



The Comet

The Newsletter of K. International School Tokyo

Volume 16 | Issue 4 | June 2013

★Celebrating 15 years★

➡ In this issue...

- ▶ Elementary School News...p. 2
- ▶ Student Representative Councils...p. 3
- ▶ Secondary School News...p. 4
- ▶ MG4 Hunger Banquet...p. 6
- ▶ Math Field Day 2013...p. 7
- ▶ G12 Graduating Class of 2013...p. 8
- ▶ PYP Exhibition...p. 9
- ▶ Library News...p. 10
- ▶ Extracurricular Activities...p. 12
- ▶ Humanities Revision...p. 13
- ▶ Toyosu Carnival...p. 13
- ▶ KIST on Stage...p. 15

"Even if at first you do succeed, you still have to work hard to stay there."

—Richard C. Miller

From the Head of School

Dear KIST Community,

Now that the school concert has been successfully concluded, it won't be long until the end of the school year.

Firstly, as the representative of the school, I would like to applaud all of the students for their highly-motivated approach towards their studies and the progress they have displayed this year, and secondly to the parents for their dedicated support of both the students, and the school, and their contributions throughout the year. Finally, I would thank the staff for their hard work throughout the year. Your passion for education has made a positive impact on our students' education and contributed greatly to their success.

A school is a place which prepares young people for their adult life in accordance with its vision. At the end of each school year, I always reflect on whether KIST was able to fulfill its role successfully during the year. With the start of a new school year, we must ensure that any criticisms are addressed if we are to continue to improve the level of education at the school. Just as it is vital for business to constantly examine their strategies, I recognize the importance of reviewing each of our IB programmes.

To conduct a review effectively and continue to improve the level of education in accordance with the mission of the school, we require feedback from the entire community. I would love to hear your opinions and ideas, so please feel free to contact me directly via e-mail if you have any feedback. English or Japanese; either is fine. Taking onboard your opinions and ideas, the next step will be to create a strategic plan and to put it in to action.

In just a few days, another group of students will be graduating and going on their way. We are also getting closer to the time when some students and teachers will also depart from the school. To those leaving, as well as those who are continuing at KIST, and to the entire KIST community, I sincerely hope that next year will be a year of even greater success for you all.

Yoshishige Komaki
School Director/Head of School

DATES TO REMEMBER



June 2013

- 10 (G12) Graduation dinner
- 11 (G5) Promotion ceremony
- 11 Peer student-led conferences
- 12 (S/EIC) Secondary awards assembly
- 12 (G10) Promotion ceremony
- 12 (W) Last day of school for students (Half day for students)
- 13-14 Office open
- 17-Jul 5 LEAP summer academic program (Session 1)

July 2013

- 8-26 Office closed
- 29-Aug 9 LEAP summer academic program (Session 2)

August 2013

- 15 (K1) Parent welcome night
- 19 (W) First day of school
- 20-21 (G4-G10) Mathematics diagnostic testing
- 22-23 (G11) DP retreat (*Tentative)
- 28 (K2/K3/G1) Parent welcome night
- 29 (G2-G5) Parent welcome night
- 30 (G6-G12) Parent welcome night
- 30 (G12) College information night

September 2013

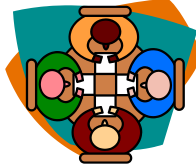
- 13 "The Comet" issued
- 13 MYP information session for new parents
- 16 School day
- 16 (G1-G12) Clubs program begins
- 17 (S) Field Day
- 18 (E) Field Day

Elementary School News



Student-led conferences

When it comes to assessment in education, one major component is reporting. Back in March we held our Student-Led Conferences which are a key element to our reporting at KIST. The conferences give students the opportunity to explain and demonstrate their learning as well as identify their strengths and areas for future growth. Through these conferences our parents have a chance to observe their children's learning in an authentic setting. Circulating around the classes during the Student-Led Conferences, I was delighted by the conversations taking place between our students and their parents describing the knowledge, skills and inquiries they have been focusing on. Well done students!



World education games

On March 5, 6 and 7, KIST Elementary School students competed in the World Education Games. Children from all around the world competed in these mathematics, literacy and science games.

Congratulations to three of our classes who ranked in the top fifty classes worldwide.

- **G2B** ranked **17th** worldwide in World Science Day.
- **G5A** ranked **34th** worldwide in World Science Day and **37th** worldwide in World Math Day.
- **G5B** ranked **12th** worldwide in World Science Day, **35th** worldwide in World Math Day and **26th** worldwide in World Literacy Day.

Apart from the class awards we had one student rank in the top 15 worldwide individually. Congratulations to **Gaon** (G5B) who ranked **14th** worldwide in World Math Day!

