



10 October 2015

~two schools together~

### **SOIS String Students @ 2015 Bangkok International String Festival by Vernon Villapando, SOIS strings director**

Ten string students, accompanied by SOIS strings director, Vernon Villapando and OIS teacher, Rie Matsuda, participated in the 2015 Bangkok International Strings Festival at International School Bangkok (ISB) from September 23 – 26, 2015. They joined four other international schools that included the Bangkok Patana School, Thai-Chinese International School, International Community School and International School Bangkok. This is the second year that SOIS joined in this annual festival and our students were outstanding in every section of the orchestra as last year. This year's guest conductor is Mr. Kirt Mosier who is a well-known composer and conductor. You can view the final concert through this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5AInNBla8gsODBzc0RzaW5NOWM/view?usp=sharing>



### **SOIS G7 Science & Art Field Trip**

**by David Haske, science teacher & Andrew Dieterly, visual arts teacher**

On Monday, September 28th, OIS and SIS 7th graders went on a science and art excursion to Awaji Island. During the science portion of the field trip, students were given a brief introduction by researchers from The Kobe University Research Center for Inland Seas. Students were introduced to the tidal pools that they would be exploring and informed on the different types of biodiversity they could find. The student scientists spent the next couple of hours in the tidal pools collecting and identifying shellfish, crabs, and seaweed. It was a hot and sunny day that was both informative and fun for all.

The grade 7 art classes experimented with how paints and pigments may have been made in the early part of the Stone Age. Students sought out minerals that could be ground into a powder and added it to animal fat in order to create paint. Through this process of discovery they learned how difficult it must have been for Paleolithic people to produce artwork. Another group of students looked for rocks in the shape of animals, and attempted to carve those rocks with tools they could find in the area. Again, students came to appreciate how difficult art was 30,000 years ago. It was our goal to prove to the students that such a monumental effort must have been very important in our lives, and our human, social development.



## from the desk of the head, Bill Kralovec

Dear OIS Parents,

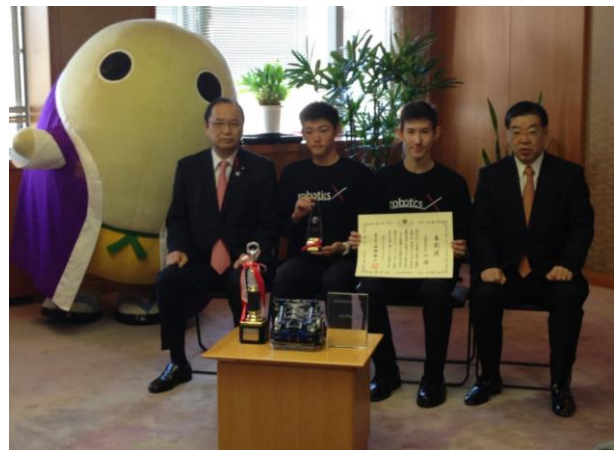
I would like to use my section of *Educator* to highlight the achievements of OIS grade 11 student, Kai Junge. He was crowned world champion this summer in the [2015 RoboCup](#) held in Hefei, China. The annual international competition founded by the non-profit organization RoboCup, promotes robotics and AI (artificial intelligence) research by offering a publicly appealing, but formidable challenge. The stated goal of the project is to eventually (mid-21st century) field a team of robots to defeat the winner of the most recent World Cup. Quite a lofty goal!



Kai participated in the RoboCup Junior which is aimed at primary and secondary students from ages 10-19. He leads the team robotics X that competes in one of three challenges, the Rescue Competition. The idea is to design, build and program a robot to go through an obstacle course. The difficulty is making a robot that can do multiple tasks, like in the picture above. Many hours of work with his partner Koki Asami, resulted in the championship. They qualified for the world championship by winning the Kyoto, Kansai and national competitions. This is his sixth time in the world competition and after several second place finishes, he broke through and won the championship. The key winning was to limit the possibility of errors by carefully getting rid of small bugs in the programming. Lots of research and experimentation went into this winning formula. Robotics x easily defeated their Croatian rival this time, getting revenge for the 2013 defeat. Last year they lost to a Chinese team.

Kai was also awarded the best programming prize by RoboCup officials at the event in Hefei. He was also recognized this month by the Kyoto Prefecture division of culture and sports for his accomplishments.

Next month he will go to the World Robotic Olympiad in Doha, Qatar. Kai is a full IB diploma programme student and the son of Mr. Johann and Jun Junge. He has attended OIS since the end of fifth grade. We are very proud of his accomplishments and wish him luck in Qatar. He is one of the many talented students we are privileged to teach here at OIS.



