

Japan School News

ISSUE 060

MONTHLY NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

MAY 2015



Artists impression of the new primary school campus in Sendai's upscale Izumi Ward. HORIZON JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Horizon Sendai Receives Article One Status to open Primary School in April 2016

Bruce Gage

HORIZON JAPAN International School opened a campus in Sendai in April 2012, a year after the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. It was easy to understand the reservations the Board of Directors had about such a project considering the devastation that occurred in the area.

Since that time, the staff at the school has been working hard to build their Early Learning Center (ELC) as well as prepare the school and programs to meet the rigorous standards that would allow the school to expand into a Primary School. While the school added to its resources and programs, it also began construction on its facilities

with the vision of establishing a truly remarkable campus situated within the beautiful, green, surroundings of Sendai's upscale Izumi Ward.

Having met the requirements and guidelines laid out by Officials in Miyagi, Horizon, in receiving Article One status, is officially allowed to proceed in developing as a Primary School, under their oversight, fulfilling the obligations of the directives of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) in Japan.

The school shares a vision to educate children in Japan in a way that makes them better prepared to meet the

challenges of a wider, global, group of nations that exists today. Horizon is now a part of a very small group of schools to achieve this status. The school will deliver content as an English and Japanese Immersion school, using Japanese Primary School Curriculum guidelines, where learning in subjects crosses over naturally and fluidly in both languages.

Horizon is committed to developing a school that can become a model for others to adopt as ideal in meeting the larger vision of Japan's desire to be leader among nations within our world.

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Event

18 JUN The Global Youth Conference Youth in Action: Education, Society & Government

Jun 18-23 • Mt Rokko YMCA Global Learning Center, 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

Phone: (06) 6441-5088

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

Event

23 MAY Horizon Japan Open House

May 23 (Sat) • 10am-12:30pm • Horizon Japan International School, Yokohama Campus, Main Building

WE ARE pleased to invite parents who are considering our school as well as interested members of our local community to our school Open House to get to know us better.

The day will include a presentation and tour of our school facilities with an opportunity to speak directly with teachers and staff and ask questions throughout.

If you would like to join our Open House, please complete the reservation form at horizon.ac.jp. For any further questions please contact Ms. Saita, Administrative Secretary:

Tel: 045-584-1945 • Fax: 045-584-1946

• E-mail: hjis@horizon.ac.jp

Event

20 MAY Deutsche Schule Kobe Open House

May 20 (Wed) • 9:45am-12pm • Rokko Island, Kobe

THE DEUTSCHE Schule Kobe/European School welcomes you to their Open House event. The morning includes a presentation about the school, a school tour, Q&A session and refreshments.

Parents bringing children on that day are asked to discuss child care options with the school office in advance.

Please register your name by Monday, May 11, 2015 at the latest.

Please call or email the school office to register for the Open Day on 078-857-9777 or mail@dskobe.org.



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Japan School News Turns Five This Month

JSN

WHEN CAROLINE Pover began JSN back in May 2010, her vision was to create a platform to inform parents about what was going on within the international school community in Japan.

She purposefully opted for a simple, back-to-basics newsletter style over a glossy magazine format, and decided to include only positive and uplifting news stories of children engaged in meaningful activities.

Five years and sixty issues later and JSN is still going strong, remaining true to her original vision. It may be in color these days and now supported by advertising, but the core policies remain.

Caroline passed on the reigns to us here at Mojoworks in December last year and,

after listening to your feedback, we will be rolling out some changes later this year.

These include a new supercharged JSN website, complete with a new classified ad system to browse everything from job ads to second hand kids clothes, toys and books, and a makeover for the magazine. The content will be extended to encompass not only school news, but articles on being an international parent in Japan and the challenges of raising multi-cultural children. Watch this space.



TAIP Celebrates 10 Years

Mayumi Murata

IN MARCH of 2005, a small group of international preschool administrators and owners sat down with a purpose: to create an organization that would help the many preschools in the Tokyo area with publicity and professional development. The idea was that by working together, all the schools could help to get the word out about each other and to provide exciting training opportunities for teachers. What no one school could do alone, could more easily be accomplished as a community.

Since that day, the **Tokyo Association of International Preschools (TAIP)** has grown to more than 40 member schools and 11 associate members and will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year. The organization's annual conference draws professionals in a wide variety of areas and nearly 100 attendees. Professional development often involves bringing people over from North America or Europe—an expensive proposition, especially for smaller schools.

TAIP has hosted education professionals who offer specialized workshops for teachers in numerous fields. In addition, a number of smaller

events throughout the year offer other opportunities for development and networking. Videos and information from many of these training sessions are accessible through the TAIP website, along with other resources.

