

# OIS Educator

JANUARY 21, 2017

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

One of the most important aspects of my work as the head of school is hiring teachers. The quality of teaching has an enormous effect on student learning. It is vital to attract experienced world class teachers to apply to our school.

The peak of international school recruiting season is in January and February and we use the largest recruiting agency for international schools, Search Associates, to find teachers. They place over 3,000 teachers annually and have an extensive database. OIS faculty has to decide by the last day of classes in December if they will be returning the following year. We begin advertising positions on our school website and with Search Associates. We interview many teachers via video conferencing software such as Skype or Facetime. It is important for us to do background checks by contacting former employers and asking for police clearances, etc. Many of our hires meet us at the fair to confirm

our perceptions of each other gained through video interviews, and to agree to terms and conditions for employment for the following school year. Some of the hires we meet at the job fairs and interview and sign over a few days. Mr. Mecklem and I attended two Search Associates fairs this year, in Bangkok and London earlier this month. The fairs gave us opportunities to promote our school and bring back excellent teachers to our community. Japan and OIS have a favorable reputation with international school teachers. Our school was quite popular with high attendance rates at our presentations at the fair and long lines to sign up for interviews. It is amazing to meet so many people from all over the world.

The average length of stay for teachers at OIS is almost seven years. That is considered a long time in the world of international schools and I feel it reflects the dedication of our faculty to the students, the support our faculty receives from the school and parents and the quality of life in Japan. However, it is a characteristic of international schools

that teachers do move quite often in their careers. Over the last seven years, we averaged yearly 5 full-time teachers leaving the school. This year we had seven positions to fill.

More information will be forthcoming regarding departing and incoming faculty as we get closer to the end of the school year. For more information about the Search Associates job fairs, see [this link](#):



## ***Views from the MS/HS Principal, KURT MECKLEM***

Whether you worked the whole time or were able to take some days off I hope you had a good holiday season and a great start to the New Year.

For us, January means we are about half way through the school year and in the next month or so things will get quite busy. Next week, on Wednesday, grade 11 students and



## **Elementary Winter Concert**

The elementary school students were spreading lots of holiday cheer with the annual winter concert on December 16. The different grade levels performed a wide range of song. A highlight were the many students playing instruments, including the traditional koto. Congratulations to Mr. Daniel Ligon, the elementary music teacher for leading the students!

their parents are invited to a college application workshop hosted by Mrs. Lamug. It will begin at 5:00pm in the 3rd floor conference room. This is meant to help the students and their families get started on the application process, which can be a daunting but exciting time. Our seniors are starting to see the results of their work as the first college acceptances have started to come in. On Monday, February 6, grade 10 students and their parents are invited in for an introduction to the IB Diploma program as grade 10 students will have to pick their classes soon.

Other activities to look for on the calendar include the All School Production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, the Personal Project exhibition, the grade 12 IB DP Mock Exams, and the middle and high school Winter Concert.

And on the horizon there are our Spring Camps. I wrote about this in last month's educator but by now you should have received more information in your SOISMail account. If you have any questions, please contact me.

As you know, this year we opened ManageBac to parents in order to give them more information about their students' progress in school. Now that we are halfway through the year, I would like to hear your comments about ManageBac and how well you are keeping informed about school. Please send me a note at [kmecklem@senri.ed.jp](mailto:kmecklem@senri.ed.jp) with any comments you may have about the system. And also remember that you can contact teachers via email at any time about your child's progress.

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### **Views from the ES Principal, CAROLYN MARSHALL**

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Starting a new calendar year gives us an opportunity for reflection. Being reflective is one of the ten important attributes of the IB learner profile which our PYP

students try to practise and we their teachers try to model.

At the assembly on 11 January the Actioneers led the students into a reflective frame of mind by first sharing the poem 'Calm the Busy Brain' by Anna Grossnickle Hines. This helped everyone understand the importance of making time to **"STOP!**

let me  
relax  
take a  
deep breath"

They then taught the students the following song which they had composed, sung to the tune 'Frère Jacques'.

#### Reflective Song

*Make some time now  
Quiet and thinking*

*Reflective  
Reflective*

*Learn from things that you  
have done*

*Change some things in  
times to come*

*Reflective  
Reflective*

We managed to sing the Reflective Song in rounds which helps the students appreciate that reflection is a skill that needs repeating often.

There is evidence of reflection throughout the grades and subjects. In PE classes all grades are creating movement compositions in groups. As they have developed rubrics in upper elementary and checklists in lower elementary they are considering the skills they have already learned and which will fit into effective sequences.

In art classes the students reflect on the work of many different artists including themselves. Grade 5 studied the draughtsmanship of Leonardo Da Vinci and were inspired to construct their own inventions from their drawings. After setting up a display of their creations which you can see on the second floor concourse, they then

## **School Calendar**

### **January**

- 21 SAT I & II Tests
- 25 G11 College Workshop
- 27 Russia Culture Day
- 27 Private Lesson Music Recital
- 31 IB Music Recital

### **February**

- 6 Introduction to the IB Diploma program for G10 students/parents
- 8 PTA Meeting
- 10 OIS Faculty Inservice Day - No Classes
- 16-18 All School Production
- 18 MS Boys Futsal

wrote reflections that helped them to assess what they had learnt.

