



The Comet

The Newsletter of K. International School Tokyo

Volume 17 | Issue 4 | June 2014

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“One of the most valuable things we can do to heal one another is listen to each other’s stories.”
—Rebecca Falls

From the Head of School

I hope that the whole KIST community is feeling well and enjoying the fresh, spring air. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the implementation of new initiatives such as the Key Stages and IGCSE into mathematics, which as we have stated previously, will aid our students’ development and bring successful results.

We are particularly mindful of the importance of mathematics and English (the school’s language of instruction) as learning tools and the importance of building the knowledge required in all grades from an early age. This is something that I mentioned at our Family Day, and is something that is supported by data published by the UK government, with the following points being of particular note:

- Language and mathematics levels have a greater impact on overall levels than all other subjects.
- Students who achieve good grades in mathematics in elementary school achieve better grades in most subjects in secondary school.

The DP, which is the final step in a child’s education at our school, teaches the theoretical thinking skills desired by companies, analytical ability, communication skills and a variety of other skills. Therefore, a successful DP grade is a passport to the world’s best universities. However, the programme is extremely challenging, and so the shortest way to achieving this success is in preparing steadily over time, and as the data above shows, the key is in improving mathematics and English ability.

With the implementation of Key Stages in mathematics, parents will be able to see clearly their children’s level of progress. This June, Key Stage testing will also be incorporated into English which will allow us to measure and identify your child’s level of progress and lead them onto the path of success in the DP. Initially, the Key Stage test in June will only consist of a reading test, but we are also considering a writing test in the future. Thank you for your continued support of the school’s policies and in supporting your children.

I am also pleased to announce that this August, we will be opening a new sister school, **K. International Preschool** in Nihonbashi-hamacho a short distance of 2 km (7 minutes by car) from the main KIST campus. The new preschool is intended for 2 to 5 year old children to develop the English ability and attitudes required at KIST.

Continued on next page

DATES TO REMEMBER



June 2014

- 6 (G1-G5) Elementary concert (*Afternoon)
- 6 (G6-G12) Secondary concert (*Evening)
- 10 (G5) Promotion ceremony (*Evening)
- 10 Peer student-led conferences
- 11 (S) Secondary awards assembly
- 11 (G10) Promotion ceremony
- 11 (W) Last day of school for students (Half day for students)
- 12-13 Office open
- 16-27 Summer day camp
- 18 (W) Semester 2 reports issued by post
- 30-Jul 25 Office closed

July 2014

- 28-Aug 8 Summer academic program

August 2014

- 14 (K1/K2/K3) Parent welcome night
- 18 (W) First day of school for all students
- 27 (G1-G5) Parent welcome night
- 29 (G6-G12) Parent welcome night
- 29 (G12) College information night



KIST is an IB World School

Continued from previous page

We will also offer the opportunity for KIST students up to Grade 5 to learn skills like piano and dance in English at the new school. I will inform you of further details in the near future once everything has been confirmed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that Mr Stephen Rothkopf, our Secondary School Principal, will be leaving us at the end of the current school year. Mr Rothkopf's appointment as Secondary School Principal came at a very difficult period in the school's history following the 2011 Tohoku earthquake disaster; however, he took on the challenges of a management position enthusiastically. I am very grateful to him for his efforts and wish him happiness and success in his new endeavors. For Mr Rothkopf's

successor, we have appointed our Secondary School Vice Principal, Mr Mark Cowe, as our new Secondary School Principal.



Finally, once again this year, a large number of students will graduate from KIST. It is also the time of year when we say farewell to other students and staff who will leave us. I would like to wish all those who are leaving, all those who will remain at KIST, and to the entire school community, all the best for success in your future endeavors.

Yoshishige Komaki
School Director/Head of School

Elementary School News

Summer learning

2013-2014 has been a fun and productive year in the Elementary School. As the weather turns warm and we near the end of the school year, many of us have already begun thinking about the upcoming summer holiday.

Even though our students will not be attending school during the summer, there are still many opportunities for them to continue to learn while on holidays. Luckily, the summer holiday is a chance for students to apply what they have learned in authentic, real life situations.

Whether travelling or not, keeping a journal of the summer holiday is a great way for students to continue to write. A holiday journal not only reinforces writing skills, but the other subject areas can be integrated into the writing. Our students can draw maps of the places they visit and add information they research themselves. Photos, drawings and artwork can also be added to the journal to prompt even more descriptive writing and explanation. Writing and sending postcards to friends and relatives is also another purposeful writing activity which helps students learn to explain their thoughts concisely.

