creatures! Aloha!**  
[kailua-international-school.info](http://kailua-international-school.info)  
Tel. 047-479-7272



Professional opera singer Roberto di Candido teaching voice training exercises to students.  
ST. MAUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Operatic Experience at St. Maur

Phyllis Engstrom

THE PARENT Support Group at St. Maur International School invited professional opera singers Roberto di Candido and Mizuho Yabuta to perform, accompanied on piano by Reiki Kose on Friday, March 6th. Parents and children from pre-first grade to grade 5 enjoyed the performance. After the concert, the performers spent time coaching a select number of high school students.

On March 19th, Mr. di Candido returned to Saint Maur to offer lessons to middle and high school students (and parents) on "How to Use Your Voice" in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Mr.

di Candido provided individual students with advice and tips on improving their singing, as well as group exercises on proper posture, breathing, and balance to improve voice projection. Mr. di Candido's sense of humor allowed students to relax and enjoy this rare educational opportunity made possible by our Parent Support Group.

Many thanks to Ana Rosa Linde, PSG Chair, for the important role she played in bringing professional opera performers to Saint Maur for the past two years.

## How to get *your* school's news in JSN

JAPAN SCHOOL News publishes news and reports from International Schools across Japan, completely free of charge.

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. Please keep submissions below 400 words and send sharp, high resolution images for the best chance of being published.

For display advertising opportunities please contact us for rates and guidelines.

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International Junior League Season 1, Under 12 Champions  
British School Tokyo



International Junior League Season 1, Under 10 Champions  
Nishimachi FC

# Winners crowned in International Junior Football League

Footy Japan

ON SATURDAY 14th March the inaugural International Junior League (IJL) came to a thrilling finale at British School Tokyo. All 8 teams participated, 5 of which were in with a shout of being crowned champions. At the start of play Nishimachi were in the driving seat in the U-10 league, needing just two points from their remaining games. The BFA Jaguars were hoping to pounce if Nishimachi were to slip up. As it was it was the Jaguars who felt the pressure, falling to a 2-1 defeat to F.C Nomade. Nishimachi for their part won the first of their matches against BST, before losing the reverse fixture. The defeat made no impact on the final standings, Nishimachi finishing as deserved champions.

In the U-12's three teams entered the morning with a realistic chance of winning the title. F.C Nomade were in the driving seat having 12 points from their five games, followed by BFA Jaguars with 9 points from five games and BST with 6 from four. First to play was BST who put the pressure on F.C Nomade and Jaguars after beating Nishimachi convincingly. Next came F.C Nomade against Jaguars. Jaguars needed to win to keep the title chase alive, a win or draw would be

enough for F.C Nomade to claim the championship. After a thrilling end to end battle Jaguars emerged victorious 4-1, the margin of victory enough for the Jaguars to replace F.C Nomade on top of the table on goal difference. The title would be decided on the last game, a replay of BST against Nishimachi. A win for BST would give leave them top of the table whilst any other result would see Jaguars as champions. A dominant performance by BST ended with them comfortable 6-0 winners and U-12 champions.

IJL organiser James Bates was delighted with how the first season went: "The league has been a great success and we are actively looking to expand the league."

James hopes season two will run throughout two terms starting in October and finishing in March.

Any schools or teams who wish to know more about the IJL please contact Footy Japan at: [competitions.ops@footyjapan.com](mailto:competitions.ops@footyjapan.com). For final standings please check out the website: [footyjapancompetitions.com/events/international-junior-league-2015/](http://footyjapancompetitions.com/events/international-junior-league-2015/)

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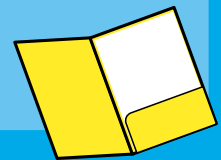
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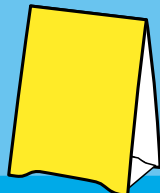
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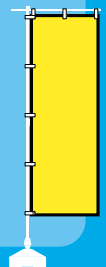
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