

SOIS Educator

OCTOBER 21, 2019



The Grade 11 and 12 DP Visual Arts classes went on a trip to Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art last September 26, 2019 to view the Yamamura collection. See page 3 for more details.

SOIS in the Global Community: Climate March

On a grey and misty Friday, September 20th afternoon a committed crew of caring SOIS citizens traveled to the Osaka City Public Hall to join the Amnesty International organized Climate March. This was part of a global movement of climate action events that occurred between Sept 20th-27th inspired by 16 year old, Swedish born, climate activist Greta Thunberg. Students in the new Gr. 11 IB Environmental Systems and Societies class were inspired by Greta's influence and researched where events connected to this global movement would be happening locally. Estimates of over 4 million climate activists (mostly students) participated in these global events making it the largest single protest for climate action from students that has ever occurred.

SOIS was well represented at this peaceful march with students, staff members, graduates and parents all in attendance. The march through the Osaka downtown lasted approximately one hour and empowered people to come together as a community to show their concern in regards to the consequences of climate change. Through creatively produced protest signs and artwork, united voices in song, or simply being present and actively participating to add to the size of the crowd the common

objective was to emphasize to global leaders that the need for action on climate change is now. SOIS has a mission statement to develop "informed, caring, and creative individuals who contribute to a global community." and our active participation in this march was a demonstration of the commitment within the school to bring this mission to life.

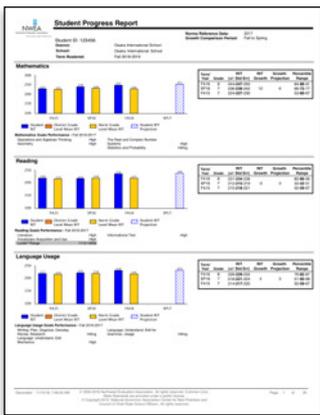


20-27 September 2019 saw a record 7.6 million people take to the streets and strike for climate action. The biggest climate mobilisation in history. Around the world, in big cities and small villages, millions of people joined hands and raised their voices in defense of the climate.

from the MS, HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM

With Back to School Night a month ago, Sports Day finished and MAP and PSAT testing happening this past week, the school year is in full swing. There has also been a lot happening in the classrooms and the first official progress report of the year was sent out. It is a lot to keep up with!

Following Back to School Night, I sent out a [parent survey](#) to get your feedback. I have heard from a number of parents but will leave it open a bit longer in case you haven't had a chance to fill it in yet. Your feedback helps us improve the evening so if you haven't had a chance to give yours, [click here](#).



I also recently sent the parents a message about MAP testing. This test, which is from the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is given to students across the United States and in international schools worldwide. It helps us monitor the students' academic progress and

also gives us an indication of how our students compare to students in other schools. There is more information in my email or you can also look at the parent tool kit on [the NWEA website](#).

You should have also received a message about progress reports on [ManageBac](#). The purpose of this report wasn't to share grades but to give you an indication of how your child has approached their learning at the start of the year. Are they developing



good study habits? Prepared for class? etc. If you are having difficulty with the report or having trouble finding it, please contact me and we'll get you some assistance.

I also recently surveyed the MYP students to gather information about their approach to school and what is working for them and what support they might need. As is the case in most international schools and in local schools in many countries, our students report a high level of stress. In assembly time, we talked about the best ways to manage stress and looked at [this video](#) from Kelly McGonigal, who has been working to help people take a positive approach to stress. Stress is unavoidable so rather than trying to eliminate it, we should be looking at ways to manage it and use it for our benefit. I encourage you to watch the video or at least discuss stress and anxiety with your child and how they are managing it. Students can generally manage their stress well and we are working to give them the tools to do so. Still, all students will occasionally feel overwhelmed by stress. Our children may think they are the only one who goes through this but all students have issues at times. If your child does start feeling it is too much, please be there to listen and communicate with us so we can work together to help them through it.

The next big event to look out for is the Parent Teacher Conferences on November 20. More details will come out closer to the event but please block some time in the afternoon for you to come meet your children's teachers.

OIS Parent Coffee Morning @ Cezars Cafe: 23 Oct, 8.45-9.45am

from the Head of School MYLES JACKSON

OIS parents are invited to a coffee morning in our school cafe. If you are available, please come and meet other OIS parents. It is also a chance for me to meet more of you, and to give you a brief update (5-10 mins) about new developments in the school. I will also answer any questions you might have, and very much look forward to seeing you there.



