



TANGO

EXTRA

Dancing with Words

Senri & Osaka International Schools of Kwansei Gakuin

TANGO: Dancing with Words

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The Continuing Adventures of Mr. Sommer

by Yu Takahashi

Mr. Sommer is leaving OIS. As he moves on to new adventures, his legacy as a beloved teacher and the founder of Tango will live on. Tango reporter **Yu Takahashi** caught up with Mr. Sommer to find out what he has planned next, and to hear his reflections on Tango and his time at SOIS.

Mr. Sommer is one of the most passionate, patient, and popular teachers at OIS. He is trusted by the students and it is easy to find those who enjoy taking English class because of his personality and methods of teaching. This summer, the classroom that has always belonged to Mr. Sommer will be cleared in preparation to welcome a new English teacher next trimester.

Mr. Sommer has been teaching English for thirty years in Australia and thirteen years at OIS. Through a simple calculation, this equates to commuting to school every day for almost sixty years of his life. There is no doubting that he is a dedicated, excellent teacher. At the same time, his expertise is not limited to teaching. He originally worked as a journalist. One of his favorite memories from his time in journalism was that he could interview famous musicians. Some of his experiences as a journalist became real-life, authentic stories to be taught in class. These stories help the students to understand when learning about newspapers and mass communication.

He is an active learner and a seeker of new challenges, not to mention that he is planning to continue his PhD study of film during his "retirement". There is a stereotype that retirement implies ageing and being less active, but clearly, this does not apply to Mr. Sommer in any way. It is inspiring how a person can keep learning regardless of age. This makes Mr. Sommer a role-model to students, teachers and parents. Furthermore, he is going into business producing egoma oil with his wife near Osaka. The depth and breadth of his knowledge and skill seem to continuously expand as he moves on to the next stage of life.

In his forty-three years of teaching, Mr. Sommer has influenced the lives of countless pupils. This has been achieved both inside and outside of class. The establishment of Tango is one of the ways he has improved the confidence level and skill of students in English. It was founded in the spring of 2009 with the intention of featuring students' best works of literature. Today, the newspaper is comprised of articles written by students on school events as well as personal reports to make school newspaper more relatable to a wider audience. He strongly believes that students who write for Tango are real journalists because they "explore things in great detail" and they have the "ability to look at an issue from different perspectives". The foundation of Tango, established by Mr. Sommer, has been built on by Mr. Algie who has "energy and focus" and also by the "real journalists" of SOIS. As the tenth anniversary of Tango passes, Mr. Sommer may no longer be sitting in his classroom reading Tango, but the memories and articles will remain with us.

Towards the end of the school year when it's hot and humid, Mr. Sommer's room is always kept nice and cool. Soon, the oasis will be emptied out in preparation for the next teacher's arrival. Mr. Sommer will be missed greatly by all the students, and the teachers. We wish him good luck in his future adventures.



Photo by Dave Algie

More Goodbyes and Best Wishes Inside!

This is a special "Farewell" Edition of Tango. Several teachers and faculty members are moving on. Check out our farewell interviews on pages 2 and 3.

Also:

Briantama Wanandi gives advice on living in a new country: Pages 4-5

Owen Kralovec looks back on his life in Japan: Page 5

Ximing Pan reflects on preparing for college: Page 6

Ms. Nadia

Interviewed by Sana Konishi-Attwood

At the end of the year, we have some students and teachers leaving our school to go on to other schools or countries. Ms. Nadia, Mr. Kralovec and the Kralovec children will be amongst those leaving. I had a chance to interview Ms. Nadia about her experience here in Japan, and her exciting future in Uzbekistan.

How long have you been living in Japan for?

I've been living in Japan for 5 years, which is pretty long.

What have you enjoyed about life in Japan?

I've enjoyed the safety for my kids, and for myself. I also don't have to worry about locking my bike or locking my house, or any of those sorts of things. In fact, I have never locked my door in 5 years! We did have to lock up when we went on holiday, but other than that, we kept it open even at night. It's because not only did we feel safe, but because we would lose the keys; it's stressful to have 5 people coming and going all the time! But yes, I enjoyed the safety of Japan, alongside with it being beautiful and clean.

What have you enjoyed most about being a teacher at SOIS?

I've enjoyed getting to know all the students and parents, working with my colleagues throughout the years, and making connections with all of them. I have also enjoyed empowering my students to believe in themselves that they can achieve anything that they put their minds to. Those are probably the big ones.

How would you describe our students at SOIS?

I would say they're creative, very curious and always questioning things, well spoken, not shy to communicate their ideas in public, and very good at speaking their mind; overall they're very good communicators.

In what ways do you think SOIS could still grow and improve?

Changing things. I think it's important to try new things out. I know that there's a lot of systems put in place, but I think it's important to try new things and ways of doing things. For example, organizing events. Instead of doing things the way it's always been done, it's important to be innovative and perhaps change some aspects. Sometimes I feel like a lot of things are repetitive, and I know it's the culture, but I believe that as an international school we should be open to changing things.

What were some of the challenges you faced, being a teacher or living in Japan?

I am very loud and outgoing, as well as my family, and at times I felt that here in Japan you have to be quiet and conservative, and that was a challenge sometimes. A lot of things are kept the old way, and I struggle with that because I like to try new things; I get bored doing things the same way. It was a challenge to be myself whilst also respecting the culture.

Where are you going and what will you be doing there?

We are moving to Tashkent in Uzbekistan, and we'll be in an IB school that is bigger than OIS; it's double the size! I will be working with early childhood classes, from 3 to 4-year-olds. I'm excited to experience the new culture in Uzbekistan.

Ms. Nadia, thank you very much for being a wonderful teacher here at SOIS.

We wish you all the best in the future.



Photo supplied by Ms. Nadia

Mr. Kralovec

Interviewed by Janet Jones

Where are you going?

We will be moving to Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The capital city has about three million people and I will be going to the Tashkent International School, which is an international Baccalaureate World School, K to 12 with about 500 students. So it is a little bigger than Senri Osaka International School.

What are you looking forward to in your new place?

Every place you go, it has good things and bad things. With the school, and the place we'll be living, it's going to be very different from here, but I will enjoy the differences.

Do you have anything you want to do before you leave?

I was happy to change the cafeteria. That was one thing I wanted to do, which we did, and that was great. As you may or may not know, SOIS is going to have a big renovation project, which starts next year. The foundation has given the school the equivalent of 10 million US dollars to improve the school, and I wish we could have started that this year but it won't be started till next year.

Which parts of the school are renovations planned for?

We will renovate the libraries, hallways and classrooms. As much as we can do with 10 million dollars.

What are you going to miss about SOIS and Japan?

From a personal standpoint, in Japan, one of my favorite things to do is ride my bike. I love the cycling here. The roads are good, there are a lot of bike lanes, the drivers are safe so it's a great place for cycling. That is the number one thing I am going to miss, personally. In regard to SOIS, it'll be the Japanese culture that permeates the school, that our students are hard working and are very academic, and it has been easy from that standpoint to have been head of school., when you have that positive work ethic and respectful attitude to authority.

What do you see as the future for SOIS?

After the big renovations, which is what I thought the school really needed, I think we really need to see work on the Global Issues Program, and building the number of international students who are staying in the dorm. I think that should be a focus area and would make the school more international.

Do you have any last messages for any students?

Well, I'd like to thank "the big three" in OIS Grade 9— Asuka, Janet and Do Hee. You guys have been awesome. I really loved your positive attitude and to me you embody our school mission of "Two Schools Together" through your positive interactions with SIS through sports, friendships and arranging school events. I think you reach out to SIS and help us stay involved with them. I'll miss that and I just wanted to thank and encourage you in this as my farewell message.