Several grade levels have explored the theme: 'How We Express Ourselves', which provides students with rich opportunities to consider their own experiences. Grade 3 have explored poetry and have crafted individual collections of poems that they will perform at the elementary assembly on Wednesday 25 January. They have also created artworks including abstract paintings to accompany their poems. "My artwork expresses me because I put lots of colours that are warm that expresses that I am cheerful and happy. The white blobs mean that I have blank places in my mind." Grace reflected.

Grade 1 are completing their planning for the Hundredth Day of School celebration during which they have researched many different types of celebrations. Reflecting on their research, they have decided that food should be an essential feature of the event on 17 February. They have been making cards for friends and families to share in the activities that they have organized.

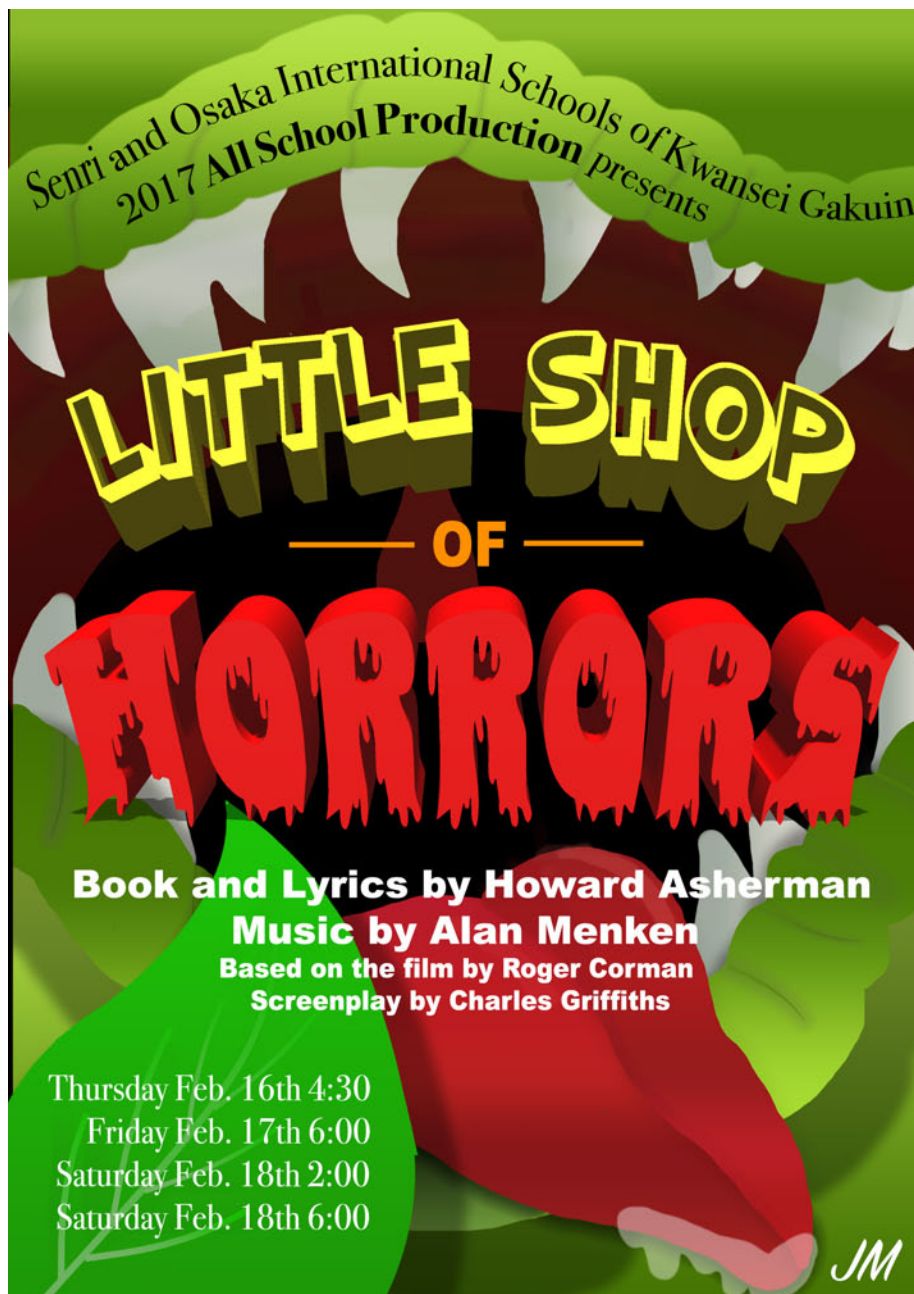
KB have been reading different versions of familiar stories and reflecting on the essential elements of a good story to enable them to write their own. They have also been creating a script for an original version of Seven Brothers that they will perform at the end of the inquiry.