IB DP: Visual Arts

The Grade 11 and 12 DP Visual Arts classes went on a trip to Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art last September 26, 2019 to view the Yamamura collection. The students were treated to a sizeable collection of the Japanese version of modern art. Not surprisingly they were quite impressed with the mechanical aspect of the 3-d pieces and, perhaps, the huge amount of paint on the abstract impasto paintings.



The Visual Arts students are encouraged to view exhibitions to expose them to different views and explore different ways of expressing ideas visually. They look into artist use of media and techniques as well as the meaning, purpose and context behind the pieces. This helps to prepare them better for their own art-making and exhibition at the end of the course.

Approaches to Teaching: Differentiation

from the Head of School MYLES JACKSON

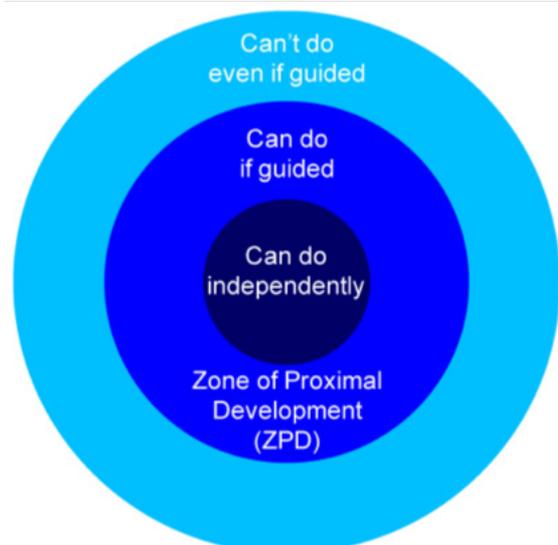
Are you in your Zone of Proximal Development?

If you are, that's a very good place to be! At OIS this month, all teachers are working together to focus on 'differentiation'. This is the process of ensuring that each student has learning to do that is at the right level for them: not too hard, not too easy, but just the right level of challenge.

When we feel like we are being stretched to learn, but also that it is achievable with support, then we are in our *Zone of Proximal Development*. Many educators believe this is the zone in which the best learning takes place. ZPD is a simple concept, but it also takes a lot of practice for teachers to try and get that balance just right for every student. They are all different and so we usually call the process 'differentiation'.

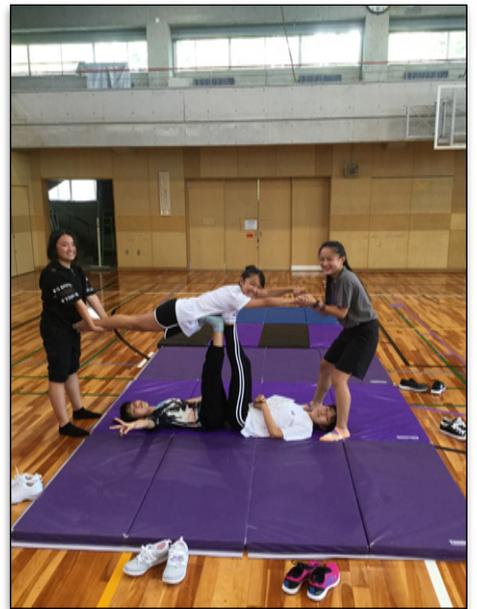
At OIS, we also want our parents and students to know more about these ideas too. For example, in the Elementary School, many of our students now refer to the ZPD as their 'stretch zone' and they are becoming more

able to identify which tasks or activities are in that zone. If you would like to know more, [this short video](#) about the Zone of Proximal Development gives a good description of the concept as originally developed by Lev Vygotsky back in the 1930s. Interestingly, the idea of ZPD has not changed much since then and some form of it is now embedded in most education programmes around the world.



MYP: PE

In MYP Middle School Gymnastics, students are learning about important collaboration skills. Their summative task is a Gymnastics performance that is created by a group of 4-5 students and in that process they are facing many challenges. Developing a routine and creating solutions for challenges like different height, different weight and different language skills is not an easy job. The collaboration that is happening in the process of making the routine requires everyone to play a certain role. Here is how we do it in PE.



