



Since 1997

The Comet

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"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it you will land among the stars."

—Les Brown

From the School Director

I hope everyone in the KIST family is well. I have been extremely busy of late with end-of-year events and preparations for next year. I am also pleased to say our 7th graduation ceremony on June 8 was a success. One of our graduates this year was accepted by the notoriously competitive Seoul University in South Korea. This is our second student to go to Korea, as one of our graduates was also accepted by Yonsei University the year before last.

KIST also continues to send a large number of graduates to universities in the US and UK, as well as Canada and Australia. Our graduates also include students of medicine at Hungary University and students of Hong Kong and Antwerp University. In Japan, our graduates have also been accepted by Waseda University and ICU, Sophia University, Kyoto Ritsumeikan University, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Kyushu and Meiji Gakuin University. The KIST network of universities around the world continues to grow as our number of graduates increases.

A school is a place where one acquires the essential knowledge and skills for adult life. Through my work, I have met many KIST and non-KIST DP graduates who through the IB have acquired wonderful skills and knowledge such as theoretical thinking, applied skills and communication skills, and are using them at universities and in their daily lives. Through their endeavors, they are also displaying the merits of the DP and the possibility to be future leaders.

One of our aims as an IB World School is to help our students succeed in the DP. This is because achieving a high score on the final exam of the DP is confirmation that a student has acquired the knowledge and skills required by universities and in everyday life. Those who attain a high score of 6 or 7 out of 7 in a high level DP subject receive recognition by universities and companies for their ability and in some instances can receive credits from American universities.

For students to achieve success in the DP, it is vital that there is an effective integrated system in place. At this year's Family Day, I presented our plans for the establishment of independent curriculum maps for K1 through G10 mathematics and Japanese A to better prepare students for the final exam of the DP. Next year, we will proceed with this program in class and evaluate any problem areas. It is our hope that we can enrich learning through this program, especially in vital subjects such as language and math. This year, we increased internal and external tests to measure our students' levels of attainment and we have designed after-school as well as summer school enrichment learning programs on the basis of those results. I intend to continue with our reforms to further improve the level of education at the school.

In order for our students to achieve success in the Elementary and Secondary Schools, it is vital that the following mechanisms are in place: 1) Considerable personal effort; 2) Appropriate parental support; 3) A school which offers an effective education. KIST takes the third point "A school which offers an effective education" as our responsibility. It is the responsibility of our students to work hard on point one, "Considerable personal effort", and parents towards point 2, "Appropriate parental support".

Finally, this year has been a year of change at KIST. I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the School Management Team, all the teachers and school staff and also all of the parents for making it a wonderful year. I would especially like to thank our Elementary School Principal, Mr Greg Brunton, who has been with us for 7 years. Mr Brunton has been the driving force behind many of the developments and improvements in the Elementary School this year. Mr Brunton, on behalf of the school community, my sincere thanks for all of your efforts. I wish you all the very best for the future.

Yoshishige Komaki
School Director/Head of School

DATES TO REMEMBER



June

- 20 Peer student-led conferences
- 20 (K1-G10) Last day of school
- 22 (G11) Last day of school
- 25-Jul 13 LEAP summer academic program (1)
- 27 Semester 2 reports issued by post

July

- 16-27 Office closed
- 30-Aug 17 LEAP summer academic program (2)

August

- 16 (K1) Parent welcome night
- 20 (W) First day of school
- 29 (K2/K3/G1) Parent welcome night
- 30 (G2-G5) Parent welcome night
- 31 (G6-G12/EIC) Parent welcome night

September

- 7 (S) College information night
- 14 Student free day
- 14 *The Comet* issued
- 17 School closed (National holiday)
- 18 (S/EIC) Field Day
- 19 (E) Field Day
- 19 (G1-G12) Clubs program begins
- 20 (G5) Camp explanation evening
- 21 MYP New parent information night
- 22 High school drama festival
- 25 (W) Free dress day
- 26-28 (G8) Camp

Farewell from Mr Brunton

**“ Dear Daddy,
I hope you be the
principal because
then you can do
nothing and lay in
your chair.
Thank you.
Love from Alexcia ”**

(A good luck card from my daughter the morning of my principal interview)

It has been seven years since I started at KIST, three years since I became a principal and in those years I have yet to “lay in my chair doing nothing.” During my time at KIST, there have been many milestones, setbacks, achievements and tragedies but we have worked through them together, and in some cases, the unfortunate events even brought us closer together. All of those experiences have made KIST what it is today, the school I am proud to say I work for.

This has been my favorite year as I see it as the year where the whole school community has come together to support each other the most. I hope the hard work of those that have made the many improvement initiatives possible will be appreciated and supported by the entire school community next year so those initiatives can grow and make KIST even better. Some of those elementary improvement initiatives include KIST standards for Language and Mathematics, Yearly Curriculum Overviews, lots of computers and technology, many teacher resources, online mathematics and literacy sites for students and teachers, F&P reading assessments and reports, PATMaths mathematics assessments and reports, report cards for all K1-G5 students 4 times a year, classroom library additions and many, many more.

Everything that has improved or has been accomplished in the Elementary School has not been the result of me, but the result of the professional team I am honored to be a part of. In my sixteen years as an educator, I have never worked with more enthusiastic, dedicated or caring “Elementrians.” Discussions about how to make things even better for one student, the grade level or for the whole school are a regular occurrence. Through the benefits of having collaboration time, those discussions turn into action. And those actions continue to mean a better education for our children. I would especially like to thank Ms Heard for organizing and supervising so many of the curriculum and reporting improvements this year and Ms Nomura for her outstanding organizational and translation skills keeping everyone on track and informed.

But we Elementrians could not have done everything alone. Through ongoing collaboration with Mr and Mrs Komaki, Mr Rothkopf, Mr Cowe and the Secondary

School team, Mrs Naito, Mr Larsen and the office personnel, bus drivers, chefs, PTA Executive, volunteers, parents and students, adjustments are made, support is given and a difference is made. Even some of the simplest of decisions can affect the entire school community. Without the entire school community's support, the many milestones, achievements and improvements we Elementrians have accomplished recently would have not been possible.

