



The Comet

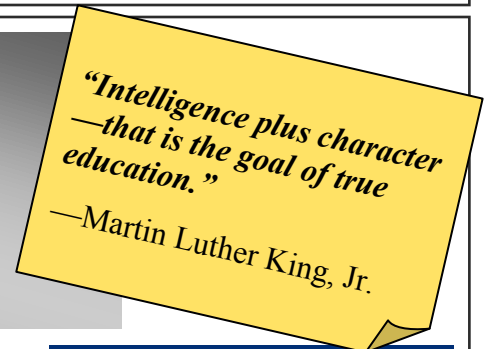
The Newsletter of K. International School Tokyo

Volume 16 | Issue 2 | December 2012

Celebrating 15 years

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From the Head of School

First, I have a notice in regards to student health and safety at the school. Dr Mark Kobayashi, father of K1 student Ami, has been contributing his services to KIST in the capacity of school doctor since October. Working every Thursday on an entirely voluntary basis in the Nurse's Room from 8:30 to 3:25, Dr Kobayashi is a specialist in internal, emergency and psychosomatic medicine, and is also a trained therapist.

As a school, I am delighted that we are able to offer direct, professional medical assistance, which is both reliable and safe, through Dr Kobayashi's support. I understand that he has already treated a number of our students (and in one instance was able to offer swift treatment to a student with a dislocated shoulder) and I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Dr Kobayashi for his generosity and kindness.

In addition, in regards to our search for a bilingual school nurse we currently are in the process of carrying out interviews with various candidates and will make a decision in the upcoming days. Thank you for your patience.

Over the past two years, we have been conducting a review of our school mission and educational philosophy with the aim of more clearly articulating the school's founding principles in order to ensure there is as little change as possible to the school's operation in these volatile times, while also allowing us to move forward and develop facilities and services necessary for the future. I am pleased to announce that our new guiding statements have been finalized and approved by the Board of Directors, and may be viewed on the school website (About Us >> Mission >> Guiding Statements). We believe that the guiding statements, which include the revised mission and 16-point educational philosophy, are now much more precise and explicit.

Finally, as mentioned on the homepage of the school website, our ultimate goal at KIST is for students to achieve high scores in the Diploma Programme through their learning experiences in the elementary and secondary schools. We believe that students can acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to become "competent and moral individuals who make meaningful contributions to the global community". We are constantly working towards our aim of building a school strong in language and mathematics, which are vital to achieving success at all levels of the IB, and to helping our students reach their highest potential.

Early in the new year, we are planning to hold an information session for parents to explain about the school's future direction and to listen to your thoughts. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

Yoshishige Komaki
Head of School

DATES TO REMEMBER



December 2012

- 7 (G1-G12) Clubs program ends
- 8 (G9-G12) MUN conference
- 12 Winter concert
- 15-Jan 6 Winter vacation
- 17-18 Office open

January 2013

- 4 Office open
- 7 School resumes
- 11 2013-2014 enrollment applications close
- 14 School day
- 14 (G1-G12) Clubs program resumes
- 17 (G10) IB DP information evening 2013-2015
- 21-23 (G9-G11/EIC) Semester 1 examinations
- 31-Feb 5 2013-2014 enrollment interviews

February 2013

- 1 (K1-K3) No school for students
- 4 Semester 2 commences
- 8 (W) Free dress day
- 8 (S/EIC) SRC dance
- 11 School holiday
- 12-19 (G12) DP mock examinations
- 12 (E/S/EIC) Semester 1 reports issued
- 13 (G6-G10) Brain Bowl
- 18 2013-2014 enrollment results distributed
- 20 (G5) PYP exhibition explanation evening
- 21 International mother language day celebration

KISTival 2012

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the whole school community for your support at KISTival 2012! We were blessed with great weather right through the festival period from preparation day, to the day of the event, and the cleanup the following day. The festival was a huge success and we sincerely appreciate the efforts of all those who gave up their time or contributed in any way.

Each year, through the courtesy of KIST parents, we invite special guests to participate in the stage show. This year, we were pleased to have Japanese entertainer Sugi-chan join us and his presence helped to increase visitor numbers to more than 4,000. We also received many kind donations which enabled us to

offer more prizes and attract a large number of participants in the raffle, and also to keep class expenditure to a minimum. Finally, the festival's success was due to the selfless volunteers who worked effortlessly and professionally in their operation of the various booths. Thank you for all your hard work.

Please see the table below for a more detailed breakdown of the profits raised this year, all of which will be put towards the future development of a new school gymnasium. Next year, we hope to build on this year's success and provide an even better event. If you have any other ideas or suggestions to improve the festival, please e-mail your comments to info@kist.ed.jp.



Revenue: ¥7,917,235*
Expenditure: ¥1,828,521
Profit: ¥6,088,714

(*Includes outstanding contributions of ¥340,000)



Note: Individual family contributions are included in the totals for each booth; however, ¥340,000 is still outstanding.

Booth sales details		Sales	Expenses	Profit	
Parent booths	K3	Face painting	¥78,125	¥802	¥77,323
	G1	Beer / Wine / Soft drinks	¥552,396	¥386	¥552,010
	G2	American food	¥326,125	¥31,793	¥294,332
	G3	Chicken sandwiches	¥208,650	¥30,000	¥178,650
	G4	Bazaar	¥832,305	¥60,621	¥771,684
	G5				
	G6	Air slider / Target Out / Fishing / Hit the Elmo	¥561,625	¥210,100*	¥351,525
			*Includes air slider rental of ¥210,000		
	G7	Korean food	¥306,473	¥11,415	¥295,058
	G8	Hawaiian food	¥167,300	¥30,520	¥136,780
	G9	Japanese food (yakisoba)	¥145,575	¥11,415	¥134,160
	G10	Thai food	¥210,000	¥15,939	¥194,061
	G11	Café	¥265,755	¥5,000	¥260,755
G12	Indian food	¥378,850	¥181,408	¥197,442	
EIC	Brazilian food	¥376,375	0	¥376,375	
Professional parent booths	Nail art, hair braiding		¥81,250	0	¥81,250
	Chanko KIRISHIMA		¥113,625	¥39,145	¥74,480
	Curry udon		¥96,250	¥17,248	¥79,002
	Waseda University Rugby Club		¥20,500	¥600	¥19,900
Staff booths	Ice-cream / Amazake / Takoyaki		¥184,175	¥33,150	¥151,025
Student booths	G7A	Wet sponge toss	¥62,000	0	¥62,000
	G7B	Slime making	¥48,000	¥132	¥47,868
	G8A	Shooting game	¥25,125	¥2,332	¥22,793
	G8B	Limbo / Scary storytelling	¥6,500	¥100	¥6,400
	G9A	Bowling game	¥8,250	¥1,100	¥7,150
	G9B	Scavenger hunt game	¥15,125	¥2,938	¥12,187
	G10A & B	Haunted house	¥112,500	¥18,448	¥94,052
	G11A	Mission game	¥21,250	¥1,846	¥19,404
	G11B	Games	¥15,500	¥2,101	¥13,399
	EIC	Tapioca tea	¥66,875	0	¥66,875
	Professional booths	Italian Sento Bene		¥68,250	¥33,250
Filipino food		¥312,750	¥272,750	¥40,000	
Café TOMATO		¥203,125	¥151,050	¥52,075	