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

When in the hallways between classes, students are walking with a sense of purpose. It is easy to see that they have settled into a routine and it is no longer a “new” school year. In fact, enough of the school year has gone by that you will soon be receiving a progress report on how your children have started. The purpose of the progress report isn’t to comment on your children’s grades but to give you an indication of the types of habits they have developed. The teachers have written a comment about how your child has approached their studying while there is still plenty of time for them to improve their habits. The teachers will also note how the students are doing with the Approaches to Learning skills. These are the skills that the International Baccalaureate has identified as being necessary to develop across all subjects. More information about them can be found in this [document](#).



These early progress reports are important because they give you the parent an opportunity to discuss with your child their work habits. Many researchers agree that students who have parents involved in their education are more likely to achieve at a higher level. It is important for you as a parent to have conversations about learning with your children but this isn't always easy. Ask a middle school student, "how was your day?" and you're apt to get one word response like "fine." Digging deeper can be difficult with adolescents but the progress report might be a good entry point. Using the information in the reports to help your child set goals and develop good study habits can be quite useful. Your child may not admit it but they do appreciate having parents who care about their learning.

Even if you can't help your child with their math homework there is a lot you can do. This [blog post](#) from *Edutopia* gives some good advice on how to help students develop a good study environment in the home.

While they are aware that the progress reports are coming home, the bigger news for most students is that Sports Day is scheduled for tomorrow. Please remember that it is considered a school day and all students should be in their homeroom class by 10:30. Parents are invited to watch. The students have been putting in a lot of time to prepare and it promises to be a great day. If it is raining hard on Saturday, Sports Day could be postponed until Monday. If that is the case, the phone tree will be activated and someone will call your house. It will also be announced on the school website and our [school Twitter account](#).

The other news this month is that we are trialing a different external exam, the Measure of Academic Progress or MAP. Students have been taking this computer adaptive test to get feedback on their progress in math, reading and language. More information will be sent home soon.

### from the desk of the elementary principal, Carolyn Marshall

The majority of grade levels are now coming to the end of their first unit of inquiry and will be sharing their knowledge in different ways.

A number of grade levels have been inquiring into the theme 'Who We Are' and have explored emotional, social and physical health. This has given me the opportunity to join in with the students' learning.

Each week I have shared a storybook with KA and KB. Last week we all enjoyed finding out "Where is the Green Sheep?" by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek. He was discovered asleep at the end of the book and all the students were keen to share ideas about how sleep is important to health when you have been very active during the day.

Grade 1 met three new puppets who were having difficulties developing healthy relationships. The students listened sympathetically to their difficulties and worked in groups to brainstorm strategies that the puppets could use to help them build caring friendships.

Grade 2 have been exploring a variety of body systems. I greatly enjoyed creating a physical model of the heart, lungs and connecting vessels with the students in which they roleplayed blood cells moving through the circulatory system. They quickly grasped the role of the different organs and understood the need to keep them healthy.

After the school day it is important for young children to relax. Play-dates are important to help children develop social and communications skills, especially when planned with other children of different ages.

As we move into autumn, the change in the weather is a reminder that it is important that everyone takes care of their physical selves. If a student catches a cold it is important that they stay at home to recover rather than come to school and risk spreading the virus. Parents, please support what our students are learning at home by ensuring that every child has an early bedtime and a balanced day.

### K-Gr. 2 SET LUNCH MENU - CAFETERIA

**TUESDAY 13 October**  
spaghetti with meat sauce

**WEDNESDAY 14 October**  
kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd

**THURSDAY 15 October**  
fried chicken

**FRIDAY 16 October**  
rice omelet

**MONDAY 19 October**  
pork-flavored ramen

**TUESDAY 20 October**  
soy-sauce flavored deep fried chicken

**WEDNESDAY 21 October**  
curry rice

**THURSDAY 22 October**  
rice bowl topped with minced chicken and egg

**FRIDAY 23 October**  
rice bowl with pork cutlet

**MONDAY 26 October**  
tomato flavored hashed beef rice

**TUESDAY 27 October**  
pan-fried noodles

**WEDNESDAY 28 October**  
kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd

**THURSDAY 29 October**  
pizza

**FRIDAY 30 October**  
sandwiches with pork cutlet

**MONDAY 2 November**  
rice omelet

**WEDNESDAY 4 November**  
hamburger meat in tomato stew

**THURSDAY 5 November**  
pork-flavored ramen

**FRIDAY 6 November**  
cheese burger

**MONDAY 9 November**  
pork cutlet

**TUESDAY 10 November**  
curry rice

**WEDNESDAY 11 November**  
tomato flavored hashed beef rice

**THURSDAY 12 November**  
chicken cutlet

**FRIDAY 13 November**  
kitsune udon – Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd



## Stephen Frater's TECH CORNER

A parent recently asked why their child's elementary class page was being 'moved' from the Moodle platform to Blogger. Perhaps this is a good time to provide a brief overview of the different systems we use at OIS to manage our classes and to keep parents in the loop about activities and events at school.