It is an exciting time for KIST. But, just as when students eventually move away from home to attend college, I too must have different experiences so I can continue to grow as an educator and life-long learner. I sincerely want to thank Mr and Mrs Komaki for providing me with an opportunity to be a part of the KIST team and for trusting and supporting me all of these years. I have learned so much from their guidance and appreciate all they have done for me and my family. I have been working with Mr Yoshihara very closely who will be the next Elementary School Principal and am confident he will do well in leading and improving the Elementary School. We will continue to be in contact over the summer as he prepares for the 2012-2013 school year.

To the entire KIST community, thank you for letting me be a part of a team which is making a difference. I sincerely wish everyone the best and will miss you all. I look forward to seeing you all again during one of our many visits back home to Tokyo.

With warm regards,

Greg Brunton
Elementary School Principal



Mr Brunton

LEAP Summer Academic Program June, July, August 2012

Looking for something to do during the summer vacation? Want to develop your skills or get a head start for next year? Then join us for the LEAP Summer Academic Program! The following courses are available this year and focus on developing students' academic skills in English and mathematics.

Session 1: June 25 (Mon) – July 13 (Fri) [3 weeks]

1. New K2–New G1 Summer Academic Program
2. New G2–New G5 Summer Academic Program English Course
3. New G2–New G5 Summer Academic Program Math Course
4. New G6–New G9 Summer Intensive English Course
5. New G6–New G9 Summer Intensive Math Course
6. New G10–New G12 Summer Intensive DP Basic Math Course
7. New G10–New G12 Summer Intensive SAT Course

Session 2: July 30 (Mon) – August 10 (Fri) [2 weeks]

1. New G10 Summer Intensive DP Math Prep Course
2. New G11 Summer Intensive DP Math Prep. Course
3. New G12 Summer Intensive DP Math Course

www.k-leap.jp



Family Day

Once again this year, the sun was shining brightly for the annual KIST Family Day held on **Saturday, May 19**. Family Day is one of the main annual events involving the entire school community. Based on the model of a Japanese sports festival which emphasizes interaction as opposed to competition, Family Day provides opportunities to promote interaction and communication between students, parents and school staff through enjoyable games and physical activities such as tug of war, musical chairs, relays, ball games and more.

Various booths were also set up in the gymnasium to provide information on IT issues, university acceptances, the summer academic program, the Founders' Awards, the PTA and others. A sayonara board was also provided for students and families to write farewell messages to staff leaving KIST this year. In addition, a number of food and drink booths were arranged to nourish the crowds. Funds raised from these booths this year reached 259,610 yen. With expenses of 95,601 yen deducted, the total profit was **164,009 yen**. This will be divided evenly between Elementary and Secondary and put toward the purchase of resources for the 2012-2013 school year.

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in the organization and running of this year's Family Day. The many smiles seen on the faces of those who participated in the activities attests to the fact that it was certainly an enjoyable day.



Elementary School News

Playground improvement project



With the work of many volunteer teachers, staff, moms, dads and students, the Playground Improvement Project is well underway. So far, flower pots have been used on the outside of the play equipment area to hold the uneven ground back, the main deck has been completed, seven benches have

been added, the small playhouse has been restored with two more on the way, the old sandbox has been removed and a much larger one built towards the back of the playground and wooden storage boxes have been built for the toys. We are currently working on the new water play area complete with water proof smocks and fancy non-slip rubberized flooring, and more decking areas. Thank you for your support through KISTival, individual donations and most importantly your time with the renovations.

Elementary clubs

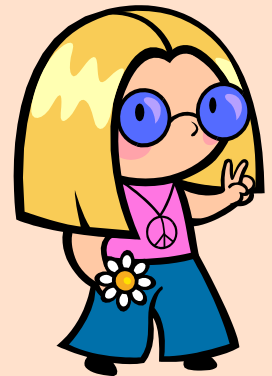
Elementary students enjoyed an increased range of different sporting, academic and recreational club opportunities this year to complement the standard club offerings. New sporting clubs this year included Cross Country, Walking Club, Relaxation and Stretching to name a few. Some new academic clubs included Reader's Theater and English Songs to go along with the increasingly popular Homework Club on Fridays which uses Secondary School student tutors. Some unique clubs were offered for the first time this year such as the Knit Wits knitting club, French, Spanish, Digital Animation, and Yearbook. We all look forward to seeing next year's club offerings beginning in September.



Brunton's Angels with their weapons of mass construction.

Free dress day results

The final free dress day of the year held on May 24 was a huge success. A total of 76,850 yen was raised which will go towards the purchase of resources for the K1-G1 classrooms. Teachers will be purchasing books, math resources and educational games. Thank you for your support!



The French club making crepes.



The digital animation club in action.

PYP News

Grade 5 PYP exhibition

On May 18, the Grade 5 students presented their Exhibition, Sharing the Planet, which explored issues connected to the central idea: *The way we share resources can have an effect on communities and how they relate to each other.*

The Exhibition is the culminating experience for the Grade 5 students in the Primary Years Programme. It gives students the opportunity to synthesize the Five Essential Elements of the PYP: Concepts, Knowledge, Attitudes, Action and Skills. Students take part in a collaborative inquiry that allows them to explore and investigate a real-life problem or issue. They take on all aspects of their inquiry including collaborating to develop a central idea, writing their lines of inquiry, choosing concepts, conducting research and planning their action.

Mentor meetings were also an important part of the Exhibition journey. Students were assigned to a mentor and met with them weekly to discuss their progress, share "aha" moments and help plan next steps. Students documented their process on their own Moodle page. Students presented their learning through visual displays, information reports, art and performance pieces and oral presentations. On the Exhibition day students shared their learning with parents, teachers, students and visitors from two other international schools. The Grade 5 students took pride in all they had accomplished during the Exhibition.

Congratulations Grade 5!

ESRC

The ESRC (Elementary Student Representative Council) has been hard at work this year. They are the student voice of the Elementary School and have helped solve problems and have taken part in several school initiatives.

Some of the ESRC accomplishments include implementing stair monitors during recess times to ensure that students are walking safely on the stairs, organizing a free dress day, purchasing books for the library and creating recess rules.

The most recent initiative the ESRC has taken on has been to organize games during the morning recess time. The ESRC noticed that some kids were bored at recess and some were not playing safely and the ESRC decided to do something about it! They organize games three times a week which includes setting up the equipment and teaching the game. The games have been a great success. Thanks to the ESRC for their time, work and effort they have devoted to the Elementary School this year.

