



Since 1997

# The Comet

The Newsletter of K. International School Tokyo

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*"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."*

—Malcolm S. Forbes

## From the School Director

I would like to extend a very special welcome to all new families joining the KIST community for the first time this year, and also a warm welcome back to our continuing families.

During the 12-month period of the 2010-2011 school year, people in many countries around the world, including Japan, experienced the devastating effects of an unprecedented number of natural disasters. These in turn affected our school community in various ways. As we move into the second month of 2011-2012, the mood around the world remains somber; however, I would like to highlight some of the positive aspects that make KIST a very special place to be.

### East Japan earthquake disaster relief

On March 11, 2011, an earthquake, the size of which is said to occur only once every 1,000 years, struck the Tohoku region of East Japan causing devastating damage. Immediately after the disaster and in the period that followed, with the generous support of the school and local communities, we were able to send a total of five trucks carrying relief supplies to the affected areas. We also conducted five successful trips to the region to serve meals to those affected and assisted with efforts to clean up the coastline.

For our first relief trip to the affected areas, a total of 24 school representatives, including two students, departed Tokyo on March 25, two weeks after the initial disaster. We delivered supplies and served hot lunches to the people of Takajou City in Miyagi Prefecture. For our second visit on April 16, 23 members joined us. For our third visit on April 30, a total of 36 members, including 13 students, joined us and worked under a very grueling schedule, departing Tokyo during the night and serving hot meals at three different locations before returning to school next morning. Next, 36 representatives, including 20 students, were a part of our fourth trip on June 22 – 25, and finally, 31 representatives, including 9 students, made the trip again on July 28 – 30 during the summer holidays, staying overnight and helping with the cleanup efforts being carried out in the area.

During the period these five trips were conducted, the parents and other members of the KIST community served approximately 7,000 hot meals to evacuees in a total of nine different locations and assisted with the cleanup at two beaches, school gyms being used as evacuation centers, and also delivered much needed aid and supplies to those in temporary housing.

*Continued next page*

## DATES TO REMEMBER



### September

- 19 School closed (National holiday)
- 20 Short Tuesday
- 20-22 Live@edu Training Sessions
- 22 (G5) Camp Explanation Meeting
- 23 School day
- 23 PTA Coffee Morning / Library Committee Meeting
- 23 MYP Parent Information Session
- 24 High School Drama Festival
- 27 (W) Free dress day
- 28 **"Date changed"** PYP Parent Information Session #1
- 28 **"Date changed"** (S) College Information Night
- 28-30 (G8) Camp

### October

- 1 School Explanation Day
- 3 2012-2013 enrollment applications open
- 4-5 School photographs
- 4 Short Tuesday
- 5-7 (G5) Camp
- 10 School day
- 11-13 (G3/G5/G7/G9) ISA testing
- 12 (G10/G11) PSAT tests
- 14 KISTival preparation day
- 15 KISTival 2011
- 16-23 Autumn Break
- 24 (W) School resumes
- 25 Short Tuesday
- 28 (S) SRC dance

### November

- 3 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews
- 3 Board of Directors meeting

*Continued from previous page*



I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all those who provided assistance in any way, from those who prepared hot meals and supplied donations, to those who helped with the

cleanup. Your support was greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

The evacuation centers were closed at the end of July, so for now, we will not be making any more relief trips; however, I hope that together we will continue to look for ways to support those affected by the earthquake and kindly ask for your continued support.

### **Diploma Programme (DP) 2011 results**

Results of the Diploma exams held in May were released on July 5. All 16 of our graduates challenged themselves to take the full DP exam, and I am very pleased to report that 14 passed successfully. This pass rate of 87.5%, together with a 90% pass rate from the 2009-2010 school year, continues the exceptional success of our students. The DP exam is extremely challenging and at a large number of IB schools, only around 50% of students take the full Diploma, with the average worldwide pass rate remaining around 70%. KIST is one of only a limited number of schools where

students all choose to take the full DP. As such, I am delighted with this year's results. You will find more details of the results on page 7.

### **Other initiatives**

This year, we are exploring various new initiatives to help strengthen our numeracy/mathematics curriculum across the school from the PYP through to the DP. We are also reviewing our language curriculum throughout the school. Additionally, the implementation of the new PowerSchool student information system will enable both parents and students to check student progress on line. I believe that these improvements will help us continue to build an even better IB World School and ensure success for our hardworking students.

Finally, I am pleased to be working with the members of our Administration Team who are all highly qualified educators with a rich experience in the IB curriculum. Further, together with our continuing teachers who have led our students to great success, we welcome a large group of highly skilled and enthusiastic new staff. One of the distinguishing features of KIST is that our students are highly motivated to succeed academically, with parents who are dedicated to their children's education. It is my sincere hope that through a strong three-way partnership, we are able to provide even greater support for students' education, and together make 2011-2012 a year of great progress.

**Yoshishige Komaki**

School Director/Acting Head of School

East Japan  
Earthquake Relief  
5th Trip  
July 28 - 30, 2011





## Welcome to New Staff

We are pleased to introduce our new qualified and experienced staff to the school community! This year, in addition to a number of new teachers and assistants hired locally, we have a large group of teachers joining us from overseas. For many, this is their first experience living and working in Japan. After arriving in Tokyo during the peak of the summer heat wave, all have made a smooth transition and have begun the year with energy and enthusiasm. We welcome all our new staff to KIST and wish them all the best for the year ahead. E-mail addresses for all faculty, new and continuing, are available on the **Contact >> Staff Directory** page of the school website.

### Faculty...



**Marina Babaeva**  
MYP/DP Music



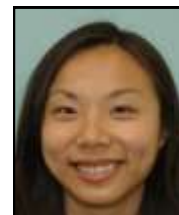
**Christian Baker**  
MYP Math



**Mridula Bardhan**  
DP Chemistry / MYP Science



**Brooke Boldon**  
MYP English



**Alice Cheung**  
Grade 2A



**Bruce Duxbury**  
MYP Design Technology



**Jim Erber**  
MYP PE



**Keith Erickson**  
MYP/DP English, Humanities



**Benjamin Fishman**  
Student Welfare Counselor



**Megan Geshel**  
Grade 3B



**Wendy Gore**  
MYP English, Humanities



**Kara Haines**  
MYP English, Humanities



**Elizabeth Heard**  
PYP Coordinator



**Wyn Hughes**  
DP Psychology, Economics



**Andre Ito**  
MYP/DP Math



**Taichi Komiya**  
Elementary English Language Support



**Chee Lee**  
MYP PE



**Jay Leroy**  
PYP PE



**Sindy Leveel**  
MYP/DP Math



**Ferdinand Licuanan**  
Teacher-Librarian



**Wilhelm Merchel**  
K1



**Carolina Murgado**  
MYP English, Humanities



**Kevin Murphy**  
Secondary English Language Support



**Divya Okubo**  
K3B



**Rachel Parkinson**  
Elementary English Language Support



**Eric Patterson**  
PYP Music



**Vedrana Pavletic**  
MYP Coordinator /  
MYP Art, Music



**Allison Rabenau**  
Elementary English  
Language Support



**Kim Riemer**  
Grade 5A



**Robin Scardino**  
MYP Math, Science



**Katrina Sentgeorge**  
PYP Art



**Aidan Siddall**  
Grade 5A



**Michael Steele**  
MYP English,  
Humanities



**Agnes Theilen**  
Grade 4B



**Anthony Theilen**  
Grade 2B



**Jennifer Thomas**  
MYP Math, Science



**Paige Venturino**  
K3A



**Rob White**  
MYP/DP Language B

*New teachers making  
yakisoba with the help of  
our Japanese staff.*



## Other staff...



**Catrina Christian**  
Teacher's Assistant  
K1



**Robert Collins**  
Teacher's Assistant  
K1 / K1, K2 Music



**Darina Dubenko**  
Teacher's Assistant  
Grade 1B



**Leslie Hynes**  
Teacher's Assistant  
Grade 1A



**Mari Nameshida**  
School Nurse



**Eri Nomura**  
Elementary  
Administration Assistant



**Mackensie Roland**  
Teacher's Assistant  
K3B



**Jude Ross**  
Teacher's Assistant  
K2 / K1, K2 Art



**Tyler Silvasti**  
Teacher's Assistant  
K2



**Ai White**  
Teacher's Assistant  
K2

We wish all staff the best for a great year!

