

# SOIS Educator

MARCH 11, 2019



*This year's performances of Shrek: The Musical were spectacular. You can see photos from the event and the program using the QR codes on page 4. Thanks to everyone who supported the event!*

## *Views from the Head of School, BILL KRALOVEC*

The SOIS community is celebrating International Women's Day (March 8) all this week with a series of events. There are displays and featured books honoring female artists and authors, a student survey eliciting their views on gender issues, and a discussion group on Friday. The theme this year is "Better the Balance" and it got me thinking about gender balance here at SOIS.

Teaching is a profession dominated by women. A recent report by the US Department of Education highlighted 77% of 3.8 million teachers in American public schools are women. I would guess that roughly the percentage of females in private schools and all schools worldwide. Why is this so? Perhaps the low salaries of teachers (average \$55,000 base) as compared to other professions, or maybe teaching is traditionally regarded as a nurturing vocation, more suited for mothers or women.

In looking at the OIS faculty gender balance, we are 60% female overall. I am proud that in secondary school, middle school and high school, the percentage of female teachers has risen from 23% a couple of years ago to over 50% this year. We are predominately female in elementary school and are looking to improve the balance.

Although most teachers are women, the percentage of female principals and heads of school is lower than expected. A 2007 study by the National Center of Education showed only 56% of elementary school principals, 26% secondary school principals and 13% of superintendents (roughly equivalent to head of school) are women. Why so low? Many heads of schools come from the ranks of high school principals, which feature more men. I see this trend in Japan as well. In the Kwansei Gakuin Foundation leadership meetings I attend, the representatives are overwhelmingly men. I believe it is good for schools to have more diversity in leadership and would like to see training programs specifically for women in educational leadership.

In the SOIS senior leadership team, we have a better gender balance than most schools. SIS head of school Mayumi Ito, SIS principal Fran Namba and OIS principal Carolyne Marshall, gives our campus a strong female perspective at the top. OIS recently appointed Ingela Summerton to lead our Primary Years Programme (PYP) curriculum.

Many of the teachers this week are promoting gender balance and equity for all in their classes. It is our goal for all of our students to be aware of gender equity and balance and practice it in their lives and as they progress in their careers.

*from the MS, HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM*

By the conversations I hear around the school, the students are excited for the Spring Camps. You should be receiving final updates on your child’s camps and the business office is open for payments. I would also like to thank you for supporting the activity. Camps lead right into spring break so I hope that everyone has a good vacation.

Over the break, you will receive notification that report cards have been posted to ManageBac. For grades 6 to 10, these can be seen as progress reports of how the students are doing in their classes at this point in time. In 11 and 12 they are an indication of how the student has done in the current trimester. In either case, there still is another trimester for the students to improve and build upon what they have learned so far in the school year.

There are a few dates to keep in mind as we move into this final trimester. The first day of classes after spring break is Tuesday, April 2. From April 16 to 19 we are planning a career week with members of the PTA. Look for more information soon but please contact us if you are interested in being involved. On April 22, grade 12 students will start study leave so that they can get ready for their IB Diploma exams in May. Teachers will still be available during their normal class times to answer questions and help students review. There will be a week off of school starting on April 29 because of the longer Golden Week due to the Ceremony of Accession. And finally, on May 6, a day on which many parents will not have to work, we will be having a Class Visitation Day in which you may visit your children’s middle and high school classes. Mark your calendar. We hope to see you here on that day.

**Important Dates for the Next Academic Year**



**2019**



August	22	Orientation for all G11 DP students: 9:00am @3F Conference Room
	23	Orientation for all G12 DP students: 9:00am @3F Conference Room
	23	MS/HS Orientation Day
	26	Fall Trimester Begins
	27	ES Classes Begin
October	17-18	ES Planning Days: <i>no classes for ES only</i>
	22	Enthronement of Emperor: <i>no school</i>
	21-26	Autumn Break: <i>no classes</i>
November	04	Culture Day: <i>school in session</i>
December	19	Winter Holiday Begins: <i>no classes</i>

**2020**



January	07	Classes begin
March	13	OIS Winter Trimester ends
April	06	OIS Spring Trimester begins
June	30	OIS End-of-School: <i>half day of school</i>

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*from the ES Principal, CAROLYN MARSHALL*

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From 18 – 22 February we celebrated our fourth annual Language Week in the elementary school. Coinciding with the UN Mother Tongue Day on February 21, a committee of teachers and the Actioneers designed and led activities to help everyone share and enjoy the rich diversity of 16 languages our community uses daily. This year the theme was “Play and Games”. Language week is a great community event, developing organically year after year, designed in large part by students and involving many parents.