Supervision after school

This is another reminder to parents that unless students are attending a club they are not to be on campus after 3:30 p.m. as there is no supervision available. Children running around the field also interferes with clubs or other activities that may be taking place after school. If you and your children plan to play with other students after school, please take advantage of one of the local parks. There is a small park directly behind our school and Kiyosumi Park is also within walking distance. Children remaining at school after 3:30 for no particular reason will be asked to leave.

Kevin Yoshihara
Elementary School Principal



Mr Yoshihara with Gaon (G5B) with his award for World Math Day.

Elementary SRC

The ESRC has been hard at work this year, especially in the past few months. They are the student voice of the Elementary School and have helped solve problems and have taken part in several school initiatives. Establishing recess rules, leading a variety of recess games and organizing Free Dress days are just some of the things the ESRC worked on this year. Most recently the ESRC has been working to make the bathrooms a cleaner place. After surveying their classes, they decided to remove paper towels from the Elementary bathrooms. This is not only helping to keep the bathrooms clean, but is reducing waste and helping to save paper. The ESRC also decided to raise money to buy hand dryers. They organized popcorn sales and also decided to donate the proceeds of the May Free Dress day to the cause. Thanks to the ESRC for the time, work and effort they have devoted to the Elementary School this year.

Elizabeth Heard
PYP Coordinator



Secondary SRC

2012-2013 SRC end-of-year reflection

With the school year coming to an end, the SRC is getting ready to say goodbye to the current executive members and gearing up to hold elections for the new executive committee for the 2013-2014 school year. The new homeroom representatives will be elected when school resumes after the summer holidays.

Over this past year, the SRC has worked to establish and promote school traditions. We hosted the Pumpkin Party dance in the fall, the Snow Ball dance in the winter and are preparing for the upcoming Midsummer Night's Dance on June 5.

Another one of our goals was to promote inter-house sports in the secondary school, and we had two week-long KIST League competitions, for Dodgeball and Capture the Flag. Both KIST League tournaments were very well-received, with many people coming to watch and support the games in the gym or on the field.

We also marked the second anniversary of the March 11, 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami by having a red-and-white-themed free dress day, the proceeds of which were donated to "Miyagi Kodomo Ikuei Kikin", a scholarship fund for children who were orphaned by the disaster.

Perhaps one of our most important achievements this year was the way that we structured our group

meetings, achieving really positive group dynamics. We found that establishing a committee-style approach to planning events, having smaller committees targeting different aspects of an event, helped bring focus and efficiency into our planning. We got a lot of practice writing proposals for events, activities, or changes to the school, which had to go through the Principal and the Senior Management Team before being approved. Although not all of our proposals were successful, and our proposal for a student printer and student ties for the uniform have not yet been met with a conclusive response, these experiences gave many SRC members practice to put together proposals and formal documents, which will certainly serve useful in the future.

Another highlight of this year's SRC was the enthusiasm and level of dedication and participation of the group. We encouraged, pushed and helped each other, creating a close-knit community and a positive working environment, and we hope that many students consider joining the SRC this coming year!

Monica (G12A)
SRC President
(on behalf of the SRC)



Secondary School News

As I complete my second year as the school's Secondary School Principal, I want to take this opportunity to formally thank the students, parents, teachers, Board members, office staff, PTA and my Secondary administrative team for your trust and support in making the 2012-2013 school year a truly memorable and student-centered year. We have a lot to be proud of as a community and much to look forward next school year.

Below are a few areas I wanted to bring to your attention.

KIST on Stage 2013

On May 24, our community enjoyed the traditional 'KIST on Stage' school concert which truly deserves special mention from a Principal's perspective. The students were extremely supportive in all phases of the concert which included several days of auditions, rehearsals, setup and support of their peers.

As I mentioned in my speech that evening, KIST is certainly known for academic rigor, but no school is complete without supporting artistic endeavors and a venue to express and celebrate them. Our school has several great annual traditions in which this event is absolutely student centered. A great number of our students are very willing to perform given the opportunity clearly demonstrating confidence and modeling very positive behavior which is nurtured within the culture of the school and thus enhancing the overall educational atmosphere. This is indeed something that makes our school unique in which our community willingly celebrates each year.



Ms. Babaeva leading students in the school song, "For Tomorrow".

