

Educator



12 March 2016

MARIST MODEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS - 2016

by Tara Cheney, MUN coordinator

SOIS had an enjoyable and successful time at the 29th annual Marist Model United Nations. Two delegates (Mia Lewis, delegate for Liberia and Momo Nakakita, delegate for Belgium) were awarded General Assembly certificates for speaking eloquently and contributing throughout the three day simulation. Congratulations to all SOIS delegates for being great ambassadors in relation to your designated country and for representing your school in an exemplary manner.



Photos courtesy of Marist Brothers International School, Kobe.



Mitsuki Takizawa (OIS), Kristoff Hollstein (OIS) and Mark Yamamoto (OIS)



Mia Lewis (OIS) who was awarded General Assembly Certificate

★ More photos on back ★

STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

OIS is teaming with the multinational corporation, Ipsen, a designer and manufacturer of industrial furnaces, based out of Germany, with factories also in the US, China, India and Japan.

Many companies use metal in their products or processes, and all of these need to be heat treated in an industrial furnace. Companies that produce airplane parts, jet turbines, automotive parts, hip replacements, gears, transmissions, tools, dies, iPhones, iPads, etc., are treated in a furnace.

Ipsen provides many of these furnaces to companies like Kawasaki, Mitsubishi, Bosch, ZF, suppliers to Honda, VW, Mazda, Toyota, Apple, Boeing, GE, Rolls Royce, etc.

Students with interests in business, management, marketing, design, visual art, IT, sourcing, logistics, accounting/finance, human resources, sales and engineering will have the opportunity to experience various topics in a business environment.

The program will be open to students in grades 10 - 12. We hope to get started this spring, but opportunities can be sought for the summer and next autumn as well. If you are interested in learning more, please see the MS/HS principal, Mr. Kurt Mecklem (kmecklem@senri.ed.jp).



from the desk of the head, Bill Kralovec

I am looking forward to going with the students to the grade 8 spring camp to Hiroshima. The OIS MS/HS spring camps helps the teachers and students form stronger bonds which supports learning in the classroom. Having adventures together and spending day and night together facilitate camaraderie. We also get to learn more about the history and culture of Japan. Being a grade 8 homeroom advisor this year has given me an insight into our students and school that informs my decision making as head of school.

The United States Consulate General in Osaka recently hosted a Crisis Management Exercise which I attended. I was thinking about the grade 4 students' presentation at the last Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting where they found that only approximately 25% of our families have home emergency packs ready in case of emergency. My takeaways from the afternoon were practice of the drills is so important because in case of emergency, when people are prepared, they act more rationally than in a state of shock or bewilderment and the need to make color photocopies of important documents and have spare cash ready to go with home supplies. The presenter Brenda Pennington recommended Amanda Ripley's book, "The Unthinkable: Who Survives and Why When Disaster Strikes".

Dr. Masayo Yamamoto from Kwansei Gakuin University will be delivering Part II in our series of symposiums on bilingualism. Her research focuses on how the social prestige of two languages influences language development in families. She is conducting a longitudinal study on two English-Japanese families in Hawaii. Her findings will be of interest to our many bilingual families. She will be here on the SOIS Open Day Friday April 29 in the afternoon in the third floor conference room. A time will be announced as we get closer to the day. Remember that April 29 is a national holiday (Day of *Showa*) but we have classes so it will give our parents a chance to come to school and participate in a day of learning with their children.

With the winter trimester coming to an end next week and the end of the Japanese school year, some students are leaving OIS next week and others coming in April. We are predicting an increase of 4-6 students. Space is getting tight in many grade levels and we are either turning away or placing into the waiting pool many families. If a current family knows they are not returning for the 2016-2017 academic year, please let us know. You can indicate your plans for next year with a Google form that will come through SOISmail email next week.

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

As you are reading this, students are about to embark on camps which means the school year is already two thirds complete. When the camps and spring vacation are behind us and the seniors' IB Diploma exams are just around the corner, it is easy for the students to think that the school year is finished. However, there is still a lot of school left and the remaining third of the year can have a big impact on the students' learning.

Sometime over the next few weeks, you will be receiving your child's winter trimester report. This will provide a lot of information that can help you and your children plan for a strong finish to the school year. It is important to take some time to talk to your child about the progress they have been making at school.