The six student *Actioneers* demonstrated impressive creative leadership. They composed lyrics for our multilingual song which clearly encapsulated our mission:

*This is the way we get along, learning languages.*

*This is the way we make new friends, learning languages.*

*This is the way we learn much more, learning languages.*

They updated the language survey which every PYP student and teacher completed and then analyzed the data. It is remarkable to see the diversity of languages spoken within our community, and discovering the home languages each other spoke opened up other interesting cultural avenues to explore. Students were able to appreciate each other’s diverse backgrounds but also the commonalities that we all share.

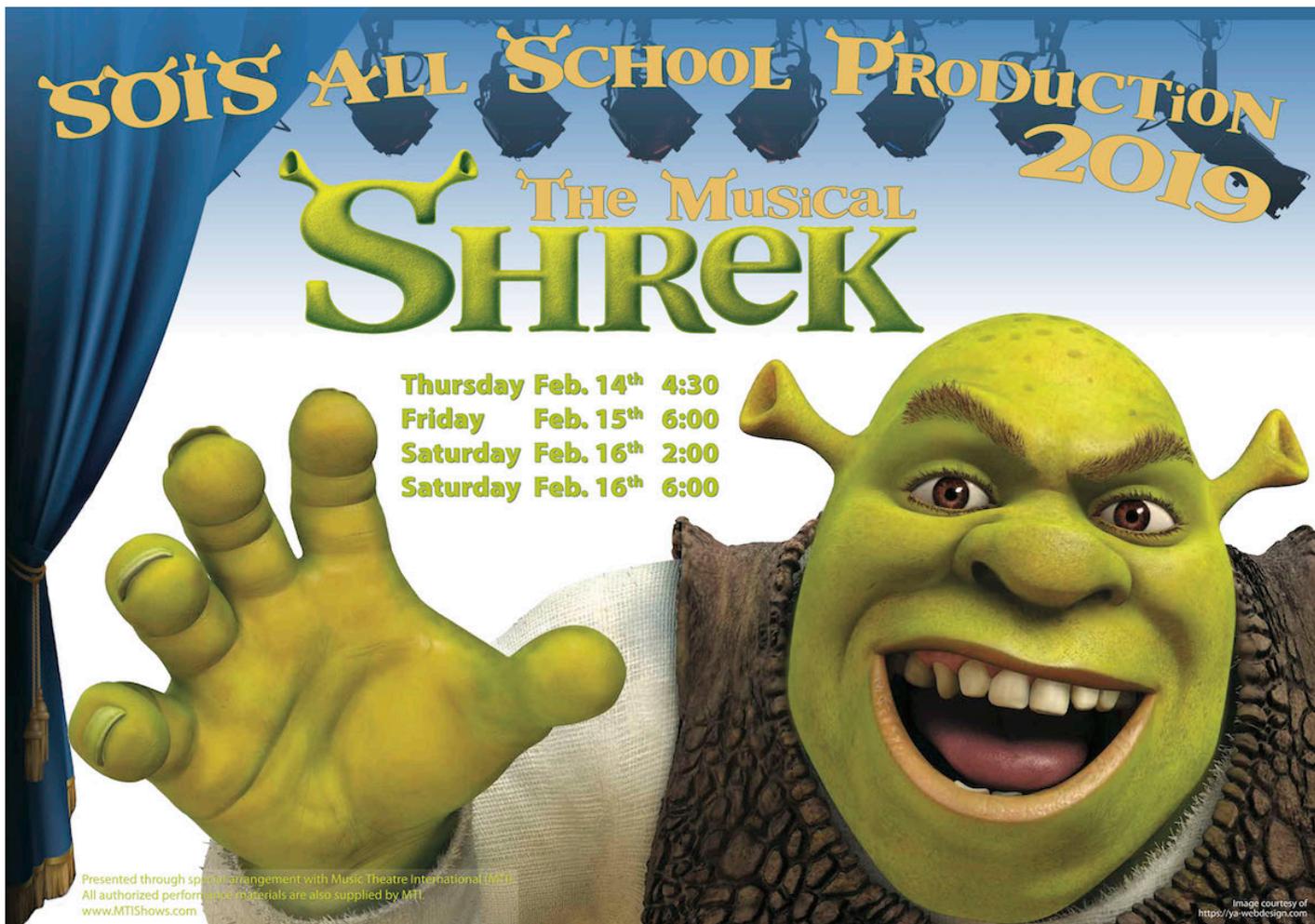
The *Actioneers* used the survey results to organize groupings for the singing of our multilingual song. Younger students were able to learn the lyrics in their home language whilst students from grades 2 to 5 were able to learn a new language of their choice. Many parents helped by translating the song’s lyrics and also came in to sing with their children during the assembly on Wednesday 20 February. We enjoyed a musical tour of the globe as students proudly shared their home languages. A video of this event can be seen on each class blog in the parent-school information section.