# Elementary School News

## Three C's for our students

How can you determine the quality of a school? I believe it is determined by the choices the school makes. Great schools consistently make decisions focusing on what is best for their students. This year, you can see how we are focused on our students through our choices with the three C's of Commitment, Curriculum and Communication.

### Commitment

The KIST Elementary School is committed to the PYP Programme, its values and its philosophies. Working at a PYP school is not easy, but we have a full faculty and staff of committed individuals who are here for our students. They are life-long learners who are constantly improving our school and their practice.

The school is committed to its teachers by providing collaboration time and professional development which in turn greatly benefits our students.

The school is committed to the value of integrating technology, both for the staff and students. There has been a recent explosion of IT resources available including digital cameras, desktop computers, laptop computers, digital projectors, online reading sites, Mathletics, Moodle, Live@edu, Destiny, PowerSchool and more. Never before in the history of KIST has so much been accomplished in such a short time, but we are doing it to provide the best education possible for our students as they prepare for the world outside of school.

### Curriculum

Building on the work that has been done each year to improve the Programme of Inquiry, this year we have taken the curriculum planning and documentation even further.

Every grade level is planning out how we are integrating language and mathematics by organizing what is fully integrated within the units of inquiry, what is taught outside the units, and what is taught throughout the year. All of this is being documented into grade level specific yearly overviews which will be posted on classroom sites and Mr Brunton's Corner in a few weeks.

But simply having a plan is not enough; we are committed to providing a consistent curriculum which is aligned from grade to grade by providing our teachers with essential resources to support the programme. To support our students, a major transformation has occurred in the Elementary Library. Many resources have been brought in and purchased including books and magazine subscriptions as well as researching and library software. This year, we are making our curriculum even better.

### Communication

A community is based on relationships, and the quality of relationships is based on the level of communication within those relationships. At KIST, we are committed to building our school community through valuable relationships supported by open communication. With



information sessions, coffee mornings, casual chats, Live@edu, Moodle pages, newsletters, parent meetings and various other ways, we hope to keep the channels of communication open.

Our PTA is off to a running start with many parents already eager to start working within the different committees. In addition to the usual Student Portfolios and conferences, we strengthened our commitment to written reports by providing them for all students four times a year. This year, we have chosen to use a consistent standardized reading assessment for all of our K3-G5 students three times a year. For mathematics, we will be giving them a standardized mathematics assessment twice a year for G1-G5 in addition to the ISA assessments given in G3 and G5. All of these choices are to keep our community informed of what we are doing and how well our students are learning in as many different ways as possible. Communication keeps our community together.

Together, I know we are going to provide our students with the best education possible. I am truly excited to be involved with what will undoubtedly be the finest year of KIST's Elementary School.

**Greg Brunton**  
Elementary School  
Principal



Mr Brunton



## Secondary School News

### Greetings KIST families

The 2011-12 academic year has started very well. As we move into the fourth week of school, many enhancements have been successfully introduced.

With the addition of wireless computer access throughout the school last April, the new laptops added to the Library Media Center (LMC) have been very popular with students and teachers alike. The remodeled LMC is becoming an area many students visit before school, during recess and after school. Our DP students are also finding it perfectly suited for independent study blocks in the schedule.

These enhancements support our school's IT Plan which seeks to integrate technology within the curriculum supporting 'constructivist' or student-centered learning. In a constructivist educational setting, students are not seen as passive recipients absorbing knowledge via direct lecture, but rather active learners taking responsibility for their own learning while actively building knowledge through inquiry.

The use of technology allows learning to continue outside of the classroom and increases student interaction with teachers and fellow classmates. The intent is to move away from traditional 'chalk and talk' teaching which will better prepare our students for learning long past their years at KIST.

### Parent Welcome Night

I would like to thank all the parents/guardians that were able to attend this year's Parent Welcome Night. I heard from numerous parents that they found the format very informative. If you were not able to attend, please feel free to contact your child's teachers or me directly by e-mail if you have any questions or concerns.

### Live EDU – New e-mail

As discussed during the parent night, the school has introduced a

new e-mail system. In order to reach teachers, please use the following format:

**given name.family name@kist.ed.jp**

For example, if you need to contact me directly, kindly send an e-mail to: **stephen.rothkopf@kist.ed.jp**

### New Secondary blog

Once all families have been introduced to the school's new e-mail system, I will be using Moodle to send out regular updates. These updates will be delivered through Moodle in a similar way that students receive updates from their individual subject teachers. The Secondary Blog will also have essential documents and announcements in one convenient place to visit. I encourage you to visit it often.



### Grade level trips

This year we have 3 trips with an emphasis on the environment planned that are designed to offer students unique activities that they could not take advantage of at school. More detailed information will be provided, but please keep the following dates in mind:

- September 28-30 (Grade 8)
- November 9-11 (Grade 6)
- March 7-9 (Grade 10)

Warm regards,

**Stephen Rothkopf**  
Secondary School  
Principal



Mr Rothkopf

### Secondary Class Times

Homeroom	8:30-8:35
Block 1	8:40-10:00
Block 2	10:05-11:30
Lunch	11:30-12:15
Block 3	12:20-13:45
Crossover	13:45-13:55
Block 4	13:55-15:20



### Long Tuesdays

Homeroom	8:30-8:35
Block 1	8:40-9:45
Block 2	9:50-10:55
Lunch	11:00-11:45
Block 3	11:50-12:55
Block 4	13:00-14:05
Crossover	14:05-14:15
Advisory	14:15-15:20

### Short Tuesdays

Homeroom	8:30-8:35
Block 1	8:40-9:45
Block 2	9:50-10:55
Lunch	11:00-11:45
Block 3	11:50-12:55
Crossover	12:55-13:05
Block 4	13:05-14:10



## IB Diploma Results

During the summer vacation the IB Diploma results were issued to the students of the "Class of 2011". The table below summarizes the performance of the candidates and also KIST graduates from 2008-2011.

Year of Graduation	KIST mean points*	Number of IB Diploma candidates	Number of students awarded the IB Diploma	Mean points of students awarded the IB Diploma*	Highest KIST Score*	Worldwide mean points**
2011	30.5	16	14	32	40	TBA
2010	27.05	18	11	30	38	29.55
2009	31.80	10	9	32	45	29.51
2008	30.88	8	5	35	39	29.57

\*Maximum score: 45 points

The results of the "Class of 2011" were very positive. As the table above shows, 14 out of 16 students achieved the award of the full IB Diploma. Nine students achieved a good to very good IB Diploma of 30 points or more. Congratulations to Shreya who achieved the highest score this year of 40 points, an excellent IB Diploma. Other very good IB Diplomas were awarded to Maung Pyay Phyo (37 points), Faye (35 points) and Jakub (35 points). Special mention should also be made of 6 students who were awarded a bilingual IB Diploma as they choose to study both English and Japanese as first languages. With more than a third of KIST graduates achieving a bilingual Diploma, this puts KIST above the IB world average for this. Also notable this year was that four students were awarded an A, the highest grade possible, for their Extended Essay.