If children receive an allowance, counting and keeping track of their pocket money is an important skill which can be reinforced over the summer. Estimating and calculating the cost of shopping trips will review mathematical skills they have learned. When travelling, have your children estimate the time and distance to the destinations. This will help them to see the connections between, distance, speed and time. Students can also use their computer and mapping skills to plot routes to their favorite holiday destinations calculating time, highway tolls or train fares, and distance.

If the weather turns wet, there are still many fun and educational destinations around Tokyo. Museums, aquariums, science centers and showrooms can provide hours of enjoyable learning. Arts and crafts activities at home can inspire creative thinking and problem solving. There are also numerous entertaining online sites which can help children review what they have learned and have fun discovering more. Please see the list below.



Recommended websites:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>
<http://www.coolmath-games.com/>
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
<http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/math-games/>

And last, but certainly not least, reading! Children should be encouraged to read every day. We should expose our children to a variety of age appropriate books, magazines, websites and other reading materials and promote the joy in reading. Reading together, asking questions and discussing the stories and topics are ways of providing motivation and stimulating thought.

I wish you all a pleasurable, productive and inspiring summer!

Kevin Yoshihara
Elementary School Principal

Farewell from Mr Rothkopf

It has been four years since I joined KIST and I have had the honor of being the Secondary School Principal for the past three years. During my tenure at KIST there have been many times of celebration, achievements and of course challenges which I believe has brought many of us closer together. I have thoroughly enjoyed working at KIST and appreciate the support students, parents, teachers, office staff and the senior management team have given throughout. The processes we have put in place require significant ongoing collaboration of which all of these groups at different points continually contribute.

I want to thank each and every community member for all your support, and for entrusting me with the care of our students. I am indeed honored to have been given the opportunity to be part of the KIST community. During the past four years, I have grown professionally and will treasure the memories and friendships I have made during my tenure. Being part of KIST and living in Japan will certainly carry on as my wife and I move closer to family in Europe.

Having worked closely with Mr Cowe for the past 4 years, I am confident the school will move ahead very well as we continue the transition to new leadership during the remainder of the school year. This will include building on the considerable enhancements made in curriculum planning and inspiring greater student involvement which is typified by the Secondary School Representative Council.



It is certainly difficult to say goodbye to the parents and teachers, but the hardest part is of course saying goodbye to the students. I have very much enjoyed watching our students grow up and come into their own. The variety of talents and individuality our students demonstrate is truly inspiring. Just as when students eventually move away from home to attend college or university, I too must challenge myself with different leadership experiences so I can continue to grow as an educator and life-long learner.

To the entire KIST community, I want to thank you for letting me be a part of our community of learners who are making a real difference in the lives of our students.

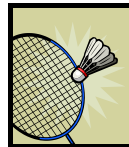
Lastly, I want to thank Mr and Mrs Komaki for their countless support and guidance for which I am extremely grateful.

Warmest regards,

Stephen Rothkopf
Secondary School Principal



Spotlight on Clubs



Secondary badminton club

Drive! Flick! Smash! These were some of the types of shots made each week during the Badminton Club season. This year the Badminton Club members had fun playing both competitive and friendly games with one another. Some of the members even invented some creative variations to the game, which only made the matches more enjoyable.

Badminton is a great form of exercise as well as being a lot of fun! The Badminton Club is open to all G6-12 students. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Keith Erickson
Badminton Club



Community Noticeboard



A "Community Noticeboard" has been set up next to the basketball court outside the Multipurpose Room in the West Building. The purpose of the noticeboard is to share information about events and activities being held in the local and wider communities that may be of interest to our school community. Please be sure to check it when you visit the school. Also, you are welcome to bring any posters or advertisements you wish to display; however, please be sure to review the recently distributed E-Communications No. 246 for information regarding the use of this board.



Attaining our KIST Mission

As we come to the end of another school year, it is appropriate to reflect on how well we are attaining our mission to deliver quality international education that is also accessible to children from a variety of backgrounds.

Best-Schools.UK.org recently published a ranking of the best IB DP schools in the UK based on DP overall point averages. For these UK schools offering the DP to cohorts of at least 15 students last year, DP overall point averages ranged from first place at 40.1 points to 37th place at 29.3 points. Ranking data can be viewed at:

<http://www.best-schools.co.uk/uk-school-league-tables/ib-schools-large-cohort/>

We are pleased to report that when we include KIST DP results from last year into the ranking data, KIST ranks among these top UK schools as well.

- KIST ranks at 30th place with an average DP score of 32 points for candidates receiving the Diploma.
- KIST ranks at 36th place with an average of 30.7 points for all candidates (including our candidates who did not receive the Diploma).