Pictured. Mr. Kralovec with Tango reporter Janet Jones. Photo supplied by Mr. Kralovec

Endo sensei

Interviewed by Nanami Hasegawa

How long have you been a teacher at OIS?

About 10 years.

What are your best memories of OIS?

My best memories are all the moments with my students in the classroom.

How do you think OIS could grow or improve in the future?

I hope that in the future OIS will remain or become even more a bridge between the expat and the local community and that it will always be a home for alumni students and teachers.

What are the strong points of the Japanese Language and Literature course?

It is the ambition of OIS to educate proficient bilingual students and the Japanese Language A program really makes a difference there

What are the things you think could be better about the Japanese Language and Literature Course?

I would really like to see the number of students grow, this would add to the dynamics and the significance of the course.

What will you be doing in the future?

I will be teaching IB methodology and practice to those students at Kwansei Gakuin University who want to become teachers.

Thank you for your time, Endo sensei, and all the best!

Ms. Wakefield

Interviewed by Aimi Mizuno

Thank you for your time Ms. Wakefield. There are a few questions I want to ask you How many years have you been at SOIS?

For 4 years. I'm not sure if its long or short but (laugh). About when you were grade 7 or 8 wasn't it?

Interviewer: Oh, yeah. It still remember the time when you had just come! What do you like about the SOIS library?

I like the openness of this library and how the library has a bilingual layout. I do also enjoy working with the Japanese Librarian. I also like how the library has a lot of light that makes the library a more welcoming place.

What have been the best things about being a librarian at SOIS?

Well, one of the best things is that I am able to work with a small community, not like a school that has so many students that I can't keep up with. Also, working in this school, especially at OIS, you can see the community relationships in action. Looking at high school students interacting with elementary students shows the community relationship of SOIS.

What have been the most challenging or difficult about being a librarian at SOIS?

Well, one of the challenging things was that since I am the only librarian in OIS, I needed to prepare all of the lessons in the library. So I needed to choose the books to read to the Kindergarten and prepare a lesson about resources for grade 10, which was fun but also tiring because it was hard to give everything the students needed at the right time. I did also feel the language barrier while working here since I am in Japan.

Farewell, and Thank you to the Leaving Part Time Teachers who have Taught us so Much

Ms. Yamanaka has been a valued member of the Art department over the last year. She is an accomplished artist herself, specializing in painting. She will soon open her own solo exhibition: “花。夏のゆめ“ at the Sanseido Gallery. We wish her luck with this and thank her for the time she has spent teaching us.

Mr. Lira is a talented musician and teacher who has been teaching SOIS music. He specializes in drums and percussion. He is a highly energetic and positive teacher. We wish him all the best as he leaves SOIS to pursue his studies.

Ms. Clark is an extremely dedicated teacher who has been helping out by teaching Japanese. She is actually a gifted pianist and experienced piano teacher and her own child has graduated from OIS.

Mr. Turlur has been teaching French at our school for many years. He is also a priest, philosopher and internationally published poet. He has graciously contributed some of his poetry to Tango over the years. Thank you to Mr. Turlur for his many contributions to the SOIS community. We wish him well.

What changes do you think still need to be made in relation to the SOIS library?

One of the first things that I did when I came to this school was reforming the space. I wanted to make the library where students can flexibly use the library and at the same time, I can teach students. But as we can see now, there are students who just come to the library to chill out. If they are not loud, it is fine for me but it is also true that these students are distracting students who want to study or learn. So there needs to be further reformation so these students can coexist.

Where are you off to next?

I am going to the International School of Phnom Penh in Cambodia for, I don't know, at least 2 years.

Do you have any last minute messages for the SOIS community?

Yeah, I think my strongest message is to stay curious. As long as you keep researching and reading, you can keep learning.

Thank you for your time and good luck!



Tips for Students Living in a New Country (And/or a Dorm)

by Briantama Wanandi

Disclaimer: Not intended for those who despise sarcasm. Don't take any of this seriously. Contains a small amount of inside jokes and an overwhelming amount of sweeping generalizations... and shade.

ONE: Own a pan... and some disposable plates.

Whether you are trying to become more independent, wanting to learn how to cook or are responsibly trying to save money by making food at home, or if you are new to the wonderful experience of dish cleaning—due to lack of mother or maid—, it is very important to understand that plates and pans can quickly make mountains. There will be those trashy days where laziness gets the best of you, and although it may be easy for some to self-manage, maybe not all the people you share a sink with will be as 'honest' as you are. If you live with roommates and are anything like me, this following situation will happen about every other week:

Roommate 1: *"WHOSE DISHES ARE THESE?!"*

Everyone else: *"Not mine, I already did mine"*

Sink: **Looking more and more menacingly like a sewer*

Roommates (altogether): **Argue for a half hour with sarcastic remarks to ghosts or 'dorm ladies' using the dishes*



Two perfectly normal outcomes of this scenario would be that a poor soul (who was likely not guilty) either steps up as the responsible leader of the rascals, or the roommates play rock, paper, scissors to determine who gets the honor of dipping their hand in sludge to unclog the sink.

Having a 'private' pan implies that you do not use the unsanitary shared wreckage at the bottom of the lake, and using disposable plates (though consider the environmental consequences) will excuse you from the chore of washing your dishes, as they can be efficiently dropped into the waste disposal. It also helps to stockpile some chopsticks, spoons or forks from the supermarket. This places you in a bystander position where you are free to laugh or go back to your personal tranquility while your roommates argue.

TWO: Context helps travel and survival

"Culture is the norms of an organization, country or other social groupings, which shapes the values, beliefs, and customs of people." – Pamoja Business Management.

Part of the experience living in an unfamiliar country is getting lost and figuring out how or when to go from point A to point B. Not every country is as safe and orderly as Japan and understanding the context of the new society around you could prove to be very beneficial. Some examples include:

Jaywalking safety – The preference to honk and drive rather than slowing down for crossing pedestrians.

Unsafe times/areas – Some shady alleyways are worse than others, and the night is dark and full of drunkards (possibly).

Stranger danger – Obviously... Be nice, but be alert. In the case that they (likely old people) yell at you in a language you don't understand, simply apologize and walk away [if possible].

Rush hours & busy times – Who knows? Maybe at 5:50 PM the restaurants are empty, but 10 minutes later you'll have to wait a half hour for a table (as in the case with Japan). Consider the typical time in which shops close and people go home to avoid endless human traffic.

Google translate – Absolutely horrible for more complex - especially tone-based - languages. Works best in the form of a human being.

Of course, one could grow to understand the culture through "experiencing the outside world" (i.e. trial and error) but a little research could go a long way.

THREE: Find the nearest "Chinatown"

To my fellow graduates or those leaving: You WILL miss Osaka food. That's not to say that food in other countries is bad... it's just not the same as home. It also doesn't help that home, in the case of SOIS, is arguably in the best food city in the world. If your newfound home is within the Western hemisphere, then you might have some difficulties finding authentic Asian food within an affordable price range anywhere in the continent. As the name suggests, Chinatown or whatever small Asian market lying around will probably be your best bet.



One of the main strategies for guesstimating whether the food is authentic or not is by peeking through the window and observing the crowd (it is not recommended to do this for prolonged periods of time). The customers and especially the employees could heavily reflect the quality and type of food being served. A dominantly Asian customer-base with Japanese-looking employees will quite likely imply Japanese-tasting Japanese food. If not, then you just might have to lower your standards, eat the California rolls and understand that it might not be exactly what you want. At least it'll make the food you grew up with a lot more enjoyable when you come home for the holidays.