Other details	Revenue	Expenses	Profit
Donations, contributions, other revenue and expenditure			
• Revenue includes raffle sales ¥1,434,600, entrance fees ¥274,230 and others.	¥2,046,631	¥662,932	¥1,383,699
• Expenses include printing, tent rental, garbage disposal, raffle prizes and stage costs.			



Elementary School News

An eventful year!

As 2012 comes to a close I have been reflecting on the first few months of this school year. There have been many wonderful school events such as KISTival and the DEAR Costume Parade. We have had class field trips like the Grade 4 excursion to the Tokyo Advertising Museum and the Grade 2 trip to Aoyama Children's Castle. Guest speakers like the Japan Association for Refugees have visited us to share their knowledge and guest teachers like the Kalima Hula Dancers have come to share their unique skills. In order to get a better idea of the experiences that have been most memorable to our community members, I went out and asked around. I hope you enjoy reading what they had to say.

As we move towards 2013, I encourage all of you to take a minute and reflect on all the amazing experiences we have had in 2012! I wish you all the best in the New Year!

Kevin Yoshihara
Elementary School Principal



Ruby (G1A):
"KISTival was my favorite because I liked the costumes and I could play with my friends!"

Mrs Lupone (G3B):
"When I met my students on the first day of school is my most memorable moment!"



Sato (G4A):
"My favorite experience was our field trip to the Tokyo Advertising Museum because I had never seen other pictures of Fukuzawa Yukichi!"

Haru (K2):
"My favorite time is lunch time!"



Hanna (G3B):
"As I tried my best and ran a lot, my favorite event has been the Cross Country!"



Mrs Okubo (K3B):
"For me the most memorable event has been the DEAR Character Parade. The students seemed to really get into the characters and it is a great way to promote reading."



Joshua and Aryan (G5B):
"Our best memory is Grade 5 Camp because we tried new things and had new experiences like rappelling!"



Mr Bradley (G3A):
"KISTival was my most memorable event. It is memorable for me because I enjoyed seeing all the students taking ownership over it and seeing their enjoyment."

Eanya (G2A):
"I really enjoyed the Cross Country because I like to run!"



Mr Matsui (Japanese):
"As a part of our unit on "My History" with G5 students, we had an activity for the students to ask their parents the meaning behind their given names. From the presentation, I felt and was moved by the ties between the students and their parents from the presentations."

PYP News

Information sessions and coffee mornings

This autumn, many parents attended the information sessions and coffee mornings. The first information session was an introduction to the Primary Years Programme for parents new to KIST and the PYP. The different components of the programme were covered including the written curriculum and the learner profile. The second information session presented the assessed curriculum. It gave a brief overview of inquiry practices with examples from KIST's own classrooms. Parents were introduced to assessment at KIST and were shown what it looks like in the classroom.

Another way to learn about the PYP and Elementary program is coffee mornings. These are an informal opportunity to discuss a variety of topics with the Elementary School Principal and PYP Coordinator and to get to know other parents. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far. We look forward to seeing you at the next coffee morning.

Elizabeth Heard
PYP Coordinator

ESRC Free Dress Day

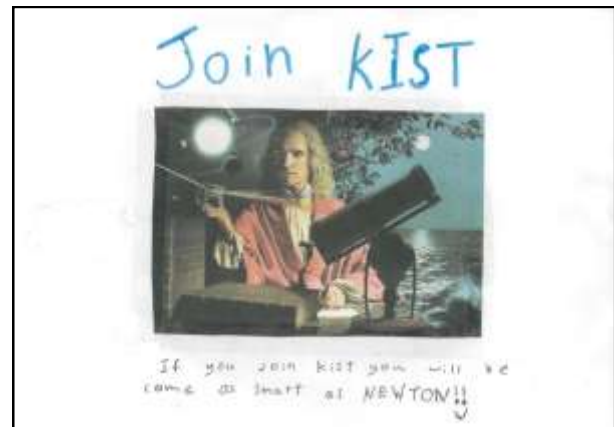
The ESRC organized the Free Dress Day on Wednesday, November 28. The ESRC helped decide what the theme was going to be. There were four choices: Pajama Day, Super Hero Day, Sports Day or regular Free Dress Day. The class reps took all of the students' votes. We brought all of the votes to the ESRC and we counted them. The choice with the most votes was for regular free dress. We shared our ideas on what the money could be used for. The ESRC decided to use the money for new books in our classrooms. Our goal was to give each classroom 50 new books. We made posters and reminded everyone to bring their money and wear their free dress. Lots of kids brought in their donations, some even gave more than 200 yen! We collected money from the whole school. We raised about 95,167 yen! We thank people for wearing free dress and for being generous and bringing the money. We are excited to buy new books for the classrooms.