The recent snowfall has enabled our youngest students in KA to experience at first hand different types of weather as part of their inquiry into How the World Works. This valuable

direct experience is enabling them to make comparisons with features of different seasons that they are displaying in large murals in their classroom.

Parents will have the opportunity to hear their children reflect on their learning on 3 March when 3-way conferences will be held. Students will share their reflections on their progress so far, and will share their goals for the second half of the academic year.

## SOIS All School Production



## K-G2 Cafeteria Lunch Menu

### JANUARY

- 23 Mon hamburger in stew
- 24 Tue milanaise pork cutlet
- 25 Wed spaghetti with meat sauce
- 26 Thu stir-fried noodles
- 27 Fri curry and rice
- 30 Mon meat au gratin
- 31 Tue wheat noodles with sweet & hot chicken topping

### FEBRUARY

- 1 Wed ramen noodles in soy flavored soup
- 2 Thu fried chicken
- 3 Fri focaccia pizza
- 6 Mon curry & rice
- 7 Tue spaghetti carbonara
- 8 Wed kitsune udon - wheat noodles in soup with fried bean curd
- 9 Thu homemade cheese croquette
- 13 Mon macaroni au gratin
- 14 Tue hamburger steak with cheese
- 15 Wed ramen with a pork bone broth
- 16 Thu teriyaki hamburger
- 17 Fri rice omelet

The cast and crew are hard at work preparing for this year's All School Production of *The Little Shop of Horrors*.

This horror comedy rock musical introduces us to our unlikely hero, Seymour Krelborn, a florist on Skid Row who is fascinated by plants. He discovers a rare species and raises it on a special, secret diet. But all is not as it seems; the plant has sinister powers and plans of its own. Will it succeed in them? You'll have to come to a performance to find out!



# Assessment in MYP Mathematics

Kevin Bertman, Math teacher

MYP mathematics students are assessed against four different criteria:

A: Knowing & understanding

B: Investigation patterns

C: Communicating

D: Applying mathematics in real-life contexts

## Criterion A: Knowing and Understanding

In most units criterion A will be assessed with a unit test containing levelled questions. Let's look at a very simplified example. Suppose the grade 9 students have been studying exponents and in class they have been provided with examples such as the following (note that these are non-calculator questions).

Level 1-2	Level 3-4	Level 5-6	Level 7-8
Simplify the following a) $3^x \times 3^5$ b) $(5^z)^4$ c) $4^3 \div 2^y$	Evaluate the following a) $9^{1/2}$ b) $4^{1.5}$ c) $27^{-1/3}$	Justify why $x^0 = 1$	Determine all solutions to the equation $9^x - 3^{x+1} - 54 = 0$

Level 1-2	Level 3-4	Level 5-6	Level 7-8
Simplify the following a) $4^{2x} \div 4^x$ b) $(3^y)^{-1}$ c) $9 \times 3^z$	Evaluate the following a) $16^{-1/4}$ b) $(1/2)^{-3}$ c) $25^{1.5}$	Justify why $x^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{x}$	Determine for how many integer values of n the value of the following is also an integer $189 \cdot \left(\frac{3}{7}\right)^n$

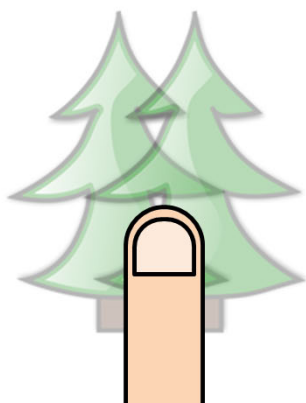
A test may contain questions similar to the following:

Notice that two main things are happening as the level increases:

- the difficulty of the question increases
- the similarity between the class problems and the test questions decreases

Levels 1-4 problems mainly assess a student's understanding of the mathematical concepts we study. Levels 5-8 problems assess how well the student can apply these concepts to both familiar and unfamiliar challenging situations. Students often ask how to improve at levels 5-8 questions. The best way is to practice as many types of these problems as possible.