P.S. Bring a good supply of local sauces and ingredients from home (if you want to taste things).

FOUR: Utilize your own culture to give yourself a 'creative' bonus

Being a minority isn't always bad. Sometimes it makes you unique and can help you stand out when you want to. Some individuals are gifted with talented, creative minds or are lucky to have good ideas strike them in the shower room or on the toilet seat, but others have to put in a little bit more work to find an idea that is both innovative and reasonable. If you are indeed the latter and do not always wish to develop your creative skills through sheer effort... there might not be anyone around to shake their head at you if you "take inspiration" from one of your old schoolmates... without proper citations. Just don't plagiarize completely and make sure it's for a good cause (like your grades). This could be useful for something like promposals, fundraising, project designs and getting workable ideas for IAs [NEVER COPY THEIR ASSIGNMENTS].

Furthermore, utilizing tradition can sprinkle some extra spice to your identity. It can show that you are proud of where you come from, as you should (with a **reasonable** amount of arrogance). In the case where you are pitching products or ideas to other people, remember from your DP Economics and Business Management classes: different markets = different tastes. Take a page out of Starbuck’s notebook, if your foreign products foster a high demand, you can always charge “premium-prices” to increase your profit margins (and lose some of your friends).

FIVE: Embrace change

Yes, this may be cliché for many of you out there, but it really should be emphasized how much of your new environment, its people and its paraphernalia, will be absorbed into your ever-evolving person. Yes, change is indeed scary. The fear of change, metathesiophobia for the phobia geeks reading this, is one of the most common feelings out there... With change comes the unknown, the uncertain, the unpredictable and all the other un-s, but change can also be incomparably exciting. Trust me when I say the world presented by a vastly different society can give you some of the greatest opportunities to build upon your character, tap into yourself, and learn through experience.

Being truly confident and sure of yourself can make controlling your new life a lot easier. Knowing you’ll be okay anywhere you go will save you some extra time and mental energy that you can use into making the best out of your current situation. It can also be a great benefit to maintain contact with those you love and trust from home: to help you cope with the dreadful homesickness you will probably experience especially within the first six months, and to keep you grounded on the foundations what makes you, YOU... so you don't change any of the good parts.

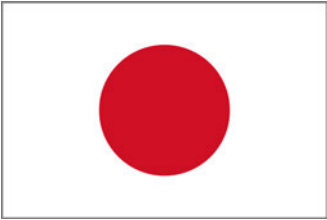
As the saying goes, change is bittersweet, but for those as privileged as we are, it's also quite inevitable. Accepting it sooner than later can and will make your new life much more rewarding in the long run. After all, wishing you were somewhere else isn't going to do you any good now is it?



Photo supplied by Briantama Wanandi

日本 in Retrospect

by Owen Kralovec



This is it, the last week of school. The last Monday, the last A Set ticket, the last Sabers TV. It's going to be the last of a lot of things. Last make up, last time listening to the 4:30 song. But as they say, all good things come to an end.

Now for my five years living in Japan, what do I have to show for it? Am I able to speak fluently in Japanese? Well no..... Am I capable of using the train and or bus by myself??? No.

While I lack the street smarts to make it in Japan, I have traveled a lot. I have been to 3 out of the 4 major islands in Japan. I haven't been to Kyushu so I may have to come back and do it.

I remember the first time arriving in Japan. It was a complete culture shock for me. The customs and cultures seemed completely foreign to me, and I felt completely out of place. It was as if my whole world turned upside down.

Slowly, but surely I got accustomed to life living in Japan. And there are even some things that I have grown accustomed to that I can never live without. Rice is one of the big things that I will miss from Japan. We have shipped about 20 kilos of rice to Uzbekistan in fact.

Also another thing that I will miss from Japan is also the quality of seafood. They say that once you eat fish in Japan, you will never find anything better. Without a doubt this is true. It was incredible to go to a fish market in Japan and it not smell like fish. I have a feeling I am going to be very picky when eating fish again.

As I near my final day in Japan, a memory of me arriving in Tokyo for the first time comes back to me. In the airport we were trying to open an onigiri and failing spectacularly. I remember we were all laughing trying to open this 'rice triangle' and everyone around us was staring at us.

While this is only one of the many and I stress MANY embarrassing 'gajin' moments that happened, I feel that this one sums my time in Japan most aptly. A group of foreigners being loud and laughing trying to figure out this strange foreign land.

Ostensibly, I thought Japan was going to be the tech capital of the world, anime and cosplay galore. However this is definitely not the case. I attribute this misconception to western movies and shows who do a horrible job at portraying Japan realistically. Japan is actually a culture with deep roots. It's not the ever advancing country people believe it to be. Tradition and respect is a way of life here.

With Japan being the latest stop on my nomadic journey around the world, I feel this country has influenced me a lot. For example, I always bow when I meet new people. I am glad that we lived here, it was very interesting to immerse myself in Asian culture and I feel I have become a more knowledgeable, caring and informed person because of it.



Photo supplied by Owen Kralovec

Editorial *by Ximing Pan*

Some of the ways in which I messed up :

When I first moved to Japan, I thought that I would be going to university in Japan. I thought that my future plans were set. I thought that I could stop searching for universities outside of Japan. That was my first mistake. Over the summer of grade 11, I began looking at Japanese University requirements in more depth. I noticed that there was an age requirement for Japanese Universities that I did not (and still do not) meet. By this time, I had already written three essays.

Panicked, mother and I looked towards universities in America as an option because we thought that students from international schools were meant to go to school in America. That was my second mistake. Being an IB student did not make the SATs easier. Being Chinese, however, gave me access to cram schools that changed my SAT game. At that point in time, I did not know which universities I would apply to, so I spent that summer studying for four different SAT exams (just in case some schools would need SAT subject exams). At the end of the summer, I had decided to apply to the UC schools because they only needed one application. (Less essays, yay!) During this time, I also considered a few universities in Hong Kong as a backup. I thought I was done. (Essay count: 10)

I took the SATs in October, and discussed my results with a few teachers from my SAT cram school. They came to the conclusion that the chances of me getting offers from the 8 universities that I had already decided to apply to were very slim. (I was, and am, very much below average in their realm.) So by the end of October, we decided on a few other American universities. Those “few” other American universities were my third mistake. Even though the CommonApp website seemed fairly simple, the essay requirements for each university really came back to bite me in the butt.

I ended up writing three different essays as options for the general CommonApp essay, as well as 7 essays in total (not counting the drafts) for the individual universities. I had somehow managed to pick five universities—each with different essay prompts from each other. (Essay count: 20)

When my IB predicted grades came out, a few of Mother’s friends suggested that I should use my predicted grades to apply to universities in the UK. Thinking that this could increase the probability of me getting into an university, I agreed and wrote yet another essay. This application, I do not regret. It was the most right thing I had done. (Essay count: 21)

At the end of this whirlwind of applications, I decided to look back at some of my essays for US unis to see if I could improve them in any way. That was my final mistake because I ended up completely rewriting 4 of the 7 America Universities’ essays. (I say it was a mistake because I ended up not accepting offers from American Universities.) (Essay count: 25)

In case it was not clear, I ended up applying to an abnormally large number of universities, and writing a ridiculous number of essays because I overlooked one detail. Because of that, I found myself in an almost comically absurd situation. While I would never wish this mad scramble for an university onto anyone, I truly appreciate this experience with my uni applications.

