

Educator



16 January 2016



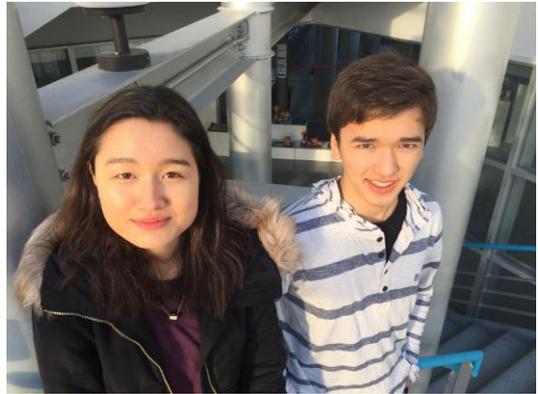
HIGH SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONCERT @MAPLE HALL, 8 December 2015



from the desk of the head, BILL KRALOVEC

This is an unusual January for me as most years would find me recruiting teachers. The process of evaluating resumes, searching data bases, interviewing people both face-to-face and video conference, answering candidate questions, etc. usually takes up a good portion of my time in the winter. It is probably the most important job of a head of school is finding excellent educators. However, this year, so far, we have not had to do much recruiting as almost all of the faculty are staying for the 2016-2017 school year. The low turnover may indicate a content faculty, thanks in much to our wonderful students and our school community. Without the time commitment to recruiting, myself and the leadership team will be working on improving student learning via developing teachers, facilities and programs.

The International Baccalaureate is committed to supporting multilingualism as fundamental to increasing intercultural understanding and international-mindedness. With this in mind, we try to support a range of languages here at the school. Not only English and Japanese, but other mother tongue languages when possible. Several of our students are studying French language with Mr. Pierre Turlur. I would like to congratulate OIS high school students Sola Lutringer and Manon Raby-Natsuaki who passed the B1 and B2 levels respectively of the DELF/DALF exams. These exams are part of the Common European Framework of References for Languages and are at an advanced intermediate level of a foreign language learner. The exams are administered by the Institut Francais. We hope to expand this program for our other languages in Spanish, Mandarin and Japanese, to go along with English proficiency exams like the EIKEN and TOEFL.



Manon Raby-Natsuaki & Sola Lutringer

I would like to invite all parents to my Head of School symposium on the International Baccalaureate concepts of Approaches to Teaching and Learning (ATL) and how parents can help their children learn more in school. The big idea behind ATL is students using the power of the mind and ways of thinking and applying them to new situations to solve problems. This is opposite to the more traditional absorption and regurgitation of facts that is practiced in many schools. They are the strategies, skills and attitudes that permeate through the IB. It will take place at 7:00 PM on Tuesday January 19 in the third floor conference room.

Finally, I would like to welcome the Attwood-Konishi family to OIS. They come to us from Kent, UK and Sana will be in grade 7 and Kia in grade 3. The current OIS enrollment is 273 students with 34 different nationalities represented in our student body.

from the desk of the middle/high school principal, KURT MECKLEM

Happy New Year! I hope that 2016 has started well for you and your family. I look forward to working with all of the SOIS community on what promises to be a good year.

In the December *Educator*, I wrote about the camps and by now you should have received some information about what your child's class will be doing. If you haven't received anything, please talk to your child because they may have some paperwork that they forgot to pass on to you. Information also went home via SOISmail. The spring camps are a long tradition at OIS. The camps were implemented to provide learning experiences outside of the classroom, to help students develop their personal and social skills, and provide a bonding experience with fellow students. They are included on the official calendar every year. This year they are from March 14 to 16. Since they started, the camps have had an almost 100% participation rate. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have and we look forward to working with your child this year.

Even though a new calendar year has just begun, we are almost half way through the school year. Grade 12 students are really on the homestretch of their schooling career. Depending on the class, many are coming close to finishing their IB diploma coursework and will soon begin reviewing for the exams. With how quickly time seems to move, it won't be long before the other students are finishing up the year, too. Remember that you can always check on your child's progress by contacting any of their teachers via email or setting an appointment to come meet them. The teachers are looking forward to helping your student finish the school year strongly.