Shridhar (G5B), Katherine (G5B), Ethan (G1A), Haruto (G1B), Sophia (K3A), Renzo (K3B)



Grade 4 Advertisements

Grade 4s had the exciting opportunity to participate in a presentation about advertising for their unit of inquiry, 'How we express ourselves'. Nori Okayasu, a Trans Cosmos advertising executive and G4 parent, and his team, delivered a detailed presentation on how creating advertisements works. He explained the three main roles on an advertising team: strategy planner, art designer and copy writer. The G4s divided up into five different teams and each student took on a different role. Mr Okayasu gave them the task of designing two advertisements for KIST with the purpose of attracting potential parents and students to our school. Students busily worked for one week on this project. They were all required to use at least one of the strategies of persuasion learned in their unit. Their final products will be posted on the website, MeetMe, from December 17 to January 16. Take a look at some of their work!



Secondary School News

Secondary mid-year update

The winter holiday is right around the corner. At this time in the year it is good to reflect on the first quarter of the academic year, but also keep an eye on the rest of the year. Planning for the Secondary winter concert is well underway which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Our students are very happy to organize performances and showcase a wide array of talent truly making KIST students well rounded and a joy to work with. I do hope many families will attend, even if your son or daughter is not performing. Winter concerts will be performed by each section of the school.

The school year started with a rather large influx of personal laptops being added to the school network as we ushered in our Grades 10-12 one-to-one laptop program. We did experience a few hiccups which included finding out about the use of BitTorrent software use sometimes unintentionally by students. Finding this out was useful not only to ensure appropriate access to educational resources, but we were also able to alert families to a potentially larger issue that could be in violation of the updated and more stringent digital software downloading laws. If you have questions about this topic, please contact our IT Department directly.

Additionally, the new laptop training/set up we used at the beginning of the year will be in place next year as well. This has proven helpful as we were able to introduce a K. OneNote organizer to help students manage school work in a digital environment and better advise students on safer and more productive use of laptops in general. We will be seeking student feedback and making adjustments for next year.

As in past years, KIST students were able to participate in the Middle and High School Drama Festivals with other Kanto Plains

schools. These events are fun and practical ways to sharpen language skills while engaging students in the art of drama with local experts working in community theater.

Two of the three grade level excursions went off very well with Grade 6 visiting Nikko and Grade 8 most recently visiting Chichibu. Excursions of this type are linked to developing better collaborative skills and providing students increased responsibility helping them further grow socially. The Grade 10s will embark on their excursion from March 6-8 which contains a transition piece designed to help MYP students migrate more easily to the Diploma Programme. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer.

The school is currently getting ready to host the Near East Model United Nations Scrimmage on Saturday, December 8. We should have over 100 students from 10 different schools including our own representatives. This year's keynote speakers are from the US Embassy and will offer a panel discussion designed to enlighten students in attendance on the art of diplomacy with a focus on real world contemporary events furthering efforts to promote leadership skills and the importance of effective diplomacy to help solve our world problems through peaceful measures.

Academically, students in Grades 9-11, including the English Intensive Course, will be taking semester 1 exams from January 21-23. Grade 12 students will be participating in Diploma mock examinations beginning February 12-19. The mock exams will not be reflected in the semester 1 reports



as a result of time constraints. We are planning on making the results available via PowerSchool through a secure parent/student portal. Plans to make this available earlier in the year for Grades 6-12 have been delayed, but we hope to trial this with Grade 12 initially. It is also hoped that all Secondary parents will have similar access later in the school year. We are still in the process of customizing options. When available this will allow parents and students to view progress as teachers enter updates in their respective grade books. This will include individual class attendance as well.

We clearly have greater partnership with our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) which continues to contribute creative ideas such as the college information evening they sponsored along with generous financial and logistical support throughout the school year. I especially want to thank the PTA for purchasing new musical instruments for our Secondary music program.

Please accept my warm wishes for a pleasant winter holiday and healthy and prosperous New Year. I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back as we begin 2013.

Stephen Rothkopf
Secondary School Principal

Forthcoming Secondary Events:

- Near East MUN Scrimmage – December 8
- Winter Concert – December 12
- IB Diploma Information Evening (G10 parents/students) – January 18
- Japanese New Year Celebration – February 6
- Semester 1 Report Cards Issued – February 12

MYP News

One of the educational standards promoted by the Middle Years Programme and required for every developed international school is to contribute to the life of the local community and to utilize the resources and expertise of the community to enhance learning within the programme.

With this standard in mind, this year KIST has already organized numerous events for the school and local community – from parent information workshops and PTA events, to broader events such as the explanation day for prospective parents and KISTival for the local community.

One of the actions initiated by Grade 6 visual art students and teachers has opened our school to the community in quite a new way. The first Grade 6 visual art unit of inquiry has engaged students in researching the elements of art through an example of a very specific art form, the mandala. Students researched the cultural and social aspect of mandala and designed individual mandalas in collage and water color techniques.



The inquiry has opened ways to develop this art form even further. Students spent one whole lesson designing their group mandalas in the nearby Kiyosumi Park using materials they found in the environment. As mandalas started to shape up, more and more passersby stopped and looked at the developing art works; and even asked questions! It was an amazing experience for students to realize how their art provoked different reactions in the community and influenced the everyday life of the people passing by.

Another successful event was the visit to the world famous exhibition "Tutankhamun and the golden age of the pharaohs" at the Ueno Royal Museum last month. Grade 6 and 7 students visited the exhibition accompanied by teachers and numerous parents in order to deepen their understanding of the Ancient Egyptian culture which has been addressed by



humanities and visual art units of inquiry.

On November 9, the regular MYP information session was held for all MYP parents with a special emphasis on assessment in the MYP and personal project for grade 10 parents. Attending workshop-style MYP information sessions is highly recommended for all parents interested in various aspects of the programme.



I wish a happy and warm winter holidays to all members of our school community!

Vedrana Pavletic
MYP Coordinator



Secondary SRC Update

The first part of the year has been a busy one in the SRC! Ever since we began meeting as a whole SRC with representatives from each homeroom (shortly after the homeroom representative elections), we have been meeting on average once a week with the whole SRC and then for a follow-up executive meeting separately. We've collected suggestions from students from all homerooms which we have gone through and are working to meet them to the best of our abilities (though we realize that it's not within our power to change some aspects of the school such as uniform policy rules).