## Criteria B, C and D

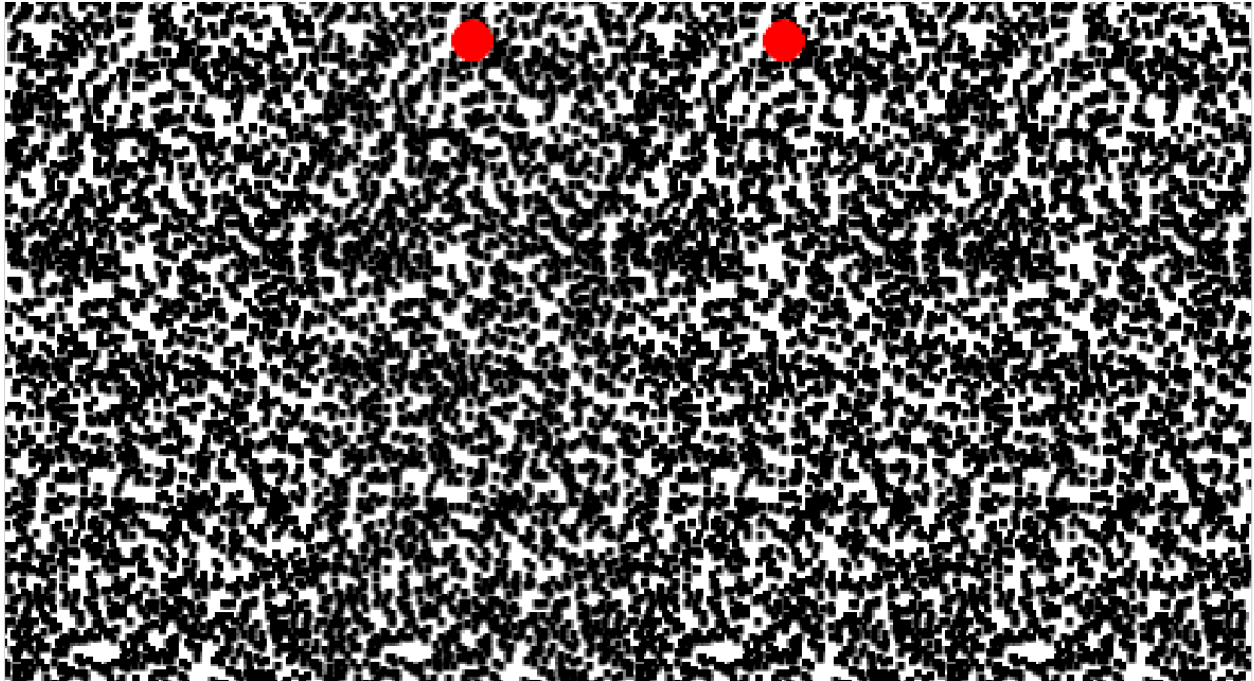


Hold your finger in front of an object and look at your finger but focus on the object. You should be able to see two copies of the object.

Hold your finger in front of an object and look at the object but focus on your finger. You should be able to see two copies of your finger.



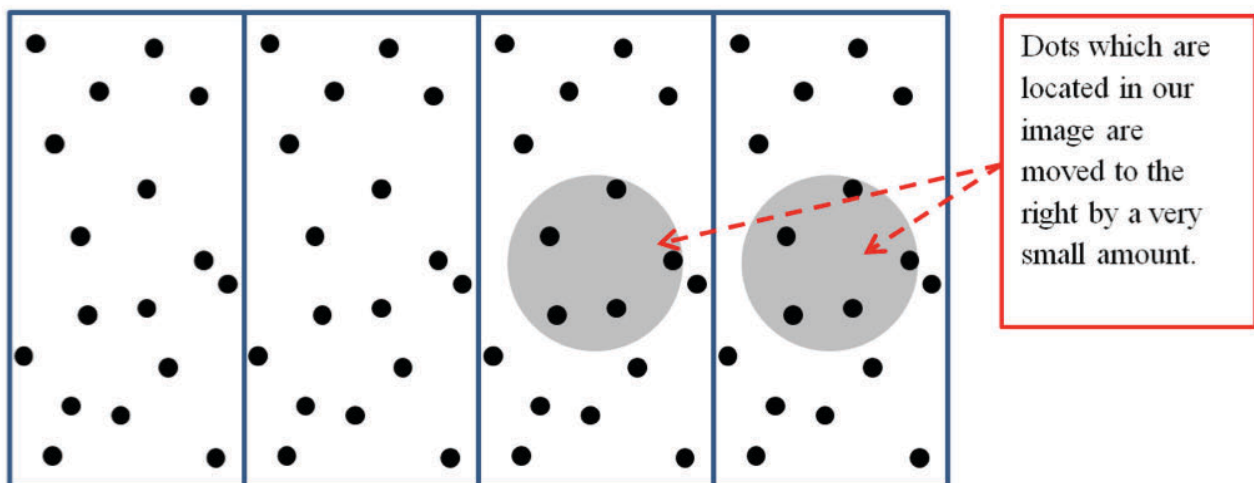
We can use this idea to create stereograms. Cross your eyes so that the two red dots perfectly overlap. You should be able to see a message 'jump out' of the page:



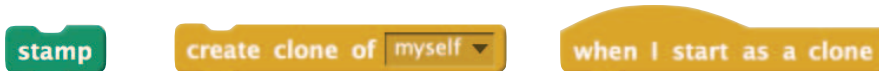
The stereogram above was created by using the following method:

- Take four identical adjacent rectangular areas and inside the two rectangles furthest to the right place the image you wish to project. The image should be in the same position in each rectangle
- Randomly place dots in the same position in each rectangle. However, if a dot is placed inside one of the images give it a small horizontal offset.

This method is illustrated in the following diagram:



Task 1: Use this method to program a stereogram in Scratch. You may find the following functions useful



Task 2: Use this method to create a stereogram in Excel. You may find the following functions useful:

```
=if (condition,value if true,value if false)
=randbetween (minimum,maximum)
```

Task 3: Explain why this method produces images which appear to 'jump out' of the page.