K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu



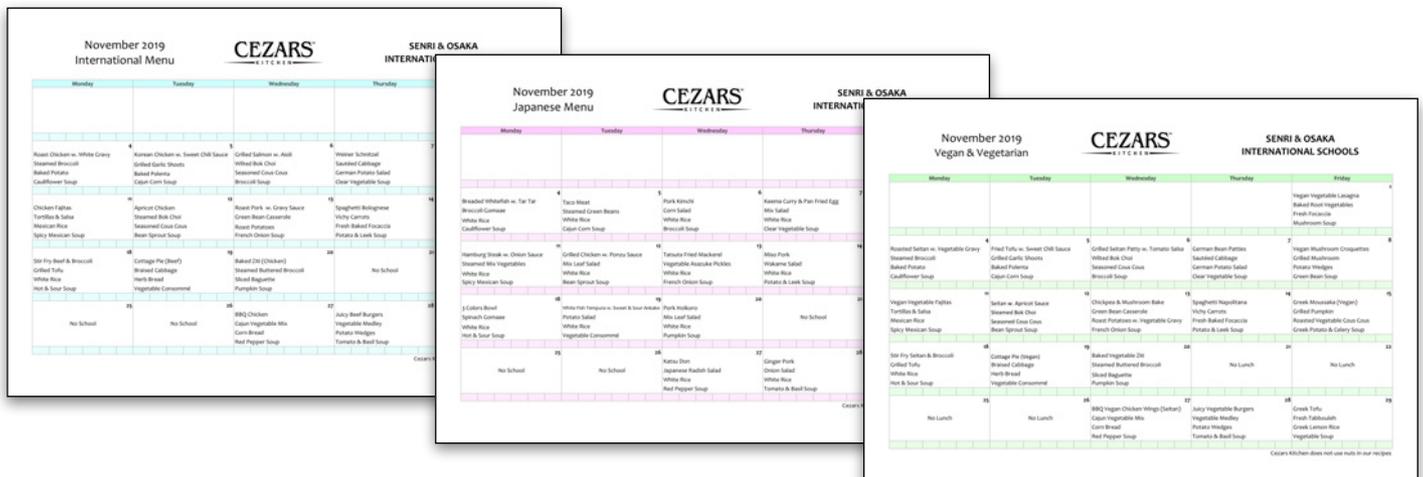
October

- 18 Greek Moussaka (Beef), Grilled Pumpkin, Roasted Vegetable Cous Cous, Greek Potato & Celery Soup
- 21 Stir Fry Beef & Broccoli, Grilled Tofu, White Rice, Hot & Sour Soup
- 22 *No School*
- 23 Baked Ziti (Chicken), Steamed Buttered Broccoli, Sliced Baguette, Pumpkin Soup
- 24 Miso Fried Pork & Vegetables, Onion Salad, White Rice, Celery Soup
- 25 Cottage Pie (Beef), Braised Cabbage, Herb Bread, Vegetable Consomme
- 28 Apricot Chicken, Steamed Bok Choi, Seasoned Cous Cous, Bean Sprout Soup
- 29 Tomato & Bacon Penne, Steamed Mixed Vegetables, Baguette Bread, Modenese Soup
- 30 BBQ Chicken, Cajun Vegetable Mix, Corn Bread, Red Pepper Soup
- 31 Ginger Pork, Steamed Snap Peas, White Rice, Tomato & Basil Soup

November

- 1 Beef Lasagna, Baked Root Vegetables, Fresh Focaccia, Mushroom Soup
- 4 Roast Chicken w. White Gravy, Steamed Broccoli, Baked Potato, Cauliflower Soup
- 5 Taco Meat, Steamed Green Beans, White Rice, Cajun Corn Soup
- 6 Grilled Salmon w. Aioli, Wilted Bok Choi, Seasoned Cous Cous, Broccoli Soup
- 7 Keema Curry & Pan Fried Egg, Mix Salad, White Rice, Clear Vegetable Soup
- 8 Beef Patty w. BBQ Sauce, Grilled Mushroom, Potato Wedges, Green Bean Soup
- 11 Hamburg Steak w. Onion Sauce, Steamed Mix Vegetables, White Rice, Spicy Mexican Soup
- 12 Grilled Chicken w. Ponzu Sauce, Mix Leaf Salad, White Rice, Bean Sprout Soup
- 13 Roast Pork w. Gravy Sauce, Green Bean Casserole, Roast Potatoes, French Onion Soup
- 14 Miso Pork, Wakame Salad, White Rice, Potato & Leek Soup
- 15 Greek Moussaka (Beef), Grilled Pumpkin, Roasted Vegetable Cous Cous, Greek Potato & Celery Soup
- 18 Stir Fry Beef & Broccoli, Grilled Tofu, White Rice, Hot & Sour Soup
- 19 White Fish Tempura w. Sweet & Sour Ankake, Potato Salad, White Rice, Vegetable Consommé
- 20 Baked Ziti (Chicken), Steamed Buttered Broccoli, Sliced Baguette, Pumpkin Soup
- 21-26 *No School*
- 27 BBQ Chicken, Cajun Vegetable Mix, Corn Bread, Red Pepper Soup
- 28 Ginger Pork, Onion Salad, White Rice, Tomato & Basil Soup
- 29 Greek Chicken, Fresh Tabbouleh, Greek Lemon Rice, Vegetable Soup