We hosted the *Pumpkin Party*, our first SRC dance of the year on Friday, November 2. More than 140 people (more than we ever expected!) attended and based on their responses and a survey we sent out afterwards, we think the dance was a big success! In between the dancing, we had many activities including 'Gangnam Style' and 'One Direction' dance competitions along with a limbo game which were led by our MCs, Chai and Nekki from Grade 12.



We rented party lights from a lighting company for the first time which changed the atmosphere in the gym and received many positive responses from the students. We plan to continue to do this for our next dance scheduled for February 8. Even though we weren't aiming to fundraise, but rather just host a fun event for Secondary students and break even with regard to costs of the lights and food, we managed to raise 17,000 yen, which we'll put towards future SRC projects for the Secondary School.

We've found it useful, especially for the dance preparation, to form smaller committees within the SRC, in which we could specialize and divide tasks into smaller groups thus achieving more in the same amount of time. We are using this approach with other projects as well, including our plans to launch a student newspaper and host the second KIST League tournament. We're also currently working on other proposals to enhance student life, which we can hopefully announce very soon!

Secondary SRC



Some serious limbo talent!



Mr Leroy helping the dance activities



Middle School Drama Festival

On November 8, the Middle School Drama Festival was held at the Yoyogi National Olympic Youth Centre. International schools from all over Tokyo participated in this event. This year's theme was "Monsters". The stories we focused on were: "Urban legends", "Vampires", "Zombies", "Werewolves", "Frankenstein", "Japanese ghosts" and Edgar Allan Poe.

We gathered in the performing hall and split into seven groups. We then followed our group leaders into our rehearsing rooms. The first hour was mainly taking our time to introduce ourselves and get to know each other. Some groups were given scripts to follow, and others had to make up their own stories as they went along.

After we had our 15-minute break, groups went back to their rehearsal rooms. Some groups were still making their scripts, and some were nearly finished. It was mainly memorizing lines/moves and making adjustments. We had one hour break for lunch and came back to finalize our skits. At 2:30 we all gathered again in the hall and performed our skits to everyone.

The Middle School Drama Festival was an amazing experience. It was an opportunity to meet students from other schools we don't usually interact with. We learned many new skills and hope that next year more students from KIST will participate in this great event!

Sara, Rachel, Natalie (G7A)

“

The Drama Festival was an extremely fun day! I was in a group focusing on "Zombies". I loved how our main idea was to make our skit melodramatic. Everyone had a very good time and I can't wait to come back next year!

Sara

”

“

The Middle School Drama Festival enabled us to make new friends outside of school. My group was focusing on "Frankenstein" —we acted out rejoining body parts, acted to die etc. It was very interesting! I hope I can participate in this event again!

Rachel

”

“

The Drama Festival was a great experience for me. Mixing with other schools and forming something up was really fun! I was in the group working on the "Werewolves". The best part was when we all finished the skit. The funniest part was the ending scene when we danced in a gangnam style with Michael Jackson's music. I had a great time and I hope to come back next year!

Natalie

”



Grade 6 Camp Report

Sixth grade students happily headed out to Nikko on Thursday, November 7. After a 2-hour train ride the students filled up on spicy curry lunch at a local restaurant. They headed to Rinnoji Temple, where they did a guided tour and climbed many stairs to view the temples on the top of the mountain. They asked many questions and toured the temple of Dragon Tears. The building design allows for sounds to travel from one certain spot, ringing and making a painting of a dragon that seems to cry.

Students were able to see ancient paintings and buy small tokens to remember their visit. They boarded a bus for the hour drive farther up the mountain to the hotel. Our guide had a kanji game to play with students as they rounded each steep curve, they shouted out words that were associated with that particular kanji. They enjoyed the views and steep mountain roads, many took pictures out the bus windows.

At the hotel that night the students enjoyed a buffet dinner and then some quiet reflection time. They played team building games, put on an impromptu talent show and had a lot of laughs together. Students had time for onsen and then went to sleep. They woke up early and were treated to a mountain hike. This was the highlight of the trip! We saw monkeys in the trees as we drove up to the hiking start point. The students were free to run and explore, as well as learn about the habitat from our knowledgeable guides. They saw



some deer and plenty of animal droppings, and learned about the way the water system works in Japan to be sure that all citizens have access to clean water. Students took many pictures on this day and walked through the mountain on wooden paths and bridges. They had an opportunity to taste tree bark, and found out quickly that it is very bitter and not something they will want to eat ever again. We were hiking behind Mt. Nantai and this activity took up most of the day! After the hike we visited Nikko Nature Museum for a short film about the changing seasons and the natural habitat that they had just explored. We ended the day with a visit to Kegon Falls and the 3-floor observation deck.

All students were responsible for their own belongings and behavior and really enjoyed the opportunity to interact with their teachers in a more personal setting. It was a wonderful experience for all involved.



Spotlight on Clubs

Digital Storytelling Club: Integrating Literacy and Technology That's Fun

This year Grade 2 and 3 club students have the chance to use the Web 2.0 application called *Storybird* to write and share original stories. Students are truly enjoying not just creative writing, but reading each other's *Storybirds* too!



This user-friendly software tool allows students to choose from a vast database of themed pictures and paintings made by aspiring artists. Students chose a sequence of similar pictures from one artist, and then write

their own text next to each artistic piece, thus creating a *Storybird* or "storybook".

In Digital Storytelling Club, students practice reading and writing along with computer and keyboard skills. It's a unique opportunity to integrate literacy and technology!

Knitting Club

Kibera slum, located in Nairobi, is the second largest urban slum in Africa. There are many orphaned children and destitute mothers in this area. As the Tohoku region now has enough donated items, the knitting club has been working hard this term to help the children of Kibera by creating blankets. Students from grades 4 to 9 have been working together in a combined elementary and secondary club to knit squares which have been sewn together into two blankets, although we hope to have a third finished by the end of the term. Our knitting team has been getting more and more creative as their skills have improved and there is a great variety of pattern in the blankets, from garter stitch to lacing, stocking stitch to cabling.

Knitting club will take a break in the second term but we will be back in the third term ready to knit more squares



Members of the knitting club showing their blankets and creative squares

PS – Any donations towards the cost of sending the blankets to Nairobi would be gratefully received!