Founded on the idea of collaboration, TAIP uses its collective resources to educate its member schools' teachers and publicize institutions' activities online or in publications in ways that no individual school could do, particularly those on limited budgets. The TAIP website is packed with resources and information for parents, school administrators and others in the field. It also offers a great way for companies that provide products or services to schools to connect to the international school community.

Having enjoyed rapid growth to date, TAIP is even more excited about its plans for the future.

TAIP provides networking, marketing, and professional development opportunities for teachers, staff, and administrators. See tokyopreschools.org for membership information.



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NEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF JAPAN

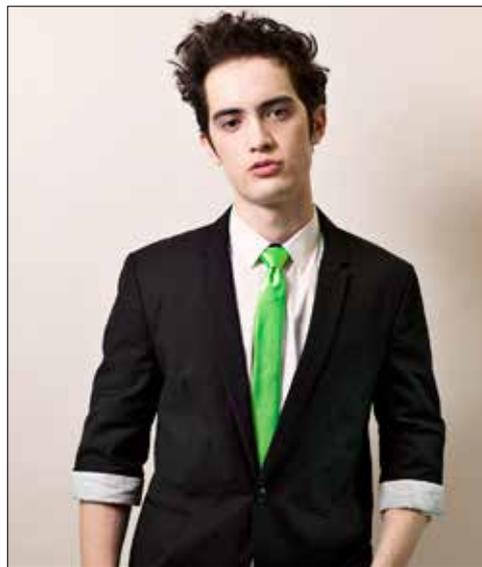
- Preschool age 3 to Grade 12, established 2001.
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- Exceptional music and visual arts program. All students learn to play the violin by ear.
- Graduates may enter universities either in Japan or abroad.
- Check website for monthly orientations in English or Japanese, and seminars open to the public.
- Visitors are also welcome by individual appointment.



<http://newis.ed.jp>

3-18-22 Minami-Ikebukuro Toshima-ku Tokyo 171-0022
Tel: 03-3980-1057

Accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA); Member of the Progressive Education Network (PEN) and the Coalition of Essential Schools (CES)



Actor and MC Matthew and model Niki, have both launched careers after being scouted by AVEX.
AVEX

The Next Big Thing?

Japan School News

AVEX IS a power house in the domestic record and entertainment industry here in Japan.

Until recently they have devoted their efforts to the domestic market - nurturing J-POP artists and 'talent'. However, with Japanese culture experiencing a boom overseas, particularly in France and the US, the playing field has changed dramatically in the past few years. By far the biggest contributor to this change has been the internet, and more specifically YouTube, with its far-reaching power to connect music fans around the world.

Since 2012, AVEX has set its sights on these emerging markets and has been holding its **Star Search Talent Auditions** both domestically and overseas (in New York, Los Angeles, London, Hawaii), seeking out English-speaking, bilingual and international future-stars. Through their Global Japan Challenge project they also send Japanese artists to New York to study English, and hone dance and vocal skills.

Talent scouted through these auditions are enrolled in the AVEX Artist Academy (four locations in Japan) where they learn the skills required to make it on the global stage and are groomed for success.

Some of the success stories to emerge from this process are dance unit **Future Boyz** who made their major debut last year. Both members are from Okinawa

and one of them, Wayne, is a US-Japan mixed-race artist. They sing entirely in English and are currently making waves across Japan and also Korea and Taiwan. There is also **Niki**, a US-Japan mixed race model that was scouted at last years AVEX Tokyo Girls Audition, winning the grand prix and launching her modelling career. She now appears regularly in both magazine and on tv.

Actor and tv talent **Matthew**, also a graduate of the AVEX academy is now the host of a weekly entertainment TV show called "Fox Backstage Pass" and MC for 81.3 J-Wave radio show "ZAPPA" (Mon-Thu). He says of the AVEX experience:

"I learned a lot during my days in Avex development. I took acting and singing lessons, received professional guidance, and emceed in multiple events. It is a lot of hard work, but this is my passion and I truly enjoy it. I hope you turn this opportunity to find out whether it is yours!"

So, if you know someone that is destined for stardom, point them in the direction of the AVEX Star Search Audition before June 15th. Models, singers, artists, and entertainers of all ages are welcome to apply!

avex-audition.jp

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Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten Kailuans pose and say Aloha to welcome the new school year.
KAILUA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Kailua Welcomes School Year 2015-2016 With The Aloha Spirit Of Joy

Robert L. Gomez

THE WHOLE Kailua school community had a especially busy time in the first week of April as we worked together to ensure a smooth start of the new school year, aiming to further improve on the past school year's over-all achievement in various school areas.