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](#).

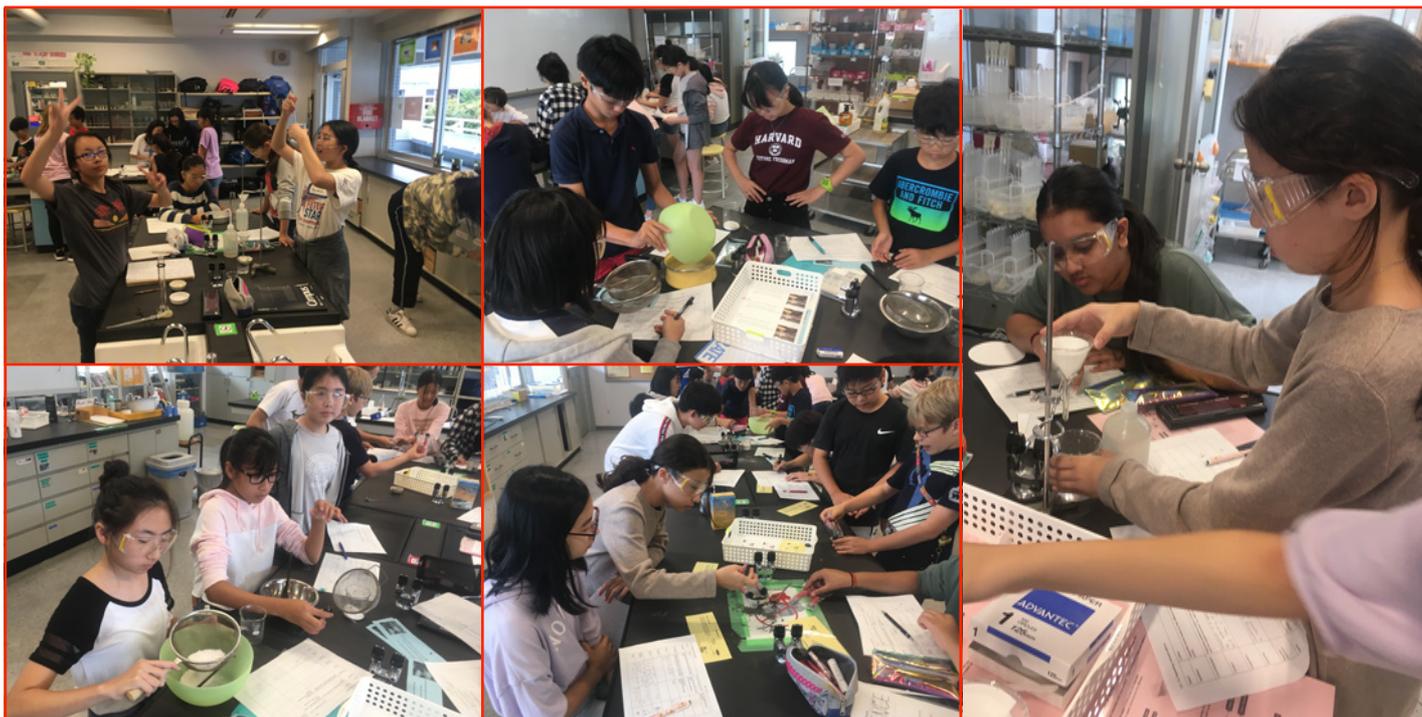


MYP: Science

The Grade Seven Science class put their separating mixtures into practice by trying to solve the fake scenario featuring Mr. Nicholl being “poisoned” by drinking coffee with the ‘special sugar’ Ms. Margot had kindly given him.