Congratulations Mai

This year, a group of four students from KIST, **Mariko** (G2A), **Rei** (G3A), **Saki** (G4A) and **Mai** (G5B) participated in the National Book Essay Contest for Young Readers. This was the very first time a group of KIST students had participated in the contest, and out of 270,000 book reviews written by elementary students in Tokyo, Mai's review was one of 539 that received a special certificate of merit.

Mai said after hearing about her achievement: "I was surprised that I received this recognition. I love reading and writing stories. When I have time, I like to read English and Japanese books. Whenever I start to write an essay about the books I read, I first write a short summary of what I read and then write a review. I challenge other students to try this!"

Mai's Japanese teacher, Matsui-sensei said of her achievement: "Congratulations to Mai on receiving this award. Mai moved to Okinawa after the Tohoku Earthquake last year but returned to KIST this August. From her experiences, I



assume she found an emotional connection to the book 'Koko-ga watashi-no o-uchi desu' (This is where I live) which when writing her essay enabled her to express her thoughts on the story, clearly and with more realism. In particular, her conclusion in which she wrote: 'I'd like to place all of my precious memories away into a place in my mind, and take them out occasionally', was excellent."

Mai's work is available for viewing on the Elementary Library Moodle page. We hope that other students will also be inspired to make their own book essays.

The National Book Essay Contest for Young Readers is held annually during the summer vacation. An essay contest held in conjunction with the Sakura Medal program is also planned for February. Details will be announced in the New Year.

More information on the contest may be viewed at the link below.

<http://www.dokusyokansoubun.jp>



Grade 5 Camp Report

A great adventure!

On October 3, Grade 5 set off for an adventure in the mountains. We went on a 3-day/2-night camp in Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture. For many students, this was their first time away from home alone, and more than a few were a bit nervous as the bus trip began. Once we got to the camp site, we were made welcome by the English Adventure counselors, Jeff, Toshi, Kozyue and Ryan. After orientation, we had a treasure hunt in the woods. Soon, it was time to prepare our own dinner, cooked in Dutch ovens over open fires. The evening finished with songs around the campfire and delicious s'mores.

The next day we played team-building games and made friendship bracelets, but the most exciting challenge was learning to rappel. All the students were able to overcome their fear and many even took the 'Jeff Challenge' of dropping backwards and allowing the rope to catch them! That evening, students presented hilarious skits inspired by the items they found during the treasure hunt.

On our third day, we hiked down the mountain and stopped to play on the longest slide any of us had ever seen! We got back to school on Friday afternoon, tired but exhilarated, with memories that will last a lifetime.



Grade 8 Camp Report

Excursion in the picturesque mountains of Saitama

On September 26-28, the Grade 8 students were provided with the opportunity to attend an overnight excursion which took place in Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture. This excursion provided valuable memories and nature experiences for students not possible within our immediate school location. The trip involved traveling to Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture by train and then by bus.

Students participated in team-building activities which included rappelling, capture the flag, Dutch oven cooking and an array of other fun activities which linked nicely to building an even greater effort of team collaboration designed to enhance learning.

This year's event, as in previous years, proved very popular with the students and staff that accompanied them. The rappelling in particular allowed students to challenge themselves in a safe yet exciting way.

Benjamin Fishman



Library News

What's been happening at KIST Libraries?

The Hungry Readers

Participating G6 and G7 students had a great time during the first **Hungry Readers Reading Program!** Thanks to the PTA for sponsoring the Pizza Party on this initiative to encourage reading. This November, Hungry Readers launched in the Japanese department as well, and is open to all Grade 6, 7 and 8 students including EIC students. Be sure to fill out your booklet as you read each exciting new title!

Drop Everything And Read



In November, we celebrated the **DEAR Reading Program** throughout the whole school. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to stop what they were doing and get into a good book. The **Book**

Character Costume Parade was very popular with Elementary students—and many of their teachers too! This year we noticed that students created a greater connection with their characters by bringing the book to school to share.

In the Secondary School, many students helped us promote this reading program through DEAR posters displayed around the main building. Our appreciation goes to the SRC Executives and students from the Science, Music and PE departments for their support in this reading initiative. Also, thank you to all teachers and students for sharing their ideas and reflections on the importance of reading on our **DEAR Wall**, especially to Ms Christian and Mrs Hall for motivating their students. The Dear Wall is displayed at the top of the stairs near the LMC and is still open to accept your thoughts about reading.



Upcoming events

The next library event will be the **International Mother Language Day** on **February 21**, in collaboration with the PTA Cultural Connections and PTA Library committees and the Arts Department. Activities will include national costume parade, parent storytelling, MPR exhibition including artworks, multimedia, embassy displays, and additions to the World Languages collection.

In connection to this, we also encourage parents to lend paintings, figures, artifacts or miniature displays for the exhibit or donate books to add to our World Languages collection. Please contact us in the library for more information.



Sakura Medal Books and Art Contest

New Books at KIST Libraries: Sakura Medal Books. These will be sought after titles, so make sure you get in and see them, or make a reserve using Destiny Quest.

The **Sakura Medal** is presented by the **International School Librarians of Japan** to an author of a book published within the last two years. There are categories for Elementary, Middle School and High School, in both English and Japanese. Many international schools in Japan participate in Sakura Medal reading programs. KIST students from G2 to G12 can participate by reading the books and by creating an art work for the **Art Contest**. You may visit the **Elementary and LMC Moodle Pages** to for more details about the Sakura Medal Books and the Art Contest.

Who chooses the books to read?

The librarians from international schools around Japan read and nominate books to the award.

Who chooses the winners?

Students will read the books and vote for their favorites. The results from all schools will be added together to decide the winners of each category.

How do I vote?

For one vote you must read (5 books, 4 books and 3 books for Elementary, Grade 6 to 8 and Grade 9 to 12 students respectively) and complete your Sakura Reading Log (Elementary) or Hungry Readers Booklet (Secondary) entries for each title.

All students who vote are also entered in a raffle to win a book token kindly provided by the PTA Library Committee.

Anything else?

Japanese Essay – write a review of a Japanese Sakura Book

Japanese Book Trailer Contest – make a video 'trailer' for one of the books

Please ask library staff for more information.



