



Since 1997

The Comet

The Newsletter of K. International School Tokyo

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"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited; imagination encircles the world."

~ Albert Einstein

From the Head of School

Greetings to everyone! We have finished our 7th week of school and **KISTival 2010** is just around the corner. I would like to thank all parents, students and staff for their efforts and participation in the planning and organizing of this event, as it takes many hands to make it a worthwhile success. The proceeds are always used to directly benefit students and this year, the focus will be on technology.

The parent turnout so far at various meetings and events has been overwhelmingly fantastic, and we are very much looking forward to working with you this year. In addition, as we prepare to begin the accreditation process, we are spending the autumn months collecting input from parents, staff and students about the school and its mission.

At the first coffee morning a few weeks ago, parents participated in a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) of the school. The intent of this exercise is to provide information for the Board of Directors in their efforts to develop a strategic plan for the school. In addition, as a requirement for accreditation, we will be soliciting your input for the Board to use in re-examining the philosophy of the school to ensure it is still relevant to the needs of our students.

Many of you have voiced a desire to participate in the school development process, so we have planned additional forums in which you are invited to participate. Please mark your calendar:

- **Fri, Nov. 19:** **KIST SWOT Analysis** 9:00 a.m. / 6:00 p.m.
Multipurpose Room – These sessions are for parents who did not attend the first SWOT Analysis coffee morning.
- **Tues, Nov. 23:** **KIST Philosophy Workshops** 9:00 a.m. / 3:30 p.m. / 6:00 p.m.
Gym – Please attend any one of the workshops scheduled; each should last 1 to 2 hours.
- **Wed, Nov. 30:** **Friends of KIST Meeting** 3:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Room – This will be an organizational meeting of Friends of KIST, the school's Parent Association.

Thank you all for joining with us in partnership aimed toward **Communication-Collaboration-Community**, working together to provide a quality international education for your children. In an effort to promote communication between parents and staff in the KIST community, we will be compiling a **KIST Family Directory**. We understand that some parents may not wish for their contact information to be available to the KIST community. If this is your situation, please be sure to contact the office.

I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone at **KISTival**. This will be the first time there will be a real field of grass. Please help us gently remind people that there should be no food or drinks on the grass...not an easy task! Thank you very much, and see you there!

Warm regards,

Nanci Shaw, Ph.D.
Head of School

DATES TO REMEMBER



October 16:
(S) PSAT tests

October 22:
Festival preparation day –
(E/P) No school for students /
(S) School day

October 23:
School Festival (KISTival 2010)
Last day of first quarter

October 24 – 31:
Autumn vacation

November 3:
(E/S) Parent/Teacher/Student
interviews (Attendance compulsory)
Middle School Drama Festival at
KIST
Board of Directors meeting

November 5:
(G2-12) Inter-House Cross Country

November 10 – 12:
(G6) Trip

November 19:
(G2-12) Inter-School Cross Country

November 22 – 24:
Staff development days (No school
for students)

November 30:
PYP parent information session (2)

Habitat for Humanity 2010

Dear Friends and Families of the KIST Community,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I share with you the report from one of our dedicated team members on the summer volunteer excursion students and teachers undertook together to participate in a Habitat for Humanity project from June 20 through 29.

This project was partially funded by donations and funds raised throughout the 2009-2010 school year. On behalf of the Habitat for Humanity Team KIST, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all members of the community who contributed to our efforts. As you can read in the student report below, the experience was rich and rewarding for the people of Gitgit village as well as our students.

Again thank you for your selfless support in this cause.

Daryl Bates
CAS Coordinator and Team Leader

Selamat Pagi! A week before the summer vacation, 12 students from Grade 11, (Argi, PPO, Matt, William, JC, Jeff, Jessica, Aki, Hikaru, Dingyun, Tahlia and Faye) and 2 teachers (Ms Hudson and Mr Bates) travelled to Bali in Indonesia after a year of fundraising to help build a house for a family that needed one. We arrived in Kuta, a heavily tourist area of Bali in the south and travelled by car through the mountains to Lovina Beach where we stayed during our work days. The house we were building was located in Gitgit, in the mountains, so we traveled to and from the work place every day.