Task 4: Using this method only an image located in the middle of the diagram jumps out of the page. Modify this method to create a much wider message which jumps out of the page.

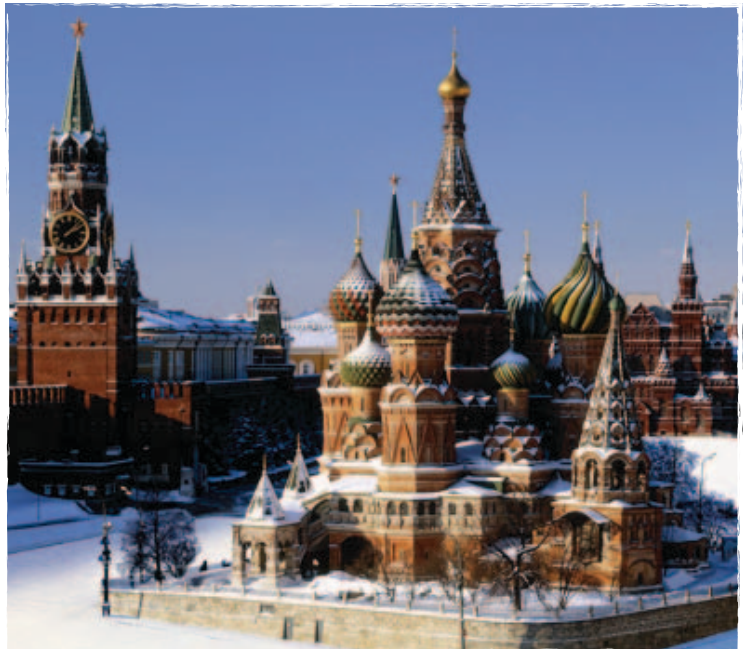
Submit the results of your investigation as a written report.

Many students new to the MYP have difficulties and misunderstandings when completing their first few investigations. Here are some tips for students:

- All investigations will involve easy, medium and difficult tasks. Do not spend hours staring at the difficult task not knowing how to begin. Instead, start writing up the report of all the tasks you have completed so far.
- Be sure to include an introduction, and explanations throughout the whole investigation. Somebody reading your work should be able to understand what you are investigating without having to refer to the instruction sheet.
- Be careful when discussing parts of the project with classmates, tutors, parents etc. Your submitted work must represent your own understanding of the investigation. The best person to ask if you have any questions is the teacher. If there is any doubt over the authenticity of the work then this will be clarified through an interview assessing your understanding.
- Unless stated otherwise, all investigations involve the application of mathematics learned in class, and information included in the description of the investigation. No outside research is necessary, and in some cases this can lead to plagiarism issues.

**Join us for  
a  
celebration  
of culture**

**JANUARY  
27**



## **RUSSIAN CULTURE CELEBRATION**

**Home & Family Life room  
4:00 - 7:00 PM**

Come and learn to make and eat homemade Russian dumplings, crepes and tea. There will also be a presentation and mini-Russian language lesson by Osaka University professor Dr. Sachiko Horii Yokoi. Everyone is invited!

**RSVP [CAOTANI@SENRI.ED.JP](mailto:CAOTANI@SENRI.ED.JP)**



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

### **Sabers Athletics Website**

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

### **Sabers Athletics Facebook Page**

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

### **AISA HOMESTAY HOSTS NEEDED**

#### **AISA boys basketball, 2-5 February 2017**

In early February, SOIS will homestay 30 male basketball players from South Korea. We would like to show our guests true Osaka hospitality and are looking for homestay hosts. If you are able to offer a homestay, please contact the AD office. Much useful bilingual information about AISA homestays can be found in the "Homestay" section of the Sabers website.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SEASON II BEGINS**

The start of the new year marks the start of winter sports season II for Sabers middle school student-athletes. Both the MS girls basketball team, coached by Mr. Mecklem and Watanabe-sensei, and the MS boys soccer team, coached by Mr. McGill and Mr. Stone, have started practice, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:45-5:45. Each team has more than 40 players, showing the popularity of our middle school sports program. We have a no-cut policy at SOIS, meaning that all players who want to join a team are encouraged to do so; no players are cut due to limited ability or experience – come one, come all! MS sports seasons last about six weeks with competitions on most Saturdays, culminating in a two-day WJAA championship tournament. Players and parents are required to submit a series of [online permission and agreement forms](#) – thank you for doing so.

### **HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SEASON CONTINUES**

The Sabers boys and girls basketball teams continue their successful seasons. The junior varsity teams played in [Yokohama this past weekend](#), January 13-14, for their season-ending tournaments, with the boys finishing 2nd and the girls finishing 5th. The varsity teams are getting ready for their AISA tournaments, February 3-4. SOIS hosts the [boys tournament](#) while the girls travel to YIS in Yokohama. Good luck, Sabers.