When looking at reports, most people tend to focus on the numbers but there is a lot of other valuable information there. Just looking at the number doesn't give you and your child much specific to talk about. The numbers 1 to 8 actually represent a description for how your child is performing in each of the criterion.

A number is vague and difficult to set goals against but by looking at the descriptor you can get some specific ideas of what to focus on when trying to improve. For example, a 6th grader who gets a 4 on “analyzing” in English is told that she “justifies opinions and ideas with some examples and explanations, though this may not be consistent...” This statement gives specific things that the student can work on and use to set goals. Clearly, this student is using examples to justify opinions at times but they need to work on doing this more regularly. This is information you or your child can use when proofreading an assignment. The other criterion include similar descriptors that will help give you insight into student strengths and areas to improve.

This report also includes a comment from the teacher in which they will have noted specific things the student is doing well and areas they can develop. In addition to this comment, the teacher will have also indicated how your child is doing on some of their “approaches to learning” skills and whether or not they are meeting expectations.

This all may sound a bit confusing at first but your child will be a good resource for understanding the report card. If after talking to them and going over the report together you still have some questions, please feel free to contact me or any of the teachers.

Have a great spring holiday!

from the desk of the elementary principal, CAROLYNE MARSHALL

I was pleased to see nearly all the parents of elementary students visiting school for the parent/teacher conferences on 3 and 4 March. This dialogue ensures links between home and school are strong and our students are effectively supported in their learning.

Another strong link between home and school is homework, or home learning as it is often more positively labelled. When a student has the opportunity to practise or reflect on skills learned at school, or to make connections with their life outside school, learning can be enhanced. However debate rages about the usefulness of elementary students doing homework. There are educational experts on both sides: some argue that homework is highly beneficial whilst others can show studies demonstrating the opposite effect on young students.

As a PYP school we aim to encourage balance and authentic learning. We recognize the wide interests and active lives of our students here: many attend instrument lessons, sports or dance classes, Japanese tutoring and other activities after a day at OIS. As I described in last month’s article, elementary students need lots of sleep to be healthy and ready to learn. They should not become over-tired by over-scheduling.

OIS elementary teachers have been discussing home learning. We feel that students should spend some time reading each day, practising Japanese, and discussing their school day with a parent. When homework is given, it should not take up more than half an hour of your child’s time. If your child spends more than this on assigned tasks it is time to stop. The teacher should be informed if this is the case.

The PYP inquiry approach to learning can be supported at home in a number of ways:

- Parents can ask their child to share their experiences and encourage them to explain their thinking
- Read a book together, taking turns with who reads out loud and who asks questions about the plot and characters
- Search for resources that support inquiry units
- Help your child to take photos, video or to write about objects or events that connect with their learning at school.

Home learning such as this can then be shared in class and becomes a valuable contribution to the learning of all.

K-Gr. 2 SET LUNCH MENU - CAFETERIA



MONDAY 14 March
rice omelet

TUESDAY 15 March
curry rice

TUESDAY 5 April
spaghetti with meat sauce

WEDNESDAY 6 April
fried chicken

THURSDAY 7 April
kitsune udon (Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd)

FRIDAY 8 April
beef stroganoff

MONDAY 11 March
soy-sauce flavored ramen

TUESDAY 12 April
rice omelet

WEDNESDAY 13 April
pork cutlet

THURSDAY 14 April
hamburger meat

FRIDAY 15 April
curry rice



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Winter Trimester Farewells



With our winter trimester ending next week, there will be some students and faculty leaving OIS.

Keith Thompson, grade 6
Marina Ninomiya, grade 7
Karin Kase, grade 9
Ellis Namba, grade 11

Best wishes for a successful transition to your new school and your presence in our community will be missed.

We also say goodbye to Japanese language teacher, Teruko Clark. Clark sensei taught in both the Primary Years Programme and Middle Years Programme. She covered a maternity leave since last April. She brought a warm, caring heart to her teaching. Clark sensei also worked very hard to provide her students with valuable learning opportunities. On behalf of the students, parents and faculty of OIS, thank you! She will continue to be in our community as a substitute teacher in addition to her private music lessons.



