

Educator



20 February 2016



2016 SIS/OIS All School Production

Grease



Audiences were thrilled and taken back to 1950s USA with the 2016 All School Production (ASP) of Grease. The musical was made famous by the 1978 movie adaptation. The four performances were “standing-room only” and all advanced tickets sold out within a few days. It truly was an all school production with 84 community members on the production staff, 74 on stage, 9 orchestra members, and 17 members working on the props. On behalf of the school I would like to thank everyone who supported the play. A special moment occurred at the end of the last performance with a presentation to Nakae Osako, who will be retiring from her full-time position at the school in June. She has been an integral part of ASP for many years and we all celebrate and appreciate her efforts in making this event a highlight on the calendar every year. Arigato Osako sensei!



More photos on back.

from the desk of the head, BILL KRALOVEC

I would like to highlight two upcoming symposiums that I am hosting. The word symposium comes from the Greek language and it originally meant to “drink together”. When people drink inhibitions are lowered and topics are discussed that might not be brought up in regular conversation and I imagine that is how the word came into English. Today it has changed to mean a meeting or conference where experts discuss a particular topic or a social gathering where there is an exchange of ideas. At the symposiums I am hosting, we do not have alcoholic beverages, but we do have coffee and tea and hopefully a comfortable, inviting environment, where people can feel free to offer opinions and insights from their experience or knowledge.

On Wednesday February 24 at 5:30 PM in the third floor conference room, Dr. Kazuhiko Namba, a professor of Applied Linguistics in the faculty of foreign studies’ English department at Kyoto Sangyo University will be discussing raising bilingual children. SOIS is a special environment in Japan in that we have many bilingual and bicultural students. In fact, 38% of OIS students have one Japanese parent and one foreign parent. Dr. Namba will be discussing what the research says on raising bilingual/bicultural children. Topics addressed will be switching languages, the advantages and disadvantages of being bicultural, what language parents should speak at home with their children and he will field questions from the audience. Dr. Namba taught at SIS for 13 years and is married to SIS English teacher, Fran Namba, who is from the UK. He has lots of personal and professional experience and it will be a beneficial evening for all who attend.

On Thursday March 10 at 5:30 PM in the third floor conference room, SOIS business manager, Steve Lewis will be discussing the finances behind our campus and within the KG foundation.

Finally, I would like to update the community on our fundraising for the new scoreboard in the gymnasium. The current scoreboard in the gymnasium is 25 years old and on its last legs. Athletic Director Pete Heimer has led fundraising efforts to raise 485,000 ¥ and the international school fair committee contributed an additional 540,000 ¥. We are looking for another 1.2 million ¥ to complete the project and also put a scoreboard on the outside athletic field. Installation, shipping and other expenses do add up. We are open to publicizing any significant donation with a sign or memorial plaque. It would be wonderful to have the fundraising completed by the end of this academic year, so if you can donate any amount, please contact Mr. Heimer (pheimer@senri.ed.jp).

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

With March just around the corner, there is a lot happening at school right now. The seniors are about to do their mock exams which means they are on the home stretch for the challenging IB Diploma program. They will use the results from the mock exams to help plan their studying and revision leading up to the real exams which begin in May. The grade 10 students are preparing to participate in the Model United Nations simulation taking place at Marist Brothers in Kobe. Now that the grade 10 have completed their personal projects they will also start to work on their reflection papers for the project which constitutes one of the culminating activities of the 5 year IB Middle Years Program.

The coming of March also means that the annual spring camps are just around the corner. By this point the rosters are settled and the business office is ready to accept payments. We are looking forward to this annual event which provides an opportunity for student team building and learning outside of the classroom. We’ve always had very positive feedback on the camps so we are following a similar model to previous years.

The middle schoolers go on camps with their entire class. This year, grade 6 will be going on a hike locally and then stay at KG’s Sengari Camp. Grade 7 will visit the outdoor education company Northstar near Matsumoto where they will participate in snow based activities such as cross country skiing. Grade 8 will visit Hiroshima where they will tour the peace museum and meet with a bombing survivor. They will also visit Miyajima and the Mazda museum and factory. The grade 11 also travels as a class on their annual service trip. This year they will visit Bali where our students have been working with a local school for several years now. They will engage in service activities at the school. The grade 12 will work on a science project on campus that is a requirement for completing the IB Diploma program. Grade 9 and 10 have a choice of camps and this year students have opted to participate in sailing, photography, feeding the homeless and snowboarding. The snowboarding camp which also takes place at Northstar proved to be the most popular.