Each day we had a focus language that the *Actioneers* chose and provided useful phrases to practice. Many connections were made by students as they noticed similarities in languages as visitors shared their knowledge, stories and games. The week concluded with everyone playing in a tournament of janken – rock, paper, scissors. We discovered this game is played across the globe and given different names. A big thank you to all parents who came into classes to share their languages and help with activities.

*Clockwise from top right:  
song in French, janken tournament,  
song in Malay*



# All School Production 2019



The All School Production is one of the signature events of the SOIS school year. Students, teachers and parents look back fondly and always regard ASP as one of the highlights of their experience as a community member. This year's performances of Shrek: The Musical were spectacular. You can see photos from the event and the program at the QR codes below. You can also purchase a DVD from the school. Thanks to everyone who supported the event.



Please use this QR code to access rehearsal and behind-the-scenes photos



Please use this QR code to access the ASP programme

# K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

# CEZARS™

## KITCHEN

### March

1	Fri	Pulled Pork Fajitas, White Rice, Sweet Corn Salad, Spicy Bean Soup
4	Mon	BBQ Chicken, Parsley Butter Potatoes, Seasonal Green Vegetables, Clear Vegetable Soup
5	Tue	Shoyu Grilled Chicken, White Rice, Macaroni Salad, Tomato & Basil Soup
6	Wed	Braised Spicy Pork, White Rice, Lettuce Cups, Hot & Sour Soup
7	Thu	Gyudon, White Rice, Coleslaw, Broccoli Soup
8	Fri	Beef Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Mixed Salad, Lentil Soup
11	Mon	Five Spice Roast Chicken, Fried Rice, Green Vegetable Salad, Soy Bean Sprout Soup
12	Tue	Katsutoji, White Rice, Sesame Green Beans, Barley Soup
13	Thu	Chicken & Mushroom Pie, Creamy Mash Potato, Minted Peas, Potato & Leek Soup
14		— Elementary School 3-Way Conferences: No ES Classes —
15	Fri	— Elementary School Creativity Day —
16 ~		— Winter Break —

Cezars Kitchen also produces three menus every month for Middle and High School students; an **International Menu**, a **Japanese Menu**, and a **Vegan, Vegetarian Menu**. You can find PDF copies of these menus [here](#).

The image displays three overlapping calendar grids for March 2019. The first grid is the 'International Menu', the second is the 'Japanese Menu', and the third is the 'Vegan & Vegetarian Menu'. Each grid lists menu items for each day of the week, with some days marked as 'No School'. The 'Vegan & Vegetarian Menu' grid also includes the text 'SENRI & OSAKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS' and a note at the bottom: 'Cezars Kitchen does not use nuts in our recipes. Menu may change depending on ingredient availability.'

## School Calendar

### March

- 6 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting  
9:00am @3F Conference Room
- 8 OIS Grade 5 Camp
- 8-9 WJAA HS Soccer: Boys @CA, Girls @YIS
- 9 Scholastic Admissions Test (SAT)
- 10-16 OIS Grade 11 Service Trip to Cebu, Philippines
- 13 Elementary: 3-way Conferences  
(classes end at 11:30am)
- 13-15 OIS MS/HS Spring Camps
- 14 Elementary 3-way Conferences (no classes)
- 15 OIS Elementary Creativity Day
- 15 SOIS Winter Trimester Ends

### April

- 2 SOIS Spring Trimester Begins (classes resume)
- 5-6 WJAA High School Badminton @CA
- 6 Sabers HS Futsal @SOIS  
HS Girls Softball @Marist
- 10 OIS PTA meeting  
9:00am @3F Conference Centre
- 11-14 AISA HS Soccer: Boys @YIS, Girls @KIS
- 12 PTA Tofu Making Workshop
- 13 Community field trip to Maishima Incineration Plant
- 19 OIS PTA Grades 4-5 Parent-Student Dance
- 22 OIS Grade 12 Study Leave Begins
- 23 Spring Music Recital  
4:00pm @3F Conference Room