The OIS *Educator* is published approximately once a month for OIS parents. We no longer provide hard copies to parents, however, those who wish to receive paper version, please contact Ms Aotani (caotani@senri.ed.jp). The next *Educator* will be published on 19 February.



from the desk of the elementary principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

A new calendar year has begun and the first month January is named after the Roman god Janus. He is often depicted having two heads, one which looks forwards and the other looking backwards. This reminds us that a new year is time for reflection. PYP students learn to practice this skill as they engage in the programme throughout each year.

When our students begin an inquiry in maths, language or one of their transdisciplinary units, they brainstorm what questions they want to find answers to. This is often shown in a class display that you can see in many of our classrooms as it demonstrates the goals of an inquiry. Then the students look forward and plan which resources will help them find answers. Guided by their teachers, they will explore as wide a range of sources as time allows. Working out together the route they need to take enables the students become more independent in their learning.

When a unit is concluded usually after about six weeks of investigation, the students will look back over their learning journey and will reflect on the growth in their understanding. This can be in the form of a discussion in the class circle or as individual written reflections. The students will also assess the usefulness of the resources they found. This review is also documented and discussed by the teachers with me as we complete each PYP unit planner. A clear record is thus maintained which informs planning for the following year. It is also noticeable that the students can recall and utilize their previous learning from prior years. I saw this recently whilst working with grade 5 to create a debate about the role of online learning. The students remembered how they organized their ideas in grade 4 on a different theme and were able to use these skills again.

The PYP is structured to enable students to reuse and extend the skills they learn. We achieve this by looking forwards and backwards but not just once a year in January. Reflection is a vital skill that is practiced daily by our students. I encourage you to ask your child about what they have learned and how they plan to learn in the future. Sharing in the journey together will be fascinating.

Welcome New PTA Members

The new Parent Teacher Association (PTA) had their first meeting earlier this week. They posed for a picture in the courtyard (below). Different from most international schools and in line with local Japanese schools, all families at OIS are expected to take a turn serving on the PTA.

The officers are as follows:

co-presidents - Mariah Tsubaki / Doaa Felemban
treasurers - Kaori Hiura / Chun Yan Wang
English language secretary - Branka Setoyama
Japanese language secretary - Yana Nishina
SIS Parent Association liaison - Yuki Sawamoto

The PTA discussed goals for their year which included producing maps of parking spots near the school and train stations, improving the senior study area, facilitating an family activity night of different grade levels, among other good initiatives. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please contact the co-presidents.



K-Gr. 2 SET LUNCH MENU - CAFETERIA



MONDAY 18 January
ramen with jiao-zi

TUESDAY 19 January
kitsune udon (Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd)

WEDNESDAY 20 January
hamburger meat

THURSDAY 21 January
naan & curry

FRIDAY 22 January
cheese burger

MONDAY 25 January
pan-fried noodles

TUESDAY 26 January
sandwich with pork cutlet

WEDNESDAY 27 January
curry rice

THURSDAY 28 January
beef stroganoff

FRIDAY 29 January
miso flavored ramen

MONDAY 1 February
teriyaki chicken

TUESDAY 2 February
kitsune udon (Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd)

WEDNESDAY 3 February
hamburger with chicken cutlet

THURSDAY 4 February
dry curry

FRIDAY 5 February
fried chicken

MONDAY 8 February
spaghetti with corn cream

TUESDAY 9 February
rice omelet with tomato sauce

MONDAY 15 February
fried noodles in omelet

TUESDAY 16 February
stewed hamburger

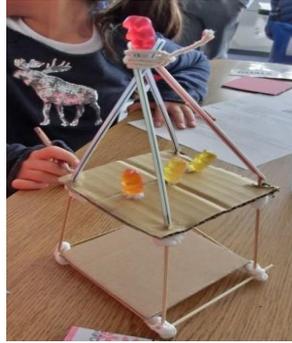
WEDNESDAY 17 February
curry rice

THURSDAY 18 February
miso-flavored ramen

FRIDAY 19 February
pork cutlet

SURVIVING DISASTER! by Lora Vimont, G4 teacher

Imagine if we were at school and a powerful earthquake happened. What kinds of safety procedures should we follow? What emergency materials should we have on hand to help us survive? Is our building equipped to withstand a powerful tremor?