Elizabeth Heard
PYP Coordinator



Secondary School News

During this school year, we experienced many progressive changes. When leading in a climate of change, the support of the school community is extremely important. With this being my first year as the school's Secondary School Principal, I want to thank the students, parents, teachers, Board members, office staff, PTA, the school management team and my secondary administrative team for your trust and support in making this a truly memorable school year.

In early June, our community enjoyed the traditional "KIST on Stage" school concerts. I would like to highlight the positive atmosphere which is typical of our school culture. This is most evident by the sheer number of enthusiastic students wanting to perform. The variety and internationalism displayed in musical selections, dance, and comedy was truly international in spirit. From an educator's point of view, the presence of older students working with younger classmates in performances is particularly noteworthy. These experiences are extremely helpful in mentoring students in ways that traditional classroom-based curricula cannot do alone. Providing a venue for creative expression and the ability to share student-centered performances with a community audience is part of our school culture which truly instills a love of the arts along with such skills as self confidence and pride.

This school year, we integrated quite a few changes. We trialed a DP Book Exchange giving G12 students the opportunity to sell books to incoming DP G10 students to help save families money and ensure greater

recycling of textbooks. We are going to trial something similar with MYP mathematics classes as well. This will happen on June 20. More details will be sent via E-Communications.

The school will continue to offer grade level excursions. These excursions are integrated within the curriculum and each year we seek to refine and improve upon them. These are considered required curriculum days and are scheduled for alternating grade levels as shown in the table at the bottom of this page.

We have deliberately chosen to alternate grade levels to provide meaningful experiences, but also to keep costs at reasonable levels for families. More details will follow approximately four weeks before each excursion is scheduled.

For Grades 10 through 12, the school is moving ahead with our 1-to-1 laptop initiative. Over the past two years, the school has invested heavily in our IT infrastructure allowing the campus to go completely wireless while providing network access at speeds necessary to successfully integrate technology within our classrooms. Having students begin to use laptops in this manner in G10 will ensure the necessary digital literacy skills are developed which will greatly help our students as they embark on their DP studies and post KIST in college and university settings. Our aim is to provide a 21st century learning environment while nurturing student responsibilities associated with caring for a personal laptop



Students on stage at the Secondary Concert.

before they graduate from high school. We are therefore requesting students in Grades 10 to 12 to bring their own laptops to school with a suitable carrying case. Details on recommended specifications were sent to all families via E-Communications. If you have specific questions, kindly contact our IT Office directly.

The school offered parent workshops to introduce new IT systems at the beginning of this year in both English and Japanese. We plan to offer something similar next September along with a PowerSchool informational session. PowerSchool will allow students and parents to view daily attendance and academic achievement 24/7 online. When students complete units of work, summative assessments will be viewable via individual teacher PowerSchool grade books. We hope this will facilitate greater discussion with parents and students and keep families up to date in an effort to become less reliant on just official quarter or semester school reporting.

With the last day of school quickly approaching, I would like to wish everyone a warm and fulfilling summer holiday. I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back next August.

Warm regards,

Stephen Rothkopf
Secondary School
Principal



Mr Rothkopf

Secondary School Grade Level Excursions in 2012-2013

Grade	Location	Dates
G6	Nikko, Tochigi Prefecture	October 3-5, 2012
G8	Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture	September 26-28, 2012
G10	Niigata Prefecture	March 6-8, 2013

MYP News

New chapter of the MYP

Panta rhei! Nothing endures but change!

This famous Heraclitus quote can be easily used as a conclusion at the end of this school year. Many things were improved in our school this year, we have many new teachers and students and many changes have been announced for the delivery of the MYP in coming years.

The IB is reviewing the design of the whole MYP, with the aim of providing a structure that more clearly enables students to be successful in further IB studies. The new design that should be officially in use by autumn 2014 will create an innovative, concept-based and appropriately assessed programme for 11–16 year olds that fully reflects the IB principles of teaching and learning.

All subject areas are under review. Suggestions currently under discussion and development include:

- interdisciplinary key concepts;
- subject-specific related concepts that will better align with the Diploma Programme (DP);
- replacement of the Areas of Interaction (AOI) with global contexts;
- units that are driven by inquiry, with the focus on a central idea that reflects the key and related concepts within a global context;
- greater emphasis on approaches to learning (ATL) as a way to develop the IB learner profile attributes;
- subject choice for students in years 4 and 5 of the MYP.

These changes **have not yet been approved** by the IB and will be piloted in schools all over the world during the 2012-2013 school year. I am proud to announce that the KIST art department will be piloting the new Arts guide which will give us the opportunity to have an insight into new developments in the art subject group even before they have been officially announced.

There are, however, changes that have been approved already and will come into use from the beginning of the next school year. In humanities, the assessment criteria have been renamed and the highest achievement level for each criterion has been changed to 8 (previously 10). The most significant scope of changes will happen to the language B subjects – Japanese and English. The old language B model of three levels (foundation, standard, advanced) will be replaced with six learning phases. The phases represent a developmental continuum of language learning. Schools are required to ensure students have the opportunity to:

- study a language B (or second language A) sustained across the entire year in each year of the MYP;
- learn the same language B in each year of the MYP or achieve a satisfactory proficiency in phase 4 in order to transfer to another language.

Based on the learning outcomes, teachers will decide which phase is the best fit for the students. The phases are not organized into age groups and do not correspond to the MYP year.

All of these changes and more information on the delivery of the MYP at KIST will be explained in detail in our MYP parent information sessions scheduled for September and November 2012.

Warm holiday wishes to all,

Vedrana Pavletic
MYP Coordinator

Acknowledgements:

IBO MYP Coordinator's Notes, May 2012
IBO MYP Language B Guide, March 2012
IBO MYP Humanities Guide, February 2012

Backpack Donations

We, **Koyuki** and **Haruka** from G8A, would like to sincerely thank all the people in the KIST community that donated a backpack in supporting our project that was to convert any received backpacks into some emergency supplies bags used for aid purposes such as in an earthquake situation. Fourteen low income families living in some Japan Government funded housing have received a backpack and they were very grateful to us. We have learned a lot from this experience; there are quite a lot of families with small kids and single parenting around us living in different prefectures of Tokyo city in desperate need of basic goods even such as food. Any church whatsoever is a good point of contact helping us to reach out to these people. Making just a small difference in peoples' lives counts no matter how small it is. A donation makes anyone feel good; it brings a smile to a child's face and relief to a mother's heart. What if one day you are in need too? You'll be glad that we're there for you!