At the workplace, we worked side-by-side with local Indonesian workers, other members of Habitat (among whom were Martun and Yogi who helped us a great deal and we miss), and the family we were building the house for. And, of course, the eager neighborhood children.

The family served us some delicious Indonesian food and coffee, and taught us some of their language, like 'Hati-hati' which means 'dangerous' which was a useful

term to use at the energetic children who were running around the slopes in the work place. Also 'enak' meant 'delicious,' so we could convey our appreciation for the delightful food and drinks they served us.

Unfortunately, we were not able to completely finish the house, but we contributed a lot. When it was time to go back to Kuta, most of us wanted to stay to finish it but, alas, back to Kuta we travelled. In Kuta, we spent a couple of days on tour, enriching our already strong cultural appreciation for the country with an unforgettable tour guide.

We would like to thank everyone who helped and participated in our fundraising that made this amazing cultural life experience possible. Terima Kashi Banyak!

Faye (G12)



Admissions for 2011-2012

Applications are now being accepted for new admissions to KIST for the 2011-2012 school year.

The application deadline is **December 17, 2010**. Interviews and tests will be conducted in mid-January and results will be issued in early February. To ensure that you do not miss out on a place for any children you wish to enroll, we recommend that you adhere to these dates. Furthermore, if you have any acquaintances interested in joining our school, we would appreciate you passing on this information to them.

You will find details on the application procedure in our Admissions Handbook available on the Admissions >> Documentation page of the school website.

Craig Larsen
Director of Admissions and Personnel

Creativity, Action, Service

I would like to take a moment to introduce the Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) program at KIST. CAS is a compulsory core element in the Diploma Program hexagon of learning. This means, along with the students' six subject groups and Extended Essay, to receive an IB Diploma, students must also complete the CAS program.

My name is Daryl Bates and I coordinate this program for the school. For any CAS related inquiry, I can be reached at d_bates@kist.ed.jp.

To better give you an understanding of what CAS is, I quote the IB published guide for the program:

"CAS enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning. At the same time, it provides an important counterbalance to the academic pressures of the rest of the Diploma Programme. Successful completion of CAS is a requirement for the award of the IB diploma. CAS is not formally assessed but students need to document their activities and provide evidence that they have achieved eight key learning outcomes."



At KIST, CAS is managed with an online database where students can upload the required evidence and maintain their personal reflection journals electronically. Each student has an individual profile and account password to access the database from any computer anywhere with an Internet connection. This is the primary communication medium between students and their CAS Advisor, as well as the storage place for all of their CAS documents.

At the completion of their Diploma Program, students are provided with a detailed report on their achievements in this program that can accompany their applications to university and employment.

With the first few months of school well underway, most of the Grade 11 students have started their CAS activities, and all of the Grade 12 students are well into, if not close to finishing their CAS programs.

Students are constantly looking for interesting ways to engage the learning outcomes, through the three areas of the program, Creativity activities, Action activities, and Service activities. I would like to extend an invitation to parents and other community members to e-mail me with suggestions for potential CAS activities that you may have



contacts for. Here are some examples of activities students currently participate in: Habitat for Humanity, Free the Children, Junior APEC Conference, Polish Embassy volunteer, Model United Nations, piano lesson, guitar lesson, judo, tennis, basketball, Jogwa dancing, ikebana, Drama Festival, hip-hop dance, yoga, peer tutoring, cable skiing, Disabled Adult Center volunteer, and many more.

Parents of students in Grades 11 and 12 should be aware of this aspect of their child's Diploma Program (it is outlined in the DP Handbook), and it is good for parents of students in Grade 10 to be aware of this invigorating 'experience learning' component of the DP.

I welcome any questions, comments and particularly your suggestions toward further developing this program in our school. Thank you.

Daryl Bates

Subject Area Coordinator, Visual Arts
CAS Coordinator

Community Connections

This is short message to inform you of the newly developed **Community Connections Committee** at KIST. This group has the aim of creating networks of outreach among the school and local community. We are looking for parents who are interested in working together with this committee to develop programs and resources, and to provide assistance at school functions or for academic needs. Please ask about our informational sign up board at the upcoming KISTival on October 23, 2010. We have a blog site under construction at www.kist.ed.jp/blog/9, and you can contact the committee chair, Ms Cahill at n_cahill@kist.ed.jp. We look forward to meeting interested parents and working together in the coming year.