In our unit on How the World Works, the Grade 4 class has been investigating the science behind plate tectonics and the ways that the continual changing nature of the Earth's structure sometimes result in devastating earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. With the help of Mr. Stone, one of our SOIS secondary science teachers, the Grade 4 class took part in investigations that helped them better understand the extreme movements of the Earth as well as some modern technology that helps people survive. In one recent investigation, the students were challenged to construct "earthquake-proof" structures using marshmallows, plastic straws and toothpicks. Working together in teams of 3 and 4, the Grade 4s planned and constructed tall and sturdy structures that could remain standing through a series of increased tremor intensity levels created by Mr. Stone's very own homemade "earthquake simulator" machine. Everyone had fun experimenting with the different wall brace designs and also trying to make the tallest and sturdiest structure.

In addition to this, the students have also begun a class action project in which they will take a critical look at our school's current safety protocols and materials in place for use during a school emergency. The students have already gone around to each elementary classroom and taken inventory of all yellow ESAKs (Emergency Survival Aid Kits) and are preparing their report for the teachers and administration of their observations and suggestions for improvement. In the upcoming weeks, the students will also be working on their own ideas for better ways to more effectively communicate emergency procedures to students, teachers and other members of our school community. This is really a wonderful opportunity for our students to help others while further broadening their understandings of how "human survival is connected to understanding the continual changing nature of the Earth's structures."



LIBRARY NEWS by Sarah Wakefield, librarian

We would like to congratulate all of the winners of our annual SOIS Book Mark Contest for 2016. We received 265 entries from 160 participants. Librarians, art teachers, and school administration chose bookmarks based on artistry and the genre illustrated. Thank you to all participants. The winning book marks will be available in the library for all community members by 18 January 2016.



KA Farah

SOIS Annual Bookmark Contest winners 2016

<OIS>

Elementary School

KA Farah Junaputra, KB Leotaro Waahlin, G1 Miku Hara, G2 Yoonjae Lee, G4 Mia Sawamoto, G5Hyo-Jin Kim

Middle School

G6 Aoto Utsugi, G7 Natsuki Hiura, G7 Miyu Suzuki, G8 Lisa Yokoe, G8 Sean Doman

High School

G11 Saria Howard

OIS headmaster's choice

G5 Eunseo Kwak, G6 Jeffrey Tsang

OIS ES principal's choice

KB Tina Maeckelburg

<SIS>

Middle School

G7 Zhi Lin Liu, G7 Koyomi Takemasa, G8 Kei Hirakawa, G8 Marianangu Valentini

High School

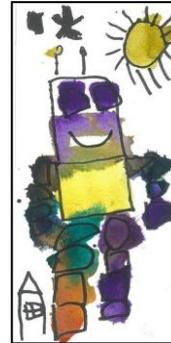
G10-4 Kimi Sakai, G12 Ryoko Izuta

Artist's choice

G7 Koyomi Takemasa, G9 Yuka Nakayama, G9Chie Ishiyama

SIS headmaster's choice

G9 Ami Nishigaki



KB Leotaro



G1 Miku



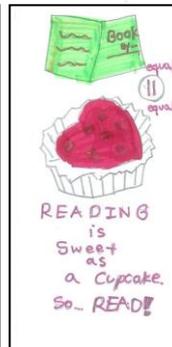
G2 Yoonjae



G4 Mia



G5 Hyo-Jin



G5 Eunseo



KB Tina

Please enjoy the works of OIS ES winners on the right.

Senri and Osaka International Schools of Kwansai Gakuin
2016 All School Production presents

GREASE
SCHOOL EDITION

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey
"Grease", "Sandy" and "You're The One That I Want" used by arrangement with Robert Stigwood

THURSDAY Feb. 4th 4:30
FRIDAY Feb. 5th 6:00
SATURDAY Feb. 6th 2:00
SATURDAY Feb. 6th 6:00

ALL SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Ticket sales are moving along briskly and they are on sale from the business office during regular hours. Please refer to the production's website for more information.

<http://yayoi.senri.ed.jp/asp/2016grease/index.htm>

We had the most students ever express an interest in the production and it has a double cast once again to include more students. The elementary students will be performing three songs. There will be a live band accompanying the play and the sets and costumes will be stunning. There will be a simultaneous translation in Japanese during the performance. The performance will take approximately 1 and ½ hours.

On sale at all of the performances are ASP 2016 "Grease" tumblers for 700 yen (two for 1000 yen). They are a great souvenir of the musical and help offset the production costs.