### **AISA MATH MANIA AND LEADERSHIP**

On February 2, ten SOIS student leaders and math whizzes will travel to Korea International School in Seoul to participate in two AISA events: a math mania competition and a student leadership conference. Six Sabers "mathletes" – Nanami Hariguchi, Rina Kawamura, Kaya Frese, Takuma Notsu, Yumiko Tajiri,

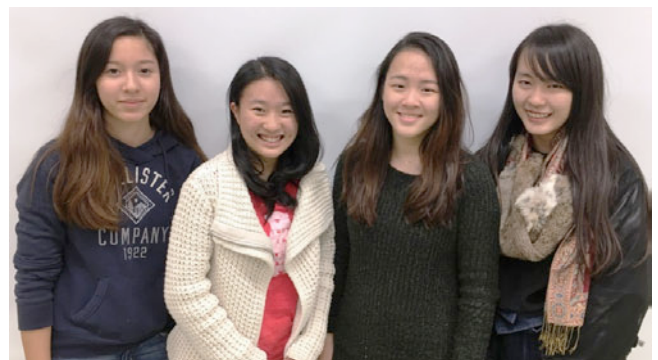
and Ella Jiang – will compete against math students from the three other AISA schools. The math mania competition unites mathematicians from the AISA schools to challenge and expand their understanding of mathematics, to engage in friendly competition, and to have fun.

At the same time, four SOIS student council members – Anna Kim, Jenifer Menezes, Airu Mukaiyama, and Miki Fujito – will take part in a collaborative leadership conference in which students develop team-building skills, share common student leadership experiences, and explore practical ideas for promoting school and community spirit.

These are great AISA events that provide new opportunities for our students. Special thanks to the teachers who have prepared the students: Mr. Bertman, Mr. Welburn, Mr. Sheriff, Mitsuhashi-sensei, and Baba-sensei.



Sabers AISA Math Mania Team



Sabers AISA Leadership Team 2017

### **NEXT HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SEASON**

Next up for Sabers high school student-athletes, after the basketball season: soccer, swimming, and badminton. Be ready, Sabers. Players can complete the Sabers Sign-Up now.

### **THANK YOU**

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Sabers activities program. Please contact me any time: in the AD office, room A-240, near the business office; by telephone at 072-727-2137; or via e-mail at: [pheimer@senri.ed.jp](mailto:pheimer@senri.ed.jp)

# Library News - January

Sarah Wakefield, Librarian

In December 2016 the SOIS library held its annual bookmark contest. In this contest students from the entire student body are asked to submit entries. The focus is on encouraging reading and the different genres that can be read. The winning entries are printed for the school community and are currently available at the library. Each student & community member may select one bookmark of their own and any remaining bookmarks will be available in the library throughout the rest of the year. This year we had over 150 entries from 75 students. From these entries, the art department, librarians and school administrators selected the winners. Each winning student is given a book voucher, a certificate, extra copies of their bookmark and a small prize. Winning entries and exemplary entries will be displayed for the month of January. Congratulations and we look forward to next year's entries.

## SOIS Annual Bookmark Contest Winners 2017

### OIS Elementary School

1. KB Liu Michael Kai
2. KB Farah Junaputra
3. G1 Catalina Nishino
4. G2 Mu Hui Zuo
5. G3 Yoonjae Lee
6. G4 Moa Waahlin
7. G5 Mia Sawamoto