Parents who would like more general information on IB Diploma results should go to <http://www.ibo.org/diploma/assessment/results/>. The IB publishes a "Statistical Bulletin" summarizing IB Diploma results, a link to which is on this webpage. The "Statistical Bulletin" for the May 2011 Examination Session should be published in November.

Congratulations to the students on their individual successes in the DP curriculum and thanks to all the Grade 12 teachers from last year for all their hard work!

**Mark Cowe**

Secondary School Vice Principal / IB Diploma Coordinator



## IE Junior Advisory Board

In April of last spring, I traveled to IE University in Spain to participate in the Junior Advisory Board meeting. I was selected as a member of the Board, alongside 11 other high school students from every corner of the world to share our views on the purpose of education, together with our expectations regarding university life.

Our agenda while in Spain was packed tight with meetings and workshops, but we also experienced local culture. On the first day, we were given a tour of IE Business School's campus in Madrid, followed by a dinner with IE's Deans and faculty.

From the following morning, the University's professors led workshops about innovation, social entrepreneurship, and diversity in IE University's Segovia campus. We then discussed what IE University could do to promote these concepts through their curriculum. To wrap up, we put all of our thoughts together into a conclusion with recommendations for the University, which we presented to IE's International Advisory Board (IAB) of experienced leaders including presidents and CEOs of reputable companies. After our presentation, we had the opportunity to talk more to the International Advisory Board members over lunch,

which, although slightly intimidating to begin with, was a tremendous honor.



We were also treated to a Spanish Flamenco show, a visit to the Prado Museum, a tour around Segovia, and a tapas dinner in downtown Madrid.

This experience—my first trip abroad alone—was extremely valuable and enriching for me. The IE community was very welcoming, and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from inspiring educators and IAB members, as well as meet and make new friendships with my fellow Junior Advisory Board members who represented Colombia, Jordan, India, Peru, Lesotho, USA, the Czech Republic and Spain. Immersing myself in this completely new environment and learning more about university life turned out to be a very special experience. For more information on the JAB and how to apply, please visit <http://www.iab.ie.edu>.

**Monica (G11C)**

## Library News

### Welcome to the new KIST Libraries!

We have been very busy over the summer break in preparing our libraries for the new school year. We are very grateful to the parent and student volunteers who gave up part of their vacation to help us out with packing and shelving. We could not have done it without your support!

The new school year sees many changes in both of our libraries.

Located on the 2nd floor of the Main Building, the former Main Library has become the **LMC (Library Media Center)**, for the use of our MYP and DP students. During the summer break, this space underwent a full renovation and extension. It now includes a spacious reading area, an independent study area and two quiet rooms for DP students.

In the LMC, we also have new class sets of laptops that will be available for student use, including a set reserved for DP students to help them in their studies.

Changes have also occurred in the former Junior Library, now a full **Elementary Library**, which can be found on the 3rd floor of the West Building. With the addition of new shelving and furniture, the library now caters to all of our PYP students, from K1 to Grade 5.

#### Library staff

**Ms Anna Findlay** is our **Elementary Librarian**. She loves helping students find something great to read, and encouraging reading and research skills in young learners in the welcoming environment of the Elementary Library.

**Ms Satoko Yoshimoto** is our **LMC Librarian**. She manages the daily operations of the LMC. If you need to know anything about the library or its resources, including laptops and online resources, please ask her.

As a new addition to our library

staff this year, please welcome our **Teacher-Librarian, Mr Andi Licuanan**. He will be teaching information literacy in the library, and working closely with teachers and students to support study and research skills. He will also be taking care of the independent study area for the DP students.

#### New library services

KIST Libraries recently included *Destiny* in our library services. *Destiny Library Manager* is a powerful library software package from Follett Company that manages our collection and services. It is widely used by K-12 international schools in Japan and around the world.

*Destiny* is a user-friendly tool that enhances collaboration between the librarians, teachers and students. Searching for books in the library, educational websites, placing a hold request and renewing items borrowed can now all be done online. All users can make and share lists of resources. Above all, it is available online 24/7, making it accessible in our school, at home or anywhere with an Internet connection.

Explore *Destiny* using the link from our LMC Moodle page, Elementary Library Moodle page or you can directly visit this site:

<https://kist.follettdestiny.com>

Students can log in using the same username and password as for Live@edu and the Moodle eClassroom.

Other online resources the school has available to all students are *Questia* and *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*.

*Questia* database is available for upper MYP and DP students, allowing them to search thousands of texts online to support their research. Books, journal articles and more, provide current research material for secondary students.



Ms Findlay



Ms Yoshimoto



Mr Licuanan

Britannica Online can be used by students of all ages, providing a safe, age appropriate site where students can research and explore. Students can search using their age level, from Elementary to High School, and there are plenty of interactive features and fun educational games to explore as well as up-to-date articles and references for school projects.

Both these online databases can be accessed by logging into Moodle and going to the LMC, Elementary Library or Mr Brunton's Corner.

#### Library hours

**LMC:** 8:00 am – 4.30 pm (except for short Tuesdays)

**Elementary:** 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (except for short Tuesdays)  
Elementary students must be accompanied by a parent when visiting the library after school. Parents are welcome to borrow books too; please ask library staff about setting up an account.

#### Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer to help in the library with covering or shelving books, please contact the PTA Library Committee or one of the Librarians.

**PTA Library Committee Meeting  
September 23 | 10:30 am | LMC**

#### Donations

If you have resources you would like to donate to KIST Libraries, please contact the library staff first to ensure that the items will match our collection's needs.



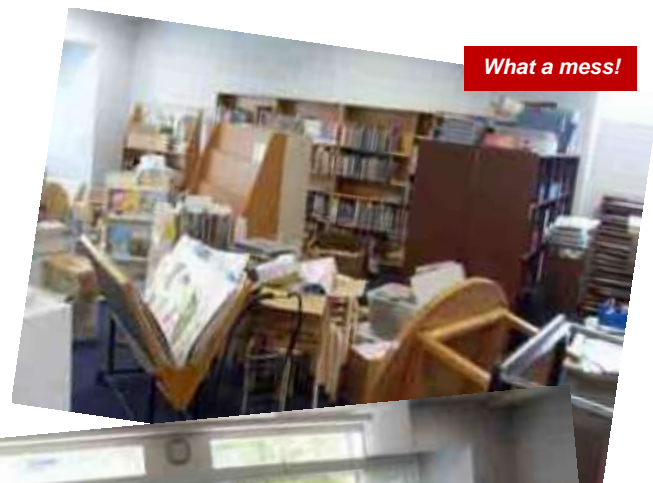
**We look forward to seeing you in the new KIST Libraries!**



### Elementary Library



Before



What a mess!