Koyuki and Haruka helping the community.

DP News

Grade 11: The EE takes shape!

Since the last newsletter entry, Grade 11 students have been continuing their Extended Essay as part of their DP curriculum.

On May 24, students were required to submit a first draft. This draft is approximately 1500-2000 words and allows the students to demonstrate what they have found so far to answer their research question and the structure their EE is taking. Teacher supervisors will read these first drafts and provide feedback to their EE students before the summer vacation.

Grade 11 parents can help support their son/daughter by finding out about the EE on Moodle. The DP Extended Essay Moodle page has all the resources that parents need to support their child. Parents can also ask their son/daughter about their EE first drafts and even read what they produced!

The following is very important:

Students should be working on their EE over the summer vacation. It is an ideal time to collect any final resources or conduct any final research and to have a few hours just to focus on writing the EE full draft which is due on Monday, August 20, the first day back at school. Failure to meet this deadline will result in the student being internally excluded from the first day of regular classes for Grade 12. Full instructions on the DP EE full draft are on the EE Moodle page.

Mark Cowe
EE Coordinator

Ferdinand Licuanan
Teacher Librarian

Grade 11 TOK: Pulling together the "ways of knowing"!

Last block on a Friday afternoon continues to be a hive of activity for Grade 11 students as they continue their TOK course. Since the last newsletter entry, students have been working on a TOK Essay in which they are given the opportunity to show their understanding and awareness of the Ways of Knowing. They have had whole class workshops and presentations in the MPR and individual class time with their regular TOK teachers. More recently they have been exploring their first Area of Knowledge, Science.



Grade 11 students in action in their TOK/EE class.



The Grade 11 TOK Moodle page has all the resources that teachers are using to deliver TOK. Parents looking to find out more about TOK should go to the Moodle page or look at the DP course descriptions on the school website. They can also ask their son/daughter what sorts of activities they are doing in TOK and also ask them about their TOK journal. Parents could also ask to look at their son or daughter's TOK Essay, one of the most challenging academic experiences of their school career thus far and which makes up some of the Semester 2 grade for TOK.

Mark Cowe
TOK Coordinator

Andrew Young
Jun Hishiyama
G11 TOK Teachers

Grade 12: DP assessment update

In May, Grade 12 completed their final IB Diploma examinations. Whilst the whole school was enjoying their Golden Week holiday, the Grade 12s were doing these examinations in the MPR whilst the rest of the time they were off site at the Morishita Cultural Centre to have the necessary facilities to conduct the assessments.



Grade 12 students sitting for their final IB examinations.

The exam organization went very smoothly both for the school and the students. A big thanks to KIST office staff and teachers who helped support the smooth organization of these. A full summary of DP results will appear in the September issue of *The Comet* as in previous years.

Mark Cowe
IB DP



Math Field Day

On Wednesday, April 18, twenty-eight KIST mathematics students attended Math Field Day at Yokata High School, located on the Yokata air base. These students, ranging from Grade 7 to 12, had spent the previous month and a half preparing for the competitions, meeting at lunch times to compare answers to practice questions and sharing mathematical problem-solving strategies.

Math Field Day, organised by KPASSP, included teams from other international schools in the Tokyo area. In the morning, students sat individual papers. These were: rapid computation, junior, intermediate, senior or calculus. Following a lunch break, students from all schools were scrambled into new teams for Math Mania – an event in which teams raced to answer four questions per round correctly.

At the end of the day, **Jiaying** (G8B) came second in the intermediate competition, and **Samkit** (G11B) was awarded the second place in the senior competition. Congratulations to all students who participated – you were a credit to your school. And special congratulations to Samkit and Jiaying! Well done!

Jenny Thomas
Team Coach

Jun working on the rapid computation paper.



KIST students racing to get their team's answers checked!



Working with students from other schools was a highlight.



Many international schools attended.

Secondary SRC

SRC Executive for 2012-2013

We just finished the election process for the SRC executive positions on May 31. Each of the candidates went through the formal process of applying for the positions which included presenting their speeches to Mr Fishman, Ms Pavletic and Mr Rothkopf before our SRC Elections Assembly.

The staff and students were quite impressed by the intrinsic motivation of the candidates as well as the quality of the campaigning, which included going into homerooms and talking with students and answering questions. Students also created campaign posters to promote their mission and vision for next year. Lastly, students running for executive positions gave stellar speeches for the entire secondary student body. The SRC assembly was one of the highlights of the school year and the teachers and administration were impressed with the depth and delivery of the speeches. Students received guidelines and teacher support; however, all of the candidates were self-directed and showed great initiative.

SRC Executive for 2012-2013



President **Monica (G11C)** Vice President **Miri (G11B)** Secretary **Kouta (G9A)** Treasurer **Min (G10A)**

Student representatives for each homeroom will be elected in September. Getting involved in the SRC helps build essential skills already used in classes; such as working in cooperative groups, organization, setting goals, time management, responsibility, and developing public speaking skills. The SRC still needs to finalize their constitution and submit it for ratification by the School Management Team. Many of the great ideas and pre-work from this year's SRC and past will be utilized to help guide the new SRC representatives as they move the constitution forward. Once ratified, it will be posted on the Secondary Blog. Congratulations to all participants in the recent election. All candidates should be very proud of their efforts!

Library News

What's been happening at KIST Libraries?



A highlight in April was voting for the Sakura Medal winner, with Elementary students from Grades 2 through 5 participating enthusiastically, and many students from Secondary getting involved in reading and voting for their favorites of these great new titles from around the world.

The Sakura Medal is an award given by the International School Librarians of Japan Group, with books being chosen by the group and the winners voted for by students at international schools. Books must be published within the last two years, and special attention is paid to choosing quality books from a range of countries and perspectives.

For your information, the results of the Sakura Medal Awards, voted for by students from all over Japan, are shown in the table below.