KIST Community Connections Committee

Elementary School News

Progress reports for G1 to G5

As you may be aware, written reports are issued twice a year with the first coming home after the first semester in January and the other after the second semester in June. Starting this year, we will also be issuing progress reports in between those times. You can expect to receive the first progress report during the Parent/Teacher/Student interviews on Wednesday, November 3. At that time, the homeroom teacher will explain the report and talk about your child's general progress to date. In addition to the portfolios, we hope this will help you to understand more of how your child is progressing in between the semester reports.

Assemblies for K3 to G5

K3 to G5 classes would like to welcome parents to our assemblies which are held on Mondays usually twice a month in the gym. Some of the items will include performances by everyone, grade levels, classes or by individual students. Please check your classroom's web site regularly for dates of the assemblies and for classroom news in general.

Supervising K1 to K3 children after school

As a reminder, K1 to K3 students are released at 2:00 when their school day comes to an end. If your child is not enrolled in the aftercare program or a school club, please provide supervision for your child by keeping them with you at all times if you choose to remain on campus to socialize with other parents. This will help keep our young students safe and out of the way of other classes which are continuing after 2:00. Your supervision of your child is appreciated.

G5 trip to METI and Better Place Japan

On October 5, the Grade 5 classes had an excursion to METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) and Better Place Japan Co. to support their current unit of inquiry.

Our students were the first students to represent an international school at these places and asked curious and thoughtful questions for their research. In addition to presentations at METI about Japan's economy and energy usage, students visited Japan's only EV (electric vehicle) battery swapping station. The automated station allows electric cars, mainly taxis in the Roppongi area, to replace a drained battery in less than 60 seconds.

We would like to thank one of our Board members, Mr Ichikawa, for making the excursion possible and to the Grade 5 teachers, Mr Yoshihara and Mrs Astrop for arranging the details of the excursion. It was a very exciting and enjoyable excursion which has motivated students to inquire more as a class and on their own.

Greg Brunton

Elementary School Principal



Grade 5 students enjoying their excursion to METI.

Elementary Science

Science Skills: Observation

Scientists observe in order to gather data (information). Here are some ways we can observe:

- Look closely at living and non-living things to learn more details about them. Use all your senses: Sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste.
- Look at how things change over time; either 24 hours, a week or even a month.
- Remember to always write down your observations in a useful tool, like a table or a flowchart.



Cool science fact #2:
Many scientists believe that an asteroid impact caused the extinction of the dinosaurs around 65 million years ago.

Susan Lee
 Elementary Science Coordinator

Violin Virtuoso

On Saturday, October 9, Alyssa (G8A) played the Vivaldi Double Violin Concerto in d minor with the Arce e coda String Orchestra in a performance held in the grand concert hall at the Yotsuya Community Center in Shinjuku.



She played beautifully to an adoring audience. Some members of the Grade 11 DP music class and Mr Adams went along to hear her perform. Alyssa also played some Tchaikovsky and the music used in Ghibli's Mononokehime with the orchestra. Afterwards, Alyssa organized an interview between the Grade 11s and the conductor about the concert. They learned more about conducting and the extended orchestral techniques used by Hisaishi for the movie soundtrack. The conductor also allowed Mr Adams to borrow the score to use in class with the Grade 11s.



Congratulations Alyssa and a big thank you for providing our Grade 11 students with such a rich learning experience.

Trevor Adams
 Secondary Music Teacher

Secondary School News

It is hard to believe that it is almost the Autumn Break and KISTival!

One area that the Secondary School is focusing on this year is communication with families. This year, we are e-mailing all letters home so you will receive them in a timely manner; KIST's newsletter, *The Comet*, is distributed to families six times a year; there will be numerous coffee mornings with the Principal and Coordinators throughout the year; and last but not least, our class parent representatives.

This year, the class parents are going to be playing a larger role in communication and school improvement. The class parents will be meeting a few times throughout the year to reflect and discuss KIST and the future. I understand that some parents are shy about talking with the Principal. It is KIST's hope that the class parents will help break down this communication barrier. I would like to thank all of the class parents for stepping forward and being willing to help and support KIST.