### 1. **SOISmail** (*accessed through family accounts*): part of our Google Apps for Education suite

Several of our systems require users to log in to a website and look for information. These platforms are good for managing large amounts of information, but if the school needs to ensure that all parents receive a key piece of news at the same time, we send it out by SOISmail to guarantee that it arrives in each family's mailbox instantly. Most smartphones and computers will then use an icon or other technique to notify parents that a new message has arrived.

### 2. **Moodle** (*accessed through student accounts only*): our original learning management system

The Moodle platform was the first learning management system (LMS) we adopted. It was introduced almost 10 years ago as a means of providing students with online access to coursework. This system has been used to host elementary homeroom class pages, a small number of middle school subject pages, and materials for many SIS English courses. We still maintain the system for these reasons, as well as using it to schedule elementary school teacher-parent conferences. For middle and high school lessons and reports, however, Moodle has been superseded by ManageBac, for the reasons outlined below.

### 3. **ManageBac** (*currently accessed through student accounts only; family accounts will be available in the future*): our next generation learning management, assessment and reporting system

The school adopted the ManageBac LMS several years ago, with its use increasing steadily since. The system offers many advantages for an IB school and the ManageBac developers integrate a great deal of IB content into the system for us, ensuring that we are always using the latest criteria and curriculum material in our lesson planning, assessments, and reports. We produce progress reports and end of term reports from the same system we use to record student assessment grades on a daily or weekly basis, saving a lot of time. This same system is used in thousands of IB schools around the world, making it easier for students, parents and teachers to adapt to a new environment if they move. In middle school and high school, all of our unit planning, assessment, file management and record keeping is now done on ManageBac. We are also preparing parent accounts so that you will be able to access up to date information on student progress and classes.

### 4. **Blogger** (*accessed through student and family accounts*): class, teacher and student blogging platform

One disadvantage of ManageBac is that the interface is not very engaging for younger elementary age students. Although each grade and each course has its own page on ManageBac, it is not possible to customise the interface very much. Elementary school homeroom teachers have preferred to create more colourful, age-appropriate classroom blogs to attract and inspire their students. For several years this has been done on Moodle, however blogs offer more options for integrating slideshows, videos, for hosting conversations and for organising information into separate pages. This attraction, coupled with our transition away from Moodle for other uses, is why more of our elementary homeroom teachers are choosing to create their class pages on Blogger. This is Google's own blogging platform and an integrated part of our Google Apps for Education system that also includes every student's SOISmail, Google Docs and YouTube accounts. Most importantly, blogger allows us to limit access to the blogs to only parents who are registered to view the site.

This is a brief overview of the main systems we have in place for sharing school events and news with parents. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sfrater@senri.ed.jp](mailto:sfrater@senri.ed.jp) or drop by my office in room 324 next time you are in school.



## YEARBOOK PICTURES

The photographer will be at school on October 20&21. Please follow the schedule below:

### ES students:

Tuesday, 20 October, 9.00 –10.30am

### MS/HS students:

Tuesday, 20 October, 10.30am - 4.00pm, or

Wednesday, 21 October, 9.00am - 4.00pm during unscheduled time or lunch time.

The photographer will be in the green room beside the theatre.



## ELEMENTARY BOOK WEEK

by Sarah Wakefield, librarian



Our Elementary “Book Week” will be held during Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. Book week encourages students to have fun in the library and to develop their love for literature and reading.



Sean Michael Wilson  
comic book writer from Scotland,  
living in Japan

Some of the events include:

- Visiting Author Sean Michael Wilson Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> in ES and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> in MS
- Read Alouds by guest readers
- An autumn display of leaves representing the books read in Elementary
- Read-A-Thon
- DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read)
- Dress up as your favorite book character on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (Book Character’s day)
- Book Characters Parade on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 8:45 @Courtyard or in the Genkan if it rains—all parents welcome.