Category	Title	Author
English Picture Books	The Interrupting Chicken	David Ezra Stein
Japanese Picture Books	Konmori-kun こんもりくん	Genichi Yamanishi
English Chapter Books	Out of My Mind	Sharon M. Draper
Japanese Chapter Books	Saraba Shikkozaaurusu さらば、シッコザウルス	Chiharu Hattori
English Middle School Books	Blood Ninja	Nick Lake
Japanese Middle School Books	Himitsu-no Suutsu 秘密のスイーツ	Mariko Hayashi
English High School Books	Boys Don't Cry	Malory Blackman
Japanese High School Books	Otouyan-to Ojisan お父さんとオジさん	Shizuka Ijyuuin

KIST students also participated in the Sakura Medal Japanese Book Trailer competition with other international schools in Japan. Congratulations to **Kouta** (G9A) for winning the Silver Award in High School Division A! Kouta's book trailer can be viewed here:

<http://youtube/MrDwneUyXEA>

Many thanks to all students who participated in reading, reviewing and voting for these books, and to the teachers and parents who encouraged and supported them. Please look out for the chosen books for 2013 appearing in the LMC and Elementary Library in the new school year. There are some great titles coming!

The PTA kindly donated "toshō card" book vouchers as prizes for students who participated in voting for Sakura Medal books. All students who voted were entered in a draw, with the lucky winners receiving 2,000 yen each

to spend on books so they can read even more!

The winners were:

Elementary: Miku (G2B), Miwa (G2B), Kishore (G2A), Tom (G5A), Meng Ting (G5B)

Secondary: Emi (G7A), Emily (G7A), Jamie (G9A), Ria (G9A), Youn Jae (G12)



may have been lost.

Library staff would like to say a HUGE thank you to the volunteer work of the PTA Library Committee throughout this school year. The support of the school community means a great deal to us as we continue to upgrade and improve our KIST Libraries and services.

Over the summer, we will be busy checking the collection in both libraries, processing many new books ordered with the proceeds from KISTival, and planning the information literacy programs for the next school year. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the new school year, with some exciting new programs coming up including Hungry Readers, and continuing from last year D.E.A.R., Sakura Medal 2013 and International Mother Language Day.

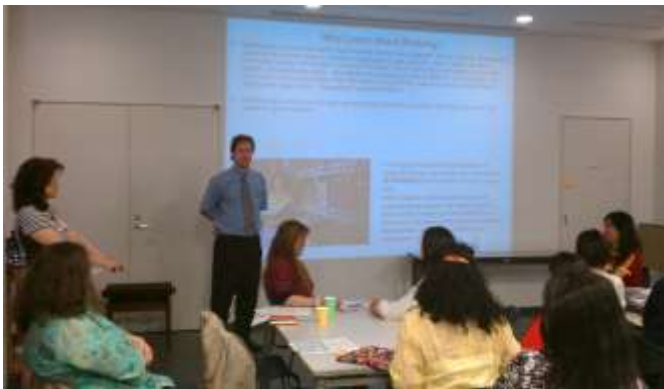
Have a great summer vacation, with plenty of time to relax and read!

KIST Library Staff

Coffee with the Counselor

The KIST PTA organized a parent workshop with school counselor, Benjamin Fishman on the morning of June 7. Fifteen parents attended the workshop which focused on the topic of bullying. Mr Fishman's workshop explored the complex issues involved with bullying and armed parents with prevention and intervention strategies. Specific topics included:

- ◆ Talking with your child about bullying
- ◆ Talking with your child about friendship struggles
- ◆ Helping your child develop positive, safe and healthy relationships.
- ◆ Warning signs that your child may be a target of bullying or be engaging in bully behavior
- ◆ Steps to take if your child is bullying
- ◆ Helping the bullied child heal
- ◆ Empowering the child who witnesses bullying behavior
- ◆ Working with the school to prevent bullying behavior and advocating for your child



Stay tuned for more PTA sponsored parent workshops with Mr Fishman next year.

World Education Games

On March 5, 6 and 7, KIST Elementary School students competed in the World Education Games. Over 1.57 million students from around the world took part in the online spelling, science and mathematics games.

Two of our classes at KIST ranked in the top fifty classes worldwide. Let's all congratulate Grade 1A and Grade 5B. Grade 1A ranked number 34 in World Spelling Day! Grade 5B ranked number 16 in World Science Day, number 28 in World Spelling Day, and number 30 in World Math Day! Congratulations!

All students who took part received a certificate. Grade 5B held a special event to celebrate their high achievement! Way to go K. International School students!

Kevin Yoshihara

Grade 4A teacher

Elementary Mathematics Coordinator



Congratulations Grade 5B!

School Beautification Project

The School Beautification Project began on April 6, with five sessions taking place through May 26. Students, parents and staff volunteered their time to paint the interior walls of the school buildings. Participants gathered after school on Friday afternoons to set up equipment, then actual painting took place on Saturdays.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who gave up their days off to participate in this project and helped make the school a more attractive place to be. We ask for the continued cooperation of all members of the school community to help in keeping our school clean.

Once again, thank you everyone for all your hard work.



Morning Arrivals

Families are reminded that students are **not permitted to be on the school grounds before 8:00 a.m.**, unless they have made a prior appointment with a teacher, as supervision is not available. In recent weeks, a number of students have been arriving around 7:30 a.m.

We ask for the cooperation of parents in ensuring that your child/ children leave home at an appropriate time that allows them to arrive at school **after 8:00 a.m.** Parents of students found arriving before this time will be contacted.



Yearbook Club

Students' reflections



This was my first year in the yearbook club and in K. International School. As a student, I was lucky to capture the personality of the school through photographs and by creating yearbook pages. In the first semester, Mr Ito taught specific techniques on Microsoft Publisher and in photography. During this period, I developed my photography skills and grew to enjoy the art. Halfway through the semester, we started creating the yearbook pages.

Members of the club were continuously attending school events in their free time to take photos for the yearbook. We all had a lot of fun flipping through the pictures to pick out and put onto the page. There was a whole cycle to it: take the photos, put it into SkyDrive, create the page using the photos, show it to Mr Ito, fix it, and show it to Mr Ito again.

When the second semester came, each homeroom had to create their class page. This was very exciting because there were very few people in the club and suddenly the room was roaring with laughter and enthusiasm. It was enjoyable because we could personalize the page in a way that defined our class.

This year's yearbook has a lively vibe that no other yearbook has had before. Since the whole yearbook was created by the students for the students, we were able to shape it in a way that embodied our school through our perspective. The yearbook club helped me appreciate our school more in an entirely new way. It was an honor working on the school's yearbook and I hope that I can join the club again next year.

Minami (G9A)



Minami and Tamami showing off their colorful page designs.