## SOIS Sabers Sports and Activities

### Sabers Sports updates from Activities Director, PETER HEIMER

#### Sabers Website

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

#### Sabers Facebook page

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

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER SEASON II ENDS

The Sabers winter season II for middle school student-athletes concludes last weekend with the season-ending WJAA tournaments, [girls basketball at Marist Brothers](#) and [boys soccer at Canadian Academy](#), both in Kobe. The girls were crowned champions and the boys had some close games and finished in fourth and second places in the two divisions. More information about the tournaments in the next Educator. Next up for the middle school Sabers, the spring season starting in April: girls softball and boys volleyball.

#### RECENT EVENTS: AISA

AISA results: girls basketball V 3rd and JV 4th, boys basketball 4th, math mania 3rd

Over 40 Sabers students participated in [four Association of International Schools in Asia \(AISA\) events](#) in Osaka, Yokohama, and Seoul. SOIS hosted the 2019 AISA girls basketball tournament. The boys basketball team played in Yokohama. And the math mania competition and leadership conference were held in Seoul.

#### SABERS SWIMMING

With no other WJAA schools with a swim team, the Sabers swimmers do not get many opportunities to compete, and when they do they have to travel. In early February the Sabers, with Coach Bertman and Coach Kano, traveled to St. Mary's International School in Tokyo where they competed in the [Kanto Plains championship meet](#). OIS 9th grader Tadayoshi Kamegai finished 3rd in his age division.



Tadayoshi (left): Kanto Plains 3rd place swimmer

#### CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SEASONS

The Sabers soccer and badminton teams are going strong. The badminton squad, coached by Mr. Avery and Ms. Ishiuchi-Ray, recently hosted the annual [Sabers Invitational "Badminton Bash."](#) The girls soccer team, coached single-handedly by Kono-sensei, and the boys, coached by Mr. Entwistle and Mr. Nikolic, are gearing up for the WJAA and AISA tournaments.

#### SABERS TV

Do you know that Sabers athletics has its very own television show? Every other Wednesday morning, Sabers TV is broadcast to all classrooms via the SOIS in-school television network. Student anchors, interviewers, camera operators, and control board technicians work together to put on a show that announces Sabers results and conducts interviews with coaches and players. With the technical expertise of Mr. Frater and Mr. Sala, and with minimal interference from Mr. Heimer, the students organize, write, rehearse, promote, produce, and broadcast the show...and have lots of fun doing so. They work hard and provide an informative and entertaining service to the Sabers community. View photos and past shows on the Sabers TV webpage. <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sabers-tv.html>.



Sabers TV personalities

Thank you

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Sabers activities program. Please contact the AD anytime you need help. Please visit the AD office, room A-240, near the business office. Contact at [pheimer@senri.ed.jp](mailto:pheimer@senri.ed.jp) or at 072-727-2137.

# Kwansei Gakuin Foundation News

Reverend Musubi Tabuchi, Chancellor of Kwansei Gakuin Foundation is retiring at the end of this month after a lifetime of service to the foundation. He is the 16th Chancellor and also serves as head of the KG Elementary School and as our Campus Supervisor. He always found time in his busy schedule to visit our school on a weekly basis.

Reverend Tabuchi was instrumental in guiding SOIS to fit into the Kwansei Gakuin Foundation framework since the merger in 2011. He led us with an open mind and a kind, giving heart that always sets everyone at ease. Musubi is committed to international education and modeled it with his opinions and support of our campus in our leadership meetings. His daughter, Hiroko, a New York Times journalist, came to speak to our students last year.

He is from Ashiya and has bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees in theology from Kwansei Gakuin University. He also did post-graduate work at Kings College in London. He is an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ in Japan and is a third-generation Christian minister. His grandmother was part of the first group of women ministers to be ordained in Japan!

We will miss his international perspective, wisdom and inspirational words that guided many of us. On behalf of the students, faculty, staff and parents of OIS, THANK YOU for your dedication to the Senri and Osaka International Schools of Kwansei Gakuin. You always made us feel that "We are Kwansei!"



*Reverend Musubi Tabuchi, Chancellor of Kwansei Gakuin Foundation*

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