### OIS Middle School

8. G7 Kokoro Ishiuchi-Ray
9. G8 Jiyun Kim

### SIS Middle School

10. G7-1 Iroha Miyamoto
11. G8-1 Koyomi Takemasa
12. G9-1 Marianangiu Valentini

### SIS High School

13. G10-1 Ami Nishigaki
14. G11-2 Nao Sadahisa
15. G12-2 Kano Hashida

### Librarians' choice

16. OIS G4 Yian Hah
17. SIS G8-1 Koyomi Takemasa
18. SIS G12-2 Marino Takamiya

### Artists' choice

19. OIS G2 Miku Hara
20. OIS G5 Frieda Mecklem
21. SIS G8-1 Koyomi Takemasa
22. SIS G9-1 Marianangiu Valentini

### OIS Principal's choice

23. G5 Chae Yoon

### OIS Headmaster's choice

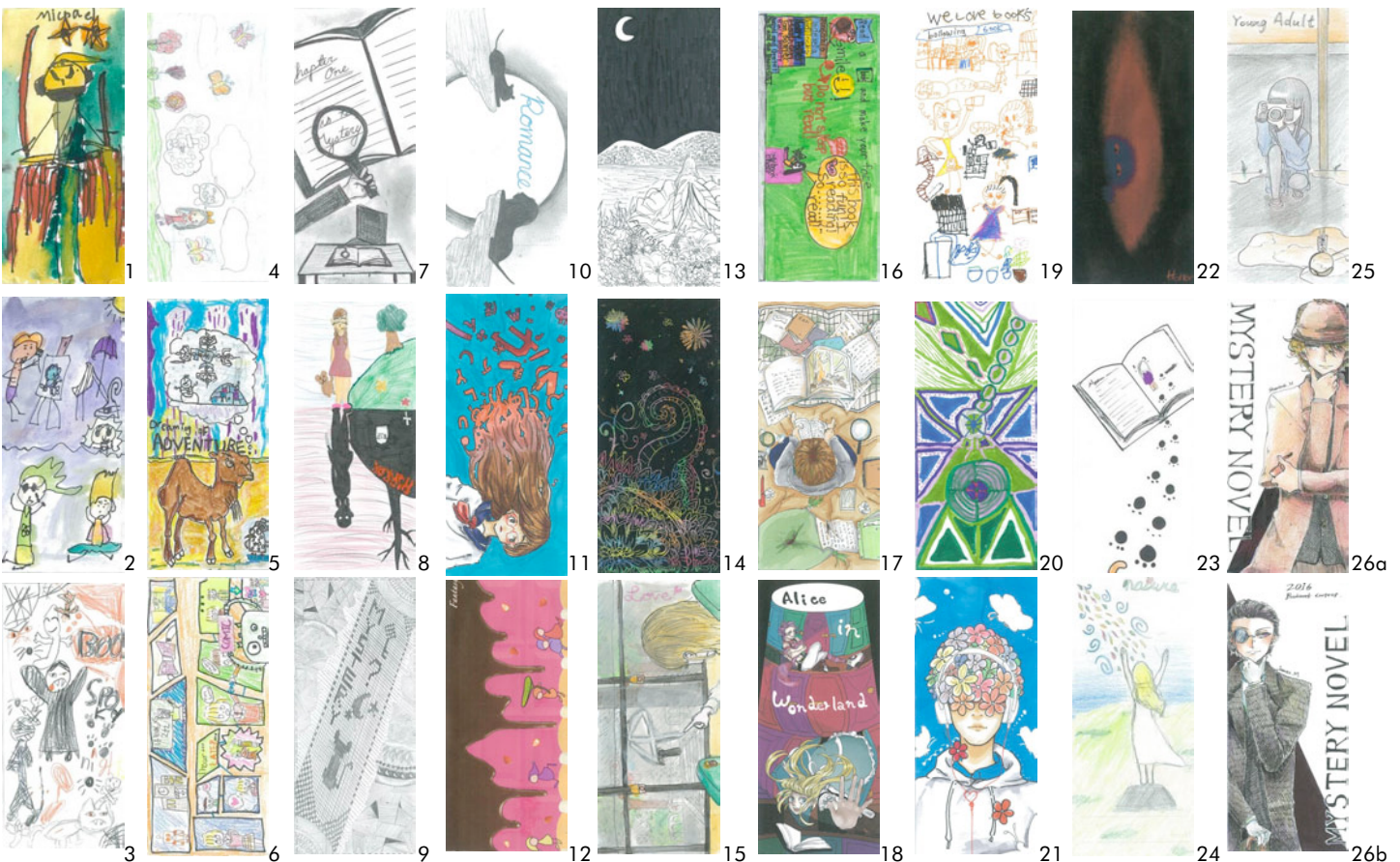
24. G8 Ami Yamamoto

### SIS Principal's choice

25. SIS G8-1 Miu Akiyama

### SIS Headmaster's choice

26. G9-1 Kei Hirakawa





# OIS PTA

## OIS T-shirt

Dear OIS Parents:

We would like to introduce the OIS T-shirt to the whole school community. Our goal is to have the kids wear this school T-shirt at school events, field trips and assemblies. **OIS kids can show team spirit as well as being caring, sharing and responsible!** Parents can also join the fun by purchasing a T-shirt (adult sizes also available).



front



back



Colors Available: Dark purple (as shown in the picture).

Sizes available:

### For Kids

Size	H.G.	Bust
110 (4-6)	46cm	34cm
130 (7-10)	52cm	38cm
150 (11-14)	58cm	42cm

### For Adults

Size	H.G.	Bust
M (160/84)	60cm	46cm
L (165/88)	64cm	52cm
LL (170/92)	68cm	56cm
3L (175/96)	72cm	60cm

For any inquiries, please email: Mariah ([f182052@soismail.jp](mailto:f182052@soismail.jp)) or Doaa ([f2622017@soismail.jp](mailto:f2622017@soismail.jp))

Order Form: please tear below and return the order form to the homeroom teacher.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Kids:    Size                      Quantity

          110 (4-6)                      \_\_\_\_\_

          130 (7-10)                      \_\_\_\_\_

          150 (11-14)                      \_\_\_\_\_

Adults:    Size                      Quantity

          M (160/84)                      \_\_\_\_\_

          L (165/88)                      \_\_\_\_\_

          LL (170/92)                      \_\_\_\_\_

          3L (175/96)                      \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of OIS PTA T-shirts @¥1,000 each: \_\_\_\_\_

# Kakizome; a New Year's Celebration of Calligraphy

Miyuki Endo, DP Japanese teacher & DP Coordinator

At the beginning of the New Year we all want to send greetings and wishes to loved ones, friends and acquaintances so we write more messages to one another than at any other time of the year. But wait a minute, do we really 'write' or do we only tap away on the keyboards of mobile phones, tablets or laptops or, at best, quickly scribble a few lines on a card? Let us hope we give some thought to what we write, but do we also think and care about our handwriting? In Japan caring about handwriting is taken to another level, which is shown by the significance and popularity of calligraphy. The art of beautiful writing is an important part of Japanese cultural life from the very beginning of the year and is celebrated on the very first business day of the new year by an event that is called 'Kakizome', the first calligraphy of the year. On January 2 people who like calligraphy use brush and ink to write phrases related to the upcoming spring and their dreams and wishes to be realized in the new year. An obvious wish is improvement of their writing skills.