Staff 10!

In this month's *Staff 10!*, we are pleased to present **Chee Lee** who joined KIST in 2011 as the PE Subject Area Coordinator.

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

Well...I was born in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia...left when I was 16 to go to the United States...finished high school through graduate school in Alabama...then moved to South Carolina for work from 1996 through 2011...then to Tokyo. I know I am not answering the question directly, but by far the most interesting place for me thus far in my life is Tokyo which I consider home for the moment.

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

Right now it is Rovinj, Croatia. In Rovinj, there is a salsa festival that I have been attending since its inception. It was originally a small festival, but over the years has grown to become a very international event. So, imagine going to workshops for salsa in the afternoon, watching performances in the evening, salsa parties with live bands till after midnight, and international DJs spinning till 4 a.m. Then the after party till six in the morning! I'd go to my favorite Burek place (Croatian specialty) for breakfast; back to the apartment to sleep; fresh seafood for lunch; then the same schedule for an entire week. Of course, I don't last till the after party every day, but it is there if needed!

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

Anyone from my father's side of the family. He left his hometown in China as a child and I have never had any contact with him since.

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

I don't think they are anything special...I like to do simple things well—eat, cook, play, rest, dance, travel...

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

I played American College Football for Jacksonville State University as a Place Kicker.

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

Perhaps my passport. I gave away all my possessions before I left the States for this job.

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

I like keeping things simple, organized and balanced.

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

Yes, teach abroad earlier in life and even before that, be a foreign exchange student.

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

At the moment, learning to comply with International Baccalaureate standards and learning the Japanese language.

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

I have been teaching physical education for 20 years now. As far as students go, KIST has been top notch. I want to thank everyone for the experience.



Mr Lee posing with last year's KIST U18 volleyball team, winners of the ISTAA championship.

Announcement

Mrs Komaki, joint founder of KIST together with Mr Komaki, has served as a member of the Board of Directors in the capacity of Deputy School Director since the school's founding. She is also a member of the Ministry of



Education's National Institute for Educational Policy Research's "Building the School of Tomorrow" committee where she acts as an advisor. As her duties at KIST are quite varied, it was felt that it was necessary to clarify her role. To this end, in relation to her position within the school, with the approval of the Board, she has assumed the title of "Associate Head of School".

Office Updates

School fees due

The deadline for payment of the 3rd installment of school fees for 2012-2013 is Monday, December 17. Please check your annual invoice for details. Please be reminded that invoices are distributed once only per school year with details for the whole year. If you have misplaced your invoice or require further information on payment, methods please contact the office by telephone or e-mail prior to the due date. A late fee will apply to payments not received by the due date.

Jewelry

Families are reminded that students are not permitted to wear jewelry of any kind to school—with the exception of a small watch. This includes clear earring posts. Students who wish to pierce their ears should do so only at the beginning of a long vacation period and must remove earrings and earring posts when they return to school.

School uniform

As the weather gets colder, it's time to get your woolly hats, gloves, scarves, neck warmers and other winter gear out of the wardrobe.



During winter, all accessories worn to school must be plain black with no stripes, patterns or brands visible. If your child is currently wearing items that are not black, please ensure that these are replaced. Winter items are available to purchase at a low cost from the school shop.

Furthermore, we have noticed in recent weeks that a number of students have been coming to school in non-KIST coats and jackets.

Please be reminded that the official school uniform must be worn. Boots are also not to be worn at school. On cold days, please stay warm by wearing heat-tech undergarments, vests and tights.

Volleyball Success

On Saturday, November 17, the U18 girls won their second ISTAA volleyball championship in a row. KIST beat Canadian International School in the championship game 2-1. Then on Sunday, November 18, the U18 boys won their first ever ISTAA volleyball championship. The boys defeated first ranked The British School in Tokyo with scores of 17-25, 26-24, and 16-14.

Congratulations to all our players and coaches—Mr Lee, Mr Hori, Ms Haines and Mr Jay for a great under 18 season.

Our U14 teams, most of whom have never played volleyball before this year, made huge progress this year. The girls ended their season with a winning record but came up a little short in the final tournament. The boys played a close final game vs BST at the U14 ISTAA tournament but unfortunately lost in the final set.

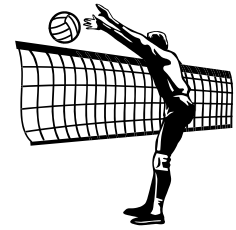
WELL DONE to all our KIST Comet volleyball players.

Jay Leroy
Athletics Director

KIST U18 SWEEP ISTAA VOLLEYBALL!



KIST Comets U18 Boys ISTAA Volleyball Champions 2012



Celebrating our victories



KIST Comets U18 Girls ISTAA Volleyball Champions 2012

Field Day

A variety of activities were held during the second annual KIST Field Day organized by the Physical Education Department on Tuesday, September 18. Although only two years running so far, this event is proving to be very popular amongst the students. Field Day is purposely held early in the school year to bring students together and help foster an even friendlier atmosphere between students across grade levels.

Students represented their various house colors in groups spanning grade levels while participating in friendly sports events including volleyball, baseball, lacrosse, dodge ball and basketball oriented games. For the Secondary School, members of the Blue House were victorious over the rest with only a small margin of 3 points. Congratulations to Team Blue!!!

The PE Department would like to thank all involved in making this event a success. A special note of thanks should be given to those that helped us fill 1,200 water balloons that were used for the event.

Unfortunately, the weather prevented the Elementary School from participating this year. Although elementary students missed out on the day, Mr Jay arranged for students to complete all of the activities within their regularly scheduled PE class time. Special thanks to Mr Aaron Ross for leading the children through these games and recording their scores. In the Elementary School, Green House were the winners this year. Both House teams have the honor of sharing bragging rights for the 2012-13 House Team trophy displayed in the front lobby directly across from reception.

The combined effort raised 46,470 yen which will help subsidize the purchase of new outdoor basketball hoops. Congratulations!



Transitions

It is essential that families have a plan for the inevitable transitions their child will experience each year. A successful start and developing positive momentum early on in the school year will enhance self-confidence, establish healthy routines, and aid in the transition process that some children may find challenging. Every child is unique and special; listening to your child and devising a plan together will acknowledge your child's feelings and better help parents understand what type of support is necessary.