Ms Teruko Clark

2016-17 SCHOOL CALENDAR Return dates for OIS



Friday 26 August 2016
*ES/MS/HS orientation day
Monday 29 August
*Classes begin for fall trimester

Parents are asked to plan holidays based on the above calendar, and not miss days.

Grade 4's Fabulous Culture Day Promotes International Mindedness! by Lora Vimont, G4 teacher

As a way to enhance our unit studies for WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME and learn more about our own traditions, histories and values as well as to celebrate International Mother Language Day, the Grade 4 class held its own Culture Day celebration in the G4 classroom on Friday, February 19th. Organized by our own G4 PTA representative, Ms. Sawamoto, and several of the G4 parents, our class was treated to a day of international foods, songs, poetry, photo-sharing, personal histories, celebrations and traditional dress from around the world. Our parents really outdid themselves with the preparation and serving of delicious culinary dishes that included: Japanese mochi and fruits, Korean yakgwa and ssal kang jung, Chinese spring rolls, American chocolate chip cookies, Lebanese hummus, Australian vegemite sandwiches, Israeli babka, Italian panettone and Bolivian arroz con leche. On this day, we heard the US national anthem, an American baseball song, a Japanese song in remembrance of the Great East Japan earthquake and some Chinese poetry. Additionally, we saw presentations about one family's multi-cultural lifestyle and another's personal migration history as well as one family's telling about living in a country in the midst of conflict. All in all, it was a fabulous day for promoting international-mindedness in our students!



Tech Corner from Stephen Frater: Mac security

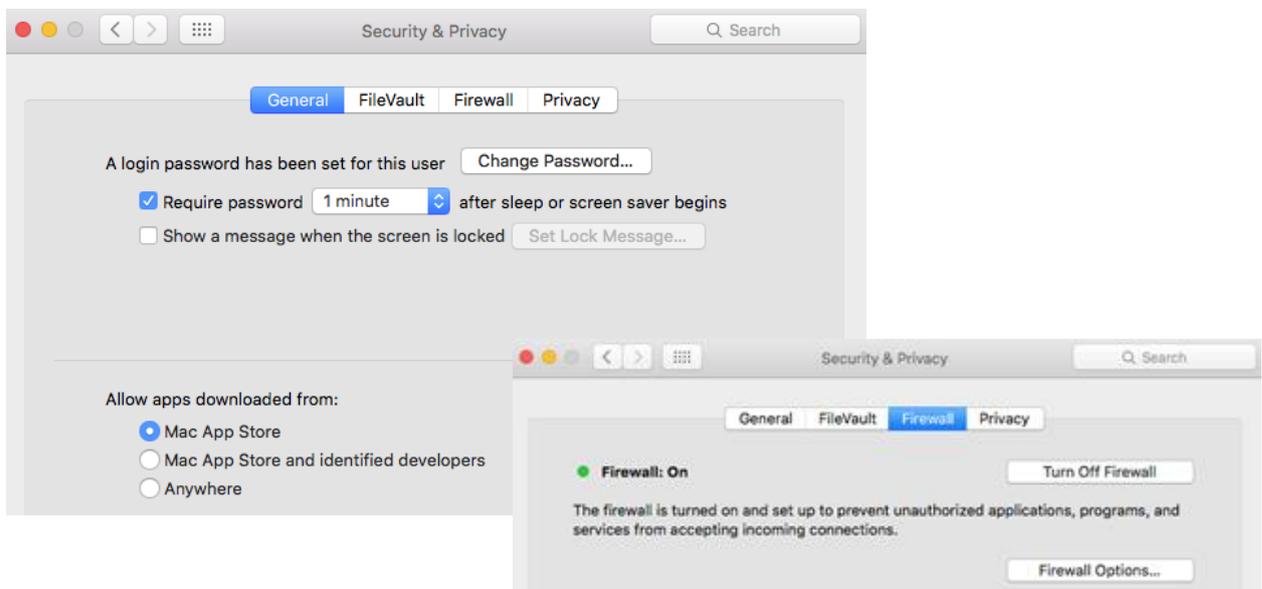
Although many parents and students have PCs at home running Windows or Linux operating systems, the overwhelming majority of computers students bring in to school are Mac laptops, and whilst PC users have long been wary of viruses on their computers, Mac users have been less exposed and are often less prepared for such security risks. That is starting to change, and it is important that users take certain basic steps to protect their computer from being hacked.