While these results represent a comparison of DP performance, such DP results are not possible without whole-school commitment and solid educational programming at all levels of the school. Recent studies show that successful educational programming is dependent on supportive families that are expectant of results. We appreciate our strong community support towards initiatives we have recently introduced and those we will introduce next year – such as additional Mathematics and English support in the Elementary School and Academic Writing classes in the Secondary School – to attain our school goal of a 36 point average for DP over the next 5 years.

While the above is convincing that KIST is delivering

quality educational programming, we must also consider how well we are doing at making such education accessible to families from a variety of backgrounds. One way that we do so is by keeping our tuition fees as low as possible.

Also provided in the abovementioned UK ranking data was the tuition fees for each of the schools included in the rankings. We are proud to also report that KIST ranked lowest amongst these UK schools in a comparison of tuition fees (converted to GBP).

While comparison of context makes a comparison of our tuition fees against those of schools in the UK difficult, the cost of living in Tokyo and the UK could be said to be comparable. However, in order to compare our tuition fees to those of locally based schools, a couple of weeks ago I also prepared a comparison of our tuition fees against those of international schools in the Tokyo area and am proud to report to you that our fees are significantly lower than other established Tokyo based international schools.

We believe that the KIST community's commitment has resulted in another year of results evidential of us attaining our mission to deliver accessible, quality education.

I hope that everyone is proud of all that we have attained together thus far and that everyone is excited about even further progress we will make as we work together henceforth to attain our school goals.

Thank you for all of your continued support. I wish all KIST families a restful and safe summer full of wonderful family memories.

Jeffrey Jones
Director of Education



mission

K. International School Tokyo provides highly motivated children from **diverse** cultural and social backgrounds with a **high quality** education in a safe and nurturing environment to become **competent** and **moral** individuals who make meaningful **contributions** to our global community.

K インターナショナルスクール東京は、文化的社会的に多様な背景をもった意欲的な子どもたちに、安全で人をはぐくむ環境の中で、質の高い教育を提供し、国際社会に貢献する、人格的に秀でた有能な若者を育成する。

Grade 5 PYP Exhibition 2014

Back on April 24 and 25, our fifth grade students got a chance to demonstrate their knowledge that they have assembled over the past several years with the summative learning task known as "Exhibition". As a culminating experience, students have an opportunity to engage in a collaborative, transdisciplinary inquiry process that challenges their acquired skills of investigation and problem solving. This is no small task. It is challenging not only for the students but also for the most seasoned of educators.

This year's exhibition team was led by two "new-comers" to the program. Mr Matthew Archibald and Mr Scott Grant took the helm and piloted the process from the beginning in a fresh and uncluttered burst of exuberance that was contagious. Their leadership style along with their shared goal of "getting it done right" helped motivate the students to do their best. The team was joined by the 5th grade ELS Coordinator, Ms Rachel Parkinson and a host of elementary teachers who served as mentors. These members facilitated the students in accessing their own knowledge and using it in positive and productive ways.

Students put their thoughts together and created a central idea as a group which served as the

driving force for the investigations. **"Human made systems and organizations have positive and negative effects on our lives and the environment."** Under this central idea, students chose a variety of topics; Poverty and Child Labor, Nuclear Power, Water Pollution, Animal Shelters, Building Safety, Smuggling, and Traffic Management, to name a few. Groups and individuals arranged for interviews with people in the community in order to get firsthand knowledge about the topics. Research was carried out in a thorough and painstaking manner and the students as a whole built a sound knowledge of the issues. As students dug deeper into the subject matter, excitement ran high, building towards a grand scale presentation on the night of April 24 to which parents and friends were invited. The presentations were done in a professional manner that made it evident the students understood the material. The information was accessible from a visual/emotional perspective as there was an emphasis on ideas being presented "face to face" rather than resorting to a heavy reliance on technology. This made the children's yearning to share their information and enthusiasm more apparent.

One aspect of the exhibition which has changed over the years has

been to make the focus more local in its scope and reach.

Students choose topics that need real responses and solutions in order to be resolved and in turn sustained. The final element in the equation is the concept of "action". In the past, action has been difficult to achieve or unsustainable because of factors such as geographical and political considerations. Choosing "local" issues increases the probability of more effective and realistic action and results which can be more easily monitored. As the process is in reality ongoing, we look forward to hearing more about the outcomes and long-term effects that our students' explorations have shaped.

In closing, we would like to wish our grade five students good luck next year in the secondary school along with a wish of good luck to the grade 5 teachers who will be putting their second Exhibition together! Great job all around!

Clay Bradley
PYP Coordinator



Journey to the Tokyo Japan Times Spelling Bee

This was my 4th year participating in the Japan Times Spelling Bee. During my years of participation, I have developed an ever-growing fondness for words. I learned many new words and also made many mistakes that helped me progress even further, and I would like to share some of the lessons I learned during my journey.