New books display, reading area, and non-fiction



Study area and picture books



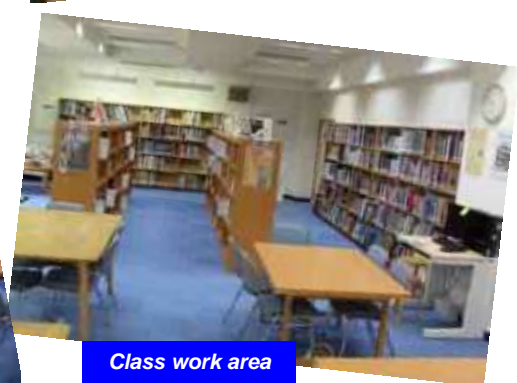
### Library Media Center

Student and parent volunteers unpack in the new LMC ↓

Packing up the old Main Library ↓



Entry area



Class work area



Teachers and students working in the quiet study area

## College Guidance News

Greetings from Mrs Keiko Okude, KIST College Guidance Counselor! The College Guidance Office has been open and busy during the summer to respond to various requests from current and former KIST students. This has included sending the final transcripts to the universities which the Class of 2011 chose for their destinations to start their new academic lives after graduating from KIST. I am very pleased to announce that the 2010-2011 school year was another successful year for KIST graduates. And more will come during the year from the students applying to Australian and Japanese universities. Please check the list of acceptances and offers for the Class of 2011 below.

### KIST College Acceptances and Offers 2011

(As of August 31, 2011)

Bold type indicates enrollment  
Asterisk (\*) indicates scholarship offered

#### USA

Purdue University | **University of Chicago\*** |  
**Michigan State University\*** | Clark University\* |  
California Institute of Technology |  
Worcester Institute of Technology\* |  
Wake Forest University | University of Southern California\* |  
Marist College\* | Pacific Lutheran University\* |  
University of Massachusetts\* |  
State University of New York at Binghamton\* |  
**Boston University\*** |  
**State University of New York at Stony Brook** |  
**Northeastern University\*** | University of Miami\* |  
Rice University\*

#### UK

University of Sheffield | University of Manchester |  
University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies) |  
University of Kent | University of Sussex |  
**University of Leeds** | University of Saint Andrews |  
London School of Economics and Political Science |  
University of London (Royal Holloway) |  
Kingston University | University College London |  
Staffordshire University | **University of York** |  
HULT International Business School

#### JAPAN

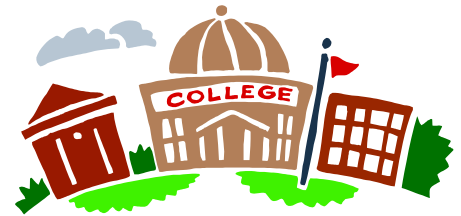
Waseda University | Lakeland College

### College Guidance Events: Fall 2011

#### College Presentations at KIST (for G10 to G12)

Sign up to attend presentations from the following colleges and universities and meet the reps! Parents are also welcome.

- **Colgate University, Skidmore College, Kenyon College, Northeastern University, Colorado College, St. Olaf College, USA**  
Thursday, September 8 | 9:00 am – 10:00 am
- **IE University, Spain**  
Friday, September 9 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- **SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design), USA**  
Thursday, September 15 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm



- **King's College London, UK**  
Monday, September 26 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- **Brown University, USA**  
Tuesday, October 4 | 2:20 pm – 3:20 pm
- **ICU (International Christian University), Japan**  
Thursday, October 6 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- **UBC (University of British Columbia), Canada**  
Monday, October 10 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- **University of Connecticut, Binghamton University (SUNY), University of Oregon, USA**  
Friday, October 14 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- **PLU (Pacific Lutheran University), USA**  
Monday, October 24 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- **Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan**  
Friday, October 28 | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

#### College Fairs

- **Education UK (The British Council)**  
**Venue:** Grand Hall Shinagawa  
**Date:** Sunday, October 2  
**Time:** 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- **Discover Australia! Australia University Fair 2011**  
**Venue:** Ebisu (EBIS303 4F)  
**Date:** Sunday, October 2  
**Time:** 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

#### KIST College Information Night

**Venue:** KIST gymnasium

**Date:** Wednesday, **September 28 (Date changed!)**

**Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

All families of Secondary students are welcome to attend this information night which will cover general and basic information about college/university admission throughout the world, including IB recognitions. A Q&A session will also be conducted. More specific informational conferences will be scheduled later for G11 and G12 families in the form of individual or group meetings with Mrs Okude.

#### PSAT Tests (for G10 and G11)

**Wednesday, October 12** (during the school day)

Compulsory for all G10 students; optional for G11 students. Further details will be distributed to families soon.

For more information about college guidance, please contact:

**Mrs Keiko Okude**

College Guidance Counselor

Office hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. |  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

[keiko.okude@kist.ed.jp](mailto:keiko.okude@kist.ed.jp)



Mrs Okude

## Short Tuesdays

In line with IB requirements, we have introduced a system of "short Tuesdays" for the purpose of increasing school-wide collaborative planning time for teachers.

On these days, school finishes for all grades at 2:10 p.m. All students from K1 through Grade 12 are required to leave the school grounds at this time. No after-school activities are scheduled and After Care for K1 to K3 students is not available. However, the separate after-school LEAP program will not be affected and will continue as scheduled.

September 6, 20  
 October 4, 25  
 November 8, 29  
 December 13  
 January 17, 31  
 February 14, 28  
 March 13  
 April 3, 17  
 May 1, 15, 29  
 June 12

This year, 18 short Tuesdays are scheduled during the year.



## Free Dress Days

As indicated on the school calendar, free dress days will be held during 2011-2012 as follows:

September 27 (Tuesday)  
 November 30 (Wednesday)  
 February 10 (Friday)  
 May 24 (Thursday)

All free dress days during the year are for the **whole school**. Separate notification will not be distributed, so please highlight the dates on your calendar. Students who choose to wear free dress on these days are required to pay a fee of 200 yen per student.

Families are reminded that although students do not have to wear the school uniform on these days, the clothes they wear must uphold the image of the school. Furthermore, all students are expected to follow the regular school dress code in terms of general appearance. Please check the School Handbook (available on the Admissions >> Documentation page of the school website) if you are unsure of these expectations.



The theme of the first free dress day on **Tuesday, September 27** will be "Sports". On this day, students are encouraged to wear appropriate sports attire that depicts, advertises or features the colors of their favorite

sport teams or players. Funds will be allocated to the PE department.

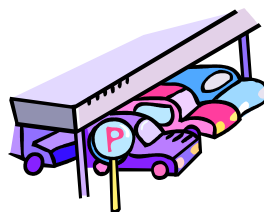
## Car Parking

Families dropping off and picking up children by car are reminded that **parking for any length of time is strictly prohibited on all streets surrounding the school.**



This includes drop off and pick up times during the regular school day, as well as days when special school events are held. The school will refer any complaints from our neighbors to the police department.

Please also note that the road in front of the main school entrance gate is recognized as a **one-way road** by the local community through an informal agreement to enable a smooth flow of traffic. Vehicles should enter the street by turning off Kiyosubashi-dori Avenue next to the Comfort Hotel and leave the area via the street next to the Akafudado supermarket.



Please assist us in maintaining a good relationship with local residents and businesses by observing traffic rules and using a public car park instead of parking on the streets, and by cooperating with local community procedures.

## Math Games at Home

In order to make the learning of math fun and relevant, there are loads of fun and engaging games you can play with your children at home. The best part is that most require items we normally have around the house!



### Playing Card Games

The following site provides lots of fun games using regular playing cards.

<http://letsplaymath.net/2006/12/29/the-game-that-is-worth-1000-worksheets/>

### Dice Games

The following site explains numerous fun dice games.

[http://www.family-games-treasurehouse.com/math\\_games\\_for\\_kids.html](http://www.family-games-treasurehouse.com/math_games_for_kids.html)



### Flash Cards

Using printable flash cards you can play and invent your own games. Templates will be available soon in Mr. Brunton's Corner through Moodle!

Happy playing!