Students decided which of the separation techniques to try on their sample of sugar and designed their own methods. Students then applied separation techniques such as filtration, evaporation and sieving to separate the evidence to deduce what was being used to ‘poison’ Mr Nicholl.

High levels of critical thinking were seen, as students recognised why some techniques, such as sieving, were not appropriate, as the particles were the same size. Students then modified their approach to include different techniques such as filtration. A lot of fun was had by all and a big thanks to Mr. Nicholl and Ms. Margot for their acting ability.



PYP: Futsal tournament

On September 26 our elementary futsal team travelled to Canadian Academy to participate in the Falcon Cup. 27 players from Grades 3,4,5 participated. Coach Lewis and Coach Jones really enjoyed the great competition and noticed fantastic teamwork on display throughout the day.

Our Grade 3 junior team took second place in their division while one of our senior teams advanced to the final as well, but fell to a strong Marist Brothers squad. It was a valuable experience for all of these young athletes.



K-12: Greening the School

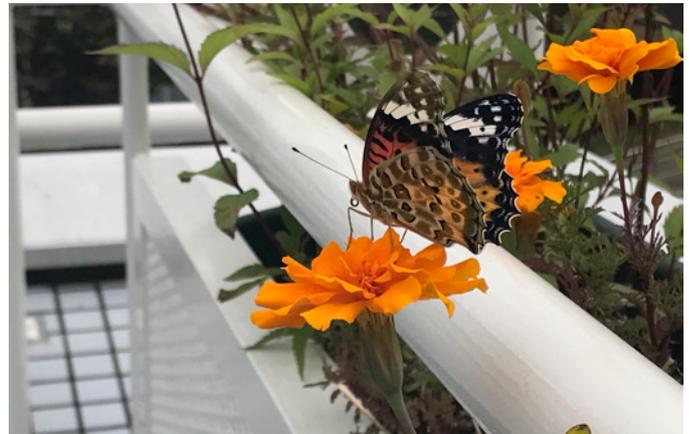


The Elementary students, CAS and parent volunteers, as well as the Eco club are fast at work greening our school and changing our environment for the better. Cleaner air, more beauty and diversity, and instilling a love of botany, science and art is what a greener school is all about. What better way than getting a mixed age level of 'greenies' involved!

Actually what is super amazing is a lot of the learning is woven directly into our units of inquiry! Inspiration starts young for example as a HS student Kikka Okuda has shown us - reactivating former learning can improve life on our campus. Kikka was under the tutelage of Osako-sensei and her delicate worm care in 4th grade. Now as a HS student she is back at it working to reduce cafeteria waste and greening the school with our own version of SOIS 'Caesars et al' compost! This is also connected to her learning in her Gr. 12 Biology course where students explore the nitrogen cycle and learn about how soil is created. Kikka's project stretches across school divisions and curricula and she is also working as a teacher and is coaching Gr. 11 student Amy Saeki-Zhai in how to maintain the compost that is generated as part of her own Creativity, Activity and Service project. Kikka fosters a collaborative atmosphere and has shared her expertise with her Bio class and is bringing in other helpers like OIS Service Council star Noah Izumi.

Add to the mix newbie greenies role models like Mr. Nelson and his wife Teresa (super daily composters) and Ms Henbest's and Ms Rumble's Eco warriors - and presto we will have beautiful organic SOIS gardens in 4 areas. Playground gardens, grade 3-4-5 porch gardens complete with 5 year old kingyo in two bath tub tanks and tiny medakas in three bowls for viewing. Plus we

have the elevator and second floor gardens near the Science labs! The Science patio gardens are used regularly for Science learning and in June we were able to showcase the complete life cycle of Indian Fritillary caterpillars for students from K-12 and a few weeks ago Gr. 12 Bio students analyzed each flower pot for the level of plant biodiversity represented.



Eco-Club has celebrated the bounty of the gardens with trimester end events where Ms. Rumble has used the produce grown to teach students how to prepare homemade pesto, focaccia bread and mint and lemon balm tea.