Other events on the horizon include spring break and the IB DP art exhibition.

from the desk of the elementary school principal, CAROLYN MARSHALL

This month has seen a spike in cases of influenza among both students and staff. I hope that if you and your family have been affected, a full recovery has been made by all.

Health, along with happiness, is of great importance in our daily lives, and a balanced lifestyle goes a long way to achieving this. ‘Balance’ is one of the ten IB learner profile attributes – factors that we at OIS strive to model as part of our lifelong learning. One aspect of balance in our lives that I am sure we can all improve is that between sleeping and waking. “Sleep is especially important for children as it directly impacts mental and physical development,” (The National Sleep Foundation).

Each Grade 5 student has recently started to keep a very detailed sleep log as part of their inquiry into their present unit: 'Who we are'. These require each of them to log not only how much sleep they have but also how they feel each morning. The motivation behind this survey is that many of the student themselves have said that they feel they get insufficient sleep. When looking into disciplinary issues, I have also found there to be a connection between children's poor behavior and the amount of sleep they are having; a lack of sleep corresponding to a lack of self-control.

Our elementary students experience great demands on their time, including homework, sports, instrument lessons and other extra-curricular and social activities. They also spend a large amount of time on computers, media, TV and internet. All of these factors can lead to difficulty actually falling asleep and can cause nightmares and disruptions to their sleep patterns.

To help our students live and learn healthily and happily, we are emphasizing at school the following ways to improve their sleep, advice drawn from research found on the Harvard Medical School and the Sleep Foundation websites:

1. Everyone needs a regular and consistent sleep schedule and soothing pre-sleep routine.
2. Ensure that the evening meal is completed several hours before bedtime.
3. A child's bedroom should be conducive to sleep – dark, cool and quiet.
4. Stimulating activities such as watching TV and playing on computers should be avoided before bedtime and kept out of bedrooms. An hour or so before going to bed children should do something relaxing such as taking a bath, reading a book, or doing relaxation exercises.
5. Elementary students should get between 9 and 11 hours of sleep a night.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS Feb.24th-26th @Marist Brothers IS

Please note that Anna KIM (G10) will be representing Lebanon and Keiya IWAMIDA (G 10) will be representing Jordan at the upcoming Model of the United Nations simulation Feb.24th-26th. My apologies for inadvertently omitting them from the list in the previous *Educator* article. Below is the revised list of participating students from SIS/OIS.

Country	Delegate	Committee
Australia	Yuto Baba	Crimes at Sea
Bangladesh	Kaya Frese	Crimes at Sea
Bolivia	Hana Gostelow Yasuda	Access to Clean Water
China	Takumi Harthan	Crimes at Sea
Cyprus	Nils Hebach	Immigration Crisis
Fiji	Kristof Hollstein	Access to Clean Water
Jordan	Keiya Iwamida	Immigration Crisis
Lebanon	Anna Kim	Immigration Crisis
Liberia	Mia Lewis	Immigration Crisis
Maldives	Sola Lutringer	Access to Clean Water
Mozambique	Masami Nagasaka	Crimes at Sea
Myanmar	Leo Sakamoto	Crimes at Sea
Namibia	Joseph Shiina	Access to Clean Water
Netherlands	Yuki Sutton	Situation in Syria
Nicaragua	Mitsuki Takizawa	Immigration Crisis
Norway	Rigi Tay	Situation in Syria
Peru	Evan Tsubaki	Situation in Syria
Slovenia	Shoko Yamaji	Situation in Syria
Somalia	Mark Yamamoto	Crimes at Sea
Sweden	Emma Wong	Situation in Syria
Uganda	Manon Raby Natsuaki	Access to Clean Water

K-Gr. 2 SET LUNCH MENU - CAFETERIA



MONDAY 22 February
fried chicken

TUESDAY 23 February
beef stroganoff

WEDNESDAY 24 February
kitsune udon (Japanese wheat noodles with deep fried bean curd)

THURSDAY 25 February
sandwiches with pork cutlet

FRIDAY 26 February
rice omelet

MONDAY 29 February
Rice bowl with fried chicken

TUESDAY 1 March
spaghetti with meat sauce

WEDNESDAY 2 March
hamburger meat

MONDAY 7 March
curry with fried chicken

TUESDAY 8 March
cheese burger

WEDNESDAY 9 March
soy-sauce flavored ramen

THURSDAY 10 March
pork cutlet

FRIDAY 11 March
focaccia pizza

MONDAY 14 March
rice omelet

TUESDAY 15 March
curry rice



KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS TRAVEL THE WORLD by Nadia Kralovec, KA teacher