Below is the list of class parents to help with communication and support for KIST.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Student's name</u>	<u>Parent's name</u>
6A	Armina	Marie
6B	We are still looking and hoping for help.	
7A	Hamish	Ido
7B	Koharu	Joy
8A	Rino	Chinami
8B	Yuka	Hiromi
9A	Shu	Scott
9B	Taisei	Akiko
	Miku	Shinobu
10A	Chaitanya	Vandna
10B	Joe	Juliane
11	Cameron	Yuko
12	Shreya	Priya

My door is always open (3F of the Main Building), my phone is always on (03-3642-9993), and my e-mail account is always active (r_schneider@kist.ed.jp), so please do not be afraid to contact me about anything.

Robin L. Schneider
 Secondary School Principal



Grade 7 students learning the fine art of dissection.

Office Updates

Student absences

We have noticed that a number of students have been absent with no prior notification. We would like to remind families that notification must be given directly to the school office for all absences in advance where possible. As indicated below, the type of notification required depends on the duration of the absence.

For 1 or 2 days:

- Notify the office before the start of school by telephone, fax or e-mail.
- Provide your child's full name, class and a reason for the absence.
- Notification must be given by parents only, not students.

For 3 days to 1 month:

- Submit an **Application for Temporary Absence** form (downloadable from the school website) directly to the office.

For 1 month to 1 year:

- Submit an **Application for Extended Leave of Absence** form (downloadable from the school website) directly to the office.

More detailed information on procedures for notification of absence is included in the School Handbook available on the Admissions >> Documentation page of the school website. All families are asked to please adhere to the procedures outlined.

Faculty e-mail directory

A directory of e-mail addresses for all administration staff, coordinators and general teaching staff is now available on the Contact >> Faculty Directory page of the school website. We hope this is useful as a reference to assist families in communicating with teachers directly.

Changes to registered details

We continue to notice incorrect registered details such as telephone numbers and even home addresses. We remind you again that if any of your details change, it is your responsibility to inform the office immediately. We may need to contact you in an emergency situation, so for the sake of your children, it is imperative that you keep these details up to date.

ISA Testing Results

During the last week of September, students in Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9 took the International School's Assessment (ISA) and those tests have been sent out for grading.

We are expecting the results back during the holiday break in December and will send home the results to families when students return in early January.

Founders' Awards

The KIST Founders' Awards are an initiative of the school's Founders and Directors, Mr and Mrs Komaki. Through a generous personal endowment by the Founders, the awards are offered in the form of scholarships to students who make a significant contribution to the school according to its vision and founding principles, and who demonstrate qualities that truly represent the essence of the spirit of the school. There are three categories of awards as follows:

Gold Award: Full scholarship covering 100% of the tuition fees for one school year.

Silver Award: Half scholarship covering 50% of the tuition fees for one school year.

Bronze Award: Quarter scholarship covering 25% of the tuition fees for one school year.

Students currently in Grades 9, 10 and 11 are eligible to apply for awards this year for the 2011-2012 school year. More information on the criteria for the awards may be viewed on the school website. Students considering applying should be aware that these criteria are based on the current school year. This means that their grades, behavior, attendance and general commitment to the school are already under review.

Further details regarding the awards and the due date for applications will be announced later in the year.

LEAP at KIST

LEAP (Learning Enhancement

Academic Program) is a new initiative developed to support the learning of students at KIST. It is not inquiry based, but is

designed to operate alongside the IB programmes by providing additional support for students who need extra assistance with developing the core knowledge and skills that form part of the building blocks through which deeper understanding is developed. It focuses specifically on developing students' skills and knowledge in the English language and mathematics.

LEAP is currently being run as an after-school program and will also be expanded to incorporate programs held during the summer and spring vacations.

Because LEAP is not tied to the specific curriculum followed at KIST, it is also open to students from other schools who wish to enrich their learning. However, some of the classes are already full so please check the LEAP website at www.k-leap.jp for more information.



Staff 10!

In this month's *Staff 10!*, we are pleased to present Secondary science and G10B homeroom teacher, **Elsa Taylor**, who has been at KIST since 2009.



Dr Taylor enjoying nature at the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala, India.