Spotlight on Service *with Noah Izumi*



“Volunteers are just productive procrastinators”- Ximing Pan

SOIS hosts a thriving culture of service that extends itself to a variety of settings. Service leaders across all grades are working hard to contribute within the school, as well as to a wider global community, yet their hard work often gets overlooked in the midst of our busy schedules.

The past year has seen an increase in effort to promote such activities and provide the recognition they deserve, through events like the Service Fair¹ that was held last October. And as a new addition to the student body government, the Service Council² was established a few months ago, with the aim to facilitate and promote student-initiated service activities. Hopefully, we will hear more from the council in the coming year as they take a larger role in service activities around the school. But for now, this section will do its part by introducing many of the worthwhile activities taking place around the SOIS community.

Babysitting Club

The Babysitting Club is a busy parent’s best friend, where they can leave their kids in the trusty hands of student-babysitters from 3:30 - 5:30 after school. The leader of the club, Leonardo Wada, has worked with kids in the Saturday School and Just For Kids (JFK) Program for over 4 years, and is now putting that experience to use in the Babysitting Club. Although the services of the club come with a fee, these funds all go toward a service activity in the school. This year’s Grade 11 Service Trip to Cebu received funds from the Babysitting Club, in order to help the construction of a school for the children of Caohagan Island. For further inquiry about the club or joining the team, contact Leonardo Wada at 202035@soismail.jp or soisbabysittingclub@gmail.com

Film and Photography Club

Ever in need of a photographer to take record of your hard work during an activity? Well, the Film and Photography Club provides just that service, with the special feature as its name suggests: film cameras. Members of this service activity explore the slowly disappearing beauty and nostalgia that can be found in the roots of photography, all the while as they share this service with the school community. Noah’s Ark is an example of a club that has partnered with, and is being greatly supported by the Film and Photography Club, as volunteer photographers accompany trips to animal shelters. The club serves a means for students to develop their skills in photography, while experiencing a vast range activities in the process. If you’re interested or have further questions regarding the Film and Photography Club, contact Yuki Fujita at 202050@soismail.jp

¹ Keep an eye out for the date of the next Service Fair

² More information regarding the Service Council in the next edition



Pictured: Yuki Kojima doing volunteer work in Cebu. Photo by Yuki Fujita

The Most Challenging, Rewarding Maple Hall Concert Yet

by Tasuku Azuma

It was near the end of 8th grade in SIS, that I first met the viola. Back then, I had no idea which way to hold the viola, nor that I would be falling in love with the instrument. Almost four years later, on 4th June 2019, I was playing as a leader of the viola section, as a member of the high school strings ensemble in the SOIS High School Maple Hall Concert

The concert began with astonishing performances by the band, and the choir. After a short intermission, the strings ensemble performed. The first piece was the Concerto in C minor for Piano and Trumpet (Op. 35) first movement, by Dimitri Shostakovich. The soloists were Malka Bobrove from OIS grade 10 as a pianist, and Selina Sun from OIS 12 as a trumpet player. Despite the piece being a great challenge for them as well as for orchestra members, with a number of practice sessions and rehearsals, we were able to not just play but most importantly, enjoy the music together. In contrast to such an energetic piece, the second piece was more tranquil; a Nocturne from String Quartet No.2 in D major, by Alexander Borodin. This was the only piece played solely by strings ensemble, and throughout the piece, we were paying additional attention to the tone and timbre of every note, as even a smallest change can affect the delicate nature of the music. Then, the concert climaxed with the Finale from Violin concerto in D major, by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. A number of people joined the orchestra, including middle students from the performance strings class, band students, private lesson teachers, and SOIS faculty, and last but not least, Rikka Hayashi as a solo violinist, from SIS grade 11. As the last note the orchestra played, thunderous applause broke out from the audience.



Up until the concert, the orchestra had been struggling to even meet a decent standard. This year's pieces were all written by Russian composers, and demanded a lot of techniques; many cross-over between strings marked with slur, very high notes especially for first violins, complicated rhythms, just to mention a few challenges. And it was not just enough to be able to play one's own parts by oneself. As Mr Villapando often stressed this point, "Strings ensemble is an *ensemble*" – meaning, it requires teamwork on top of individuals' technique to play their own parts. This is where sectional practices played an essential role, bringing everyone together and closer. It was scheduled before and after school, and the entire section was involved. The more times we practiced together, the more fun it was and the struggles we went through made the concert even more memorable.

After the concert, Yu Takahashi, an SIS senior from first violin rejoiced in the experience; "Playing at Maple Hall is one of my favorite experiences at SOIS. It is truly an enjoyable moment where the hard work pays off and turns into an ever-lasting, rich memory."

The ensemble has already started to prepare for the next concert in winter, where they will be performing pieces from older ages, mainly baroque style, in contrast to the modern pieces in this concert.



Congratulations on your Graduation, OIS Senior Class of 2019!



My First Time at World Scholars Cup

by Aimelanie Hamazaki

Last month on May 4-5, the Kansai Round of the competition World's Scholar's Cup, was held at our school. Students from 12 different schools in the Kansai region came to participate in four events; debating, the challenge, scholar's bowl and writing. It is a life-changing experience, and is something everyone should try.

Being a first time competitor in this competition, I was nervous, not knowing what to expect at first. However, this experience has helped improve my debating, time-management, study, and writing skills. Becoming a more powerful speaker is essential to the future, as speaking aloud and expressing an opinion is important in life. In addition, studying for the six subjects of the curriculum is a lot to do; in-depth research and memorizing the facts. As there is a deadline to finish studying prior to the competition, with a large amount of work to do, it has aided in improving my time-management and how to study effectively. Being given different prompts, and choosing one to write an essay or creative story/letter/article etc. about, in a limited amount of time, assists in thinking quickly, and in being able to write a good piece of writing in time.

Although debating is a nerve-racking event of this competition, with a lot of practice, it's not as hard as you think. I, myself was anxious at first, but after the first debate, the second and third ones were easier to do. As you only get 15 minutes to research and prepare your speech after having been given a motion, you get tense and worried. Nonetheless, it helps with being able to prepare things quickly, and to speak confidently in front of a judge, whom you want to persuade.

Overall, the WSC competition involved tiring studying beforehand, but had many fun elements to it which was enjoyable. You get to communicate with your team, and

to talk with people from other schools and make new connections. I believe it is a very interesting experience, which has many benefits although you work extremely hard, and is a competition which everyone should participate in, whoever they are, even if it's simply for the experience.



Pictured: Aimelanie with teammates Lee Jun (Left) and Koki (Right).

Photo supplied by Aimelanie.

The Shambling Corpses

A short story by Claire Kitamura

Sometimes I wish I could turn back time. To a time where everything was 'normal'. When people were walking on the streets with their dogs and the fresh smell of baked bread wafting through the air or a police car siren would be heard when there was a robbery at a nearby grocery shop. I don't know when everything went wrong. When the apocalypse started, screaming could be heard and the sound of cars exploding rang in my ears. The last time I heard the sound of sirens was the day everyone turned into the walking dead. At the start of the apocalypse, I was in my home playing on my phone while my parents were out at work. The apocalypse started in 2019, the year now is 2028. I am now 24 years old and am somehow still alive.

As of now, I'm with five other people: Amy, Brian, Todd, Jake, Brad, and I am the sixth member, Liam. I met them a few days after the start of the beginning of the end. They didn't trust me at first but I proved my loyalty by helping them escape some bandits who were trying to raid them. The leader of the clique is Jake, being the eldest, he is the one who is looked up to. "Grab as many things as you can." He pauses and looks at every single one of us, "This is a one time opportunity, once we're finished were back on the road." I start= to gather batteries, chips, candy, and water. I grabbasically everything in the store.