This was my first year in KIST, and I decided to join the yearbook club due to my interest in taking photos and creating pages that would represent the school. In this club, our job was to mainly take photos and put them creatively on a page. Although this sounds like an easy job, there were many different rules that we had to follow in order to complete the pages to the best of our ability, and had to go through the process of making the page and improving it.

During this year, I made three different pages; two camps and one class page. I was first afraid of what everyone else would think of the page I created, but I soon became used to the job and enjoyed having the responsibility to create something that signifies the school. My time in the yearbook club allowed me to learn new, different things. I learnt the skills and rules necessary to make a page so that it could be added into the yearbook, and the different tools on Microsoft Publisher to make the pages like we wanted.

It was the first year to have this club. In previous years, the pages were made by the teachers instead of students. I think that creating this club was an excellent idea as it allowed the yearbook to become organized, and making students create the pages let the yearbook be filled with memories that the students wish to carry on in their future.

As a club, and with the supervision of Mr Ito, I think that we put a lot of effort into creating pages that would make the school proud of what they have. I had a lot of fun in this club, and wish to join again next year as being in this club let me see the school from a different perspective since I joined. I hope that the school will enjoy looking at the yearbook as much as we had fun making it.

Tamami (G9A)



The club getting their first look at the printed pages.

Staff 10!

In this month's *Staff 10!*, we are pleased to present **Andrew Young** who joined KIST in 2009 as a science teacher in the Secondary School. He is currently the Science Subject Area Coordinator.



Mr Young testing his scientific theories.

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

I call Christchurch my "adopted" hometown, since I wasn't born there but any time I go back to New Zealand for a holiday that is where I head to first. Something completely amazing is that since September 4, 2010, a total of 10,355 earthquakes have been recorded in Christchurch. The 25 largest have been between magnitude 7.1 and 5.6. Things seem to be settling down recently and the rebuilding of the city has begun.

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

No one place stands out but I have many favourite places like:

Pioneer Hut, Mt Cook National Park, New Zealand
Mt. Arapiles, Natimuk, Australia
Railay Peninsula, Krabi, Thailand
Kalymnos, Greece.

Pamukale and the Hierapolis, Turkey
Rome, Italy

Mt. Yatsugatake in winter, Nagano, Japan

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

Charles Darwin. I believe that his contribution to our understanding of life is the single greatest of any individual throughout the course of humanity. For people still alive, Richard Dawkins.

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

Well, I used to be quite a handy alpinist. I hope to be able to get back to it but have been out of action due to back problems.

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

My first real job, while I was still in high school, was as a "Chicken Catcher". I'll let people use their own imagination as to what that involved.

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

A greenstone carving that I received from my mother on my 21st birthday. In New Zealand we call it Pounamu. She had designed it herself and had it made by a Maori master carver. The design can loosely be regarded as a Piko and symbolizes the life cycle, growth, eternity and wisdom.

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

Slightly nuts, rather eccentric, but such a gentleman.

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

Well, it's only as we get older and wiser that we recognize the mistakes of our inexperienced, uncertain and over-exuberant youth. Chances are, I would make different choices now with my older head, but the same ones then with the same young head. And I wouldn't want to give up the lessons learnt either. I think it is best to take as many opportunities as present

themselves, since we tend to regret more the things we didn't do than the things we did.

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

I'm trying to fix my back. Two herniated disks are a total nuisance. It is quite a battle and I am still waiting for the "improvement". I have learnt quite a lot about the causes and treatment of back problems.

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

You're all perfectly capable of messing up on your own, you don't need my help!

Office Updates

School fee payments

The payment dates for school fees for the 2012-2013 school year are **May 15, September 17** and **December 17**. The date for the first payment has passed. Please check that you have made your payment correctly. Families who have not yet paid are asked to do so as soon as possible as your payment is now overdue. If you need assistance or are unsure of the amount or method of payment, please contact the Accounts department. Please note that a late fee of 2,000 yen will be incurred for any overdue payments where Accounts has not been informed of a delay.

New school bus route

Due to the large number of requests received, we are pleased to announce a new school bus route to the **Toyosu** area for the 2012-2013 school year that will service **Shinonome, Toyosu** and **Tsukishima** Stations. Families wishing to apply for the new service are asked to submit a **School Bus Application Form** (available from the school website Community >> Forms page) by July 13, 2012. In addition, a number of adjustments will also be made to the bus schedule for the current bus routes. Please check the school website for details.



School support program changes

As a result of a proposal made at the recent PTA Annual General Meeting, the following system will come into effect from the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year: In recognition of the time and effort contributed by PTA executive committee members and general committee chairpersons, parents holding these positions will be exempt from regular SSP duties during their period of office.

New SSP duty option

For those who enjoy working outdoors or just want to help improve the physical appearance of the school, a new SSP duty option will be introduced from January 2013. The "outdoor improvements" duty will involve gardening, pulling weeds, sweeping the walkways and other tasks to help make the outdoor areas of the school more attractive. This duty will be offered on Mondays from 8:45 – 10:45 a.m. More details will be distributed later.



The Year in Sport



As another successful year in sport and athletics comes to an end, I would like to recognize all the coaches and athletes for their commitment and hard work.

Special thanks to all of our outstanding coaches this year for offering your expertise to what has been noted as our best coaching staff in recent history:

Mr Lee—U18 Boys & Girls Volleyball
Ms Haines and Ms Geshel—Girls Volleyball & Basketball
Mr Steele—U14 Boys Basketball
Mr Theilen—U14 Boys Soccer & U18 Boys Futsal
Ms Sentgeorge—U18 Girls Futsal
Mr Kenyon—U14 Futsal
Mr Nogami—U18 Boys Baseball

I would also like to recognize our achievements in competition within the ISTAA (International Schools of Tokyo Athletics Association). KIST teams were crowned 2012 champions in:

- U18 ISTAA Girls Volleyball
- U18 ISTAA Boys Basketball [**Brandon (G12) ISTAA MVP**]
- U18 Girls Basketball – Yokohama Invitational
- U14 ISTAA Girls Basketball
- U18 ISTAA Boys Futsal
- U14 ISTAA Boys Futsal

We were also very busy in the Elementary School competition, taking part in many different events over the school year. Some notable performances were:

- Top honors at ASIJ Elementary Soccer Jamboree
- Great individual performances at two BST Elementary Swim Galas
- 2nd place at BST Mini-Basketball Tournament
- Competitors in the 1st Annual KIST Soccer Jamboree
- Competitors in friendly matches vs Nishimachi International School Mini-Basketball

Great year Comets! I can't wait to see what's in store for next year! Keep working hard!