SABERS UPDATE by Peter Heimer, activities director



Sabers website: sabers.senri.ed.jp

Remember, you can find much information about Sabers athletics at sabers.senri.ed.jp. In particular, be sure to click on the “calendar” tab to find out game dates, times and locations. Schedules are subject to change; coaches will communicate final details to players.

Sabers Athletics Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/soissabers>

Also, to you Facebook users, please join the Sabers Athletics Facebook group to see updates on Sabers activities.

Scoreboard fundraiser: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/fundraising.html>

Almost there – please help! We are approaching our goal of 1.2 million yen for new scoreboards in the Sabers gym. We are now selling special-issue Sabers athletics “Parent” and “OB” jackets as part of our fundraising campaign.

Middle school winter sports season II begins

The start of the new year marks the start of the winter sports season II for Sabers middle school student-athletes. Both the MS girls basketball team, coached by Ms. Entwistle and Mr. Mecklem, 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 45 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 allowed and encouraged to do so; no players are cut from a team 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](#), and everyone has done so – thank you.

High school basketball season continues

The Sabers boys and girls basketball teams continue their successful seasons. The junior varsity teams are in Yokohama this weekend for their season-ending tournaments. The varsity teams are getting ready for their WJAA and AISA tournaments. SOIS hosts the boys WJAA tournament (January 22-23), while the girls travel to CA in Kobe. Both teams then travel to Seoul for the AISA tournaments (January 29-30). Good luck, Sabers.

AISA math mania and leadership

On January 28, nine SOIS student leaders and math whizzes will travel to the Busan International Foreign School (BIFS) in South Korea to participate in two AISA events: a math mania competition and a student leadership conference. Six Sabers “mathletes” – Silojuan Gobuichi, Re Ea Tay, Yuichi Yoshioka, Sungwook Eun, Kai Junge, and Tuvshinjargal “TJ” Battogoo – 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.



Sabers AISA Math Mania Team 2016

At the same time, three SOIS student council members – Sean Matsuura, Sara Okino, and Hanami Nagasaka – 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 for these events: Mr. Bertman, Mr. Welburn, Baba-sensei, and Munemasa-sensei. Mr. Bertman and Matsuda-sensei will chaperone the students.



Sabers AISA Leadership Team 2016

Next high school sports season

Next up for Sabers high school student-athletes, after the basketball season: soccer, swimming, and badminton. First official practices will be held during the first week of February. Busy times ahead.

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.

WHO ARE WE? SSC!

The Sabers Sports Council (SSC) is a group of SOIS student volunteers who assist the AD office with Sabers events throughout the year. Among other things, these students handle the official scoring for home events, they organize tournament setup and hospitality for WJAA and AISA events, they create the athletic awards celebration photo slideshow, and they help the AD maintain his sanity. Without their help, we would not be able to create the kind of welcoming, professional atmosphere that our events have become known for. The SSC has perfected its year-to-year turnover: the older members mentor the younger members throughout the year so that there is a smooth annual transition as the older members graduate and the younger members take over. The job they do is a highly skilled, high-pressured one, but the SSCers always have a smile for everyone. There are currently 13 members of the SSC: Rika Tanaka, Miyu Takeda, Kyoko Kanagawa, Misuzu Okawa, Risa Akiyama, Natsumi Yada, Lisa Takusa, Ayana Nakamura, Mari Ito, Riho Shimomura, Mariko Akita, Hiroki Yoshino, and Tomoya Kishigami. These students work hard, but enjoy much fun and camaraderie. Thank you, SSC. More info and photos here: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sabers-sports-council.html>

Senri International School UPDATE

January and February are entrance exams season in Japanese schools. SIS Middle School entrance exams will take place on Saturday 16 January. Current SOIS students are asked to stay off campus. (The entrance exams for returnees took place on Wednesday 6 January.) High School entrance exams are scheduled on Wednesday 10 February. Good luck to all the exams takers.



KG UPDATE

Coordination and cooperation agreement signed with nonprofit STAND - 16 December 2015

On December 15 at Tokyo's Sapia Tower, KGU signed a coordination and cooperation agreement with the nonprofit STAND (Representative Director: Kazuko Ito). This is STAND's first partnership with a university. (*STAND promotes the rights of mentally and physically disabled people.)