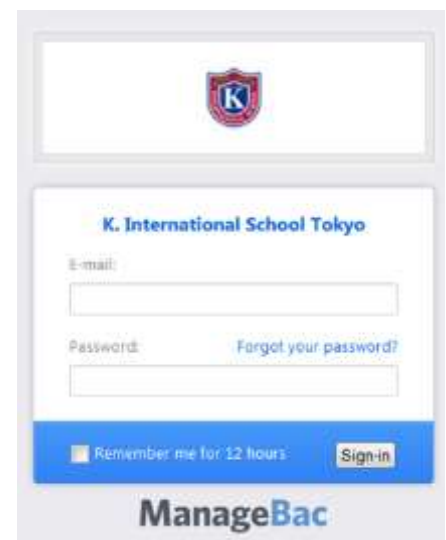
Systems at KIST – ManageBac in focus – supporting student efforts outside the classroom

We have 4 main systems in place for students which include: E-mail (Office 365), Moodle (course management system), PowerSchool (student information system) and ManageBac. For many parents they may not be familiar with ManageBac and its use at KIST. We have been using ManageBac for DP students for several years specifically for Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) which is a required aspect all Grade 12 students must fulfill in order to graduate. Most recently we integrated its use for our MYP students (Grades 6-10) this school year to assist specifically with Community and Service (C&S).

ManageBac specifically allows students to track progress and build a portfolio of service related activities. This is a critical initiative supporting our IB goals associated with the Learner Profile in developing well-rounded and caring citizens of the world. When reporting progress on student report cards, the number of hours documented is generated by student input which should include meaningful reflections for all activities undertaken along with an advisor's verification for each activity. It is imperative that students are reminded to be timely in completing this process. I encourage parents to discuss ManageBac with your child to ensure they are updating things appropriately when school resumes next academic year. Students are given guidance to use ManageBac during Advisory lessons and should be referencing this in Student Led Conferences as well.

Upper secondary 1-to-1 laptop initiative – One year later

The school introduced a 1-to-1 laptop program for students in Grades 10-12 this school year. Thanks to parental support, things



went very smoothly in our first year integrating this initiative. Students in Grades 6-9 will still be able to use school provided laptops and are encouraged not to bring their own laptops to school.

Having students begin to use personal laptops in this manner beginning 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 age appropriately associated with caring for a personal laptop before they graduate from high school.

With technology evolving at such a fast pace beginning in G10 with new laptops should serve most students well during their first years of university/college study post-KIST. We are therefore continuing to request students only in Grades 10 to 12 to bring laptops to school with a suitable carrying case. Students in Grades 6-9 will continue to have access to school provided laptops during lessons as appropriate. We feel student responsibility at these specific grade levels within a school setting with movement between classes



throughout the day are best served by not having them bring laptops to school.

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Details on recommended specifications were sent via E-Communications. If you have any questions about these specifications, kindly contact our IT Office directly.

PowerSchool parental/student access



Teachers are universally using PowerSchool Grade Books which is also generating all school reports cards. By putting this in place, Grade 12 parents and

students were able to view student progress during the last quarter of this academic year on line as it was reported by teachers. We plan to expand this access to all DP students in Grades 11-12 in time for the 1st quarter reports in October. Further access to Grades 6-10 is still in the planning stages. Additional details will be announced during next school year.

School growth

As we look ahead to 2013-2014 it should be noted the school has successfully expanded to now have 2 cohort groups in each grade level throughout the secondary school. This year we will have graduated our largest senior class (35 students) so far. I believe this growth has been managed strategically and thus ensuring our students are adequately resourced to enable them to reach their highest levels of achievement in all subjects.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I wish all families and staff a wonderful and fulfilling summer holiday.

Warm regards to all,

Stephen Rothkopf
Secondary School
Principal



Alumni News



Shreya Deshmukh
"Class of 2011"

Shreya is in her second year at Boston University, US, and her research work was introduced in the **Spring 2013 edition of BU's "Engineer" magazine**. The complete article and photographs may be viewed at the link below from page 15.

<http://www.bu.edu/eng/alumni/magazine/>



Carmina Mancenon
"Class of 2010"

Carmina is in her third year at Princeton University, US, and was selected as one of nine students for the **2013 Spirit of Princeton Award**. Further details may be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S36/80/21C45/index.xml?section=topstories>

Top 10 Drinks

In January this year, two drink vending machines were installed in the school grounds. The 10 most popular drinks for the period from January to April are listed below. Please note that the Itoen drink vending machine, located in the breezeway near reception, now accepts payment by Edy card.



1. C.C. Lemon 500 ml
2. Evian 500 ml
3. Lipton Apple Tea 500 ml
4. Orangina 420 ml
5. Pocari Sweat 500 ml
6. lemon Green Tea 500 ml
7. Southern Alps Mineral Water 500 ml
8. Teas' Tea Apple 500 ml
9. Oolong Tea 500 ml
10. Lipton Limone 280 ml

Grade 4 Hunger Banquet

In Grade 4, we have been working on our Sharing the Planet unit, focused on the different rights, responsibilities and opportunities that different children around the world have. As a 'tuning in' activity, we recently held a hunger banquet, inspired by Oxfam's well-known events to raise awareness about hunger in the world. More information about this cause can be found online at:

<http://actfast.oxfamamerica.org/index.php/events/banquet>

At a hunger banquet, where you sit and what you eat is determined by chance, so each child drew a number to be assigned to one of the three groups. Five students sitting at a table represented the 15 percent of the world in the 'High Income' group, who make, on average, more than 1 million yen per year. Thirteen students represented the 35% of the world's population in the 'Middle Income' group. This group covers a wide range of living situations, from approximately 215 to 2,600 yen per day. The students representing them sat on chairs. The 'Low Income' group represented the 50% of the world's population who live on less than 215 yen per day – many have much, much less. These 20 students sat on the floor. Once they were grouped, they were given information about poverty and hunger in the world, and sorts of lives lead by people in each group. One or two students switched groups as we discussed changing circumstances in families. Many students were particularly shocked at the lack of educational opportunities and high rate of child mortality prevalent in the Low Income group.

Once the context had been given, each student received a snack representing the different amounts of food available to each group. The High Income group each received a full bag of popcorn. The Middle Income students had to share a bag between 2, 3 or 4 students, while all 20 students in the Low Income group shared two bags of popcorn. Some students grabbed a large handful of popcorn before it was gone, but a number of students decided to share their food with those less fortunate.

After the 'meal', there was an activity to represent the opportunities and responsibilities of different children around the world. Children in the High Income group were able to go play, while children in the Low Income group were required to perform a coloring and cutting task to represent child labor around the world. As with the meal, the students had a variety of experiences, from having very little work before playing to almost constant work.

After the exercise, the groups discussed how they felt as members of each group. Many interesting reflections and questions were raised, and the students are eager to find out more about the lives of children around the world.



Math Field Day 2013

On April 17, 2013, twenty-eight "mathletes" from KIST attended the annual KPASSP Math Field Day event at Yokota High School on the Yokota Air Base. Our student representatives from grade 7 to grade 11 trained hard for three months prior to the competition in an after-school math club, wrapping their brains around problem after problem. The students' hard work was rewarded as KIST had eight individuals who placed in the top 10 for their grade level. In particular, **Jisang** (G9A) placed 2nd in grade 9 and **Min** (G11B) placed 2nd in grade 11.

Congratulations to all participants!

Jennifer Thomas
Andre Ito
Team Coaches



Jisang (G9A)



Min (G11B)



The KIST team!



Students competing in teams for Math Mania



Over 300 students from 12 international schools attended

Arjun (G8B)
During our visit to the Yokota Base for the Math Field Day, I both learnt and developed new skills, and also, enjoyed the day. I especially enjoyed the Team Problem Sets as we got to work together to solve challenging problems and make friends. I got to know a lot of students from other schools and got to learn and collaborate with them. In the weeks leading to the Math Field Day, we would have a meet every week in which we would practice and discuss similar problems. The Math Field Day was a great experience and I would really recommend it to you!

Abhinav (G11B)
This was the first time I had ever participated in any academic competition and went to an American Base. It was a great experience. To be honest, it was quite different from what I expected. Although the Base was largely monotone in terms of infrastructure, it did feel like I was out of Japan (Especially the FOOD was amazing!). Speaking about the competition, the individual component was similar to a typical math test but did not feel like one. In fact, on the contrary it was quite enjoyable, since each question was like a puzzle. Overall, it was something quite unlike I had ever participated in and hope to be able to do it again.

[In Math Mania]... I was in a senior group named "Fearsome Factors". After we answered all of the questions, a member from our team had to run to the "Correcting Station" to check the answers. During the run, we had missions such as getting a sticky note from a teacher at the back of the hall and running with another member from the group holding hands, rubbing elbows, and crossing arms... Do you get the idea?

Se Young (G10A)
The KPASSP Math field day was such a great experience. By preparing for this event, I learnt extended material in math which requires application skills and creativity. During the actual event, working with unfamiliar people helped me to improve cooperation skills in new situations. It was a rare opportunity to experience "fun" math, and I look forward to participate in the KPASSP Math field day next year.

Grade 12 Graduating Class of 2013

Every year group at KIST is a special one. The Graduating Class of 2013 is no different. This particular class, however, is significant in the further growth and establishment of KIST as it is twice the size of any previous graduating class, with 35 students successfully moving on from the school this year to places and adventures new.

The final few months of Grade 12 are extremely busy and action packed. Of course the academic focus recently has been the build-up and the completion of their final IB Diploma examinations. Some students have also been continuing to complete some final university applications in the last couple of months. In addition to these, students have also been practicing and preparing for a class performance at the End of Year Concert and of course, getting ready for their Graduation Ceremony on June 7 and their Graduation Dinner on June 10.

