

Japan School News

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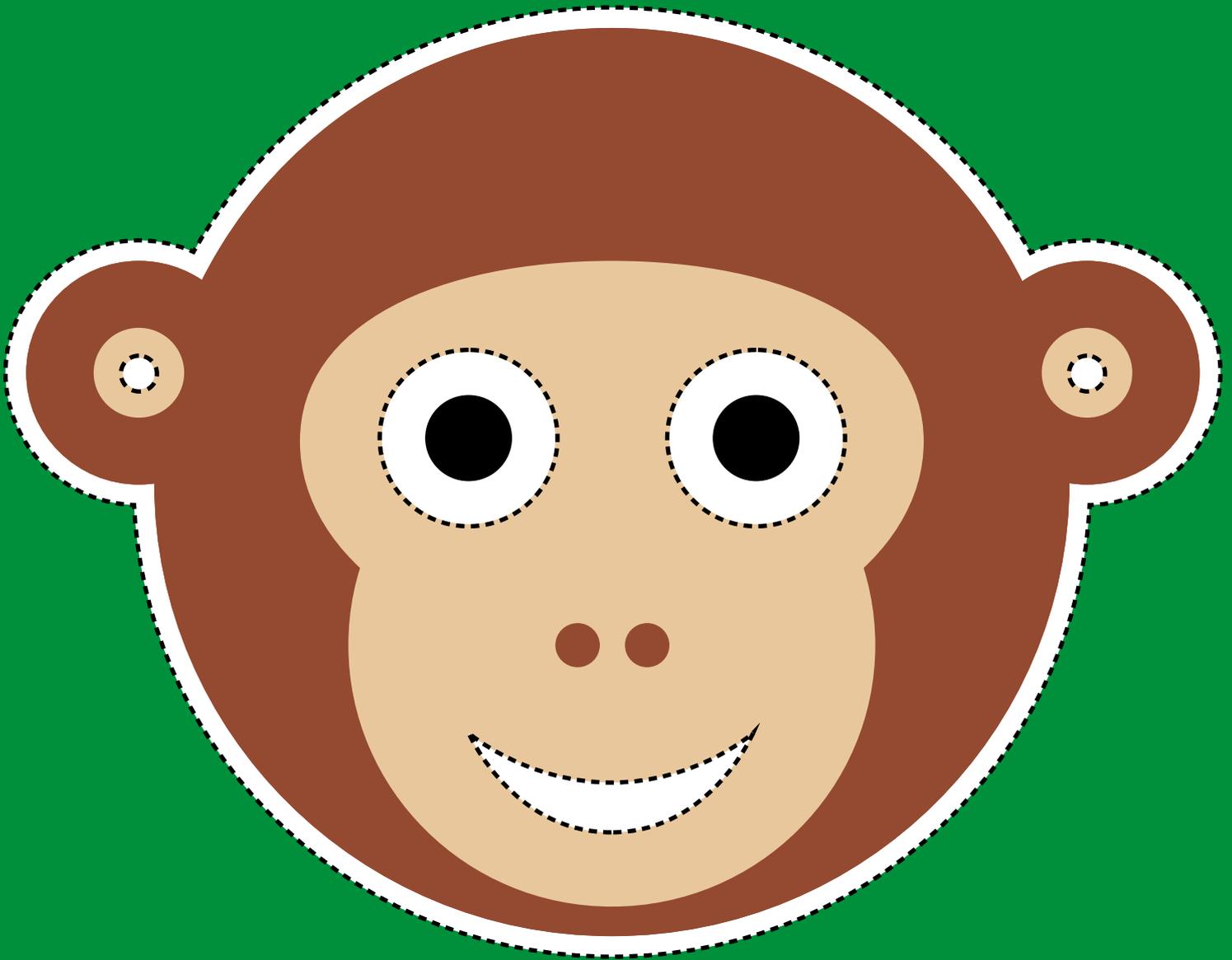
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Monkey Magic

Creative New Year craft ideas

068

JAN 2016



Plus The latest news, events and information from
International Schools across Japan

SPECIAL EDUCATION HELP & ADVICE

SPED S.O.S

✉ Cecil Burton (Send your questions to theceebeecenter@gmail.com)

STARTING THIS issue, we introduce our new Special Education Help and Advice column, aimed at any parent, teacher or school looking for answers to the challenges they face with their special education needs children at home or in the classroom.

We invite you to submit questions to our column expert Cecil Patrick Burton, a Special Education teacher and consultant that has been living and working in Japan for over 18 years. His school in Takarazuka (The Cee Bee Center) provides education, training and therapy for children with special education needs as well as education, counselling and training programs and workshops for parents, teachers and schools.