The National Spelling Bee began in the United States of America in 1925. The first National USA Spelling Bee was a competition between 9 students from 9 states across the country. The competitors who were chosen had already won their classroom, school and regional (state) competitions to be in the National Spelling Bee. The 89th National Spelling Bee takes place this year at the end of May, with 281 spellers from the USA and all the way from Japan and China, who will represent their respective countries. A lot has changed with the spelling bee since 1925, and it is getting more popular day by day. The first spelling bee in Japan was held in 2009 and is gradually gaining popularity with around 40 schools participating each year from Okinawa, Shizuoka, Fukuoka and other areas, including Tokyo.

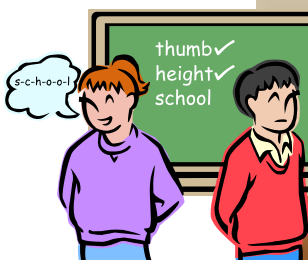
The spelling bee and the words interested me, and kept my focus in a number of ways. What got my attention is that English is spoken differently in different parts of the world and English borrowed new words from other languages like Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. The next thing that interested me was the etymology of words. The etymology is the language of origin(s) the word is from, basically the language it derives from and its original meaning. The etymology plays a big role in words, because English borrows words from other languages. There have been wars, beliefs and misunderstandings that changed

English words. For example, when the French conquered England, the French language influenced English, and English borrowed many French words. Another thing that interested me were root words. Root words are base words from which we derive new words by adding prefixes/suffixes. Root words fascinate me, as they are the building blocks of the English language. It is possible to ask for the definition and etymology of words in the spelling bee.

Initially, I thought that spelling bees are just about memorizing words, but then I learned that spelling bees aren't just about memorization, although a good memory would assist you. The delivery of words is also equally important. Even if you make a careless mistake, you are out of the competition. For example, if you try to spell "accommodate" and you spell incorrectly as "acommodate" you are out of the competition even if it is just a silly mistake. Although, preparation is essential, a small element of luck is also needed. Nevertheless, luck favors the well-prepared mind. It is also important to remember that the spelling bee is more about competing with the dictionary than with your fellow spellers.

Lastly, I think spelling bees are important educationally since they require motivation, confidence to spell in front of a crowd and courage to acknowledge and learn from successes and failures. For me, winning was important but sticking with it and being competitive is what inspired me to compete several years in a row. I think this sort of mindset is helpful for many things beyond spelling bees.

Gautham (G7B)



Courtesy of the Japan Times

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/03/23/national/spelling-ace-bostrom-wins-2014-bee/#.U2jdq2SyE0>

Math Field Day

On April 23, 2014, thirty "mathletes" from KIST attended the annual KPASSP Math Field Day event at Yokota High School. Our students from Grade 7 to Grade 12 performed very well during the morning individual competitions and showed leadership in the mixed school teams during the afternoon Math Mania competitions.

Here is what some of our students had to say:



Lae Eun (G8B)
 Math Field Day was a great experience. Though it is easy to think that the day is wholly academic and is only for math lovers, it wasn't. The test that takes place before noon is academic, but it requires more thinking rather than mathematical skills. It was more like math puzzles than typical school math tests. The afternoon event, Math Mania, is a speed quiz group competition. We worked in groups with students from different schools. Not only did we solve math problems together, but the event contained several fun bonuses, such as singing. It was a great experience that I look forward to participating in again next year.



Hana (G9B)
 Math Field Day was really fun and enjoyable. I met so many smart kids from different schools and grade levels – it was mindboggling how more than three hundred students like me were gathered for one event! I was able to challenge myself and test my mathematical ability during the individual contest, and I gained a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction afterwards. The afternoon group competition was also awesome: everyone was just having fun trying to solve math problems as quickly as possible. It took commitment to attend the weekly meetings and complete the contest papers, but it was all worth it.

The coaches would like to congratulate all participating students for their hard work training for the past 3 months. We would also like to recognize the following students for representing KIST on the podium.

- Lae Eun (G8B)** - 2nd place in G7-G8 category
- Hana (G9B)** - member of the 1st place team
- Daiki (G12A)** - 2nd place in G11-12 category
- Min (G12B)** - 1st place in G11-12 category



Great job to everyone!

Christopher Tihor
 Team Coach

Andre Ito
 Team Coach



MYP Personal Project

A celebration of learning—Personal project in focus

On March 7 in the KIST gym, the annual Personal Project presentation night was held by the proud G10 students who presented their 6 months' worth of personal project work to their parents and other community members. It was a celebration of learning that everyone seemed to enjoy.