- **Tell us something interesting about your hometown.**

Since we moved every year when I was growing up (I went to 13 schools in 12 grades), I don't really have a hometown. However, I raised my family in Tome, New Mexico, a small farming community, located on the Camino Real, a road that connects Mexico City to Santa Fe, NM. Tome only has a small post office, a ruined jail and a few houses, so we commuted every day to Albuquerque for school and work. New Mexico is a very multicultural place with people from around the world, as well as large Hispanic and Native American populations.

- **What is your favorite place in the world?**

There are many places that I have travelled to and enjoyed. Europe is amazing, particularly Greece. I also enjoyed travelling around India, which is such a varied country with such interesting, friendly people.

- **Who would you like to meet if you had the chance and why?**

After reading several books by Bill Bryson (e.g. *A Short History of Nearly Everything*), I would like to meet him because he is so well read and has such a delightful sense of humor.

- **Do you have any special skills or talents?**

In a past career, I was an architect and interior designer and so designed laboratories, banks, restaurants, a high fashion boutique, a museum, offices and did landscape designs. I also practice belly dancing.

- **Please share a little known fact about yourself.**

I have a son in Los Angeles who is a computer animator and my daughter, who lives in San Francisco, will graduate with a degree in financial planning, in December.

- **What is your most prized possession?**

For the past 4 years, I have been remodeling an old, stone farmhouse in a small village on a mountainside in Greece. Last year a roof was put on the house and a retaining wall to keep it from sliding into the sea, and this year I am hoping to divide the lower level into rooms and add plumbing and electricity.

- **What words would you use to describe yourself?**

I asked a friend and she said "flower child – it's a good thing!" Also, I am a consummate reader.

- **If you could live your life again, would you do anything differently?**

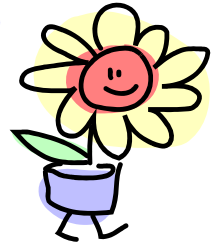
I would have gotten into international teaching while my kids were young so that they could have been raised in an international school environment around the world.

- **Is there anything you are trying to learn/improve about yourself at the moment?**

I am taking a course in sumi-e, and am (very slowly) trying to learn Greek.

- **Do you have any special message for your fans?**

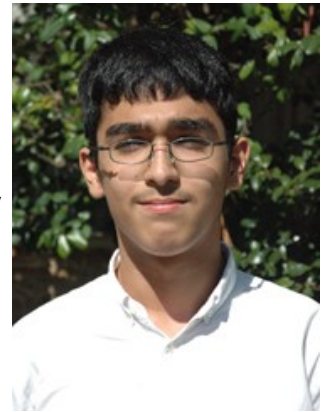
Embrace life and keep an open mind!



Tackle Your Troubles

Donate your true story; help me save orphans.

My name is Aryo, a 9th grader at KIST. I want to ask you to send me your true story about a personal experience on how you solved a problem you encountered in life like: family troubles, bullying, friends, grades, health/disability, moving to another environment, appearance, others.



My goal is to publish a book (in English and Japanese) and donate sales to an organization called "Gawad Kalinga", which helps educate and provide decent living conditions for orphaned children in the Philippines. Their website is www.gk1world.com and I ask all Secondary students to participate. You can help me by:

Submitting a short story about a problem you had in your life and how you overcame it.

Details:

- You can write it in English or Japanese using MS Word.
- About 600-1200 words (2-4 pages).
- Include your name (can be an alias or anonymous) and age.
- Send your story by email to: submit@tackleyourtroubles.com

The due date for submitting stories is **Monday, November 29.**

Please visit my website at www.tackleyourtroubles.com. By donating your story, you can help make a difference in other children's lives. You can also be an inspiration to others who read your story. All profit will go to this cause. Please think about it.

High School Drama Festival

Saturday, September 25 marked the annual High School Drama Festival, this time held at Saint Maur International School in Yokohama. The High School Drama Festival is an opportunity for Grade 9 to 12 students with a passion for the theater arts in different international schools in and near Tokyo to come together, and KIST is honored to be a part of it. Every year, the Drama Festival assigns one theme upon which the students need to create a 10-minute performance. We were all eager to find out what the day's theme was! This year, KIST was represented by nine students – Yeon Soo from G10A, Abeer, Airi, Fenella, Jeeho, Monica, Su Mee and Yeon Soo from G10B, and Shreya from G12, accompanied by Mr Marson and Ms Ura.