It is broadly agreed that the biggest risk to the security of a computer is the end user, more specifically the habits of the user. People leave computers on and unattended for a few minutes in school or in the workplace, giving third parties an opportunity to access accounts and password information; users often have very weak passwords (remember that mixing letters, numbers and symbols in your password, such as 'icecream' → '1cecre@m' will increase the strength of your password exponentially); people use the same password for all accounts; users log-on to public WiFi spots without knowing the security of the network, etc. All of these increase your risk of being hacked significantly, and can be improved through better habits.

At the same time, there are increasing risks of a user installing a seemingly genuine piece of software, unaware that there is some malicious code hidden in the file, a so-called trojan horse. This week a popular torrent application for Macs, Transmission, was found to have been infected. Users who downloaded an update from the developer (version 2.90) will have unwittingly also installed a piece of malware on their computers which will encrypt the entire hard drive three days later, and which will demand a ransom in return for a key to unlock the computer. A fix has been issued and updating to version 2.92 will remove the malicious software, however many users will be unaware of this potential threat to their computers, which brings me back to the topic of developing good habits.

One step Mac users can take to protect themselves is to install a good antivirus programme, and to keep it up to date. There are several good free versions available (I use Avast Antivirus on my Macs, but others like Sophos and Virus Buster are equally good), although the adage that 'you get what you pay for' is true here as well, and it generally makes sense to pay for a version that comes with more comprehensive features if you want to have a better level of security.

More importantly, users should look at the Apple logo in the top left of your screen and open the System → Security & Privacy preferences pane. Here, under the 'General' tab, look at the settings for 'Allow apps downloaded from:' and choose 'Mac App Store' for maximum security. This will, however, prevent you from installing software you have purchased or downloaded from a regular website on the Internet. Choosing 'Mac App Store and identified developers' is the next best option, but the risks are notably higher. As usual, there is a tradeoff between convenience and security, and you have to make a conscious decision about which you value more. At the same time, go into the 'Firewall' tab and make sure it is on.



Just as importantly, do not take your online security for granted. Become more informed by checking online periodically for news (e.g. <http://www.thesafemac.com>). The increasing popularity of Macs and iOS devices means that the risks of losing data, or worse, are increasing, and it pays to take some simple precautions now.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at sfrater@senri.ed.jp with any technology related questions or suggestions you have, or visit me in room 324 next time you are on campus.

SABERS UPDATE by Peter Heimer, activities director



- Sabers website: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/>
- Sabers Athletics Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/soissabers>
- Scoreboard fundraiser: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/fundraising.html>
- AISA homestays: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/homestay.html>

Middle school girls basketball, boys soccer

The MS girls basketball and boys soccer teams both completed successful seasons this past weekend.

- The girls, coached by Ms. Entwistle and Mr. Mecklem, took a tough 4th place at the season-ending WJAA basketball tournament held at Marist. Standout players for the Sabers were Leona Yanagi (Sabers MVP) and Nanami Hasegawa.
- The boys soccer team, coached by Mr. McGill and Mr. Stone, played at CA and won WJAA titles in both the A and B divisions, defending the Sabers' A and B division championships of the past 2 years – a double “three-peat”. Or is that a “three-peat” double? A triple double? Considering that this makes it 5 years in a row that the Sabers footballers have won the A-division title, why don't we just call it “total dominance”? The top goal scorers for the Sabers were Mao Sawamoto and Keigo Igarashi.

New middle school seasons: girls softball, boys volleyball, table tennis, running/triathlon

The next MS sports are

- boys volleyball (Coach Van Plantinga, Coach Routh);
 - girls softball (Coach Nakamura, Coach Yamashiro);
 - table tennis (Coach Takahashi, Coach Yamada); and
 - running and triathlon (Coach Baba, Coach Cheney).
- MS athletes, be ready to start right after the spring holiday.