K-12: Greening the School (continued)

A shout out to special parents, grandparents and admin who kept the gardens alive in the summer and to our whole community who learns and loves the ideas and processes of what school beautification is all about. A special thanks to Mrs. Henbest who leads the greenies in their efforts with her tireless dedication to beautifying the

school, and growing our minds too. She has even made a place for the bugs to call home with her recent Elementary Art Project collaboration and the Bug Hotels! That is part of the Sharing the Planet unit that grade 3 and 4 do with a focus on how humans affect biodiversity.



As we continue to grow the school gardens we have a few requests... your trash might be our treasure! We gladly accept donations of garden pots or items and if you have green waste grass clippings or green food waste from the kitchen or from your garden bring them in to Mrs. Henbest or Ms. Rumble. We can use these donations for further composting, experimentation, and inquiry into what makes living things thrive, a school beautiful and a botanist brain smarter. Donations of time are also appreciated, please let us know how you might want to help. Also if you would like to take home a beautiful fish or some greens for your own house just ask. Or see us at the international fair where we will have some homegrown items available.

IB DP: Biology

In the final few days of September the OIS Gr. 12 Biology students accompanied by DP Biology teacher Ms. Allana Rumble and Tech Integration Specialist Oscar Sala travelled to the Kwansei Gakuin Sengari Camp in Hyogo Prefecture.

We were welcomed to the camp by an SIS graduate now at KG University who volunteers his time at the camp and recognizes it for the special place of learning that it is. Students and teachers worked together to start the BBQs and prepare a delicious meal to eat under the stars in the open air. This left just enough time for the group to gather around the campfire to sing some songs, toast some marshmallows and to appreciate being together outside with a little break from the rigors of academics. For many Gr. 12 students this would be their last school trip together and an opportunity to appreciate the friendships that had developed during their time at SOIS.

The next day as soon as the sun was breaking over the horizon shining light on a fine new day the students and teachers were awake and ready to investigate their surroundings. Each of the Biology students designed an individual investigation to explore the ecosystems and biodiversity contained in the hilly cedar and pine forests. All eighteen students spread out across the camp boundaries and began the process of authentic field research. Some students were carefully traversing the forests creating transect lines with quadrats to calculate estimates of biodiversity. Some students used traditional methods for data collection whereas many used newly purchased, state-of-the-art portable technology to measure variables such as soil moisture, pH, canopy cover, or light intensity. This year the biodiversity we noted included many examples of reptiles as there were plenty of rat and crow snakes sunning themselves by the pond. In the same location many frogs were observed who were quick to jump in the water as we approached. One student invested time in tracking the feeding behaviour of various species of ants. A tradition into research of the region's Golden Orb Weaver spider has continued and this year a student investigated over 25 webs to determine if a correlation exists between web diameter and the number of insects captured in the web itself.

This trip is now an annual tradition for the Gr. 12 class which the students look forward to as an opportunity to authentically apply their skills as scientists exploring local ecosystems. Special thanks to Mr. Sala for

being an outstanding grill-master and tech support guru, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Mecklem for their support of experiential learning, to our lab technician Yoshida San for her support in organizing the materials for the group, and to Izumi Kawashima for her assistance in coordinating the trip logistics.



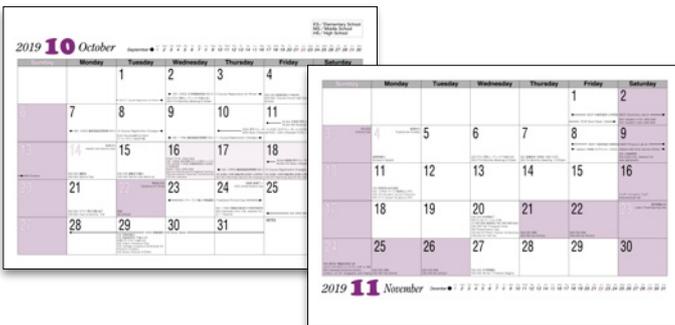
School Calendar

OCTOBER

21	SOIS Club and Service Fair
22	Day of Enthronement Ceremony <i>No School</i>
23-24	Yearbook Picture Days
26	Onohara Halloween Festival
28-Nov. 1	SOIS Book Week
29	Fall Music Recital 4:00pm, theatre