After an early start and long commute on Saturday morning, the KIST students arrived excited and eager for the day's events. After gathering in the auditorium with students and teachers from other schools, everyone was split into six groups of around 10 people, who they would be working with for the rest of the day. The groups were a mix of ages, genders, and schools, so it was more than likely that we would each end up in a group where we didn't know anyone, but of course, this was all part of the fun!

It was then announced that the theme for the day was simply, 'Trap', and the groups got down to business! They worked determinedly, only stopping for a break to enjoy delicious snacks provided by the host school, and later for lunch.

Time flew fast, and at 3:00 in the afternoon, rehearsal and preparation time was up! All of the groups gathered back into the auditorium, where it was time for everyone to show the rest what Trap-related performance their group had come up with. The show was a lot of fun, and as always, fascinating to see how differently each of them had turned out! We saw several musicals, drama, pastiches, comedies and even a touch of the surreal. Needless to say some extreme talent was on display!

After the final performances, the day had come to an end. It was in no way the end for friendships or



memories made, though, and everyone who went agrees that it was an extremely enjoyable and unforgettable experience. If you'd like to hear more about the Drama Festival, feel free to ask any of the students or teachers who went.

We're looking forward to hosting the Middle School Drama Festival here at KIST, on November 3! Any Grade 6 to 8 students interested in participating, or older students wanting to help out on the day should talk to Mr Rentoule, Mr Marson or Ms Ura.

Monica (G10B)

ADVERTISEMENT

Disaster Awareness



Free event
Open to the public
Tell your friends!

Shuttle bus service available from Shinagawa Station



Disaster Awareness Day

If an earthquake struck tomorrow, would you be ready? What about if your home caught fire or somebody in your family needed medical attention?

Sunday, October 24
3-5 p.m.

Tokyo American Club Parking Lot and 3F

Pick up practical tips, practice crawling through smoke to safety and learn how to make an emergency call at this family-oriented event that will leave you set to deal with any calamity.



4-25-46 Takanzawa, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0074
Tel: 03-4588-0670



TOKYO AMERICAN CLUB

Sponsored by the Tokyo American Club Women's Group



Grade 8 Camp Report

This year's Grade 8 camp was held at the Saitama Prefectural Youth Outdoor Activity Center in Chichibu from September 29 to October 1.

We met at Ikebukuro station and travelled to Seibu-Chichibu station and from there, we took a bus to the campsite. The site was very rural. Our tents were in the middle of the forest and there were mostly trees around us. It was the first time we slept in tents and it was all very new to us!

The first activities we did were team building games, including the Human Knot, "mingle", and other games which required lots of teamwork. After that, we cooked our own dinner using a 'Dutch Oven'. We had never experienced this type of cooking before so it was very interesting. We made chicken which was stuffed with vegetables. Each group of people had a specific job to do to prepare the meal so a lot of cooperation was needed. The meal was perfect since it was a cold day and the meal was nice and warm.

It got much colder at night. Most of us used over three blankets, yet we were still cold! But even though

it was cold, the tent was comfortable enough for us. On the second day, the girls were slow to wake up so we couldn't help prepare for breakfast. However, we were surprised to see the boys already there helping! The whole group divided into two classes and one went to make art in nature and the other class went to the gym. At the gym, we played a lot of team games and had some free time.

For the nature art, we divided into even smaller groups and made art out of the things we saw in the forest. Then, we went rappelling (abseiling) which was a completely new experience for all of us. Some of us were too scared to do it but almost everyone was able to walk all the way down the building. There aren't too many chances to try something like this near our houses so even though we were scared, we wanted to try it. And after we started climbing down with the rope, it was fun and exciting, even though it was pouring rain and freezing cold.

To end the day, we had a warm campfire. We sang fun songs, roasted marshmallows (which were just delicious) and went to bed tired but satisfied. When the final day came, we hiked all the way to the station which took about two hours. We passed a beautiful temple and shrine on the way. Everyone slipped or fell at least once.

Overall, camp made some great memories for us, and even made a lot of us much closer friends. We were also able to experience many new things and we will never forget it.

Finally we would like to thank the staff from English Adventure who kept us amused, challenged and safe, and the teachers from KIST who kindly accompanied us for the three days: Mr Nogami, Ms Gibbons, Mr Marson, Ms Kanazawa and Mr Farquhar.