Once we are ready we start to head out of the store. "Wait, can we carry some magazines for when we get on the road?" Todd asks. Being the youngest makes him a bit more childish.

Jake looks up and puts his hand under his chin as if he is pondering, "I don't know can you?" he asks. Todd looks at him with a questioning look.

"I'm just kidding, yes you can." Jake chuckles and starts to walk out of the shop, the others following right behind him. Little do we know, today is the day that everything changes. I walk while clutching my machete, walking in the road heightens my anxiety because we're out in the open. As we are walking I hear a twig snap and quickly turn my head towards the direction of the noise and it turns out that I'm not the only one who has heard it. The others stop dead in their tracks and look in the same direction as me. My heart starts to race out of fear that it might be another walking corpse. Those things are deadly when they are in a horde. They have no mercy, they want to devour anything that has a heartbeat.

I start to hear the sound of trees rustling in the same direction. Brad opens his mouth ready to say something but Jake puts his hand over it so he doesn't make a sound. Out of the corner of my eye I see movement near the trees making my body shiver with the feeling that whatever is going to happen, it isn't good. "W-what are we gonna do?" My voice trembles as I whisper to Amy.

When I look to her direction I can tell she is evidently scared. Her eyes are shaking and her lips are trembling. She doesn't bat an eye in my direction, her eyes never leave the area where the noise came from. Jake silently tells us to keep walking. Before we start to walk, he puts his finger to his mouth to tell us to be silent. We nod and start walking carefully to not make any unwanted noise. When we have gone about a kilometer we hear another sound but instead of a twig snapping it's a deep growl. Not human at all.

A hairy creature standing on its hind legs lunges from the woods and we start to run. Todd starts to scream, probably drawing the walking corpses to our direction.

"Just keep running!" Jake yells and looks back. His eyes widen which causes me to turn my head. At that moment, I regret turning my head at all. Behind that hairy creature is a whole pack of the walking corpses. From a shambling walk, they start to jog but not like how people normally jog. Their eyes are filled with nothing but a deep black void and their arms are flailing around. They start to make noises that aren't coherent at all. I have never seen anything like this. I look back again and the hairy creature looks into my eyes and snarls. My eyes widen and for some reason, I can't take my eyes off of it.

It starts to gain speed and it seems like my life flashes before my eyes. That thing is right behind me and before I can swing my machete, I'm pushed to the ground and I look up to see the thing hovering over me and looking at me as if it hasn't eaten in a long time.

My friends look back and see my predicament. "Liam!" they yell in unison. I start to swing my machete around and I slash its legs. And it howls in pain and break free and bolt away. I stand up, heedless of the pain in my left leg, and start to run towards the others.

We run. An abandoned house looms on our left and we enter hurriedly. We inspect the house to see if there are any of those walking corpses.

Once the inspection is finished we sit on a couch in silence. I don't mind the throbbing pain in my leg until Brad points out that there is blood leaking through my paints. I lift up my sleeve of pants and see a large gash with blood spewing out of it. At that moment I know I am going to die.

Hot Day...Cool Fun: SOIS School Festival 2019



Photos by Dave Algie

The Sudanese Crisis and the Role of Social Media

by Rena Kawasaki

On June 3rd, the Sudanese army attacked peaceful protesters at a sit-in. The killing was described as a massacre and gained attention worldwide. The event brought to light the corrupt actions of the Sudanese government and the long-term oppression that the people there have been suffering. This was the start of one of the largest social media actions taken worldwide called #BlueforSudan.

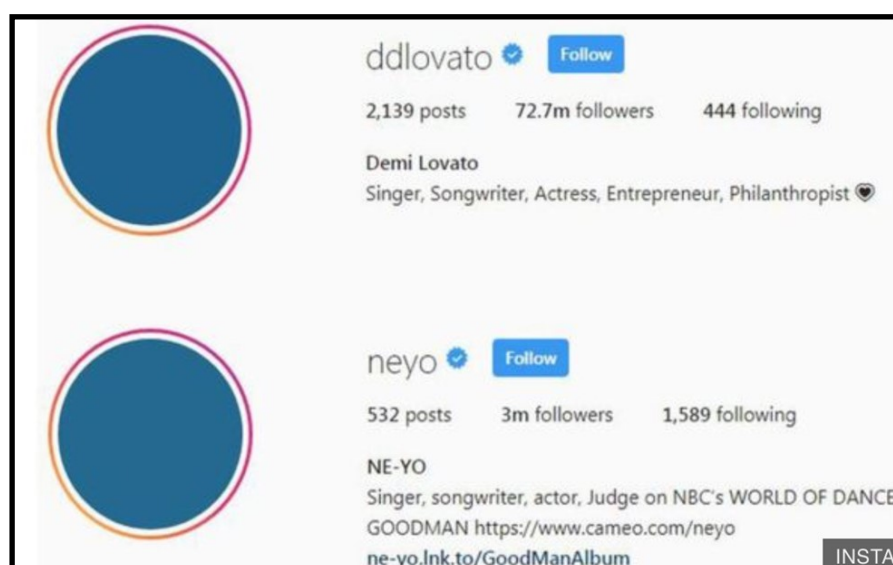
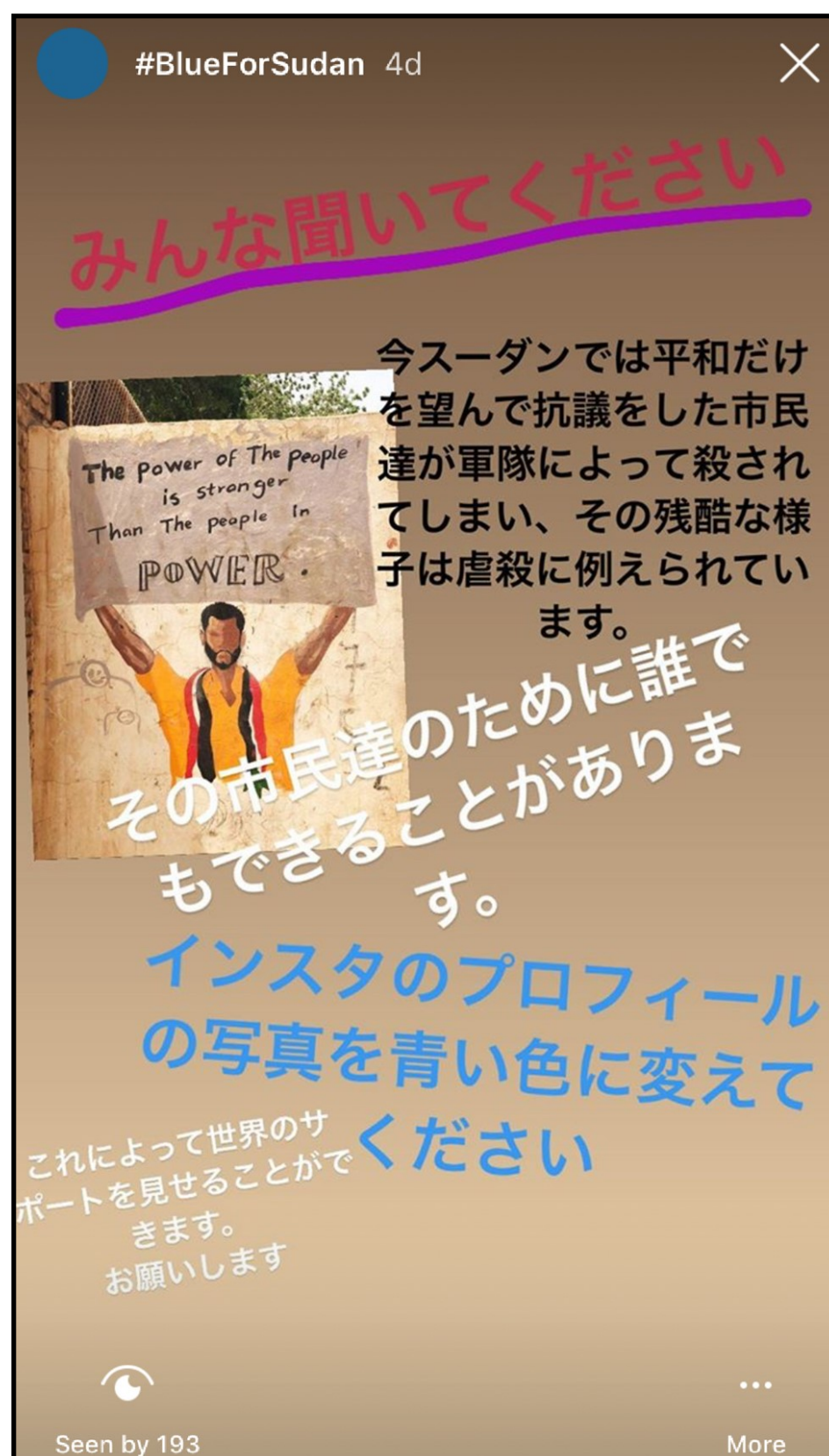
The #BlueforSudan project started with celebrities and social media users worldwide changing their profile pictures blue in order to protest against the corrupt actions taken by the Sudanese government. The color blue originated with Mohammed Hashim Mat-tar, a 26 year-old who was shot to death during the sit-in. His profile photo was the color blue at the time and now represents peace for Sudan.