The Kindergarten A children accumulated many frequent flyer points on their trips to Sweden, Taiwan, Hawaii, Thailand, USA, Saudi Arabia, China and Indonesia. The simulated flights were the culminating assessment of the unit entitled “How the World Works”. The central idea for this unit was “The Earth’s Natural Cycles influence the activity of living things”

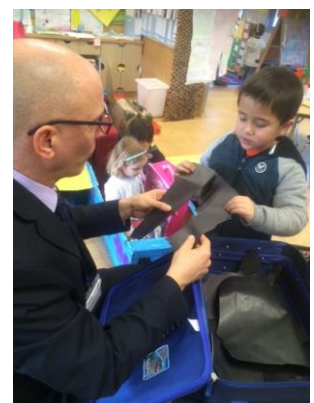
To introduce the unit, Ms. Allen and I came to school dressed in our pajamas and acted very sleepy during our morning meeting. The children were so curious as to why we were acting so strangely in the morning. According to them, our actions were more of a reflection on night time activities rather than day ones. So, our adventure began for unit 2!



The children inquired about weather patterns, seasons, and day and night and the actions people take in response to Earth’s natural cycles. As part of their research on the seasons, the students created four trees representing the distinctive seasons. The grade 2 students also visited KA and shared their knowledge and understanding about day and night and the seasons from their astronomy unit which also falls under the same organizing theme of “How the World Works”. KA also became aware of the different activities that can only be done in certain seasons. It was fascinating for them to know that in Osaka it was freezing cold while people in Hawaii or Thailand were swimming at the beach.

Our summative assessment had a lot of different parts to it. The students first researched their preferred destinations climate and then designed and sketched and made clothes out of paper that suited the temperature for that season. They also started to prepare for the flight by filling in all their personal information in their passports and boarding passes by using their literacy skills. The children also designed their transportation. They helped to build our very own KA airplane. They helped to assemble, paint it, and even put carpet on it.

On the big day the students packed their bags and had to go through “customs” on to their KA Japan Airlines flight. As you can see, they were definitely not flying in first class, but that did not damper their excitement. They were just happy to be on the flight and ready to go and experience the different seasons around the world. We even had 3 very capable pilots that helped manage the flights.



The students had a strong engagement with the learning, which made it more meaningful. The PYP inquiry cycle was in full force, with the students over the weeks, finding information and applying it to the challenge of going on a trip to their favorite destination and understanding the different seasons/weather in their chosen destination. Literacy, mathematics, fine arts and lots of creativity were all developed through this unit. The best part for me was to see their enthusiasm throughout the project. They became obsessed with measuring objects, including tracking the weather on a daily basis. We will continue to do so till the end of the school year and hopefully start tracking warmer weather very soon.

Tech Corner from Stephen Frater

Forwarding SOISmail messages to a personal email account


The brief guide to managing your family SOISmail account has been updated with additional information and tips. This includes options and step-by-step instructions in English and in Japanese for setting up mail forwarding, so that messages from the school appear in your personal email account.

As a reminder, teachers and business office staff, sports coaches and other school staff use these SOISmail addresses to send messages and reminders to students, and to send news, reports and invitations to families. Because all families have an active and easily recognisable SOISmail account, the school uses these addresses rather than trying to keep track of individualised personal email addresses to communicate with parents and guardians. As part of our efforts to reducing the amount of paper that is used in the schools, most information to parents is now sent through this system rather than in the form of printed handouts. The SOISmail account should therefore be checked regularly for incoming messages.

A copy of the guide can be viewed, downloaded and/or printed here: <http://technology.senri.ed.jp/sois-mail.html>

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.

Guide to SOISmail for new parents



Senri and Osaka International Schools (SOIS) provide each student, and each student's family, with a SOISmail email account. This is a Gmail account from Google created within the school's own SOIS mail system.

Teachers and business office staff, sports coaches and other school staff use these SOISmail addresses to send messages and reminders to students, and to send news, reports and invitations to families. Because all families have an active and easily recognisable SOISmail account, the school uses these addresses rather than trying to keep track of individualised personal email addresses to communicate with parents and guardians. As part of our efforts to reducing the amount of paper that is used in the schools, most information to parents is now sent through this system rather than in the form of printed handouts. The SOISmail account should therefore be checked regularly for incoming messages.