For me as a DP Coordinator at this time of year, just like it can be for many students, is always one of mixed feelings; sadness at the leaving of students I have worked with closely over the past two years, but happiness to have seen what lies ahead for them, and also for a welcome break without any Grade 12s in school to worry about until August!

On a serious note, I have had the pleasure of knowing the Class of 2013 for many years since my arrival at KIST in 2007. I believe I have been a classroom teacher of all of them at various stages in Grades 7 through 12 and have also worked with many of them in some extra-curricular activities. One of the professionally rewarding things about knowing a year group of students for a number of years is that you actually see them change and grow, both academically and socially, and possibly see that you might have had some positive impact, however small, on their lives. It is one of the most rewarding parts of being a teacher!

I hope that many of our Class of 2013 will continue to grow and develop and I am sure that they will have a positive impact on our world. On behalf of all staff at KIST, I wish them every success in the future and encourage them to keep in touch with the school, even to come back and visit from time to time if they have the chance.

Mark Cowe

Secondary School Vice Principal/IB Diploma Coordinator



Ms Johnston and Mr Young with Grade 12A.



Mr Cowe and Mr Hishiyama with Grade 12B.

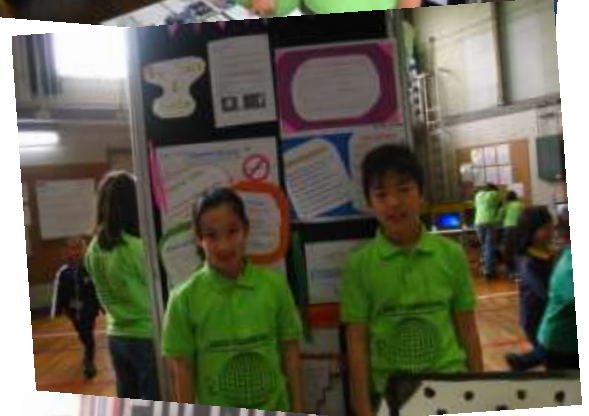
PYP Exhibition

The Grade 5 PYP Exhibition was held on Wednesday, April 24 and Thursday, April 25. The Exhibition is the culminating event of the PYP, designed to allow the students to create and develop an independent inquiry into real-life issues, and to share their learning with the whole school community. Since the beginning of the year, Grade 5 students have been deepening their understanding of the aspects of the PYP, and then exploring this year's trans-disciplinary theme, 'How we organize ourselves.'

One of the most important parts of the process is creating a central idea that is broad enough for all the students to explore while allowing them to investigate a topic they are passionate about. The students did a great job, coming up with "The environment, people, communities, economic activities, and systems can affect each other." Students formed groups or chose to work individually according to the issues that interested them. Then they plunged into several weeks of researching their topics, interviewing experts, sharing resources, then drafting, revising and editing their information reports. They used various art media to express their thoughts and feelings about their issue, kept their Moodle pages updated, planned their oral presentations, and created their displays. Throughout the entire process they were guided by their mentors and encouraged by their families.

The students became more and more excited as they approached the final presentation. A number of parents were kind enough to come in and give feedback on oral presentations, and the students became more confident and expressive public speakers. A combination of pizza-party and pep-rally preceded the Wednesday evening parent/community presentation, and one student was heard to say, "This is the best day of my life!" The visitors were very impressed by the depth of the students' knowledge and the thoughtfulness of their presentations. Grade 4 students and their families were also invited, to give them a preview for next year.

The next day, the students were at their booths to answer questions from visiting classes, adjusting their approach to suit audiences from age 4 all the way through high school. Formal oral presentations were given midday to visitors from Tsukuba International School, Tokyo Community School, and Jingumae International Exchange School.



Here's what the teachers had to say...

"We have finished our 11-week journey to Exhibition with great success! Students became experts on a wide variety of topics and issues such as genetically modified foods, over-fishing, water pollution, maritime piracy, child labor, and global littering to name a few. The students actively engaged in learning new skills such as researching, creating bibliographies, vetting sources and more. The Exhibition journey was a wonderful learning experience from beginning to end!"



Ms Geshel



Mrs Riemer



Sara



Shridhar



Oliver



Emily

Here's what the students had to say...

"It was a little bit challenging when I was researching my topic, but when I was presenting it was fun."

"I thought the challenging part of the exhibition was completing the task sheets. The fun part was making the commercial and the logo!"

"The exhibition is challenging because I noticed that you have to do lots of stuff, and trying to make it interesting is very difficult. My topic was over-fishing and I think this is an important topic to learn about."

"From the exhibition I learned that we need to work in a group. I think it was a really good experience."

Library News

Winners of Sakura Medal challenge

All students who voted were entered in a prize draw. After our "celebrity judges" pulled the names out of the box, we found our winners! Congratulations to:

Elementary:

Kiana (G3A), Minn (G3A), Kishore (G3B), Yoo Mee (G3B), Akino (G5A)



Elementary Sakura Medal challenge winners.