Jay Leroy
 Athletics Director / Elementary School PE Teacher



U18 girls volleyball



*Brandon (G12)
 ISTAA MVP U18
 boys basketball*



U14 boys futsal (with the BST team)



U18 boys futsal



U14 girls volleyball



U18 girls futsal



Elementary swimmers

College Guidance News

Congratulations class of 2012!

The graduation ceremony for the class of 2012 was held on Friday, June 8 at Morishita Cultural Center with the Grade 12 parents and families, Mr and Mrs Komaki, school board members, administration, DP teachers and school staff. Grade 11 students also attended the ceremony and shared the moment of departure of their "sempai" (seniors) into the world. They might have been imagining themselves as graduates next year.

College acceptances for the Class of 2012

We are pleased to announce that KIST had another successful year with college acceptances. The following is a list of universities that offered admission to our Class of 2012 up to June 14, 2012. There are some students who are still waiting for the results or are planning to start applying to universities/colleges after graduating from KIST so this is not a final list. As Mr Cowe noted during his speech at the recent graduation ceremony, there are several universities where KIST students received acceptances for the first time including Seoul National University in Korea, School of Visual Arts in the US, American University in Cairo, Egypt, Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and Sophia University (Green Science) in Tokyo. This year, a higher number of students chose to apply to universities in Japan than in previous years. Some students applied to universities in North America and other areas; however, no students applied to universities in the UK or Europe.

USA

Willamet University* | Seattle University* | Pacific Lutheran University* | Savannah College of Art and Design* | School of Visual Arts Northeastern University | Otis College of Arts and Design | School of the Arts Institute of Chicago | Snow College | Utah State University

CANADA

McGill University* | University of British Columbia | University of Toronto* | University of Western Ontario | Carleton University* | Simon Fraser University

JAPAN

Sophia University (Liberal Arts) | Sophia University (Green Science) | International Christian University | Waseda University | Meiji Gakuin University | Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University* | Ritsumeikan University

KOREA

Seoul National University

EGYPT

American University in Cairo

College visitors at KIST

More than 30 universities and colleges from all over the world visited KIST during the year and provided presentations and meetings for our G9 through G12 students and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the visitors who came all the way from Europe, North America, Asia, the Pacific and Japan to meet our students and staff at KIST. It is our pleasure to have college representatives from admission offices and faculties conduct presentations to highlight their programs and provide mini lectures for our students. It is worth mentioning that the visitors always mention how much they enjoy visiting our vibrant and friendly campus and how they are impressed with our students who ask pertinent questions and make appropriate comments during the

meetings. It was pleasing to see so many students from G9 and G10 participating in the recent presentations by the University of Leeds, University of Anglia Ruskin and Cambridge University, as well as G11 students.

Campus visits by Mrs Okude

As a College Guidance Counselor, I have been attending college fairs and college explanation events outside of KIST to become acquainted with admissions officers and to obtain up-to-date information about



Yonsei University Library

admissions and programs. I also take advantage of visiting university campuses by invitation or during my private trips around the area. Since October 2010, I have visited the University of Hong Kong and Savannah College of Art and Design in Hong Kong, National University of Singapore and S.P. Jain University in Singapore, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Beppu, Ritsumeikan University and Doshisha University in Kyoto. During my recent trip to Seoul, Korea to attend my alma mater (MBA '84) the George Washington University's large alumni event, I also had the chance to visit Seoul National University and Yonsei University. Campus visits provide me with opportunities to see and feel how it would be if our students choose these destinations after graduation as well as to exchange information with



Seoul National University, International Center

admissions officers and faculty members. Meeting KIST graduates on campus is another purpose of the visit and it is a joyous moment to see them enjoying their college lives. I am looking forward to seeing more KIST graduates all over the world in the near future.

G11 advisory college guidance

During the last session of college guidance, G11 students filled out and submitted their College List and Summer 2012 Action Plan in a booklet called *Life after 2012 My Post-KIST Plan* along with the first draft of their personal statement for college application. These will be returned with comments on the last day of school. I hope students will spend valuable summer exploring their college options and improving their academics in order to pursue their future college or career plans.

Have wonderful summer!

Mrs Keiko Okude
College Guidance Counselor

James (Class of 2010) at Yonsei University



Alumnus Report

Junichi (JC) Takase is an alumnus of KIST's "Class of 2011." He is currently in his first year at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University's College of International Management in Beppu, majoring in business administration.

Graduating high school and going to college felt so bitter sweet. I was glad I graduated and took the next step forward in my life but at the same time sad because those days in high school are never coming back. On a brighter note, most—if not all—my classmates were so happy that they graduated since they are finally "free" and could go to university. Although as the months pass by, and as we catch up with each other through Skype or Facebook, there's always that topic within our conversation about how much we miss high school. Don't get me wrong, guys, I am glad I am out of the IB program, really. But let me be clear. Once leaving high school, I felt extremely excited and at the same time incredibly scared. Most of my high school life was spent in KIST; a small school with a very tight international community. As you all know, our school is small so moving in to a university that is not even located in Tokyo was a challenge.

First of all, to give you a general idea of where I am and what is here, I'll start with the city. I live in Beppu, Oita, a place generally known for hot springs. All my life I've lived in cities; this was by far the biggest change of them all. Whenever I catch up with my friends from Tokyo and they ask me where I am and I tell them "Beppu", almost always a short silence fills in the reply, and immediately they say, "What..? Where is that? ... Beppu?". I tell them where it is and then the laughter begins. Some even pity me and order me to come back to Tokyo. I say no. Never!

Beppu is a quiet, coastal town in Kyushu and it's beautiful! The locals are friendlier and more understanding than the locals in Tokyo. Although honestly in the beginning I didn't feel the same way I feel right now. The moment I arrived at the airport, I thought I

could never get used to living in the province. And that I may not feel part of the community in Beppu since Tokyo felt so much more like home. However, before long, I gradually started to love the place. I realized that it's a great change of pace, as if I can start new. It felt incredibly refreshing being in a new city, a new university, new people and a new room. Everything was so different I felt as if I was living someone else's life. Beppu isn't as crowded as Tokyo, it's so different, so small and yet it has so much to offer. As of right now, I already feel part of the community. So much so that the locals already recognize me since being featured in the local Oita newspaper. I wasn't aware I was in it until one of the locals showed it to me after I handed him my student ID; he recognized my name from the article about APU.