Each student's email address is made up of three elements:

251099@soismail.jp

- the year of graduation
- whether the student is in SIS (1) or OIS (2)
- the grade number

For example 251099@soismail.jp indicates that the student will graduate in 2025, they are an SIS student (1), and they are the 99th (099) student to have joined that grade. Family email addresses are the eldest son or daughter's SOISmail address with an 'F' prefix, e.g. f251099@soismail.jp.

Your address and password
Your family SOISmail address and password are printed on the reverse side of the Parent ID card you are issued with when you join the school.

Important announcements and emergency alerts
Senri and Osaka International Schools use the SOISmail system as our main channel of communicating emergency notices with parents and guardians. For example, when the school needs to close during a typhoon. For that reason, we ask parents to add their SOISmail account to the email application on their computing devices and/or smartphones.

Accessing your SOISmail messages
There are four main ways to access your SOISmail messages:

- 1) view your mailbox using a web browser such as Chrome or Safari
- 2) use Google's Gmail app
- 3) add the account to your regular email application
- 4) set up message forwarding so that messages are automatically forwarded to another email address.

SOIS CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP

Last weekend students from both OIS and SIS visited the Tateyama National Youth Outdoor Learning Center. The trip was led by SIS mathematics teacher and triathlon sponsor, Mr. Hiroshi Baba and the students learned how to cross country ski. Cross country, or nordic skiing is an excellent form of exercise and the students after receiving some instruction, went around the circuit trails on the grounds of the learning center. The center is a government owned facility located just outside the Tateyama National Park and it is set up for school groups.



Six OIS middle school students attended the trip and we hope to get some more OIS students participating next year.



In the evening, the students played team building games in the gymnasium at the facilities. It was an excellent opportunity for students from the two schools to get to know each other and make connections. The trip culminated with boys and girls races and prizes were given to the winners. However, all the students who attended the trip were winners because they got to get outdoors and experiences the beautiful alpine scenery. Snow brings out the child in everyone, and it was heartwarming to see the teenagers building forts, making snowmen and having snowball fights like they were in elementary school again. Cross country skiing is also great exercise and much cheaper and less crowded than downhill skiing and it is hoped our students will pursue this activity as adults.

SABERS UPDATE

by Peter Heimer, activities director



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

Middle school winter sports season II continues

The winter sports season II for middle school student-athletes continues. Both the girls basketball team and boys soccer team have large squads and look strong again this year, with games already played against Canadian Academy (CA), Marist Brothers International School (MBIS), and Kyoto International University Academy (KIUA). All players on the MS teams have seen game action, from the A teams all the way through to the beginners. Be sure to watch the boys soccer team as it competes in the annual Sabers Invitational futsal tournament here at SOIS on February 20. Details here: <http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/ms-futsal.html>. And good luck to the MS teams as they work toward their WJAA tournaments in early March.

AISA math mania and leadership

January 27–31, eight SOIS students traveled to 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” – Yuichi Yoshioka, Kai Junge, Re Ea Tay, Sungwook Eun, Silojuan Silva, and Tuvshinjargal “TJ” Battogoo – competed against math students from the other four AISA schools. Also, two SOIS student council members – Hanami Nagasaka and Sara Willenkin – took part in a collaborative conference in which they explored international leadership issues and shared common student leadership experiences with their AISA counterparts. These were great events for our students. Special thanks to the teachers who prepared the students – Mr. Bertman, Mr. Welburn, Baba-sensei, and Munemasa-sensei – and to Mr. Bertman and Matsuda-sensei for chaperoning.

AISA basketball

Both the Sabers boys and girls basketball teams played in AISA tournaments, January 29–30. The boys, coached by Mr. Routh and Mr. Heimer, played at Korea International School and finished in fifth place. SIS sophomore Kai Fujita was named to the all-tournament team. The girls, coached by Sagara-sensei and Hirai-sensei, played at Seoul International School and finished in second place. All-tournament team selections were Minami Uemura, Fuka Ugai, and Rio Kurosaki. Congratulations, Sabers basketball players and coaches, on successful seasons.