**Kevin Yoshihara**  
 Elementary Mathematics Coordinator

## PTA News



Hello everyone. The PTA for 2011-2012 looks forward to working alongside the school to ensure an enjoyable and safe school life for all students and their families. The PTA Executive Committee will meet at the school on the first Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. School administration staff and other faculty members will join these meetings, and we will discuss school-related issues and make suggestions every month. If needed, we will also invite the leaders from each of the standing committees to support us with our activities. Parents who have any questions, suggestions or requests on any PTA matter are welcome to contact the members of the Executive (contact details will be distributed soon). We will work together to find an appropriate and constructive answer. Any matters that the PTA is unable to resolve, and in situations where it is more appropriate to contact the school directly, we will refer the matter to appropriate person at the school.

For general members, coffee mornings and other events will be organized by the various committees during the year. All parents are invited to join these sessions to meet other parents and exchange ideas. The first coffee morning will be held as below.

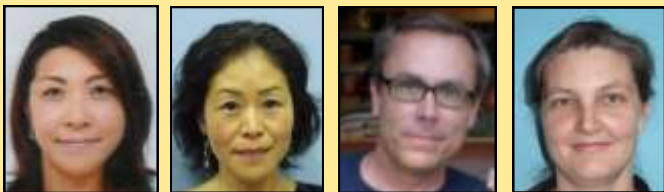
**"PTA Coffee Morning"**  
**September 23 (Friday) | 9:00 am**  
**Secondary Lunch Room**  
*Please bring a plate of food to share.*

It is my sincere wish that the entire school community can work together with to build a successful PTA. I look forward to working with you all during the year.

### Akiko Inoue

PTA President, on behalf of the PTA Executive

### PTA Executive Committee 2011-2012



*Akiko Inoue Mitsuka Ishikura Scott Smith Charlotte Jacobsen*

**President:** Akiko Inoue (Emiri G5A, Taisei G10A)  
**Vice President:** Mitsuka Ishikura (Hikaru G6A)  
**Treasurer:** Scott Smith (Shu G10A)  
**Secretary:** Charlotte Jacobsen (Harriette G2B, Magnus K3A)

### Newcomer's Committee

The PTA Newcomer's Committee would like to extend a very special welcome to all families with children newly enrolled this year. We look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and working with you at KISTival and other events during the year. We also invite you all to attend the PTA Coffee Morning scheduled for September 23. Contact details of our committee members will be distributed soon.

**Tracy Silvasti**, Newcomer's Committee Chair

## Staff 10!

In this month's *Staff 10!*, we are pleased to present **Benjamin Fishman** who joined KIST this year as our school-wide Student Welfare Counselor. Read on to find out more about Mr Fishman and his many interests.



*Mr Fishman and his saxophone.*

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

My hometown is Colorado in the United States. Colorado is considered by many as the premiere place for skiing in the entire world. Breathtaking scenery and world-class skiing make Colorado a prime tourist destination. The main tourist attractions in the state include Rocky Mountain National Park, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Mesa Verde National Park, the Great Sand Dunes and Dinosaur National Monuments, Colorado National Monument, and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument.

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

Japan! I spent two summers in Japan and traveled to Nagano, Nagoya, Gifu City, Kobe, Osaka and Tokyo. It has been a goal of mine to move to Japan for about 5 years.

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

I would like to meet Louis Armstrong. In my opinion he was perhaps the best musician who ever lived. Louis Armstrong grew up in dire poverty in New Orleans, Louisiana, when jazz was very young and was instrumental in innovating the art form to what it is today.

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

I was a professional musician in Los Angeles and Denver, Colorado. I was a classically trained clarinetist and was fortunate enough to study with some of the finest. I worked as a woodwind doubler, meaning that I played all of the woodwind instruments: clarinet, saxophone and flute.

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

I have four degrees and am a licensed principal, music teacher and counselor.

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

My Selmer Mark 6 saxophone.

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

I would describe myself as someone who cares about others and is a true life-long learner, passionate educator, and would never consider doing anything else with my life's work.

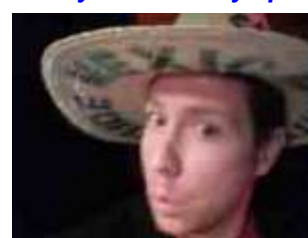
### **If you could live your life again, would you do anything differently?**

Perhaps after finishing my master's program, I would have continued my education further and worked towards earning a PhD in psychology.

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

I am constantly trying to improve myself physically and mentally; I am trying to do yoga a few times a week and keep a positive mind with whatever I do.

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



For all of the Mr Fishman fans out there, I would like everyone to know that I am thrilled to be at KIST, so please never hesitate to stop by my office when you need assistance. My office is located in the secondary building, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, room 313.

## Office Updates

### School fees

For families with children continuing their enrollment from last year, the payment date for the second installment of school fees was **September 15**. As this date has now passed, we ask that you make arrangements for payment to be made as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. For students who enrolled from this year, the due date is **October 15**. Families who are unable to meet deadlines for school fee payments are asked to contact the Accounts Department prior to the due date to make alternative arrangements. A late fee of 2,000 yen is incurred where no prior notification is received.

Please note that from this year, Accounts issues only one invoice per year. For families who have chosen to pay school fees in installments, the relevant amounts to be paid with each installment during the year are indicated on this invoice. Other fees for the school lunch and school bus services will continue to be invoiced separately at the appropriate time.

### School hours

Teacher supervision commences on the school playground **from 8:15 a.m.** Students should not arrive at school before this time. On rainy days, Secondary students may use the gymnasium and deck areas before school, and Elementary students should gather in the Multipurpose Room. After school, all students are required to leave the grounds **by 3:30 p.m.**, unless they are supervised by a teacher, participating in an after-school club activity, or studying in the library.

### Student ID cards – reminders

- All students in Grades 1 and above must be sure to scan their ID card at the main entrance gate every time they enter and leave the school grounds, even if the gate is opened by someone else. Attendance may be verified based on gate records.
- Lost or damaged cards must be replaced immediately.
- Only 1 card should be scanned at a time.
- Cards for K1 to K3 students should be held by parents only. Cards should not be handed to children or kept in their school bags.

### PE uniform policy

- Elementary students are permitted to wear their PE uniform to and from school on days when they have PE classes scheduled.
- Secondary students are required to wear their formal uniform to and from school, bringing their PE uniform to change into at school. They may wear their PE uniform to school only if they have PE in the first block, and then change into their formal uniform. They may also wear their PE uniform home only if they have PE in the last block.
- Navy blue polo shirts or sporting team outfits may not be worn during regular PE classes.
- Families should ensure that children have spare PE clothing items if they have PE scheduled on concurrent days.

## KISTival 2011

The school festival, **KISTival**, will be held on **Saturday, October 15**. This annual event is the biggest fundraising activity of the year and is made possible through the hard work of school staff, parents and students.



This year's profits will be put towards further improvements in the school libraries and the redevelopment of the ECE playground. In addition, continuing our earthquake relief, a percentage of the profits will also be donated to the Tohoku region.

Further information regarding the arrangements for the festival will be distributed to all families very soon. In the meantime, don't forget to start thinking about what costume you will wear this year!

The success of KISTival relies heavily on parental support. In particular, the various booths and activities are organized by the parent body as led by the class parent representatives. For this reason, if your child's class is yet to choose its representatives, and you wish to volunteer, please contact the school office as soon as possible to register your interest.

## Explanation Day 2011

For the 2012 - 2013 school year

KIST will hold an Explanation Day for parents interested in enrolling children for the 2012 - 2013 school year.

Administration and teaching staff will be available to answer questions regarding admissions procedures, the school curriculum, progression to universities, and general features of the school. Visitors will also be able to view the school facilities.