Alyssa and Anna (G8A)



PSAT at KIST

Important notes for students taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) at KIST.

On Saturday, October 16, 2010, KIST will be hosting the administration of the PSAT for Grade 10 and 11 students. The PSAT is a standardized test which is administered to students throughout the United States. It provides a good indication of where students stand academically in regard to other students throughout the United States. At KIST, the test is mandatory for Grade 10 students and optional for Grade 11 students.

The test assesses a student's competence in reading, mathematics and writing. The test is in a format that KIST students seldom are exposed to; mostly multiple-choice. Many US colleges and universities use the test results to determine what level of scholarship money is available to US citizens who take the test. At KIST we use the test to expose students to the standardized testing which is the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). This ensures that our students have an opportunity to prepare for this type of testing if they are intending to apply to US colleges and universities.

We recommend that students take both the PSAT and the SAT several times so as to increase their scores. As a note to parents, it is important to remember that your student will likely obtain a score lower than you would expect. This is perfectly normal and these results should only be used as a preliminary gauge. KIST's College Counselors, Mrs Okude and Mr Wagner, are available to explain the PSAT and the results to parents and students at any time.

Below are the special instructions for the students regarding testing on October 16. Please ensure that your child arrives at school not later than 8:45 a.m.

To G10 and G11 students:

This is a reminder that PSAT will be held at KIST on

Saturday, October 16. Please read the following carefully and follow the supervisor's instructions during the test.

Date: Saturday, October 16

Time: 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Place: KIST Main Building

The room and seating arrangements will be announced on the test day.

Your test book will be handed out at 8:45 a.m. and you will be given 25 to 30 minutes to fill out the information on your answer sheet according to the supervisor's instructions. Please be aware that students who arrive late will not be permitted to join the test once the other students have started section 1.

Section 1: Critical Reading, 25 minutes

Section 2: Mathematics, 25 minutes

Break: 5 minutes

Section 3: Critical Reading, 25 minutes

Section 4: Mathematics, 25 minutes

Break: 1 minute to stretch

Section 5: Writing Skills, 30 minutes

What to bring:

- Two No. 2 (HB) pencils and erasers
- An approved calculator (see p. 17 of PSAT Student Guide)
- Social security number (optional for US citizens)
- Your current address
- Your e-mail address (optional)

No food or drinks are permitted in the test room. School uniform is compulsory for all students.

Sharing Cultures

A big thank you goes to Mrs Deshmukh who shared a presentation with Grade 7's about the religions, languages and cultures of India. Students are studying many aspects of Indian history and geography this semester as part of their Humanities course and it was a great opportunity for students to learn more about these topics from someone who could share their first hand insights and experiences.

Mrs Deshmukh was very generous with her time and shared many stories, photos and artifacts with the students in order to help bring their learning to life. Students commented afterwards that it gave them a much better understanding of their own cultures, and



those of their classmates, as Mrs Deshmukh was even able to show pictures of the Hindu

goddess Sarasvati (a goddess of knowledge, music and arts) being honoured in a local temple in Koto-ku!

Stephen Marson

Secondary Humanities Teacher



Autumn Volleyball Report

The autumn term thus far has been a very busy one in terms of volleyball at KIST. Our under 14 and under 18 boys and girls teams have been training hard and have played in several games so far against other international schools in Tokyo. The under 18 boys opened up their season last Thursday against a very determined team from Columbia International School and we ended up going down in three very tight sets. Since then we have defeated Canadian International School in straight sets and have had excellent games against the British School in Tokyo and Columbia again. The team has been well led by the captain Ryosuke and vice-captain Frank.

The under 18 girls team, coached by Mr Farquhar, has also had an excellent start to the season beating International Secondary School and having a very good encounter against the American School in Japan. The girls have been well led by Karlee, Shifa and Monica. They have an upcoming tournament in Yokohama where they will be playing Yohohama International School, Saint Maur International School, Osaka International School and the Canadian Academy (Kobe). Best of luck to the girls for the rest of the

season.

The under 14 girls have been very well coached by Mr Heppenstall and have just played the one game so far against Tokyo International School and they all showed great signs of improvement. It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm of the girls on training nights and early morning sessions.