According to the agreement, KGU, whose school motto is "Mastery for Service," and STAND, which aims to build a society where all people can exercise their abilities to the fullest and gain pride and independence while living vigorously and in prosperity, will engage in mutual collaboration in the areas of para-sports promotion and human resource development. As projects under the agreement, the two parties will offer seminars and joint courses aimed at promoting para-sports and conduct training for para-sports liaisons and volunteers with the goal of contributing to society through the joint projects. On Saturday, April 23, a symposium commemorating the agreement signing will be held mainly for Kwansei Gakuin students (from the University, Junior and Senior High Schools, and Elementary School) at the Nishinomiya Uegahara Campus's Central Auditorium to promote greater understanding of para-sports.

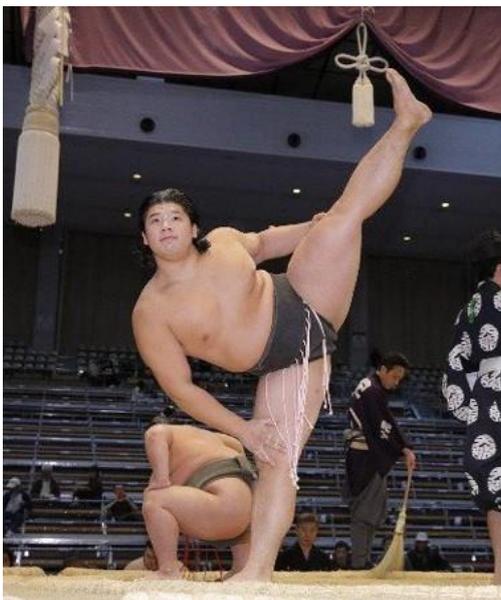
At the signing ceremony, University President Osamu Murata said, "The spirit of volunteerism is deeply ingrained in Kwansei Gakuin University. We were one of the first universities in Japan to provide support for the disabled. Through collaboration with STAND, I would like us to develop educational programs, events, and a variety of other initiatives ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics that we can carry forward even beyond that date."

Nobutaka Murao, Professor to the Office of the President, commented, "When I observed the Paralympic Games in London, I was impressed by residents' enthusiasm and appreciation for para-sports. I hope the symposium next April will be the first of many efforts to boost para-sports in Kansai and other regions. Let's take this as a small step toward thinking about what kind of society we want to create."



Photo (from left to right): Kazuko Ito, representative director of the nonprofit STAND; Osamu Murata, President of KGU; Professor Nobutaka Murao

Ura, KGU's first sumo wrestler, sets his sights on rising to the rank of juryo in the next tournament! -10 December 2015



On November 22, the final day of the Kyushu Basho Grand Sumo Tournament, former KGU Sumo Club member Ura (Stable: Kise; Real Name: Kazuki Ura, School of Education '15), who currently holds the West #54 rank in the makushita (third-highest) sumo division, advanced all the way to the division's championship round. After both had won all seven of their previous matches, Ura faced off against fellow Kise Stable wrestler Shiba in a tense three-minute bout that ended with Ura losing by a hair to Shiba's yoritaoshi technique (knocking an opponent over while holding his belt). Despite Ura's bitter defeat, it was a thrilling match that electrified the sumo fans gathered at the stadium.

Following his debut in the 2015 March tournament, Ura proceeded to climb up the rankings with multiple undefeated tournaments for a record of 7-0, 7-0, and 5-2, a strong showing for a makushita. In the next tournament, his sights are set on rising to the juryo (second-highest) division of salaried wrestlers.

Ura tells his fans, "Thanks to your support, even I'm surprised by how steadily I've been able to climb up the rankings. I'm currently working hard at building up my strength in preparation for the next tournament. I look forward to your support then as well."



We hope you'll join us in continuing to root for this promising young wrestler.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

19 January

*Head of School coffee evening,
19:00-20:00, 3F conference room

20 January

*G11 college workshop, 5:00pm
@3F conference room

22-23 January

*SIS/OIS G8 science excursion to
Hoshinoko Yakata, Himeji city,
Hyogo prefecture

23 January

*SAT I & II Tests @SOIS

26 January

*IB music recital. 4:00pm
@chorus room

4-6 February

*All School Production @theatre

8 February

*IBDP explanatory meeting for
G10 parents

10-14 February

*No school

12-13 February

*SOIS cross country skiing camp

17 February

*PTA meeting



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Natsuko Inoue, *school nurse*

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT Friday 11 December @Theatre