Please encourage children to dress up as a favorite literary character on Friday. Parents are more than welcome to come for the Character Parade. Please see Ms. Wakefield if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



## IBDP VISUAL ARTS FIELD TRIP TO KYOTO

by Esperanza Garces, visual arts teacher

The Grade 11 and 12 IBDP Visual Arts students went on a trip to view the exhibitions in the Kyoto Municipal Museum last September 10. They got to see the Louvre collection of genre and still life paintings, most of which were from the Baroque period. Most of them were fascinated with the works of the Surrealist artist Rene Magritte in the second exhibition. A number of them said that they appreciate his contrasting use of everyday objects and the interesting concepts behind the pieces.





**SPORTS DAY**  
**Saturday 10 October**  
 (Monday 12 October if it rains)



**Elementary School**

8.30:

All ES students to homeroom

8.45~9.40:

ES Sports day

KA & KB, Grades 1 & 2 @gym

Grades 3, 4, 5 @pool

9.45~10.40:

All elementary students to the field

10.45~11.00:

Closing ceremony

**Middle & High Schools**

10.30:

All MS/HS students to homeroom

10.45~11.00:

Opening ceremony

11.00~12.45: Morning activities

MS: dodge ball, interceptor @gym

HS: dodge ball, ultimate frisbee @field

12.45~13.15:

Lunch time

13.15~14.05:

Performance



14.10~16.00:

Afternoon activities

- 1) jump rope
- 2) obstacle race
- 3) mukade race
- 4) tug of war
- 5) relay



16.05~16.25:

Closing ceremony

16.30:

Students to dismiss school

**School buses** will operate as usual in the morning but leave at 4.30pm for MS/HS students.

**Cafeteria** will be closed.



In the case of the bad weather, the Sports Day will be postponed and the families will be notified through the telephone tree at 6:00am.

**SABERS SPORTS UPDATE**  
 by Peter Heimer, activities director



Sabers website: [sabers.senri.ed.jp](http://sabers.senri.ed.jp)

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

**Recent events**

There has been much Sabers activity since the start of the fall trimester, with Sabers teams playing every weekend. Highlights include:

- hosting the annual Sabers Invitational HS girls volleyball tournament;
- participating in Western Japan Athletics Association (WJAA) mid-season volleyball tournaments for HS girls (Kobe) and boys (Fukuoka – champions!);
- placing fourth in the WJAA HS girls JV volleyball tournament in Yokohama;
- placing second - by the narrowest of margins, both boys and girls, at the WJAA tennis tourney in Kobe;
- placing fourth in the MS girls volleyball season-ending WJAA championship tournament; and
- capping off an undefeated MS baseball season by winning the WJAA tournament in Kobe.

**New middle school season has begun**

Practices Tuesday and Thursdays, games on Saturdays.

Schedules online: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/season-schedule.html>.

- swimming coaches: Kevin Bertman, Marcella Cooper
- girls soccer coach: Stephen Frater
- boys basketball coaches: Rodney Ray, Bill Kralovec

**Sabers Sign Up:** <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/student-forms.html>

Once a year – and only once – each Sabers athlete must submit a set of 3 online sign-up forms. All information is on the Sabers website under the Forms tab. All students and parents must read the Sabers activities handbook and submit online the following:

1. Sabers Sign-Up form
2. Sabers Sportsmanship Agreement form
3. Parent Permission form (medical, travel)
4. digital copy of picture page of valid passport (HS only)

**AISA events: tennis and volleyball, 15–18 October**

Congratulations and good luck to all Sabers selected to represent SOIS at the upcoming Association of International Schools in Asia (AISA) events.

- girls volleyball here at SOIS: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/aisa-volleyball.html>
- boys volleyball in Yokohama
- tennis in Seoul

**SCOREBOARD FUNDRAISER**

Many of you know that, with the great help of the OIS PTA, we are raising money for 2 new scoreboards in the Sabers gym. Every donation – big or small – helps.

To learn how to show your Sabers spirit and make a donation, visit the Sabers website fundraising page: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/fundraising.html>. Thank you for the many donations already received.

**Thank you**

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Sabers activities program. Please contact the AD any time 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.



SOIS boys volleyball 2015

## SOIS Hosts University Admissions Officers by Melissa Lamug, school counselor

It has been a very busy month of college counseling activities as we hosted several visits from admissions/recruitment officers of top universities all over the world. We had very encouraging turn outs from both SIS and OIS students this year, thanks to the SOIS HS homeroom teachers' support in announcing all these college visits to the students and encouraging them to come, along with Stephen Frater's advertisements in the electronic board by the library.



A good number of students came to listen in on the presentations, and they asked very good questions about what the universities were like, and what the application procedures and admissions requirements are. We also had students from grades 9 through 12 coming for these events, showing that students are really thinking ahead in planning their post high school options! We also had some parents getting involved and joining the presentations.