Secondary:

Xiang (G6A), Sara (G7A), Hana (G8A), Akiko (G8B), Junka (G10A)



Secondary Sakura Medal challenge winners.

Sakura 2013 art contest winner

We had lots of great entries in the Sakura Medal Art Contest, competing with other students from international schools in Japan. This year, one student from KIST was chosen as the winner overall for the High School Japanese category. Congratulations to **Chae Youn (G10A)**!



Chae Youn with Mr Licuanan and Ms Yoshimoto.



Chae Youn's awarding winning design.

The participating winners in our school received 2,000 yen book vouchers sponsored by the PTA Library Committee.



Participants in the Sakura Medal and Art Competition celebrating with a Hungry Readers Pizza Party kindly sponsored by the PTA.

Sakura Medal Japanese book review contest

Students participated in this writing contest with other international schools. Congratulations to **Mariko (G2A)** for winning the doryoku-shou (special effort award)! Mariko's essay may be viewed on page 11.

Sakura Medal 2013 book winners

A complete list of the 2013 Sakura Medal winning books may be viewed here: <http://sakuramedal.com/> Click on the "winners!" link at the top of the page.

Illustrator visit

A children's book illustrator from Holland, Alex de Wolf, came to visit. He read a kamishibai story he made himself to K3, worked with G1 students to make an animal mural, and with secondary students to learn about illustration. We all had lots of fun seeing how he makes his drawings for a book and making art together.

Next year we hope to have an author visit the school, possibly R.L. Stine, author of the famous Goosebumps series!

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Thank you

Can we all say a HUGE thank you to the volunteer work of the PTA Library Committee throughout this school year? Help with book covering, shelving, and donating prizes are just some of the ways parents have supported the library this year.

Goodbye

Sadly, our Elementary School Librarian, Ms Findlay, will be leaving us for Australia after the summer school ends.

"I will miss all the lovely students I have seen growing as readers in the last couple of years, and all the teachers who work so hard to create a love of reading in their students. I hope we will meet again someday."



We are looking forward to welcoming a new Librarian in the Elementary Library next year.

Popular activities returning next year!

Hungry Readers, DEAR, Karuta, International Mother Language Day, Sakura Medal Books and Art Competition, and Scholastic International Book Club

Forthcoming library initiatives

- Yatta Card – reward system that reflects the IB Learner Profile and Mission of KIST Libraries
- iCapture – a digital photography challenge for secondary school students



Book returns

As we wind down towards the end of the year, library staff ask that all students please be prompt in returning their library books, and remind all library users that they are responsible for the loss or damage of library resources. Please contact us if you have concerns about items which may have been lost.

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.

Have a great summer from the KIST Libraries Team!

Book Review

Digging through the Earth

This is a story about two children, Tsuyoshi and Kenta, who dug a hole to America. The hole though, came out in the garden of the house next door.

I did not understand what Kenta's older sister meant by the word pen friend. I asked my mum and found out it means to exchange letters with a person in a different country. It sounded interesting and something I would like to try. If I went to visit a pen friend I would go by plane instead of digging a hole. This is because a hole is dark and if the lights went out while you were inside you would be in trouble. I also thought about how long it would take for three people to dig a hole to America. From Tokyo to Kentucky it takes about 14 hours on a plane. If I dug a hole there with the other two I think it would take over a month to arrive. The soil would be all goey and icky which would make it tricky.

Finally, on the back cover it has a picture of a barbecue. Everyone looks like they are having fun which I thought was nice. Kenta's older sister, Sakura, is shaking hands with her pen friend and she looks happy. I think the three of them had fun sliding down the hole all the way back to Japan.



Mariko (G2A)

Mariko (G2A) with Japanese teacher, Matsui-sensei.

New Face

We are delighted to welcome **Reina Sekiguchi** to the KIST family as our new Elementary School Administrative Assistant. We wish Reina all the best in her new position.



Hi everyone! My name is Reina. I am the new elementary school administrative assistant. I came back to Tokyo last December after spending 8 years in Melbourne, Australia. I have been having a great time since I joined the KIST team in April. I feel blessed to be part of KIST since everyone here is very kind and friendly. It makes me happy to see students having lots of fun and learning every day. Please say hi to me when you see me. I am looking forward to meeting you all. Thank you!

Staff 10!

In this month's *Staff 10!*, we are pleased to present **Clay Bradley** who joined KIST in 2011 as a Grade 3 teacher in the Elementary School. Mr Bradley has been appointed the PYP Coordinator from August 2013.



Mr Bradley supporting students in his class.