### Date:

October 1, 2011 (Saturday)

### Session times:

- (1) English: 9:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- (2) Japanese: 1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Reservations close:

September 31, 2011 (Friday)

Reservations essential!

[www.kist.ed.jp](http://www.kist.ed.jp)

## IT Office News



### KIST featured as case study on Microsoft website

Towards the end of last school year, the IT Office, in collaboration with the Grade 5 teachers, created a special Moodle site for the Grade 5 PYP Exhibition which integrated Live@edu and Moodle together.



We established contact with Microsoft Japan and invited them to observe a lesson and the final exhibition presentation. The enthusiasm and high quality of work displayed by the G5 students impressed

Microsoft Japan so much they decided to feature KIST as an example of how a school can utilize Moodle and Live@edu to improve student learning.

The entire case study may be viewed at the following address:

<http://www.microsoft.com/japan/showcase/kist.mspix>

You can also download the case study in Japanese or English by clicking on the following PDF links:

[Case Study Japanese](#) / [Case Study English](#)

Currently KIST is the only K-12 school in Japan involved with this level of integration and application; it is usually only seen at the university level.

All the hard work by the G5 students (currently G6) is the reason why we have rebuilt and redesigned this year's KIST Moodle site with the tight integration of Live@edu – to benefit the entire school community.

### Live@edu rollout underway!

The IT Office is pleased to announce that the Live@edu rollout is underway. We are enrolling each class of students into Live@edu (and Moodle) upon receipt of a class set of permission slips. For parents who were unable to attend one of our recent Parent Welcome Nights, Live@edu is our new school communications platform which allows for a unified e-mail and calendaring system as well as a single logon for KIST online services such as Moodle and the Destiny library catalog system.

To explain how Live@edu can be used, we will be holding parent training sessions in English and Japanese as indicated below.

**"Live@edu Training Sessions"**  
**September 20 (Tuesday): 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**September 21 (Wednesday): 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**September 22 (Thursday): 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**English: Main Bldg. 3F, Technology Lab**  
**Japanese: Main Bldg 2F, Library Media Center**  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!**

If you would like to attend one of these training sessions, please send your name and your child's name and grade to Rob Whittaker at [robert.whittaker@kist.ed.jp](mailto:robert.whittaker@kist.ed.jp). Don't forget to include the date and language preference of the session you wish to attend.

We expect to have the new system completely up and running from October 3. This means that all school e-mails will only be sent to your new KIST Live@edu address from this date onwards.

Please watch for more information from KIST Contacts in the coming weeks.

**KIST IT Office**

## Secondary SRC

The Secondary Student Representative Council (SRC) is very excited to welcome you all to the 2011-2012 school year! We are looking forward to making it a very fun and productive one.

We will be holding our Homeroom Elections this month, so start thinking about your Representatives. You will be hearing more details about this in the coming weeks.

Until then, please contact us with any concerns or suggestions.

**Kevin Murphy**  
SRC Advisor



*Frank (G12), Monica (G11C), Ryosuke (G12) and Airi (G11B) with advisor, Mr Murphy.*

### Secondary SRC Executive 2011-2012

President:	<b>Frank (G12)</b>
Vice President:	<b>Ryosuke (G12)</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Monica (G11C)</b>
Secretary:	<b>Airi (G11B)</b>

## KIST Group 4 Project 2011

### *It's a Gas*

The Group 4 project is an interdisciplinary activity in which all Diploma Program science students must participate. The Group 4 project took place in June of last academic year, while our current Grade 12 class were wrapping up their Grade 11 year. The total duration must be 10 hours; hence the Grade 11 students were off the regular timetable for two full school days to work solely on the Group 4 Project. The intention is that students from the different Group 4 sciences subjects analyse a common topic or problem allowing for concepts and perceptions from across the disciplines to be shared in order to encourage an understanding of the relationships between scientific disciplines and the overarching nature of the scientific method.

The Group 4 project allows students to appreciate the environmental, social and ethical implications of science and technology. It may also allow them to understand the limitations of scientific study, for example, the shortage of appropriate data and/or the lack of resources. The emphasis is on the processes involved in a scientific investigation

rather than the products. As such, it provides an opportunity for students to work collaboratively and for teachers to assess students' interpersonal skills, motivation and self-awareness in a team work situation.

Ideally, each of the main disciplines; biology, chemistry and physics should be represented within a group. Group members were selected with this factor forming the first priority. Secondly, it was attempted to make the groups mixed gender, mixed ability and mixed level (SL/HL). Finally, as students' interpersonal skills were being assessed, students were grouped with those who they normally interact with the least (i.e. not their friends!).

The topic for 2011 was "It's a Gas." Students designed and conducted investigations that involved one or more gas. Topics included cellular respiration, the greenhouse effect, temperature effects on O<sub>2</sub> gas sensors, enthalpy of combustion, Boyle's & Charles' Gas Laws and climate change. Many of the student's investigations were only made possible due to a number of

new resources that have been purchased by the school this year. All groups tackled difficult problems and designed complex experiments involving sophisticated equipment.

In most cases, the students made multiple errors with the design, data collection, data processing, conclusions and evaluation aspects of their projects. This is to be expected given the pressured time allocation for the project and the unfamiliar territory it forces students to work in. However, nearly all groups focussed on the overall aims of the project and their presentations contained ample reflection on the nature of scientific investigation and its real life applications and implications. So, in this regard, the 2011 Group 4 Project was a huge success. Well done to all the students and thank you for your efforts. Now that you are the Grade 12 senior class, you can expect more challenges this year. You have all demonstrated that you are ready and able to cope with these. Good luck.

**Andrew Young**  
Subject Area Coordinator: Science



## Brain Humanities in Borneo

### Taisei volunteers in Malaysia



This summer, I was able to participate as a foresting volunteer in Borneo, Malaysia from August 5 until August 12.

This volunteer activity was held by an NPO group called Brain Humanities and all of the participants were either junior high school or high school students,

totaling 30 students. Brain Humanities is organized by many university students and is operating in many places that need help from teenagers. First, we needed to collect money for buying trees to plant in Borneo, but the participants, including me, needed to think up the way. Then we got an answer; it is by donation. For this, I went to Kobe by bus and prepared many things such as making a poster for the donation activity, learning basic Malay and practicing a farewell performance for 5 days. I was also excited to meet with new friends who were going to visit Borneo together. We asked for support on the street at Hyogo and got many donations from kind people. All of the donations were used for buying the trees.

After we got everything ready, we headed to Borneo. I needed to transfer airplanes three times and arrived in the middle of the night in Borneo. All of the participants were able to have enjoy experiences such as home staying at a village in the jungle, foresting the trees we brought and helping the villagers work. Through those experiences, I met many wonderful people who supported me at the foreign environment. I would like to thank my great host family, the kind and friendly villagers, splendid staff and other participants who were bold adventurers. These peoples' support and kindness taught me many important things.

In Borneo, I met people who didn't live in the modern life or have enough water. The villagers didn't know about baths and showers, children never played video games, they don't have enough electrical supplies but I think that they know what is really important in their lives. The tribal people are kind hearted, hate racism and wish to learn new things and work hard for their lives. They taught participants the power of nature and

also how fragile the forest is, and the way of living together with nature. By living with those people, eating together, talking together and working together, I started to notice a change happening in myself. I got tougher in many ways and was able to think like the local people and also understand how precious nature is. I believe



that the Borneo villagers know about how to live in hope and in joy.

I learned many important and precious things and it really changed my life. I recommend to KIST students to leave the house and look at the world, it may change your life and thoughts completely.