Some of the universities that came this September were: Boston U, Ohio State U, Loyola Marymount from the US, Underwood College (part of Korea's Yonsei University), Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne, IE Madrid, NYU Abu Dhabi, Shanghai, New York, and ICU from Tokyo.

More college visits to watch out for in October and November:

- October 14, 12:00-1:00pm: Laureate Hospitality Education ([website](#)) with campuses in Switzerland, Spain, UK, USA, China and Australia
- October 22, 3:30pm-4:30pm: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University ([website](#)) with campuses in Arizona and Florida
- November 11, 3:30-4:30 University of British Columbia (UBC) ([website](#)) in Vancouver, Canada
- November 11, 3:30pm-4:30pm: Temple University ([website](#)) with campuses in Philadelphia and Tokyo



Happy Halloween!

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](mailto:caotani@senri.ed.jp)). The next *Educator* is scheduled to publish on 13 November.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

- 10 October**  
\*SOIS Sports Day
- 12 October**  
\*Health & Sports Day - No school  
\*SOIS Sports Day Back-up
- 14 October**  
\*PSAT Test @ SOIS  
\*PTA meeting, 9:00am
- 19 - 23 October**  
\*ES Book Week
- 20 - 21 October**  
\*Yearbook Picture Days
- 24 October**  
\*ACT Test @ SOIS
- 29 October**  
\*Fall Music Recital, 4.00pm @theatre
- 2 November**  
\*OIS HS Student Council Election
- 3 November**  
\*Culture Day - No school
- 7 November**  
\*SAT I & II Tests @ SOIS
- 11 November**  
\*PTA meeting, 9:00am
- 14 November**  
\*International Fair

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Bill Kralovec, *head*  
072-727-5080  
[bkralovec@senri.ed.jp](mailto:bkralovec@senri.ed.jp)
- Kurt Mecklem,  
*MS/HS principal/ IBMYP coordinator*  
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[kmecklem@senri.ed.jp](mailto:kmecklem@senri.ed.jp)
- Carolyn Marshall,  
*ES principal / IBPYP coordinator*  
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- Melissa Lamug, *counselor*  
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- Mike McGill, *admissions director*  
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- Steve Lewis, *business manager*  
072-727-5090  
[slewis@senri.ed.jp](mailto:slewis@senri.ed.jp)
- Miyuki Endo, *IBDP coordinator*  
072-727-5050  
[mendo@senri.ed.jp](mailto:mendo@senri.ed.jp)
- Peter Heimer, *activities director*  
072-727-2137  
[pheimer@senri.ed.jp](mailto:pheimer@senri.ed.jp)
- Natsuko Inoue, *school nurse*  
072-727-5050  
[ninoue@senri.ed.jp](mailto:ninoue@senri.ed.jp)
- Student attendance  
072-727-2305



# International Fair 2015

November 14<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 10:30a.m. ~ 15:00 p.m.



Many thanks to those of you who have applied for Booths or Entertainment for the Fair.

## **Now We Desperately Need Volunteers!**

### ◆Eco station◆

Watching and directing people to separate garbage at Eco station.

We need volunteers from 10:30 ~15:00, in 30-minute shifts.

If you wish to volunteer, please send an e-mail to [oispta-if@soismail.jp](mailto:oispta-if@soismail.jp) with the following information:

- Subject line : Eco Volunteer
- Body text : Your name, your child's name and grade, hours you are available, cell phone number so that we can reach you on the day of the Fair.

**REMINDER** : We are still collecting donation goods (only new items), eco-caps (clean and dry) and used books, CDs and DVDs (in good condition) in front of the library. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **ボランティア急募**

沢山のブース出店、エンターテイメントへの応募ありがとうございました。

フェアを成功させる為に皆様の更なるご協力が必要です。

引き続きボランティアへの応募もよろしくお願いします。

### ◆エコステーション◆

エコステーションにてゴミを正しく廃棄してもらうよう監視、指導。

10:30~15:00までの間で、30分間のシフト制。

ご協力いただける方は [oispta-if@soismail.jp](mailto:oispta-if@soismail.jp) まで以下を明記の上、応募をお願いします。

- 件名 : エコボランティア
- 本文 : お名前、お子様のお名前と学年、希望時間、フェア当日に連絡の取れる携帯番号とメールアドレス

**現在募集中** ●寄贈品 (新品に限る)、●エコキャップ (洗い乾かしたもの)、●古本、中古 CD, DVD (状態の良いものに限る)の物品の回収も行っています。

場所は図書館前です。皆様のご協力をお願いします。