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

I'm from Jackson, Mississippi in the southern part of the United States. Even though it's the capital of the state it is quite small and doesn't have a "city" feeling to it as the majority of its inhabitants live in the suburbs surrounding the city. Mississippi is reliant on farming and agriculture for its economy and offers many beautiful images rooted in a natural setting.

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

I don't have one place that I would say is my favorite. I've traveled many places in my life and feel the place that most intrigues me is the one around the corner that hasn't yet presented itself. My second favorite place is Japan, definitely!

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

I'm interested in art of all kinds and I really like drawing and painting in particular. If I could hang out with one artist for a day I would like to watch Vincent Van Gogh paint and listen to what he would have to say about the world. I love his work.

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

Yes, I have a talent for feeling that every day is fresh and full of opportunity. I think that this keeps me on a positive path throughout my day. This works for me!

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

I'm incredibly shy and I desperately hide it!

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

My guitar is the one thing that comes to mind. It's nothing special, but it gives me the tools I need to cope with a world that we are unable, essentially, to control.

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

Contradictory... shy/outgoing, positive/brooding, confident/unsure... and the list continues on into tomorrow.

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

Yes, as I would be doing it all again from the standpoint that life comes at you one decision at a time. I believe the end result would be that a completely different person would emerge. I would hope that the "new" me would be a person that the "old" me would respect.

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

Honestly, everything in my life is a work in progress. I'm hoping to improve not only what I do, but also the way that I perceive what I do. More immediate, in the coming months, I'll be concentrating on learning a new job here at KIST. As the new PYP Coordinator I will be taking on a host of new tasks and challenges that I believe will offer new insights for my own growth both personally and professionally. Please bear with me as I tackle this new adventure.

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

Be honest with yourself and you'll go a long way. If things go bad, look in the mirror before pointing fingers and when searching for solutions, remember that they always begin with you. Lastly, remember that we all need each other to survive in this life.

Extracurricular Activities

The importance of extracurricular activities for students

Extracurricular activities are offered at KIST from Grade 1 through 12. Whether it be music, drama club, sports, yearbook, SRC, etc. these types of activities create memories and positive experiences that students may not get inside the classroom. Having worked as a school counselor for many years, I have learned how important extracurricular activities are for students.

Every child needs to be successful at something. A fair number of students may find academics a struggle and if these students are not provided opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities such as music, sports, drama, etc. then finding self-confidence, self-esteem may be an issue for the child. It is paramount that students test their potential in as many areas as possible. Seeking out what they are passionate about, where their talents lie, what they find rewarding and fulfilling are essential in a child's identity and emotional well-being.

Extracurricular activities also help develop social skills, because socialization, teamwork, and working with others is necessary in most activities. If your child joins a sports team, they will learn the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. If it's a club at KIST, they will share a particular interest or activity with others and it can lead to developing new friendships, skills, interests and self-concept.

Numerous studies have shown that the majority of children involved in extracurricular activities achieve better grades than those who do not participate in extracurricular activities, and these activities often teach them lifelong skills and build character.

Extracurricular activities are also important for those who plan to attend college. Colleges often look at the activities in which students are involved, and experience with extracurricular activities can help a child get into a competitive university. The pride from their achievements enhances self-respect, self-esteem and self-confidence. The intrinsic benefits of extracurricular activities are many; thus, it is essential for our students to experience success in and out of the classroom, become well rounded, and enjoy all the school has to offer.

Benjamin Fishman
Student Welfare Counselor



Grade 10 Humanities Curriculum Revision

- How do we strengthen the Humanities skills of G10 students as they prepare for the DP?
- How do we help students decide which Group 3 subject to choose?

These two questions guided the Humanities Department in its revision of the G10 Humanities curriculum. This school year saw the Humanities Department revise its G10 curriculum from a mostly History-based focus towards an approach emphasizing each discipline within the DP Group 3 subjects (Economics, History, and Psychology).

Within the Humanities Department, MYP and DP teachers collaborated on creating units, skills and assessments that would build a foundation for G10 students as they continue their study of Humanities in one of the DP Group 3 subjects.

During the DP Options Night, held on April 12, parents and students discussed with teachers on possible Group 3 subject selections. The revised G10 curriculum provided students with feedback on the students' strengths and interests to assist them in making an informed decision on which Group 3 subject to choose.

Keith Erickson

Subject Area Coordinator: Humanities

Student comments on the new units:

"We got to see how each of the subjects are like and find out what we are interested in."

"I liked the structure of the course as it helped me make a more informed choice."