Taisei (G6A)



## PYP News



Ms Heard

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! We have had a great start to the year. Students were eager to come to school, see old friends and make new ones and to see their new classroom and teacher. Already there has been some great learning going on in the Elementary School. I am looking forward to a great year of learning for students, teachers and parents.

I am excited to begin my new adventure at KIST. I am originally from Seattle, but have been teaching overseas for the past 8 years. I recently came from Hong Kong where I taught Grade 2 and Kindergarten and also served as the Upper Primary Coordinator at Hong Kong Academy. I received my teaching credential in K-8 Education from Western Washington University and recently completed my master's degree in Educational Leadership from Lehigh University. I have been teaching in the Primary Years Program for five years and am looking forward to using this experience as I work with teachers and students as the PYP Coordinator.

To learn more about the curriculum for your child's grade level, please log on to KIST's Moodle Page. There you will find the Programme of Inquiry. A yearly overview that details what your child will learn this year will also be posted towards the end of the month. You will also find the Programme of Inquiry posted in the lobby of the Elementary School. Feel free to come by and take a look.

On **Wednesday, September 28**, there will be a **PYP Information Session** in the Multipurpose Room (opposite the school reception counter) from 6 pm. This information session is intended for parents new to the PYP and to those who would like a refresher on the PYP philosophies and curriculum. I hope to see you there!

Elizabeth Heard  
PYP Coordinator

**\*\*DATE CHANGED\*\***  
**"PYP Parent Information Session #1"**  
**September 28 (Wednesday)**  
**Multipurpose Room**  
**6:00 – 7:00 pm**



## PE and Sports News

The KIST Physical Education Department begins the 2011/2012 school year with new faces, new ideas, and an enthusiastic approach to teaching and coaching. The curriculum will continue to support the PYP and MYP programs as well as encouraging the DP students to remain active and healthy.

The curricula will emphasize the fitness aspect of physical education. The 5 fitness parameters of upper body strength, lower body strength, flexibility, cardiovascular fitness, and speed/agility will be included in each class daily. Skills, rules, fundamentals and technique in various sports and games will enhance student knowledge. Cross Country will be a focus early on in the year to concentrate on the KIST Inter-House Cross Country Meet on November 18.

Sports and competition supports the school curriculum and gives students an opportunity to participate in team activities. Sportsmanship, fair play, and training that is specific to the

advancement of the team and individual player will be offered by qualified teachers and staff.

KIST is part of the International Schools Tokyo Athletic Association (ISTAA) as well as the Kanto League with other international schools in Tokyo. There are three seasons in the school term: autumn, winter and spring. Schedules are available during the current seasons.

Please feel free to come out and watch your sons or daughters participate for KIST at games or practice. We welcome all inquiries regarding the Physical Education Department, sports and clubs.



Mr Erber



Mr Lee



Mr Leroy

**Jim Erber**, MYP PE Teacher and Athletics Director, **Chee Lee**, MYP PE Teacher and PE Subject Area Coordinator, and **Jay Leroy**, PYP PE Teacher are happy to become a part of the KIST family and look forward to working with your family and your support.



## Leap into LEAP

The LEAP after-school program is back! LEAP (Learning Enhancement Academic Program) is pleased to announce its return for the 2011-2012 school year. Following on from last year's successful first year, the LEAP after-school program is currently open to all students enrolled at KIST as well as students from other international schools, Japanese schools and other non-English schools. The program is designed with the aims of building a solid base of English and math knowledge skills as well as guiding students who aim to succeed in acquiring an IB diploma.

At LEAP students receive focused learning support with a maximum student to instructor/assistant ratio of 4 to 1 (8 to 1 for lecture

classes). This allows students to receive intensive support according to each student's level and to have their individual needs met.

Our instructors and assistants include qualified kindergarten, mathematics and language teachers, KIST teacher assistants and IB graduates and current KIST students who meet certain standards, and each class has a proper balance of these instructors and assistants.

We look forward to welcoming back our old students and meeting new ones for LEAP 2011-2012. If you are interested in applying for LEAP please visit our website for further information on available courses and fees.

<http://www.k-leap.jp>



What is LEAP?

LEAP is an after-school program that provides opportunities for students to develop and improve their academic skills, focusing primarily on developing basic skills in language and mathematics that will transfer to the regular classroom.

### Semester 1 Courses

- ◆ K1 - K3 Course (Literacy/ Numeracy)
- ◆ G1 - G2 Course (Language/Math)
- ◆ G1 - G5 Course (Basic Skills Development)
- ◆ G3 - G6 Course (English/Math)
- ◆ G6 - G10 Course (English/Math)
- ◆ G8 - G11 Course (Special Math)

## Global Young Leaders Conference

"3...2...1...Welcome Scholars!" That's what **Ria** (G11A), **Rishab** (G11B), and **Monica** (G11C) heard several times a day from June 26 to July 9 this summer, when they attended the Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC) in Washington DC and New York with 300 other students from around the globe.

GYLC is much like Model United Nations, in that students are divided into country groups of around 25 people, led by one faculty advisor, which they must represent throughout the conference.

We were all very excited to get to GYLC and start making friends from around the world and enhancing our leadership skills!

We soon realized that the GYLC schedule was very demanding, and that even though we worked very hard during our Leadership Group Meetings with our country groups and during debates and simulations, we were also given time to socialize, explore Washington DC and New York with our new friends, and even do a bit of shopping.

On the academic side, we represented either Boeing or Airbus to engage in a debate about the politics of trade, put ourselves in the shoes of the UN Security Council and debated peace and security-related issues on Cyprus, and finally, a Global Summit with all students at GYLC, where we were delegates of our country



group as we presented and voted on resolutions regarding various global issues, in a conference room at the United Nations Headquarters.

Apart from stepping into the shoes (or rather sitting in the chairs) of real UN delegates and exploring the UN headquarters, we visited the US Department of State and World Bank, Ellis Island, The Smithsonian Museums including the Holocaust Memorial Museum

which is now imprinted in all of our memories, and Diplomatic Embassies including the Bahamian, French, and Saudi Arabian embassies. In many of these places we had the opportunity to listen to experienced leaders representing the UN, Department of State,

World Bank, etc. talk to us, and ask them questions in return. These speaking events left us feeling inspired and empowered.

When we weren't learning and working, we had a wealth of entertaining and exciting events to keep us busy. From exploring the National Mall, taking pictures with the White House and Statue of Liberty, seeing New York from the 86th floor observatory of the Empire State Building, taking an NBC Studio tour, strolling along in Times Square and Fifth Avenue with our new friends, to watching a show on Broadway, having evening socials, a 4th of July Cookout, competing in our very own 'GYLC Olympics', and attending a dinner cruise on the

last day, every moment was a new and exciting experience.

Out of all of these memorable moments, Ria's favorite was our Leadership Group Meetings (LGM), where we got to know the group members and their backgrounds individually as time went by. Rishab agreed, saying his favorite part was the Cultural Exchange part of the LGMs, where each member introduced their home country, because it was very interesting to know about what backgrounds people come from and the cultures and traditions they follow. Apart from the LGMs, Monica's favorite part of the experience was exploring the UN Headquarters.

GYLC is held several times a year for students of ages 15-19 from all over the world. Students who have been selected to participate have the opportunity to choose between attending the conference in the USA, China or Europe. For more information about GYLC, we strongly recommend visiting <http://www.cylc.org/gylc/>.

**Monica** (G11C), **Ria** (G11A) and **Rishab** (G11B)



## ISA Testing

Once again this year, students in **Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9** will sit the International Schools Assessment (ISA) from **October 11 to 13**. Developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), the ISA measures reading, writing and mathematics skills, and is based on internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks. The test is administered annually in more than 200 school worldwide. Parents will receive the results of their child's test around the end of semester 1.