High school: soccer, swimming, badminton, softball

- Both the boys and girls HS soccer teams compete in WJAA tournaments this weekend. Undefeated on the season, the boys, led by Coach Haske and Coach Entwistle, are optimistic of a repeat title at Canadian Academy. Coach Frater and Coach Kono have high hopes for the girls, who play at the KG Sanda campus. For AISA soccer in April, the boys travel to Yokohama while SOIS hosts the girls tournament at Sanda.
- The Sabers swim team, with Coach Bertman and Coach Kano, travels to Seoul International School in April for the AISA meet.
- The badminton squad, coached by Mr. Lewis, plays in the WJAA tournament in April in Kobe.
- The HS girls softball team holds its season-opener against CA this Saturday on the Sabers field. Coach Hirai and Coach Hikosaka and the girls will practice and play during the spring holiday. (It's not too late to join the team.)

AISA homestays: girls soccer, April 14-17

Are you interested in homestay high school girls soccer players from Seoul, April 14-17 (3 nights)? If so, please contact the AD office. We are in need of housing for 6-8 girls. It is a fun, rewarding experience. Much information can be found at <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/homestay.html>.

KG Sanda campus field

The Sabers high school soccer teams now play on an all-purpose field on the KG Sanda campus. Though remote, this venue allows the Sabers to host WJAA and AISA soccer tournaments. For a look at the field, please visit <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sanda.html>.

Thank you

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



Sabers MS boys WJAA champions, A and B divisions



Sabers MS girls basketball tournament team



KG UPDATE

Kwansei Gakuin Junior High School Continues to Interact with Children Who were Victims of the Nepal Earthquake – 22 February

In June of last year, the first-year students of Kwansei Gakuin Junior High School wrote letters (messages) and drew pictures to comfort children who were victims of the Nepal earthquake that struck in April of last year. A special class conducted by Raja Ratna Sthapit, the managing director of the NPO Cross Culture Media, which delivered the letters to Nepal, was held during the school's Bible Studies class (taught by Akira Fukushima) on February 18.



During the lesson, Raja showed a video of the children in Nepal when the letters and pictures were handed over, and explained, "The children are still afraid of the earthquake, but seeing all of your messages and knowing that somebody was out there praying for them returned the smiles to their faces." Tears formed in the students' eyes when they received the "Thank you" messages from the children in Nepal. At the end of the lesson, all of the students meditated for five minutes until they had calmed down, and then they wrote more messages to the children of Nepal on picture postcards this time. Raja is scheduled to deliver these to Nepal in April, exactly one year after the earthquake struck.

Akira Fukushima, the instructor of this class, asked, "What would you children do if the Nepal earthquake had happened to you? What sort of words would you like to hear? The lesson provided the students with the opportunity to think about this and re-evaluate themselves. I hope to continue with exchanges that transcend borders so that the children can involve themselves in heart-to-heart communications in the future."



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 15 April.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

14-16 March

*MS/HS spring camps

16 March

*Winter trimester ends
- ES half day of school

School bus

March 14 & 15: operated as usual.

March 16:

operated as usual in the morning leaving at 11:45am from school.

Cafeteria

March 14 & 15: closed at 12:15.

March 16: closed.

17 March - 4 April

*Spring break

4 April

*SIS entrance ceremony
*OIS faculty inservice (No classes)

5 April

*Spring trimester begins

6 April

*OIS/SIS HS student council club fair

9 April

*ACT test @SOIS

11 April

*OIS/SIS joint assembly
*IBDP visual arts exhibition opening

13 April

*PTA meeting, 9:00am
@3F conference room

15 April

*PTA Japanese art afternoon for ES students and parents, 3:40-5:45pm

22 April

*OIS/SIS grade 8 art excursion
*PTA grades 4-5 parent-student dance

23 April

*SOIS library vision day

25 April

*G12 study leave begins

26 April

*Spring music recital
- individual students, 4:00pm

29 April

*OIS/SIS class visitation day
*ES Osaka Olympics



SPRING LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday 10 March:
Open as usual.

Friday 11 March:
Open 8:00am-4:30pm.

Monday 14 March – Monday 4 April:
Closed.

Tuesday 5 April:
Open as usual.

2016 MUN Ambassadors from SOIS

Photos courtesy of Marist Brothers International School, Kobe.



Nils Hebach (OIS)



Sola Lutringer (OIS)



Leo Sakamoto (OIS)



Kristoff Hollstein (OIS)



Keiya Iwamida (OIS)



Kaya Frese (OIS)



Evan Tsubaki (OIS)



Hana Gostelow Yasuda (OIS)



Meg Nakagawa (SIS)