We will publish one question and answer each issue, with other non-published queries addressed individually and directly via email. All personal details we receive from you will be kept private and confidential. All enquiries can be sent directly to theceebeecenter@gmail.com.

For our first column we answer a question concerning Asperger's Syndrome, a form of high-functioning autism. It is a neurodevelopmental disorder - one of five disorders on the autism spectrum (ASDs). It is generally estimated to affect 48 children in 10,000 - roughly one in 200, though severity varies greatly. It affects both sexes, though boys much more frequently: approximately four boys have Asperger's for every girl. These numbers have increased in recent years but it is likely that this is more a reflection of greater awareness and improved diagnosis than an increase in frequency.

No specific cause has been identified for Asperger's Syndrome. The best evidence strongly suggests that all ASDs have a genetic basis, though no single gene is responsible. It also appears that certain factors can increase risk, including complications during pregnancy and some environmental factors such as air pollution during pregnancy. Unfortunately, there is a large amount of misinformation on the subject, which can lead parents to false hope and expensive 'treatments' which lack any scientific basis. In spite of what can be read

on the web, Asperger's is not caused by any of the following: diet, vaccinations, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), fluoride in the water, antibiotics or 'bad parenting'.

Q. Our son was recently diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. How can we work with his teachers to make sure he is getting the right kind of support he needs at school?

A. Once your son has been diagnosed make sure that you first get a proper assessment done for your child. The assessment should cover all details of his weaknesses and strengths. This means what your child can and can't do in terms of not just only education but also physical and social activities, etc. This should be followed up with a proper 6 month IEP (Individualized Education Program) that should include remedial therapies, educational and physical activities, and the responsibilities of the child and parents as well as the teachers at school.

Sometimes it is difficult for the child at school with teachers who don't understand how to deal with such a child. I would suggest making sure after the IEP has been made, to have a meeting with the teacher and principal or person-in-charge and make sure they understand their role in helping the child at school. If you still do not get any support for your child after that at school, then I think your child is attending the wrong school.

It is usually very difficult to find proper help for a special education child in Japan, and even when you do, it can cost you an arm and a leg. Do your best to find a well regarded, experienced specialist in special education, to ensure that your child receives the help they deserve.

To learn more about The Cee Bee Center, its work and programs please see: <http://www.theceebeecenter.com>.

For Kansai residents, Mr. Burton also organises an open support Meetup group for parents and teachers to discuss their various problems or to get more information on how to deal with special education needs children. <http://www.meetup.com/Kansai-Special-Education-Support-Group>



Naptime is sweet when cuddling up with a friend. ALOHA!

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CRAFT CORNER

Creative Monkey Magic

  Janelle McNeill

THE BEGINNING of a fresh year is an ideal time to introduce more energy to creativity in your home, alongside revamped rituals that unite your family more intimately. Utilize the power of Japanese traditions, and let your children design original New Year cards. Super cute cards and stickers are available at convenience stores cheaply.

Have you tried the happy gratitude jar ritual yet? Fill it throughout 2016 with things that make your family smile and giggle. Open it together on New Years Eve, and remember the super fun memories. A 2016 wish list wall made from colourful Post-it notes, is another way to make family magic happen easily. Simple activities like these weave a sacredness to family life.

Year of the Monkey themed crafty fun can start with adorable monkey pancakes, cookie decorating, and cheeky monkey printables wrapped around bananas. Think about monkeys in origami, handprint paintings, paper plate fun, and monkey puppets. Brown pipe cleaners can easily transform into Curious George too. Older children will love carving their own monkey stamps from erasers, and creating string art boards with key words or images for 2016 inspirations. A creative life is a good life! 

Excellent online craft ideas:

Monkey crafts for all ages

(<http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/monkeycraftsideasactivitieskids.html>)

Fun ways to create things with a monkey theme

(<http://www.tipjunkie.com/post/fun-monkey-crafts-for-kids/>)

String Art for kids

(<http://blog.consumercrafts.com/decor-home/diy-string-art-for-kids/>)

Eraser stamp making

(<http://www.wedgienet.net/arts-crafts/how-to-carve-eraser-stamps/>)

Family traditions to begin your New Year differently

(<http://www.artofmanliness.com/2013/10/16/60-family-tradition-ideas/>)

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Grade 5 students trying out their shogi skills. K. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Promoting cultural exchange at K. International School Tokyo through shogi

✉ Craig Larsen

AS PART of a cultural exchange program, the Japan Shogi Association hosted a workshop recently for Grade 5 students at K. International School Tokyo.