New high school sports seasons

Soccer, swimming, badminton, softball – all these teams are up and running. The girls soccer team, coached by Mr. Frater and Kono-sensei, and the boys, coached by Mr. Haske and Mr. Entwistle, have already played matches. Swimming (Coach Bertman, Coach Kano) and badminton (Coach Lewis) are busy practicing. And softball (Coach Hirai, Coach Hikosaka) began early-season practice this week. Good luck to all Sabers teams.

Sabers TV

Do you know that Sabers athletics has its very own television show? Every other Wednesday morning, Sabers TV is broadcast to all classrooms via the SOIS in-school television network. Student anchors, interviewers, camera operators, and control board technicians work together to put on a show that announces Sabers results and conducts interviews with coaches and players. With the technical expertise of Mr. Frater and minimal interference from Mr. Heimer, the students organize, write, rehearse, promote, produce, and broadcast the show and have lots of fun doing so. They work hard and provide an informative and entertaining service to the Sabers community. View past shows on the Sabers TV webpage.
<http://sabers.senri.ed.jp/sabers-tv.html>.



Sabers TV personalities and crew 2015-16



Thank you

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

TRILINGUAL SPEECH CONTEST, 30 January

Congratulations to OIS grade 11 student Moe Hayashi for her second place finish in the trilingual speech contest. The event was hosted by the Korean International School in Ibaraki last month. Moe wrote an original speech on the topic of the environment. In English, Japanese and Chinese, Moe's speech dealt with the recent Paris conference and climate change. She learned Chinese from living in China before coming to OIS. Moe finished in second place in the high school division.



SPRING LIBRARY SCHEDULE



Thursday 10 March: Open as usual.
Friday 11 March: Open 8am-4:30pm.
Monday 14 March – Friday 18 March: CLOSED for Inventory.
Saturday 19 March – Monday 4 April: CLOSED for spring break.
Tuesday 5 April: Open as usual.



KG UPDATE

From KG to UN Staff Members: Towards the Cultivation of Global Leaders

The university announced they are starting a Master's degree program in the United Nations and Foreign Affairs Studies. The goal is to prepare KG students, both foreign and Japanese to work at the United Nations and other international organizations. The course will be taught by several former United Nations employees, including former Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, Takahiro Sanyo and the Resident Representative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, China and elsewhere, Shun-ichi Murata. Undergraduate students will also be able to earn a minor in the program. The courses will be taught in both English and Japanese.

KG will also hold a colloquium for Future Global Leaders August 8-10, 2016 that is open to high school students from Super Global High Schools (SGH) in Japan. SGH is a government program that supports schools in becoming producing global leaders from Japan. Senri International School is part of SGH. Students from both SIS and OIS are eligible to attend the colloquium, which will feature former UN Under Secretary-General, Yasushi Akashi and will have lectures in both English and Japanese. If you are interested, please see Emi Tsudaka (etsudaka@senri.ed.jp) in the SOIS SGH office.

KG Board of Trustees Chair, Akira Miyahara, former CEO of Fuji Xerox, visited our campus earlier this week and commented that there are several foreigners running Japanese companies, like Carlos Ghosn, of Nissan, but very few Japanese leading foreign companies. Programs like SGH and the UN degree programs aim to change this. The goal is for KG to be a leader in producing students that can be successful internationally in business, service and other fields.

Technology Is For People: Researching Robots to Help with Daily Life

Associate professor in the School of Science and Technology, Daisuke Chugo, is focusing on researching robots that assist humans. Especially with Japan and many parts of the world aging, robots taking care of humans will become more important. For example, Professor Chugo has developed an assisted movement system using air pressure to help people in wheelchairs or in bed avoid bed sores. Besides his research, he is also a teacher and he maintains a focus on "helping students grow and develop as we work together to provide the world with useful technologies for people's lives."



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 11 March.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

24-26 February

*MUN @Marist Brothers IS

29 February-4 March

*IB Mock exams

3 March

*ES Parent-Teacher Conferences
-ES half day of school

4 March

*ES Parent-Teacher Conferences
-ES no classes

7 March

*HS student council cleaning day



9 March

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

10 March

*The Finances behind SOIS' by Steve Lewis, OIS business manager
@3F conference room

9-16 March

*G11 service trip to Bali

Cafeteria

14 & 15 March: Closed at 12:15.
(a la cart menu only)
16 March: Closed.

School buses

14 & 15 March: Operated as usual.
16 March: Operated as usual coming to school. All the buses depart from school at 11:45am.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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