During the school day on Friday, students presented their projects to their peers, underclassmen, teachers and the school staff. Personal Project is all about celebrating the growth and learning process of students completing their last year of the MYP.

The students have been researching their chosen topics for 6 months and have come up with many great ideas to share with the KIST community! The projects ranged from formal PowerPoint presentations, student bound books, informational videos, all the way to games made by the students. The variety of topics really showed a personal side to my fellow Grade 10 students along with creative displays.

Preparations for the presentation started from the end of school the day before, with the students eager and cheerfully working on their stands to make the best presentation possible. The next day, the students spent their day presenting to their peers and underclassmen.



Grade 10A student, **Motoi**, presenting his topic on π (Pi) for his fellow peers.



Grade 10B student, **Raj**, presenting his topic to his underclassmen.

While the students admit the process was hard and challenging, they also say they definitely enjoyed the experience.

“ It was a 50/50, because we got to choose the topics we found interesting (...) but the report was very stressful. ”

Megan (G10B)

Not only did the G10 students get a chance to research and display their interests, but they also had a great time learning with their upperclassmen!

“ The topics are very interesting (...) the way they present is very fun. ”

Grade 8 student

Overall the personal project is an experience which irradiates with positive energy.

“ The students have a very positive approach (towards learning). ”

Leo (G10A)

This environment promotes respect from and to everyone. As a relative newcomer to Grade 10, I am very happy to report on the Personal Project.

Kei (G10A)



DP News

Grade 12 final IB Diploma exams!

In May, the Grade 12 students completed their final IB Diploma examinations. This is the culmination of their two-year studies in the IB Diploma curriculum and the majority of their grades awarded by the IB come from their performance in these very important assessments. Students complete their examinations in conditions set up by the school following IB guidelines and procedures, sometimes on-site but sometimes off-site, to ensure the necessary quiet conditions (see photographs), and their finished exams are sent to teachers and other relevant subject professionals employed by the IB for assessment. Some KIST teachers are employed by the IB in this capacity, although they will not be assessing any KIST students' work. The assessment of student work done in the final IB Diploma examinations takes approximately two months and students are able to access their overall grades in early July. Each year in the September issue of *The Comet*, the school publishes a summary of these results to the school community.



English oral examinations in the LMC



Approximately every 5 years, the IB conducts an unannounced inspection of a school to observe how it organizes the final DP examinations. This happened to KIST this year on May 9, and I am pleased to provide feedback that the inspection went very well. Nigel Gardner, the representative conducting the inspection on behalf of the IB wrote that the examination he observed was "very well organized and competently run".

Many thanks to all the teachers and staff who help the Diploma Coordinator to organize these examinations at KIST.

Two Grade 11 curriculum events: Completion of Oral Commentaries and Extended Essay drafts

English Oral Commentaries:

In the middle of May, Grade 11 English A students completed an Oral Commentary. This task is worth 15% of their external English A grade awarded by the IB in July 2015. Students are given an unseen passage



Off-site IB Diploma examinations

chosen from one of the two (SL) or three (HL) texts studied in Part 4. Students then have 20 minutes to prepare a 10-minute commentary that they present to their English teacher. In this commentary they need to give context and content of the text and the passage as well as analyze it for literary devices. It is a challenging assessment and requires students to be able to 'think on their feet', using all the information studied in class.

Many thanks to Mrs Hall and Mr White for their time and dedication in organizing this event and to the LMC staff for their support in ensuring the necessary conditions in the school.

Extended Essay:

In the middle of May, Grade 11 students were also required to submit a first draft of their EE. This draft is approximately 1500-2000 words and allows the students to demonstrate what they have found so far to answer their research question and the structure their EE is taking. Teacher supervisors will read these first drafts and provide mainly verbal feedback to their EE students before the summer vacation.

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

The following information is very important:

Students should be working on their EE over the summer vacation. It is an ideal time to collect any final resources or conduct any final research and to have a few hours just to focus on writing the EE full draft. A full draft of the EE is due on Friday, August 29, the end of the second week back at school. Full instructions on the DP EE full draft are available on the EE Moodle Page.

Mark Cowe

Secondary School Vice Principal/DP Coordinator

Commuting to and from School

I have been visiting the station in the mornings lately and I am very pleased to see so many students representing our school well by wearing our KIST uniform correctly and demonstrating good manners during the commute to school.

There are a number of students, however, who are doing other things while walking through the station (talking on the phone, texting, playing games, etc.). Doing things while walking increases the probability that an accident will happen, which may result in someone getting inconvenienced, or even hurt. This is the reason why walking while doing other things is considered rude and why KIST expects students to refrain from doing it.