My experience in taking part in the #BlueforSudan project began the morning of Saturday June 15th, when I saw one of my friends post a link to the news article on her story. I grew curious and started my research. I was shocked to know that the government, who are supposed to protect and nurture their people could unleash the army on its own people. Because of people showing a strong desire to spread this information, the news had spread to most of the student body and the majority had changed their profile pictures to blue. I thought I could spread this information to the Japanese community, considering that half of my followers are from my Japanese Theatre School. I did my best to give a summary of the whole event and translated the summary into Japanese. I asked them to show their support by changing their profile photos and immediately, one of my friends responded by changing her profile and the rest followed. My friends from school were spreading a post where one repost would pay for one meal, and I decided to contribute to that sharing as well.

After noon, it was revealed that the article we were sharing had no intention of donating meals and that they had lied to get more followers. I believe this showed me the terrifying dark side of service on social media, where someone will take advantage of the current events to gain popularity or followers. I believe I just have to accept the fact that some people will take advantage of people and I will have to trust no one until it is confirmed that the source is true.

I usually don't approve of action taken on social media, or Social Media Service as I like to call it, because I feel like people are trying to take credit for the action that is taken in real life, and they limit themselves to what happens on their screens, not taking real action. However, this social media experience has changed my life. Social media as a word often has a negative connotation because of cyber bullying and fake news but from this experience, I have learned that our generation has been wasting and abusing this tool when they could be using it to share information and make sense of the global community that we live in. According to an interview conducted by BBC news, even the protesters are experiencing the surreal experience that is completely different from protests before because of the global response and support caused by social media.

I hope this action will lead to more improved, helpful and productive usage of social media by our generation and will result in more global unity to help fight the corrupt actions taken in the world.



Talking TOK

with Dave Algie



When I was fifteen I proved that math doesn't make any sense.

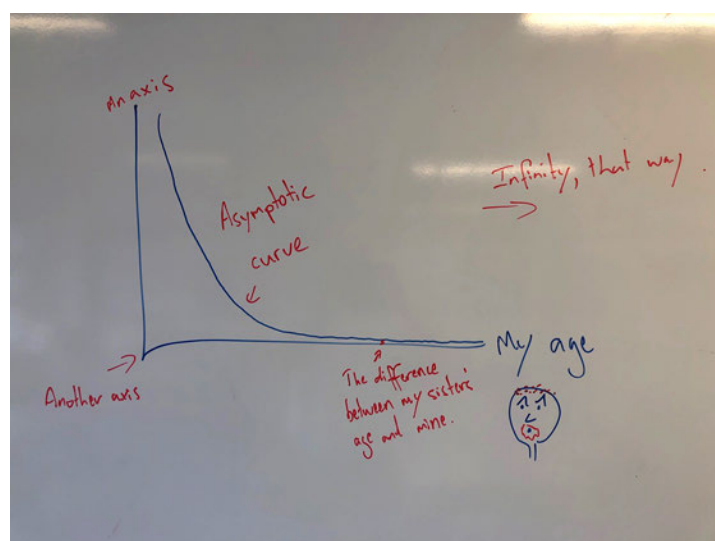
It came out of a chat I had with my sister, who is ten years younger than me, so she was five at the time. She and I were having a conversation and she said something cute about how one day her age would catch up to mine. I thought that was hilarious. She was only a third of my age! How cute that she thought she would catch up to me! Why, when I was twenty, she would be ten years behind me! Just a half of my age!

Wait! What?

I started to run the numbers through my head. When I got to thirty, my sister would be two thirds of my age. When I got to forty, she would be three quarters of my age. Yikes! Her age was catching up to mine. Yet she would always be ten years younger.

Obviously, I am an intellectual. So I realized I had stumbled on an inner contradiction that proved math makes no sense and should therefore not be studied. I told my math teacher, "I have stumbled on an inner contradiction that proves math makes no sense and should therefore not be studied". My math teacher ignored me. He held an unfair assumption about me that I had a negative attitude about math and an overinflated sense of my own intellectual prowess.

Because my math teacher wouldn't hear me out, I turned to my French teacher, Madame Whiteman, with the stunning news that I had discovered a fatal flaw that had brought the whole enterprise of mathematics crashing down like a house of cards. Madame Whiteman was pretty smart about all kinds of things, including math, and I remember, vividly, her rolling her eyes at me and saying "That doesn't mean anything, David! It's just an asymptotic curve!" She held up the French lesson for a little bit, and drew an asymptotic curve on the whiteboard. With my photographic memory, and remarkable graphing skills, I can recreate it to this very day.



Voila!

Madame Whiteman explained to me that with my sister being ten years younger than me, assuming we both lived forever, my sister's age would always approach mine as a fraction, but would never "catch up to me". Because of something to do with the nature of infinity that I either didn't get, or wasn't listening to properly, or have forgotten, or all of the above.

But to sum up, I hadn't brought the discipline of math crashing down. I hadn't even been the first person to notice this seeming contradiction in math. Far from it. I had just discovered what millions of people already knew: that math can seem counterintuitive.

Actually, there *are* challenges posed to math as an Area of Knowledge by great minds (alas, not mine). Math is built on "axioms" and "postulates" that are self-evident, seem true, seem to work but cannot necessarily be proven in themselves. Everything we know in math derives originally from these "axioms" and they seem so obviously true, but their certainty isn't a given. The example I can always best remember is, "Parallel lines never intersect". To me, a non-math guy, this seems to be a "fact", or "true by definition" and it makes sense to me that a lot of geometry could be built on this assumption and ones like it. But the mind-blowing thing some of my mathy friends have explained to me is that you can't provide a mathematical proof that this postulate is true.