The tradition of 'Kakizome' goes back to the early nineteenth century when people gathered in front of the statues of Sugawara (845 - 903 C.E.) who was considered the Scholar Sage or on the ground of shrines devoted to the spirit of Michizane to write their texts on paper. The paper was then burnt during the Sagicho fire festival. The belief is that if the wind lifts the ashes up into the skies, the calligraphy skills of whoever performed the ritual, will improve in the new year.<sup>1</sup>

'Kakizome' is still very popular in Japan, even in this digital age. One reason for the appeal of 'Kakizome', which is written with the characters for write (書) and first (初), may be that Japanese people like 'firsts', the first visit to the shrine, the first dream etc<sup>2</sup>. For school children it is the first thing they do after coming back from the winter holiday and they may have practiced writing their phrase during the holiday. Here at OIS students from kindergarten through grade 12 celebrate the new year with 'Kakizome' during their Japanese lesson in January. The results of their efforts will be on show in the school library glass wall. Let us admire our students' calligraphic phrases and see what their wishes are for this year of the rooster.



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ryuurui.com/blog/kakizome-its-origins-tradition-and-meaning>

<sup>2</sup> "Practice perfects new year's calligraphy" (The Japanese Times)

## KG Update

It is with a heavy heart that we report the passing of former Chairman of the Kwansei Gakuin Board of Trustees, Yoichi Morishita. Morishita san was a graduate of the university in 1957 and served multiple terms of office as chairman. He also served on the Senri International School Foundation board of trustees for many years. The former CEO of Panasonic will be missed by everyone in the KG educational foundation.

On a happy note, the Kwansei Gakuin Fighters American Football Club won their 28th national championship with a 31-14 defeat of Waseda University in the annual Koshien Bowl on December 18. Captain

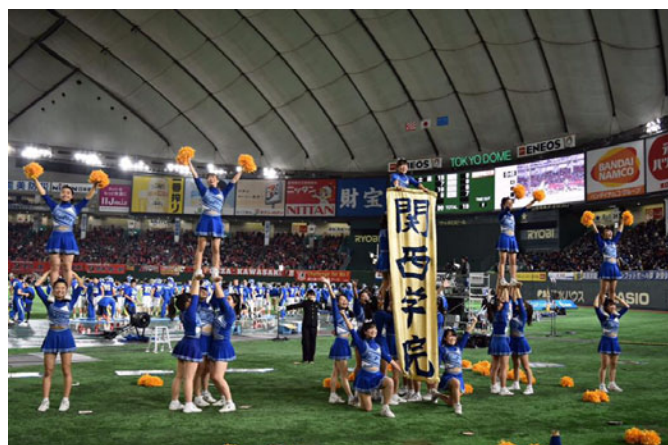


Kwansei Gakuin University quarterback Mitsuhiro Izu is tackled by Fujitsu Frontiers linebacker Trashaun Nixon during Rice Bowl at Tokyo Dome. | Kunihiro Goto (Courtesy of the Japan Times)

Akio Yamagishi was named the Chuck Mills Trophy winner, the Japanese version of the Heisman Trophy, for the collegiate player of the year.

The Fighters lost in the Rice Bowl to Fujitsu Frontiers 13-30 in the Tokyo Dome on January 4 to end their season. The Rice Bowl began in 1948 and since 1984, pits the collegiate champions against the X league (semi professional league) champions. Fujitsu was much larger and had several American players and use their size and experience to defeat the Fighters.

Congratulations to the Fighters on an excellent season!



Kwansei Gakuin University cheerleaders perform at the Tokyo Dome during the Rice Bowl.

## SOIS Videos

For parents unable to attend school concerts and performances, or for those who would like to enjoy them again, the school regularly makes video recordings accessible through our website and/or our YouTube channel.

Maple Hall concerts, featuring our superb HS Chorus, HS strings and HS wind ensembles, some elementary concerts, and other features of life at SOIS can be found here:



School website:

<http://www.senri.ed.jp/en/two-schools-together/shared-programmes/music-2/>

YouTube channel:

Search for SOIS videos, or go to

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIyRfQgSgJT8gdN51z-S6ag>

### Important Numbers

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Carolyn Marshall,  
ES principal / IBYP coordinator  
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Steve Lewis, business manager  
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Peter Heimer, activities director  
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Natsuko Inoue, school nurse  
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[ninoue@senri.ed.jp](mailto:ninoue@senri.ed.jp)

Student attendance  
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