The School Handbook is currently being updated and will include clarifications about school behavior expectations. In the meanwhile I would like to clarify for parents the school expectations for students when commuting to and from school.

- ⇒ Refrain from playing video games at any time while commuting to/from school.
- ⇒ Students are expected to follow the uniform code in full during the entire commute to/from school (shirts tucked in, skirts of appropriate length, hair tied back, etc.).
- ⇒ Students are expected to demonstrate good manners while commuting, this includes, but is not limited to, observing the following local customs:
 - Refraining from eating/drinking while walking.
 - Refraining from eating/drinking while riding the buses/trains (drinking tea/water is ok).
 - Refraining from doing other things while walking.
 - Refraining from talking on mobile phones on the buses/trains.

Students who need to contact their parents upon arrival at the station are asked to move to one side of the walkway and stop to make the call.

As parents, your support in modelling the above behaviors and helping students meet the above expectations is sincerely appreciated. Thank you!

Jeffrey Jones
Director of Education



Nurse's Notes

Protecting against heat stroke

It is getting hotter, but are you taking the necessary steps to look after your body? The number of people who suffer from heat stroke during June and July is on the increase and it is most common for heat-related illnesses to occur when the temperature soars after the rainy season, and the body has had little time to adapt to the heat.



“ It is important to take care of your health on a daily basis. ”

People who are overweight, lack physical fitness, have a weak immune system or who are suffering from fatigue, diarrhea, fever or other illnesses are also at higher risk of heat-related problems and so it is important to take care of your health on a daily basis.

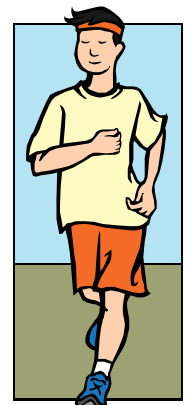
The main ways to keep healthy are sleep, exercise and diet. Start each day by opening the curtains to let in as much bright light as possible. Eat breakfast, be active during the day and take part in light exercise in the evening. Also, take a bath or shower in the evening, turn down the lights to relax, and get enough sleep. These are all important factors in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The other day, a student came to the Nurse's Room suffering with a headache. It turned out that he had been so busy studying the previous evening that he hadn't slept. He then rested for an hour in the Nurse's Room and felt well enough to return to class.

“ Proper sleep eliminates fatigue and stress of the body and mind... ”

Proper sleep eliminates fatigue and stress of the body and mind so it is important parents check their child is getting enough sleep, and when they wake up, check that they feel refreshed and ready for the day ahead.

Makiko Whittaker
School Nurse



Education for Tomorrow

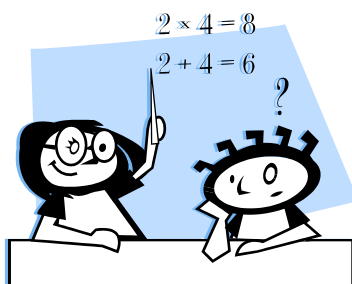
It has long been argued by past generations that the three 'R's of 'R'eading, 'R'iting, and 'R'ithmetic should form the basis of any child's education. While it may not seem wise to label an educational belief on misspelled words, the value of these three skills, and their transferred importance in education, remains unquestioned today and surely will for generations to come.

However, 3R-based educational models are nothing unique to any one particular country or group of countries. Through increased educational programming, what were once underdeveloped countries now outrank countries historically thought to be leaders in educational programming. These new leaders, including many countries in Asia, are attaining better results in educational testing such as the OECD's PISA tests of reading, science and mathematics. Friedman (2011) reports that in the increasingly competitive globalized world of today, even Grinnel College, a small liberal arts college in Iowa with only 1600 students, attracts 200 plus applicants from China each year, half of whom have perfect scores on the math SAT. The reality today is that 'average', or even 'above average' performance in the 3Rs is an insufficient credential for entrance into recognized universities. 3R skills are important - hence the increased supplemental programming being introduced at KIST to support our students- but they are no longer sufficient in themselves.

In order to solve the problems of tomorrow and contribute meaningfully to our global community, KIST believes that education today must prepare students not only in the 3Rs but also in the three 'C's as well. These skills, identified by Harvard's Tony Wagner in *The Global Achievement Gap*, are 'C'ritical thinking, oral and written 'C'ommunication, and 'C'ollaboration. Through our IB programmes, all of which emphasize development of 3Cs alongside the 3Rs, KIST students develop conceptual understanding and analytical skills as they inquire into a variety of topics in real-life contexts, they learn to communicate and present their understanding bilingually, and they collaborate to solve problems in the classroom context and beyond. The quality of this year's Grade 5 Exhibition, the Grade 10 Personal Projects and the Grade 12 Extended Essays reflects well on our students' 3C proficiency and their readiness to meet the demands of the next level of their learning.