G10 Humanities Revised Curriculum		
Unit Question	Unit Description	DP Group 3 Link
Why do political revolutions happen?	Students were presented the French Revolution as a case study to examine the factors leading to revolution.	History
What can cause ordinary people to carry out extreme acts of evil?	Students applied the theory of situational variables to explain evil acts in the past and how societies can prevent these acts from occurring in the future.	Psychology
What is the ideal economic system?	Students researched how countries with planned economies are transitioning towards a more market-based approach.	Economics
Why is health a global issue?	Students investigated the link between a country's development and global health issues through the use of statistical analysis.	Psychology

Toyosu Carnival

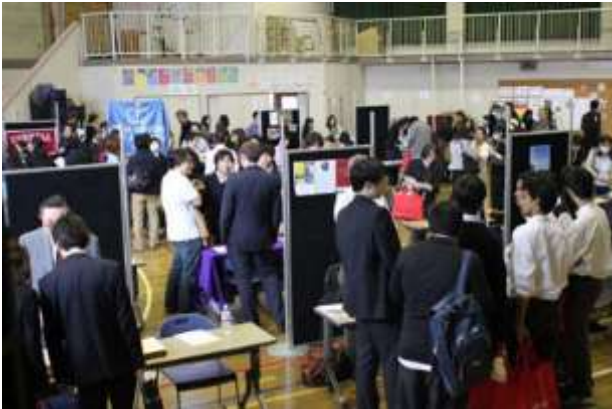
On **Saturday, May 18**, KIST participated in the inaugural Toyosu Carnival for the purpose of promoting "community interaction, development of young people, and international exchange." Thank you to the students, parents and staff who represented KIST by participating in the parade and assisted at the school's food and games booth.



College Guidance News

Spring college fair

The first college fair organized at KIST was a great success with hundreds of participants from the whole KIST community. We hope everyone enjoyed the fair by meeting with college representatives from nearly 30 major universities/colleges in the US, Japan, the UK and Australia in the KIST Gym on March 20. We were very pleased to receive positive feedback from students, parents and college representatives. I would like to thank the student volunteers who arranged the venue and hosted visitors, and also the PTA members who prepared drinks and snacks for the reception. Since it was so successful, we decided to make it an annual event. The next KIST Spring College Fair is scheduled for March 21, 2014. Please mark it on your calendar!



Class of 2013 college acceptances and offers

KIST has had another successful year! Twenty-nine students sent applications and have so far received 104 acceptances/offers from 89 universities/colleges around the world (see the list below.) Several students are still waiting for the results; applying to Japanese, Australian or EU universities after graduation; taking a gap year or going to military service. Congratulations and wishing you all the best for continued success in your future!

(Mrs) Keiko Okude
College Guidance Counselor

College Acceptances and Offers: Class of 2013

*=Scholarship offered
()=Number of students accepted

UK

University of Edinburgh (2)
University of Manchester (2)
London School of Economics and Political Science
King's College London
University of St. Andrews
Royal Holloway, University of London
Kingston University London
Birmingham City University
University of Lincoln*
University of Liverpool
Edinburgh Napier University
Lancaster University
Oxford Brookes University
University of Kent
University of Aberdeen

USA

Boston University (2)*
Northeastern University (2)*
University of Colorado Boulder (2)
Pacific Lutheran University (2)
Pennsylvania State University (2)*
University of Southern California (2)
SUNY Stony Brook University (2)
University of Chicago
University of Michigan
UCSD
UCLA
UC Davis
University of Virginia
Virginia Tech
Purdue University
University of Washington
University of Miami (Florida)
College of William and Mary
Smith College
Wellesley College
Bard College
Rhodes College
University of Richmond
State University of New Jersey, Rutgers
SUNY University of Buffalo
SUNY Binghamton University
University of San Francisco
University of Texas San Antonio
Lewis and Clark College
Gonzaga College
Drexel University
Emerson College
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising
Hofstra University*
Ohio State University*
Syracuse University
Arizona State University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Florida International University
Bowling Green State University
Temple University
University of Miami (Ohio)

CANADA

University of British Columbia (7)*
McGill University
University of Toronto
Simon Fraser University
Acadia University
Bishops University
Dalhousie University
University of Regina
University of Western Ontario

JAPAN

Sophia University, Faculty of Liberal Arts (5)
Waseda University, School of International Liberal Studies (4)
Waseda University, School of Political Science and Economics (2)
Nagoya University (2)
University of Tokyo
Waseda University, Faculty of Science and Engineering*
Meiji Gakuin University

KOREA

Seoul National University

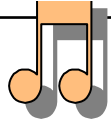
HONG KONG

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

SINGAPORE

Yale-NUS College*
Raffles College of Arts
LASALLE College of Arts

KIST on Stage



Congratulations to all those who performed at the "KIST on Stage" school concerts on **Friday, May 24** at Tower Hall Funabori. Once again this year, audience members were treated to some amazing and unique musical and dramatic performances. Thank you to everyone involved in the production of the concerts and for helping to make them a success.