The under 14 boys have yet to play a game and are very short of numbers at the moment. If you are interested in joining the boys, please let Mr Spring or Mr Ferris know as we have several games scheduled and would really like to be able to field a team.

Thank you to all of the coaches, players, parents and supporters who have been there to support our teams during the autumn term.

Will Spring
Sports/PE Coordinator



Secondary SRC

New class representatives announced.

There was excitement in the air over the last couple of weeks as all the homerooms of the Secondary School voted to elect their new class representatives for this school year. Last year, each grade had one representative, but this year there will be one for each homeroom.

The SRC would like to thank all the candidates for their effort and enthusiasm, and the teachers and students for their cooperation. We heartily congratulate the newly-elected representatives and wish them luck for a year of leading the student body in making our school a better place! Do your best. Feel free to talk to any of us if you have any ideas or concerns about your school life. We're always ready to listen!



Secondary SRC Class Representatives

G6: **Tuhina** (G6A) / **Eimi** (G6B)
 G7: **Mihir** (G7A) / **Pranita** (G7B)
 G8: **Kouta** (G8A) / **Junka** (G8B)
 G9: **Takuma** (G9A) / **Miku** (G9B)
 G10: **Marie** (G10A) / **Su Mee** (G10B)
 G11: **Su Ah**
 G12: **Saleha**

Secondary SRC Executive

President: **Shreya** (G12)
 Vice President: **Ryosuke** (G11)
 Secretary: **Matthew** (G12)
 Treasurer: **Pyay Phyo** (G12)



The Secondary SRC would like to thank all students who participated in the Free Dress Day on September 28. Money raised on this day totaled 92,849 yen. This will be put towards an as yet undecided cause. The next Free Dress Day is scheduled for February 2011.

KISTival 2010

Open to all!

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (Gates open 9:40 a.m.)

(In the event of rain, the festival will go ahead as planned.)

Visitors to KISTival 2010 will enjoy a variety of international cuisine, fun games, a grand raffle with great prizes, musical performances and much more! This year, we are excited to announce special appearances by comic magician, Maggy Shinji; the Halau Na Mamo O Pohai Kalima Hawaiian Dancers; and rock band, X-24.

Other attractions will include a bazaar, a games arcade, face painting, henna painting, nail art, a haunted mansion, competitions, a jumbo air slider and more!

Costumes

On the day of the festival, all visitors (including adults) are encouraged to wear a costume to add to the festive atmosphere. Individuals are free to choose the type of costume they wish to wear; for example, in previous years, popular costumes included those related to seasonal celebrations.

Entry fee 100 yen per person (Free entry for children under 3)

The fee will be used to fund the cost for disposal of garbage produced on the day.

Please note that entry to the campus on festival day will be through the bus entrance off Kiyosubashi-dori.

The regular school entrance near the reception counter will be closed.

Raffle tickets 300 yen per ticket

A highlight of the festival is the grand raffle that is drawn just before the end of the day. To enter the raffle, fill in your name, address and details on the number of tickets you wish to use and put them in the boxes of the prizes you would like to win. The boxes will be located in the raffle tent on the school grounds. The draw will begin around 2:45 p.m. on the day. As names will be written on all tickets, it is not necessary to be present at the draw. Prize winners will be notified. Again this year, we have some great prizes to win including:

- Kyoto travel vouchers
- Disney entry tickets
- Laptop computer
- Digital camera
- iPad, iPod
- Dyson vacuum cleaner

...and many more!



Coupon tickets 1,000 yen for a book of 8 tickets

For the most part, festival day is cashless. In place of cash, coupon tickets are required to purchase food, bazaar items and to participate in games.

Car and bicycle parking

On the day of the festival, only official vehicles (e.g. food booth operators etc.) will be permitted to enter the school grounds. No space will be available for general parking of cars or bicycles. Please use public transport.

Parking on the streets around the school is strictly prohibited. In previous years, there have been several unfortunate incidents where local residents called the police to complain about illegal parking. We ask that all families show respect for local residents by refraining from parking on the streets around the school for any reason.

Please join us for KISTival 2010 and help to make it a success!



Maggy Shinji

Entry tickets, coupon tickets and raffle tickets will be available on the day of the festival or in advance from the school office.