Friedman T. & Mandelbaum P. (2011). *That used to be us: How America fell behind in the world and how we can come back*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux: New York.

Jeffrey Jones
Director of Education



Class of 2014



Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

KIST is proud each year to graduate another group of hard working students and see them off to universities around the world, confident that their IB experiences have prepared them well to not only perform at leading universities around the world, but also to make a positive difference in making our world a better place for all.

Congratulations KIST graduates of 2014! We hope that you cherish your memories of KIST and move forward with confidence and pride knowing that you have the committed KIST community here waiting to celebrate your future successes, and support you with your challenges, as you continue 'learning for life' on the next phase of your educational journey.

We wish you all the best!

Jeffrey Jones
Director of Education

New Faces

Since the last issue of *The Comet*, we have welcomed a number of new staff members to our team. On behalf of the school community, we wish you all the best and hope that you enjoy your time with us.



Christopher Carufel
ELS Instructor (G3)



Emi Hisamatsu
Science Laboratory Assistant



Leia Wakasa
Translator/Interpreter



Aikka Watanabe
Teacher's Aide (K3-G1)

Library News

Sakura Medal book challenge winners

Students who participated in Sakura Medal voting were entered into a raffle once for each vote they cast. Nine lucky winners took home a tosho card, six from elementary and three from secondary. The Sakura Medal is chosen by students at international schools across Japan, so your votes help honor your favorite authors and illustrators! Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who participated in this reading programme.

Our elementary winners were:



(L>R) Diana (G1B), Lingfei (G1B), Leika (G2A), Hotomi (G3A), Kishore (G4A), Yoo Mee (G4A)

Our secondary winners were:



(L>R) Pranita (G10A), Keerti (G11B), Sarah S. (G8B)

Sakura art entries submitted to international level competition

Students were invited to create art for the Sakura Medal artwork competition. The winners, chosen from international schools all over Japan, are sent to the authors and illustrators who win the Sakura Medal voting. KIST students submitted some excellent work this year. These students' works will be displayed in the library next school year. Thank you for your hard work!

Here are some of the Sakura Art entries made by our secondary students.



Cindy 10A

Ria 11B

Vidhika 11A

Summer reading and research support to Extended Essay



Starting June 18, students can check out English language fiction books from the Elementary Library and LMC for summer reading. To borrow fiction books during summer, the libraries will be open until June 27 and will resume library services on July 28. During the summer, all students are expected to be responsible in taking good care of borrowed books from the library. All library items are subject to fines if lost or damaged.

DP students can also borrow non-fiction books and research items to help with the extended essay requirement full draft on August 2014. The DPEE Moodle and LMC Moodle pages will be available to support the research needs of the new G12 students throughout summer. In case of link failure, please contact directly the IT department at:

robert.whittaker@kist.ed.jp

Popular library activities returning next year

- Yatta Card Challenge
- Hungry Readers Challenge
- Drop Everything And Read (the next level including Writing)
- World Cultures Day (formerly known as International Mother Language Day)
- Sakura Medal Books, Sakura Arts and Sakura Book Trailers
- iCapture

2014-2015 will see the return of popular activities in the KIST Libraries, with some fun new twists! Our **Yatta! Card** and **Hungry Readers** challenge encourage students to embody the IB Learner Profile and to read widely, hungry for more!

KIST will continue participation in the Sakura Medal books, the art contest and book trailers competitions. We look forward to see what our students will create in response to their favorite Sakura Medal books in 2015. The secondary students will also have the chance to document their world and share it with us as the **iCapture: digital photography challenge** will return for another year of student photography.

We're shaking things up in the library, too! While some of your favorite events will continue as ever, we've made some exciting changes to **DEAR** (Drop Everything and Read) and **World Cultures Day** (formerly known as International Mother Language Day) at KIST. This year's DEAR program is expanding to include time to Drop Everything and Write their own stories in Elementary or viewpoints on global issues in Secondary.

Continued on next page

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The International Mother Language Day will now be celebrated as World Cultures Day at KIST to expand our vision for a day to honor international-mindedness and learn more about cultures around the world by sharing our languages, customs and traditions.

New library activities

- International Dot Day (for Elementary)
- Trip to International Library of Children’s Literature (for Elementary)
- Student Center for Excellence in LMC (for Secondary)

Community & Service in the library

If you are thinking of using some of your summer days for community service, you can come to the library from June 18 – 27 to help the librarians with some technical work such as covering books and tidying up the

shelves. This MYP C&S opportunity is open to students in Grades 6 to 10 only. Please contact Ms Hynes via e-mail at leslie.hynes@kist.ed.jp if you’re interested.