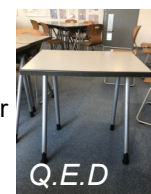
Actually, a geometrist named Bernhard Riemann did an interesting thing. He took postulates like "Parallel lines never intersect" and reversed them. So one of his new postulates was "Parallel lines *always* intersect". Then he tried to build a math system based on these Bizarro postulates. And the new system of geometry *still worked* (Based on some provisions, such as the use of three dimensional space).¹ In other words, you can reverse the axioms we base math on, and it can all still kind of make sense. If this is true, why take axioms -the underlying foundation of math- as being trustworthy at all?

Bertrand Russell was one of many famous mathematicians and philosophers who wanted to show that math as we know it stood up on its own terms, could be trusted, proven as a system. He had a clever approach based around the idea of "sets". He spent years on his attempt to use sets to prove math was consistent and provable, before running into a difficulty that completely threw him. Russell discovered a paradox in his approach. He discovered a hypothetical "set" that at once belonged to itself and at the same time did not (For people who like to torture themselves, this set is "The set of all things that do not belong to themselves"). An analogy is the barber in a village who, "Shaves every man in the village who does not shave himself". Does he shave himself? If he does, he doesn't. And if he doesn't, he does. This seems to be a silly, hypothetical word game, but it works as a metaphor for a very real problem that Russell encountered in trying to use set theory to show math was legitimate. After discovering this paradox (Which is now named after him) Russell was depressed for a long time. He came back later and kept trying to address the problem of showing that math was a consistent, provable system. But my understanding is that no one -including Russell himself- believed that he ever successfully achieved this.²

In fact, another mathematician, Kurt Gödel, showed in the 1930s that an axiomatic system like math can never prove itself free from internal contradiction.³ In simple terms, we can never be certain that math is consistent all the way through, from top to bottom, forever and ever, amen. It's perfectly possible that tomorrow, someone will discover a real contradiction in math that brings the whole system of mathematics down like a falling house of cards (The way I thought I had in 1989). When they heard Gödel's findings, many mathematicians felt a sense of despair. The certainty that math had seemed to hold out hope for would now never be realized.

But is math just a system built on a set of unproven axioms, that could one day be proven inconsistent or untrustworthy? Is math basically just a game that seems to work for now but could be proved unworkable in the future? Many thinkers say so. I have heard some clever people say that math is an invention. A construct people came up with.

I know this might sound odd coming from me, the guy who thought he'd proven math to be a mirage when he was 15 years old, but I now can't quite accept that math is just an imaginary game that only exists in people's minds. When I look at the desk just across from me now, I see, as I expect, that it has four legs.



I believe the "four" is a thing. It's not some cultural construct in my mind. It isn't some imaginary concept that I am imposing on reality, is it? Numbers, and distances, and angles, and patterns, they exist out there, right? You can look at nature and see recurring, mathematical patterns. A honeycomb is made of hexagons. THE SHAPE IS OUT THERE IN NATURE, PEOPLE! It's not an imaginary concept a mathematician derived from some axioms they had on their blackboard.

The debate as to whether math is just a made up game or is an actual representation of external reality is derived from the knowledge question, "Is math invented or discovered?" and goes a long way back in the histories of math and philosophy. It's one of my favorite questions because on each side of the debate the arguments seem so entrenched. I genuinely believe what I wrote in the paragraph above is true. It seems intuitively obvious that mathematical reality actually exists out there in the world around us. But extremely compelling arguments have been made for the other side. What do all the Talking TOK fans out there think? Let us know in the comments section.

What actually isn't up for debate, as far as I am concerned (Take that, Dave Algie in 1989!), is the fact that math is worth studying. It will almost certainly be involved in your job in some way, but more importantly, as I found though the thrill of just "discovering" the asymptotic curve, simply engaging with math- at any level -will make your life richer. That's right folks. Math helps make life worthwhile.

¹ Nineteenth Century Geometry" Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/geometry-19th/#DifGeoRie> First published Mon Jul 26, 1999; substantive revision Thu Oct 20, 2016

²Monk, Ray. *Bertrand Russell: The Spirit of Solitude*. Free Press 1996

³Kurt Gödel" Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/goedel/#ProComThe> First published Tue Feb 13, 2007; substantive revision Fri Dec 11, 2015

Sabers “Sports Shorts”

Coach Heimer, AD

Sabers Athletics Facebook page: “Like,” please.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SabersAthletics/>

SHOUT OUTS

- 1.To the one, the only, the legendary Coach Kralovec: “Once a Saber, *always a Saber.*” *Goodbye, good luck, go Sabers!*
- 2.To new SSCers Mio, Hinata, Tao: welcome aboard!
- 3.To Sabers TV MCs (Fuka, Yuki) and to the SSC on your Sabers awards celebration work: thank you, thank you, thank you – prepared, poised, polished, professional, perfect. MIP? *Most impressive performance.*
- 4.To new and old members of the “SaberStrong” strength club: *Be strong. Sabers Strong!*
- 5.To the recently graduated OIS students: congratulations on your graduation and best wishes. Come “home” and visit often, please.

Sabers athletic awards 2018-19

<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/awards.html>

Congratulations to these deserving Sabers student athletes:

- Yulia Ikumi, SIS graduate: Sabers Outstanding Athlete (female) - *repeat winner*
- Euan Lewis, OIS 10: Sabers Outstanding Athlete (male)
- Leona Yanagi, SIS 12: Dr. Fukuda Scholar Athlete of the Year (female)
- Neo Yokoyama, SIS 12: Dr. Fukuda Scholar Athlete of the Year (male) - *repeat winner*



H: Can you tell us about some favorite memories of coaching at SOIS?

K: I enjoyed the camaraderie with the students and other coaches. Those times when we defeated Canadian Academy were the most enjoyable!

H: Who was your favorite student?

K: Too many to name.

H: Who is your favorite child?

K: Ocean! That’s an easy one! :)

H: What challenges have you faced as an administrator and coach here?

K: Coaching basketball in a freezing (unheated) gymnasium was a new experience for me. I see why the Japanese people are so hardy!

H: What makes SOIS different from other international schools?

K: The idea of an IB World School within the framework of a local foundation and tied so closely to a Japanese-language international school is unique in the international world.

H: If there is one thing you could change at SOIS, what would it be?

K: Regarding the sports program, more games during the week to free up Saturdays for family and relaxing. More access to the Sabers Fitness Floor and swimming pool for community members.

H: How many kinds of sportsmanship are there?

K: Everybody knows this – 3: poor sportsmanship, good sportsmanship, and, say it with me, *Sabers Sportsmanship.*

H: What will you miss most about Japan?

K: Riding my bicycle anywhere relatively safely.

H: You coached with Coach Morioka and with Coach Ray. Did you notice any difference in their coaching styles?

K: One spoke good Japanese and one spoke loudly, and one spoke both!

H: Will the Lions win the NFC North Division this year? Or ever?

K: It is my dream for the Detroit Lions to reach the Super Bowl. It hasn’t happened in the first 52 years of my life. I am hoping to see it before I die.

H: There’s a chance. You are healthy and may live easily another 52 years.

H: Spartans or Wolverines?

K: Spartans! Michigan State is the teachers’ college and more Michigan-based. I cheer for the Wolverines when they are not playing against Sparty!

H: Where are you going now from Japan?

K: Tashkent International School, Uzbekistan. Home of the Owls!

H: Any last words of wisdom for the Sabers?

K: 2 pieces of advice: 1) the team with better physical fitness usually wins in long tournaments, and 2) shoot with higher arc.

Heimer: Wise words from a wise man. Thank you for your many years of service to SOIS, Coach Kralovec, and best wishes in the future.

Kralovec: Go get ‘em!