Three professional shogi players visited the school and shared information about the history, mannerisms and cultural aspects of shogi games. After the students had learned the basic rules of shogi, they tried out their new skills by competing against each other. For many students, this was their first experience playing shogi.

To thank the students for their enthusiasm, the Association presented the school with ten shogi sets which will be used in future years to provide opportunities for students to further develop their skills during the after-school clubs program.



World Hello Day at Horizon International School.

World Hello Day Celebration

✉ Horizon Japan International School

HORIZON INTERNATIONAL school held World Hello Day on November 26. The students all had the opportunity to learn about many different cultures, and learn that we are all different but equal.

There were many contests where students tested their knowledge about different countries and languages of the world. Students were also encouraged to say hello in as many languages as they could think of. One student from grade 3 said hello in 15 different languages!

Overall it was a fun day at Horizon, as we all learned to appreciate each other's differences and work together as an international community.

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NILE C. KINNICK HIGH SCHOOL

Kinnick High School Band Performs Winter Concert

Steve Parker

THE NILE C. Kinnick High School performed their Winter Music Concert on December third, 2015 to a room filled with over 200 parents, siblings, teachers, administrators and peers. Kinnick is located on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) on Yokosuka Navy Base. Kinnick High School's Band program led by Jonathan Parker is a legend in the Far East and Thursday Night's performance was exemplary.

The Winter Concert included 10 different pieces performed by 10 different ensembles. The opening numbers were solo performances presented by Sasha Anguiano on piano and Emily Arnold on flute, followed by the performances culminated with a Christmas Melody performed by the KHS Orchestra. The entire orchestra numbered more than 100 students and had the audience singing and clapping along with the familiar Christmas songs.

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The full cast of the musical "The First Christmas" in colorful costumes prior to their performance.
KAILUA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Performing Arts Musicals and Concerts Galore

✍ Robert L. Gomez

TWO MINI MUSICALS and three concerts – that's how happily busy Kailua children had been in November and December. A performing arts program that develops children's skills in speaking, acting, singing and dancing, and most importantly building confidence, really pays.

The first concert was at the Chiba Kougyou Technical University in Tsudanuma that invited us to be part of their annual festival.

Saturday School children then performed the next concerts (morning and afternoon) at the Tsudanuma Morisia shopping center and JR East invited Kailua to be part of their annual Christmas program held at Tsudanuma Station. Over 70 students representing regular homerooms, Saturday school, after school and winter school had a 40-minute performance of songs and dances.

Two terms of performing arts activities culminated in the Kailua Concert 2015 held at the school hall on December 11 where two short musicals were performed. The Drama Club and the Oyako class presented "Looking for Friends on Christmas Day"; a 20-minute musical where three fairies, three dinosaurs, a friendly lion, a frog, a monkey, and two Tiki gods become friends waiting for Christmas.

Kindergarten children then entertained a packed house with our version of "The Story of the First Christmas". The younger children became carolers whose numbers signalled the start of the stage play. The graduating class played the main characters - Mary, Joseph, 2 innkeepers, an angel, a shepherd, and the Three Kings. The children did their parts so well that many parents were moved to tears. Aloha!



Students pick up litter in the local community.
JINGUMAE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE SCHOOL

Pika Pika Keyakki

✍ Sara Matthews and Kris Vanderweit

THIS NOVEMBER, Jingumae International Exchange School joined their sister Japanese public school for another exchange activity called Pika Pika Keyakki that helps the community and strengthens the bond between the students of different cultures. Everyone worked together to collect and sort litter from the ground and streets around their local community in an effort to keep the area looking beautiful for both residents and visitors. Each group patrolled a different area of Omotesando in Shibuya, Tokyo. They were led by the local organization, Green Birds, who joined the students in the activity as role models. The goal of the activity is to create better relationships between the local and international students while promoting caring and principled attitudes towards the environment and community. This tradition was established between the two schools at the beginning of JIES and is one of many activities that the two schools take part in together.

Online School Directory

The JSN website features a directory of international schools in Japan. Listing your school is completely free and can be done directly online. Simply access japanschoolnews.com/directory and click on the 'submit a listing' button. You'll be asked to create an account first (necessary so that you can edit your listing), but once you've registered and logged in, you will be able to fill out the necessary form fields about your school and upload some images. Take five minutes and make sure *your* school is listed today.

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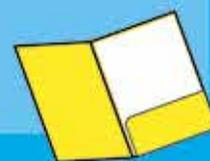
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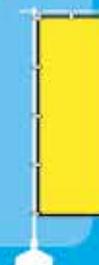
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