KIST offers transition assistance for new students, students moving between divisions, students transitioning to a different school or country. Being in an international school environment means that some of the families in the school are here for a while and are then transferred to another country or back to their home country. Leaving friends and familiar places can be very difficult. While there is always an edge of excitement at the thought of a new place with new friends, the transition between leaving a place and going to a new place is important and can potentially be a very stressful time.

Mr Fishman can help deal with future fears of "what will be" and "what if's" as well as deal with finding closure and saying goodbye in a time that is filled with unknowns. Similarly, being at an international school also means that friends come and go, and even if you or your child are not the one leaving, your child may also be affected by those close friends leaving. They have finally found a good friend, and now they are moving away again. Making new friends over and over, as well as keeping in touch with friends over long distances, can be time and energy consuming. Dealing with this separation and abandonment must be taken seriously as it can affect academic success.

The key to success is to accurately understand your

child's temperament when it comes to transitions. Children do not act in similar ways to the process of change. How your child reacts will depend on their temperament, personality-style, and how they can acclimate.

For example, if you have a child who goes through change easily, you will have noticed early on that they seem fairly adaptive during the endless transitions of childhood. If they move from grade levels easily, chances are this kind of child will require little extra preparation, beyond common sense, before entering a new school. Try not to be alarmed by all the hype regarding the inevitable difficulty of transition. Just use your basic instinct as a parent, and you'll probably see things through easily.

On the other hand, if your child has shown difficulty with transitions before, you need to put in a bit of extra effort.

Here are a few tips:

- Do not assume everything will be just fine and a plan for transition is not needed.
- Be inquisitive; ask questions about issues to consider; for example, culture shock, making friends, getting situated, etc.
- Prepare and plan.
- Seek assistance as needed (i.e. school counselor at your present school and the counselor at your child's new school).
- Keep your expectations realistic.
- Be open.
- Accept changes.
- Use and share your newly acquired skills and knowledge.

Benjamin Fishman
Student Welfare Counselor

Doctor in the House



As mentioned in Mr Komaki's message on page 1, KIST is pleased to welcome Dr Mark Kobayashi to the KIST family. Dr Kobayashi has agreed to volunteer as our school doctor and will be present in the Nurse's Room on Thursdays.

Dr Kobayashi said: "Hello! I am Dr Mark Kobayashi who is volunteering in the nurse's room every Thursday. I am an ER surgeon and a psychiatrist. I am also the parent of a K1 student.

Please feel free to drop by the nurse's room if you have any problems, want to say hello to me. Or would like to consult with me about how to be a doctor in your future!!"

Clinical hours are 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Thursdays.



Special message to Dr Kobayashi

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr Mark Kobayashi. We are not always in the best of health; there are times when we injure ourselves or get sick. But we feel safe that you are helping us by volunteering in the sick room. Thank you for your kindness.

From the PTA on behalf of KIST parents

What Do We Know About First Grade

What educators say about first graders

I have taught many different grades, subjects and students, but I have found that one of my favourite grades to teach has been first grade. Teaching first grade is demanding and at the same time a professionally rewarding experience. Demanding in terms of preparation and providing for individual student needs in the classroom but rewarding to see the individual child learn and develop the most important skills that will determine their academic success in the school and later in life. To see the Aha!! in their eyes when they understand a concept and the joy in their faces when they are able to read a word or a sentence.

Parents always ask me about the importance of this grade level and what their children will learn in this year. Here are some answers to these questions:

First grade is the first year of primary education – the first school year after Kindergarten. Students will be 6 to 7 years old in this grade level. The older the child is the better chance he/she will have to learn faster and more easily. This will help to develop his/her self-confidence.

First graders are taught the fundamentals of literacy, including reading sentences, writing very simple statements and mastery of the alphabet, building on what the students have learned in kindergarten. In mathematics, students learn about addition and subtraction, measurement, basic geometry, clock and calendar and graphing are also introduced.

First grade natural science usually involves the discussion of matter and earth natural resources. Social Science involves science as inquiry about social relationship and dependency of each member of a community. Students are encouraged to observe the world around them and begin asking questions about things they notice. As they become more comfortable investigating the world around them, students will also begin asking more complex questions and making more advanced predictions.

As a child begins first grade, his/her ability to learn and process information is expanding rapidly. He/she is much more able to make connections between the things he/she knows and the things she/he sees in the world. Some of these newly acquired cognitive skills are very important for first grade learning.

It is important for the development of a healthy child that parents remember not to push the child further than his/her emotional, social, physical and cognitive developmental age. The child needs to enjoy his/her age as a developing person: to play outside, to play with friends/have play dates, to have a day out with the family, to go to bed early, to learn something new as a challenge to be enjoyed not as a tedious work activity.

No two students are exactly alike, but it helps to have a general idea of which cognitive skills your child should acquire at this grade level.

Cognitive Skills Important for 1st Grade (Amanda Morin. Child developmental stages)

Skill: *Is able to see both the similarities and differences between objects and, to a very basic extent, people as well.*

Why it's important: One of the things your child will learn in first grade is how to compare and contrast objects, ideas and people. It's a fundamental building block of mathematics and, among other things, helps to teach students how sort by various characteristics, create and identify complex patterns and gather and graph information.

Skill: *Should be able to use the more complicated speech sounds of "v", "j", "r", "l", "s", as well as blends like "sh", "ch," "th" and "str."*

Why it's important: By the beginning of first grade, most children should be able to produce these more complicated speech sounds. If your child isn't able to, check in with a speech therapist, but don't be too concerned. Being able to hear and produce these sounds make learning to read and write much easier. It's hard to learn to spell and read words that you aren't able to pronounce or hear correctly.

Skill: *Will understand the concept of today, tomorrow and yesterday.*

Why it's important: In most first grade classrooms, calendar time is an important daily learning experience. Here your child will not only learn the sequence of the days of the week and the months of the year, but begin to put together how they relate to one another. For example, your child may have already known that the first day of the school week is Monday, but now he'll be challenged to answer what day yesterday was, what tomorrow will be and to know which day is, for example, Wednesday's tomorrow.