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“Can I Have a Word?” interview

Peter Heimer, SIS English teacher, Sabers AD and coach

Mr. Bill Kralovec came to SOIS in August 2014 along with his wife, Ms. Nadia, and their three children Owen, Oliver, and Ocean, as the OIS head of school, and since then has served admirably as middle school and high school basketball coach, basketball referee, baseball umpire, elementary baseball club coach, and AISA homestay host extraordinaire, playing a major role in the Sabers sports scene. For this edition of “Can I have a word?” I recently sat down with Coach K and asked him: Can I have a word?

Coach Heimer: Coach Kralovec, can I have a word?

Coach Kralovec: Yeah, but make it quick. I have three admin meetings and an elementary parent-teacher conference to attend.

Heimer: Coach, you came to Osaka after previous international school stints in Serbia, Venezuela, Australia, Bolivia and Colombia, right?

Kralovec: Right.

H: Impressive résumé. What brought you to Japan?

K: I think it was a Boeing 747. Also, I was interested in the 2 Schools Together ethos of SOIS.



Sabers Sports



"We Were All Working as a Team"

An interview with Sabers High School Girls Softball Players Do Hee Kwon and Erin Jung

Do Hee and Erin played for the Sabers High School Girls Softball team for the first time this year. Tango caught up with them and asked them some tough questions.

Now the season is over, how do you think it went?

Do Hee: I think it went pretty well because compared to the beginning of the season everybody in the team has improved with our batting skill and with our defensive skill. Although the JV couldn't win any of the games in the WJAA tournament we were able to have a really close game with one of the varsity teams from Nagoya.

Erin: I think it went well since almost all of our team members improved and in the end, we were communicating better and learning to play with each other. At the start of the season, we lost badly to all of the other teams but at the final tournament, we were closer to beating them.

What were some of your favorite moments in softball this season?

Do Hee: My favorite moment was at the end of the WJAA tournament where we took tons of pictures with everybody in the team. Also, the Marist team and our team started a dance battle on the field which was really fun.

Erin: My favorite moment was the last match at WJAA. I think that everyone on the team did well and we improved all together as a team.

As new players, did you learn anything from the more experienced team members?

Do Hee: I was able to learn new skills as the first base from two other experienced players from upper grade and they taught me to catch the ball more accurately and faster.

Erin: I learned a lot from the pitchers from the varsity team since at the start of the season, I was an outfielder but then I was told to become a pitcher which I was new to.

What does the team need to work on next season?

Do Hee: I think the team needs to work on throwing faster and accurately because I have realized that the winning teams from other schools throw faster and lower than how we throw which it is easier to get an out.

Erin: I think that we have to work on our throwing skills since all the other schools were able to throw much faster and stronger.

Q: Do you plan on playing Sabers Girls Softball next year?

Do Hee: I would love to but this year I couldn't go to many of the practices in time because of the retests I had to do after school so if my academic works aren't too time-consuming then I will definitely join.

Erin: I will join because it also helped me get my stamina up and learn new skills. I also made a lot of friends in SIS since we were all working as a team.



Photo courtesy of Noboru Hikosaka

A Rookie Saber Looks Back on a Year in Sport

by Eojin Lee

This year, I played volleyball, basketball, and soccer as a Sabers high school "rookie". I felt nervous because I didn't know if I was going to improve in these 3 sports throughout the year. Last year I was rewarded with the Boys Outstanding Athlete of the year in middle school so I was worried about whether I could keep up those standards in high school.

I enjoyed basketball the most because I felt myself wanting to improve more during the off season and next season. I think I improved in basketball the most since I put the most time into it and felt a lot of passion towards it.

There were some disappointments in the year such as being 2nd place in the WJAA for basketball and getting 3rd place in high school soccer WJAA and AISA.

A funny thing this year was watching everyone improve around me. Achyuta and Harry touching the rim got me really hyped and gave me chills that they could be dunking next year.

There were some other funny moments through the course of the year. A SIS junior didn't expect to play so he didn't bring his uniform. But he felt like he wanted to play so he just borrowed my uniform and went to play which was funny.

A great thing about Sabers sport is that it is truly two schools coming together as one. I have friendships with the SIS students through every single Sabers sport I participate in. There are friendships that are close and friendships that are not close, more casual. Your friends give you positive and negative feedback to make your individual skills, and the team's strength grow.

I will play the 3 sports I played this year and possibly baseball, if I feel like it, next year. My goals are getting championships in all 3 of the sports I participated this year and if possible winning a Most Improved Player award at the end of the season.



SIS/OIS Player Chemistry Helps Sabers Baseball to "6-peat"

Euan Lewis interviewed by Konatsu Yasuda

The Sabers Baseball team won a sixth WJAA championship in a row. Part of their success is due to the powerful pitcher/catcher axis of **Euan Lewis** and **Keita Sasaki**. Special guest Tango Reporter **Konatsu Yasuda** interviewed Euan about the partnership and the successful season.

How do you think the season went?

Euan: Well the season went well. It was obviously a success, with us winning our "#sixpeat" WJAA championship. It was fun to be a part of that. And on top of that, I liked that it was a short season.

Wait, why was it good that the season was short season?

Euan: Well I play a lot of sport year round. I play volleyball, soccer and basketball as well so it gets pretty tiring. The shorter season gives me a break and a rest. The break I'm on right now is the first break I have had since September. I like sport, and I like baseball. It's fun. But the break is good.

What was the most disappointing thing about the season?

Euan: Well nothing was disappointing, but the WJAA tournament had some games that dragged on for no reason and could have been cut shorter so that things could be on schedule.



You want to play baseball again next year, right? What do you want to achieve in baseball next year?

Euan: Well this year, I was behind Keita Sasaki in all the statistics. That was pretty frustrating. So next year, I really want to be top of the table across the team in all my stats.

Do you see yourself as primarily a pitcher or a catcher?

Euan: I am definitely a catcher. I have never been a pitcher.

But you pitched some important innings in WJAA?

Euan: yeah, but I specialize in catching. Definitely.

Wait, does the catcher make those funny little signals with his fingers to the pitcher? It looks so cool!



Euan (Laughing): Yes, it's a signal to the pitcher what balls the catcher thinks the pitcher should throw. Keita (the team's first pitcher) only really has three pitches he likes to throw, and mainly he likes to just throw a straight ball or the curve. I'm showing him which one he should throw and whether he should throw slightly to the left or right, or higher or lower.

Why is the catcher making suggestions on what to throw? Is it that you're reading how the batter is standing?

Euan: Well, that's partly it. But the pitcher shakes his head if he disagrees. Basically, Keita just shakes his head until I suggest what he wanted to throw all along (Laughing).

You're mentioning Keita a lot. Is he the guy you have been playing with the most?

Euan: Yes. I have been playing alongside him since sixth grade (*Euan is in tenth grade*). We definitely know each other's play.

How will you feel, knowing that this has been Keita's last season?

Euan: Well, we've been very competitive with each other, but we're good friends, so I'll miss his contributions to the team. We'll always be friends though.

As you say, the Sabers have won six years in a row. Is there anything the team still needs to work on?

Euan: Well, things have been going pretty smoothly. We weren't always 100% accurate in the field, so there are still some things to work on.

Sons of Light came out strongly against the Sabers in the WJAA final. You ended up winning 4-2. Were you nervous?

Euan: We were actually fairly confident throughout, but yes, Sons of Light played well.

How do things look for next year?

Euan: Well it might be a challenge now that some of our really good players including Keita have gone, but I still think things are on track. We still have an excellent coach in Sagara sensei, and a lot of good players coming through.

Tango congratulates the Sabers baseball team and wishes them well for next season.



Photos by Dave Algie