Before officially starting university, there was an entrance ceremony for undergraduates and graduate students. I represented my batch, the undergraduates, and gave a speech on their behalf. The speech I did, in my opinion became instrumental in making friends and gaining confidence as I started my university life. Although in all honesty, walking up onto the stage filled with important individuals (President, board members, the mayor of Oita, deputy heads of the colleges etc.), along with all the flashing lights, the cameras and of course the audience staring at me, as soon as I came up to the desk and faced everyone I took by far the deepest breath I have ever taken in my life and delivered the speech to the best of my ability. It was legendary.

<http://www.apu.ac.jp/home/news/index.php?page=article&storyid=2400>

Soon after that I started my university life. I can't begin to explain how exciting and amazing it was. There were so many events



Ready to take on the world.

going on for the first two weeks that I felt I was missing out on something every time I would head back to the dorm to rest. And even when I went back to the dorms to rest, there were other events going on inside the dorms. One thing I can comment on about university life is this: it's busy, it's fun and it requires a whole lot of charisma and energy. You just have to open up and let yourself get in there and make the best of what's already presented to you.

After the events, tours, workshops and introductions to everything, I focused on choosing a circle and clubs to join in. I initially aimed to play for the basketball team; however, I thought to myself that since everything was so new, I'll try out something different, so I joined the men's lacrosse team. The training was so difficult since our team is ranked as the 3rd best college team in Kyushu. It also houses players that are in the Kyushu division team and a player that represents Korea internationally.

I also joined circles such as kick-boxing, diving and fair trade circles. Circles make you meet new people with similar interests, spark friendships and at the same time learn new skills and experiences. Join anything, societies, clubs, sports teams, groups whatever. These groups will make you feel part of something—small or big—it doesn't matter. In the end it's rewarding and it's free! Be sure to be active in circles and clubs when you go to university.

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Finally, I will discuss just a little bit about the classes in APU since I've only been here for roughly a little over 3 months, therefore I haven't actually experienced the whole curriculum longer to actually comment about it. One thing very different though compared to high school is that in university you choose your own class, your own time and day as long as you meet all the minimum credits. Basically, you have as much freedom as you want. This in my opinion is great, but at the same time, dangerous. All that freedom they gave you can either backfire against you, so be warned. The key to this is simply being responsible and having proper time management, which I am sure most KIST students can easily accomplish thanks to the IB.

To end this long and maybe boring article I wrote, I'll finish it with this: College is the time where you realize that everything is not too late, that really, it's just the beginning. The life you once knew you had, will turn upside down and suddenly you will realize that our perspective of the world is so small. We have so much to learn, so much to accomplish and so much to prove. And the best feeling of all—this especially goes to the probably "bored" and busy seniors of KIST—is that once graduating high school and transitioning to college, you suddenly realize that the best years of your lives are not behind you. They simply just keep on going as we grow older. For the next four years in college, you will study, build life-long friends and maybe even build a path on to somehow saving the world. I say that because when I entered university for the first time, I felt this incredible sense of possibility, that anything can happen. In all honesty, just cherish your time in high school; it's been great no doubt. Yet above all, value your time in college because trust me, it will be epic. Epic proportions.

Junichi Charles Takase
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
KIST Alumnus, "Class of 2011"

Keeping the Balance

For my last year of high school, I was able to be in touch with many sports activities at KIST; volleyball, basketball, cross country and soccer. I have always challenged myself to play as much sport as I can, but this year was especially hard for me to balance academics and sports.



Ryosuke

Teachers and staff at KIST had advised me to concentrate on academics and I once considered not playing sports at all. But I really enjoy playing and I think sports are one of my talents where I can fully express myself and be "me". As I reflect back, I have no regret in being part of the sporting teams. Actually, I think I was able to succeed in the DP course because I had the opportunity to release my stress while I played.

Mr Lee, Mr Leroy and Mr Theilen have lead me through the year with strict but enjoyable trainings. They have always lead the team spirit and made our competition very intense. I really appreciate Mr Lee coaching volleyball. He has always been strict and serious with us in our training. I saw him frown sometimes at the difference in seriousness between the team and Mr Lee, but he never gave up coaching us which lead to great team spirit. I was really disappointed when we lost in the ISTAA tournament because it was our chance to show Mr Lee how we have developed and to prove how well he coached us.

With my one year experience of basketball, I decided to join the U18 team again this year. I was not familiar with the rules and the terms of basketball and I struggled many times. Mr Leroy always taught me little by little about what basketball is. Not only that, but Mr Leroy kept playing me in games and I was able to learn basketball from those experiences. His coaching has enabled me to play confidently at the end of the season and lead us to victory in the ISTAA Tournament. I really appreciate Mr Leroy for developing my basketball talent.

I appreciate Mr Theilen for coaching us in soccer. I honestly didn't think of joining the team because we had many exams coming up but I am glad I made the right decision and joined. We had to skip many training sessions due to the exam schedules, but within that short length of time, Mr Theilen taught us many important skills that we used to win games. Unfortunately, many games were canceled this year, but we never dropped a single game we had this season. Due to previous commitments Mr Theilen could not come and coach us for the ISTAA tournament, but I was proud to show Mr Theilen our development throughout the season by becoming the champions.

What a great graduating year!

Ryosuke (G12)



Ryosuke with the basketball team.

KIST on Stage

Once again this year, the musical and dramatic talents of KIST students were showcased at the annual school concert series, "KIST on Stage", held on **Saturday, June 2** at Tower Hall Funabori.

The Lower School Concert in the morning (for K1 to G1) and the Elementary Concert in the afternoon (for G2 to G5) featured mostly class-based performances incorporating songs, instrumental pieces and dances. The Secondary Concert in the evening (for G6 to G12) featured songs, dances, drama, bands and instrumental performances mainly from students chosen through an audition process.

The weeks leading up to the concerts were quite stressful for all those involved with the preparations and in polishing the acts ready for public display, but everything came together on concert day and we were treated to some amazing performances, and at times, a lot of laughs, as the students took to the stage to entertain the audience.