Saturday School and After School program parents came on April 4th for the orientation/re-orientation facilitated by the faculty, staff and the "Ohana" (Parent Leaders). There are 4 Saturday school homerooms. - Pre-K and Kindergarten Intensive English class that accommodates 3 to 5 year-old children with varying English ability; Grades 1 and 2 Advanced English Class composed of Kailua graduates who are now first and second graders in Japanese elementary schools; Elementary Intensive English Class, a class of 3rd to 5th graders from Japanese elementary schools and the Eiken Advanced class with grades 3 to 5 children preparing for an advanced level Eiken test in addition to their regular language arts classes.

Parents of after school children are very happy to know that the re-organized after school program has attracted over 60 children who are now enrolled in various academic and extra-curricular activities such as performing arts, soroban (abacus), piano and funk dance.

Performing arts clubs have started the initial preparation for their planned stage plays.

The welcome ceremony and orientation for parents of regular students was held on Monday, April 6. Even without rehearsals, the children were able to entertain their parents with beautiful songs and dances. Returning students were awarded their moving up certificates while the new students received welcome certificates. There are now five regular class homerooms - Honua (Land) Toddlers, Kai (Sea) pre-kindergarten, Kuahiwi (Mountain) kindergarten - Makani (Wind) kindergarten, and Lani (Sky) pre-first grade - The names of the classes form a sentence that makes it easy to remember the order - "Over LAND and SEA, the gentle WIND blows, soaring up the MOUNTAIN, reaching the great blue SKY."

The faculty is supported by an active group of parents we call OHANA. The group is now involved in the planning of sports days, festivals, luaus, and other events.

A joyful start will result in another productive year at Kailua. ALOHA!

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Two dancers from the Riverdance troupe put St. Maur students through their paces.
ST. MAUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Riverdance Performers Visit Saint Maur

Phyllis Engstrom

ON MARCH 26, 2015, Saint Maur students practiced Irish Dance with two professional performers from the renowned **Riverdance** troupe, on tour in Japan for the 20th Anniversary World Riverdance Tour. Kingaid Stringer and Mitchell Hodges appeared on stage in the Fine Arts Auditorium for an assembly of students and parents. They talked about their lives as professional dancers, demonstrated some footwork, gave students a mini-lesson on stage, and answered questions. After the

assembly, the dancers met with members of the Irish Dance Club to give them tips on their footwork and pose for a group photo.

Many thanks to our Irish Dance Club Instructor, Miss Tomoko Shirasawa (Head of the Ardagh Irish Dance School in Tokyo), for bringing Kingaid Stringer and Mitchell Hodges to Saint Maur. They provided a rare learning opportunity for our students, as well as a great deal of inspiration for those who may aspire to becoming future Riverdance performers!

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.

Send submissions/enquiries to: info@japanschoolnews.com

International Children’s Day at JIES

Jingumae International Exchange School

APRIL 18TH was an important day for JIES as we held our annual International Children’s Day event. This year the event was a huge success. The theme this year was Sharing the Planet. Students, family members, schools, and the community, were invited to join us inside our school as each classroom. Student’s were able to play traditional Japanese and African games, collect exploding candy from a volcano, experience different habitats, and make a recycled vase. After taking part in some interactive presentations and games inside the classroom, all attending children were able to choose a special present, a balloon, and sample some Turkish ice-cream.



The Parents and Teachers Association for Jingumae International Exchange School put together an array of food from all over the world for the bake sale and also offered printed photo bags that were available to purchase on the day. All profits went to the PTA Fund. The PTA fund helps pay for items such as laptops, refreshments at events and school prizes. Thank you to all who attended International Children’s Day and for your continued support.

jies.jp

Earth Day at Horizon Japan

Horizon Japan International School



THE STUDENTS at HJIS celebrated Earth Day a little early this month. On April 10th, the grades 1 to 8 classes participated in a number of activities intended to teach them about protecting the earth and the animals that we share the planet with. The grade 10 class prepared a short presentation on endangered animals and the students did animal origami. Other activities included a round of animal tag, an Earth Day Jeopardy game and contributing to an Earth Day banner that is now hanging in the school’s stairway. The afternoon concluded with a community clean up

walk in which students picked up trash in public areas near the school.

horizon.ac.jp

Follow JSN on social media



Winter Activities

- Ski Lessons
- Snowboard Lessons
- Guided Backcountry Tours
- Avalanche Skills Training
- Snowboard Instructor Courses

Summer Activities

- Canyoning & Rafting
- Downriver Canoe & Kayak
- Canadian Canoeing
- Kayaking & Climbing
- Canoe Picnicking
- Firefly Canoe Tours
- Mountain Biking
- Hiking & Nature Walks
- Summer Camps
- Team Building



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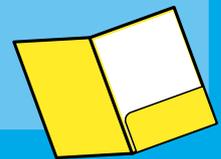
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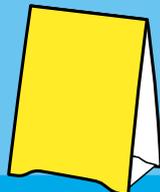
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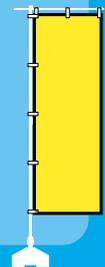
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