Skill: *Is capable of problem solving basic sums.*

Why it's important: First grade math focuses a lot on addition and subtraction, specifically facts like doubles (for example, 8+8) and doubles plus one (9+8). These types of facts can be memorized, but also rely on your child's ability to understand the patterns among them.

Skill: *Can answer who, what, where and why questions.*

Why it's important: At this age, your child might still have difficulty providing this information spontaneously and will need some prompting to add the who, what, where and why. Though your child's answers may not be as detailed as you would like or contain the same information as another student who was part of the same experience, the ability to add more detail helps your child become a more creative writer and storyteller.

Morena Christian
Grade 1 Teacher

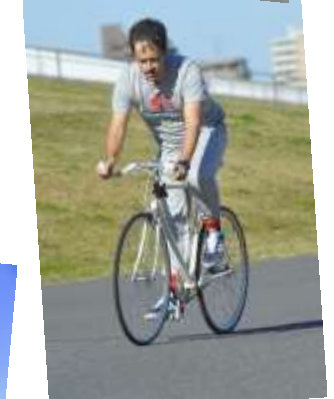
Cross Country Fever

A big thank you to all the staff and parent volunteers who helped make this year's Inter-School Cross Country tournament a success. And congratulations to the students listed below who went on to compete at the ISTAA inter-school championship on Friday, November 30.



Inter-school Cross Country (November 16, 2012)

Boys	Girls
Grade 1	
1) Daiki (G1B)	1) Rio (G1B)
2) Kaito (G1B)	2) Homare (G1A)
3) Zoran (G1A)	3) Nicol (G1A)
Grade 2	
1) Keanu (G2B)	1) Sola (G2B)
2) Harunosuke (G2A)	2) Elena (G2A)
3) Shin (G2A)	3) Serena (G2A)
Grade 3	
1) Kaiser (G3B)	1) Zoe (G3B)
2) Kishore (G3B)	2) Rina F. (G3A)
3) Ross (G3A)	3) Rina N. (G3B)
Grade 4	
1) Samuel (G4A)	1) Maki (G4B)
2) Den (G4B)	2) Saki (G4A)
3) Jun (G4B)	3) Sato (G4A)
Grade 5	
1) Nimit (G5A)	1) Emily (G5B)
2) Kenzo (G5A)	2) Karen (G5A)
3) Michael (G5B)	3) Reina (G5A)
Grade 6	
1) Keina (G6A)	1) Emiri (G6A)
2) Shin (G6A)	2) Ayumi (G6B)
3) Keigo (G6A)	3) Ruiran (G6A)
Grade 7	
1) Ke Yi (I7A)	1) Seina (G7A)
2) Taisei (G7B)	2) Riko (G7A)
3) Hikaru (G7B)	3) Amina (G7B)
Grade 8	
1) Hee-Jun (G8B)	1) Lin (G8A)
2) Haruto (G8A)	2) Moana (G8A)
3) Akira (G8A)	3) Enna (I8A)
Grade 9	
1) Tyson (G9A)	1) Nino (G9B)
2) Michael (G9A)	2) Sara (G9A)
3) Jisang (G9A)	3) Ayaka (G9B)
Grade 10	
1) Salam (G10A)	1) Keerti (G10A)
2) Taymur (G10A)	2) Rei (G10A)
3) Roshana (G10A)	3) Tamami (G10B)
Grade 11	
1) Adam (G11B)	1) Akiko (G11A)
2) Sashank (G11B)	2) Miku (G11B)
3) Abhinav (G11B)	3) Rio (G11A)
Grade 12	
1) Alakhsa (G12A)	1) Monica (G12A)
2) Ashutosh (G12B)	2) Marie (G12B)
3) Haruka (G12A)	3) Shifa (G12A)



College Guidance News

The "Holiday Season" is coming!! This means the busiest season of the year has come to the KIST College Guidance Office. Most of the current Grade 12 students are sending their applications to universities in the US, UK, Japan and Asia during December or early January. Mr Johnson and Mrs Okude have been working to facilitate the college application process by helping students and parents with college selections, reading and revising college essays and asking teachers for letters of recommendation. The guidance office also works to upload student reports and evaluations through online application systems such as UCAS for UK universities and the Common Application for US universities. Further, the guidance office helps to prepare official grade documents for colleges and universities. We wish all students success in their college and career choices and look forward to another successful year at KIST!

Mrs Okude visits the US east coast

During the summer, Mrs Okude traveled the US east coast twice to visit Yale University, Columbia University, Pratt Institute, Boston University, Northeastern University and her alma mater the George Washington University. She met with admissions officers at each university and exchanged information with them. She also visited the IB Americas office and five IB World Schools in Washington, DC as a member of a research project for the Japanese Ministry of Education and Science.



The newly elected Vice President Carmina with new President (photo from Princeton website)



Display at Rockville High School, Rockville, MD



IB Americas office in Bethesda, MD



The George Washington Uni., Washington, DC



Rare book collections in Yale University Library



Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, MD inside the building



Lunch Room at George Mason High School, Falls Church, VA



Aditya, Shreya and Matt in Boston

Alumnus News

The first KIST alumni gathering in Boston

The KIST Alumni Dinner with Mrs Okude was held on a Saturday evening in September at an Italian restaurant in Boston and three KIST graduates, **Aditya Dhara** (Class of 2010), **Matthew Peoples** (Class of 2011) and **Shreya Deshmukh** (Class of 2011) attended this event. Aditya is in his third year at Northeastern University majoring in mathematics and is currently working at a local insurance company as an actuarial intern as a part of the Northeastern CO-OP program. Matthew is in his second year at Northeastern U, and Shreya is also in the second year at Boston U. It was a wonderful moment to see our graduates enjoying their college lives there.

Vice president, Carmina

Carmina Mancenon (Class of 2010) was elected vice president of Princeton University's Student Government (USG).

Congratulations, Carmina! This news was published in the Daily Princetonian.

[http://](http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/2012/11/24/31913/)

www.dailyprincetonian.com/2012/11/24/31913/

Carmina is also featured on the top page of Princeton University's website in the "Three Students" video segment.

<http://www.princeton.edu/main/>



Memories of
KISTival 2012