NOVEMBER

1-2	IBDP Chemistry Lab IA
2	SAT & SAT Subject Tests
3	Culture Day (National Holiday in Japan)
4	Substitute Holiday for Culture Day <i>School in session</i>
6	PTA Monthly Meeting 9:30am, 3F conference room
8-9	IBDP Physics Lab IA
11	OIS HS Student Council Election
16	International Fair "Beautiful Harmony" 10:00am - 3:00pm
20	Fall Trimester ends
20	MS/HS Parent-Teacher conferences <i>MS/HS half day of classes</i>
21-26	Fall Break
27	Winter Trimester begins



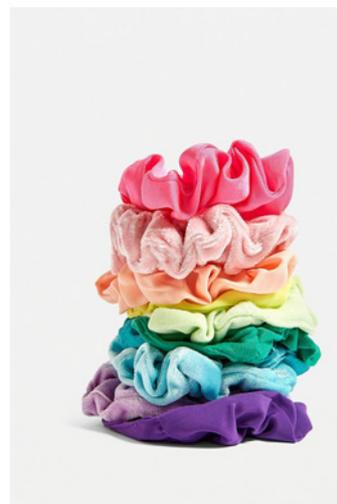
K-12: Music

On Tuesday, October 8th, students gathered at Kita Senri Station for "Kool Sounds Kita Senri", an annual concert presented by SOIS musicians and music faculty. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community and for family and friends to stop by for a casual afternoon of music and socializing. Groups performing at the event were: OIS Grade 5, Middle School Chorus, High School Advanced Choir, and High School String Ensemble. A huge congratulations to all performing students and the music faculty for a wonderful afternoon.

For a copy of the program, scan the QR code here:



All School: After-School Clubs



Craft Workshop at SOIS October 26 裁縫ワークショップ10/26

SOIS students invited to sew and craft.

The handicraft group at SOIS has begun making crafts for IF 2019 and is looking for students helpers. We are getting together on Saturday, October 26 to make hair scrunchies and felted soap. Students are invited to come and help and enjoy eating hand made snacks.

Who: Grade 3 and older 小学校3年生～

Where: ES art room 2F at OIS エレメンタリーアートルーム

When: Saturday, Oct 26 10- 2 pm 10/26土曜日10時～2時

What to bring: Your own lunch. All materials and machines will be provided. お弁当

Contact: Monica Rankin SIS

F182062@soismail.jp for details



PYP: Sports Day Speeches by the Auctioneers, 15 October 2019

Hello Students

We have had a fantastic sports day. We hope you enjoy your medal and certificate which the teachers will give you. They show you tried hard and exercised a lot. Well done everyone!

Written and spoken by Mir Lee

We have practiced many different skills: running, jumping, climbing, swimming, throwing and singing chants. All the different coloured teams showed really good teamwork. We also had lots of fun. Keep exercising so you can stay healthy!

Written and spoken by Lisa Kawakami



Dear parents and teachers,

Thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped us direct the sports day. We appreciate how you gave us your time so we could be organized, safe and have lots of fun. We also appreciate how you all came to watch sports day and to cheer us on so we could try hard.

Written and spoken by Aya Sagara

Especially thank you to Ms Entwistle who organized the whole sports day which means lots of planning and getting people and equipment set up. You worked very hard for us all so we can show our skills and enjoy being active.

Three cheers for Ms Whistle:

Hip, hip, hooray.

Hip, hip, hooray.

Hip, hip, hooray.

Written and spoken by Hajun Noh



Important Numbers	Myles Jackson	Head	072-727-5080	mjackson@senri.ed.jp
	Kurt Mecklem	MS/HS principal		
		IBMYP coordinator	072-727-5050	kmecklem@senri.ed.jp
	Carolyne Marshall	ES principal	072-727-5050	cmarshall@senri.ed.jp
	Steve Lewis	Business Manager	072-727-5090	slewis@senri.ed.jp
	Mike McGill	Admissions Director	072-727-5070	mmcgill@senri.ed.jp
	Stephen Frater	IBDP coordinator	072-727-5050	sfrater@senri.ed.jp
	Ingela Summerton	IBPYP coordinator	072-727-5050	isummerton@senri.ed.jp
	Michelle Vogel	Counselor	072-727-5061	mvogel@senri.ed.jp
	Peter Heimer	Activities Director	072-727-2137	pheimer@senri.ed.jp
Natsuko Inoue	School Nurse	072-727-5050	ninoue@senri.ed.jp	
Student Attendance		072-727-2305		