## Asian Science Camp 2011

During the summer break, **Kei** and **Frank** from Grade 12 attended a program called 'Asian Science Camp 2011' which took place at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) for 7 days.

A total of 212 students from 19 Asian countries were invited to experience a variety of activities such as listening to lectures held by a number of Nobel laureates including Makoto Kobayashi (Nobel Prize in Physics, 2008), Aaron Ciechanover (Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2004) and Masatoshi Koshihara (Nobel Prize in Physics, 2002) as well as other world-class scientists.

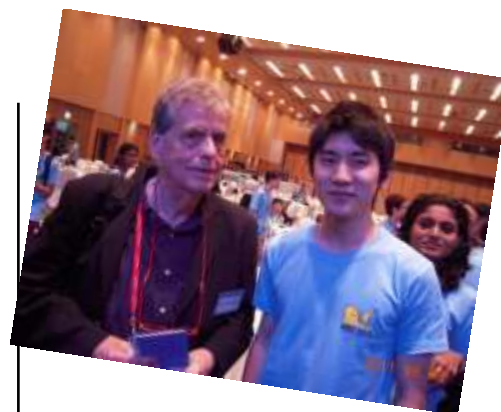
The program consisted of four major activities: plenary lectures, lessons, a creative poster competition and an excursion to the largest scientific research institute in Korea.

Ten university students and 10 high school students were selected by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) to represent Japan based on their academic achievements in school, recommendations written by science teachers and an application essay written in English. Costs were covered by KAIST and JST.

"Asian Science Camp was a life changing experience for me, as I had a priceless opportunity to gain ideas from Nobel laureates and many other great scientists by listening to their speeches and questioning them. Together with the inspiring lecturers, the friends who I met were very intelligent and enthusiastic; it was very exciting to discuss science and share viewpoints with them. I was very surprised to hear that 4 out of 20 Japanese participants had received a certain medal in past International Science Olympics. As a student whose aspiration is to become a physics teacher, this summer's great experience has motivated me to work harder in the DP as I understood that the world is a large place full of youths with high potential." (**Kei**, G12)



Kei with 2008 Nobel laureate, Makoto Kobayashi



Yubo with 2004 Nobel laureate, Prof. Aaron Ciechanover

"The ASC held in Korea this year was truly a once in a lifetime experience for me as an aspiring scientist. To have the opportunity of working with distinguished university professors, IBM-fellows, and of course, Nobel laureates in such close proximity was something I've never even dreamed of accomplishing in my high school years. Also of course, being able to learn and cooperate with participants of 19 different countries from all over the continent was also a huge honor, as most of them were university students going into their Bachelor's degree studies in different branches of the sciences. This summer camp was deeply inspiring and I highly encourage the science-oriented DP students of KIST to apply for next year's ASC, which will be held in another venue." (**Yubo**, G12)

## Truly International

This year at KIST, 43 different nationalities are represented in the student body. These are:

*American, Australian, Bangladeshi, Brazilian, British, Canadian, Chinese, Danish, Egyptian, Filipino, German, Indian, Indonesian, Iranian, Israeli, Italian, Ivorian, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Mongolian, Myanmar, Nepalese, New Zealander, Nicaraguan, Norwegian, Pakistani, Panamanian, Peruvian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Salvadoran, Senegalese, Serbian, Singaporean, South African, Sri Lankan, Swedish, Taiwanese, Thai, Turkish, Ugandan*

Amongst staff, 15 different nationalities are represented as follows:

*American, Australian, British, Canadian, Croatian, Filipino, French, Indian, Japanese, Malaysian, New Zealander, Polish, Salvadoran, Ukrainian, Uzbek*



## A Taste of University

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My fall semester Princeton writing seminar professor once advised me to start my paper with a metaphor...or a sentence that captures the essence of the content, at the very least. I am not quite sure doing so is possible when looking back at the past year.

As a KIST primary/middle/high school student, you are probably wondering: what is university like? Well, I was too. Would it be like Hilary Duff in *A Cinderella Story*? Perhaps it will be like John Nash in *A Beautiful Mind*? I arrived at Princeton with no expectations. Surely it will be like Fitzgerald's *This Side of Paradise*? My first few weeks at Princeton set the scene quite accurately: it was to be a year of many 'firsts'. Our orientation period was three weeks long: one week of international orientation, another of Outdoor Action and the last of frosh week. Within those first three weeks, I already had many firsts: seeing the most beautiful campus, canoeing, hiking/camping for 7 days with no showers or toilets in the woods, eating ice cream with every meal just because you can, and hip hop dance classes.

As the year went on, this list became longer and longer. I became involved in projects I never even knew existed in high school. I sit on the Pace Council for Civic Values, a student board that oversees civic engagement initiatives on campus, was elected Co-Social Chair of the International Student Association and co-founded the Princeton Sustainable Fashion Initiative. This summer, I lived for two and a half months in Zithulele Village, rural South Africa working on a Princeton-sponsored rural healthcare research project. Amidst beautiful people, a tongue workout language (try YouTubeing 'Xhosa') and incredible views, Zithulele gave me so much more

than I could ever give back to it. I am now sitting in my studio apartment in downtown Chicago where I have spent five weeks exploring the city and interning at a medical fashion enterprise as a Business Systems Analyst. Princeton never ceases to surprise me.



There is a saying that in a student's life, he can only choose two of the three: academics, social life or sleep. I used to think this was IB life in a nutshell (MYP, PYP and ECE kids, you'll find out what I mean soon enough!), but I now realize that the same cannot apply more to university life. One day as a university student feels like one week at times. When you get your schedule at the start of the semester, you will smile (Wow, only one two-hour lecture on Thursday? Cool!) until you realize that your Thursdays would be filled anyway with group projects, extracurricular meetings, professor office hours, exam prep, that part-time job, those performances you've been dying to attend, and, oh, naps. Lots of them. You will learn to thoroughly appreciate the beauty that is Apple's iCalendar when you face a dilemma you regularly find yourself in: should I attend the lecture by Sonia Sotomayor, cheer my roommate on in her dance performance, watch a free Princeton-sponsored

movie at the local theater, hang out with my hallmates or do my maths problem set? (Just in case you are curious, the right answer is the last but I ended up doing the second.)

Nevertheless, with every new face I meet, hand I shake, and experience I have, I still find comfort in familiarity. Nothing compares to ending the week with a nice Skype session with the parents, or visiting your best friend at UPenn's Wharton School (Hi, Soo Min Hwang!). Just about a month and a half ago, exactly one year after I waved goodbye, I visited KIST again. Hearing familiar voices all around me, familiar smiles from the students, teachers, guidance counselors and staff made me remember what a unique little place KIST is. Some things will always stay with you and KIST is definitely one of those for me.

With all of that said, each person has their own experience. You may be living in a dorm like me, you may be living in an off-campus house, or you may be living with your parents. Regardless, I am realizing that the important part is that you find a way to make your experience, might that be high school or university experience, just how you want it!

I still don't have a metaphor or sentence to describe my first year, but I do think I have a phrase that relates all of this back to you: *Ganbatte ne!*

**Carmina Mancenon**  
KIST Alumnus, "Class of 2010"



Find out more about Carmina here:

[http://www.princeton.edu/admission/whatsdistinctive/studentprofiles/mancenon\\_carmina\\_14/](http://www.princeton.edu/admission/whatsdistinctive/studentprofiles/mancenon_carmina_14/)