Thank you leaving staff

Our LMC Librarian, Satoko Yoshimoto, will be leaving KIST Libraries at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Miss Satoko has been a member of the KIST Libraries staff since 2009. She has been an invaluable member of the KIST Libraries community and she will be missed. We wish her the best of luck in her new position.



The KIST Libraries Team

Grade 4: Honing Research Skills for the Coming Year

Inspired by the Grade 5 students, whose research for the PYP Exhibition blew us all away, Grade 4 has been having a blitz on paraphrasing skills. With their own information report coming up for their final unit, Sharing the planet, can the Grade 4s also tell us everything they have discovered about their central idea using only their own words? Judging by the number of paraphrasing strategies they picked up on while spying on a “researcher”, they’re well on the way to putting together quality reports. Many of them have starred “collect the main points” or “cross out unimportant info” as the strategy they will focus on during their current research. As they put this into practice, they’ve even begun figuring out alternate or additional strategies, and providing some advanced tips for each other to add to our strategies chart. Grade 4, you are well on the way to facing next year’s challenges.

Here are some photos of the Grade 4s at work.

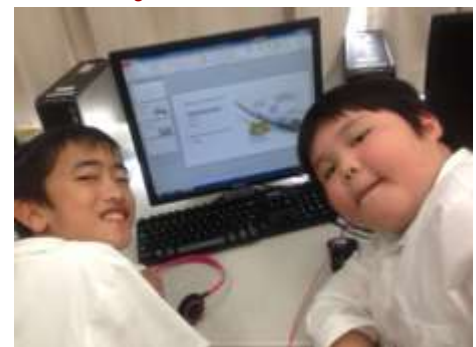
Rachel Parkinson
Elementary ELS Coordinator



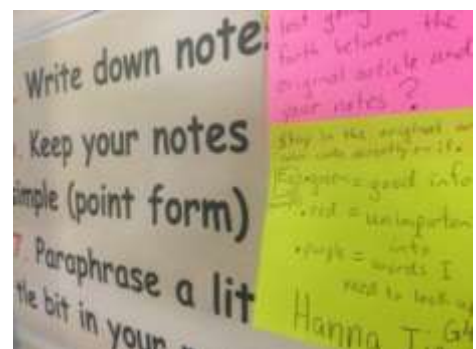
Working out new strategies for paraphrasing a detailed article on pollution.



Finding the best online dictionaries.



Advice for classmates.



The finished product of one team’s research.

Staff 10!

In this month's *Staff 10!*, we are pleased to present **John Rose** who joined us in 2013 as the Science Subject Area Coordinator in the Secondary School. He has been appointed DP Coordinator for 2014-2015.



Sporty Mr Rose enjoying a game of cricket on the field with students between science lessons.

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

I come from a country town in Australia called Dungog (it means hill with no trees in aborigine).

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

Railay Beach, Thailand; it is just a beautiful place.

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

I would love to meet the queen of England to ask her questions about the commonwealth countries and the history of England and how England was formed after Rome left.

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

I don't know if being a good cook is a special skill; other than that nothing I'm just an average Joe.

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

I like to dance ;)

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

Probably my father's tie as he passed away 2 years ago, it holds special memories for me.

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

Fun, loving person that tries to make everybody happy, but is realistic.

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

Actually I wouldn't change anything with my life.

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

Ha, I would like to lose a bit of weight but Japanese food is too good!

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

Make love, not war.



Office Updates

Purchasing shoes

For many students, a new school year means purchasing new school shoes.



Currently, most students are wearing the correct footwear (all black), but for those who are not, we ask that you try to purchase one black pair of shoes over the summer holidays suitable for wearing to school.

We suggest that you try swapping information with your friends or searching on the Internet to find shoes that you like and that match the school's uniform requirements.

School fee payments



The payment date for the first installment of school fees for 2014-2015 was **May 15**. Please ensure that you make this payment as soon as possible if you are yet to do so. Payment deadlines for school fees are **May 15, September 15** and **December 15** every year. In the case of a national holiday, payment is due on the following weekday.

Applications for Summer Programs



Payment of course fees for both summer programs is required in advance. We are unable to confirm places for either program, including those made online, until your payment has been confirmed.

If you are yet to do so, you can confirm your place by completing the payment using the designated summer program bank account, or by paying cash at the school office. Furthermore, we do not issue invoices so please contact the office if you require one.

School lunch orders for 2014-2015



The closing date for changes or cancellations to school lunch orders for the new school year (from August 2014) is **June 11**. For all changes or cancellations, the School Lunch Order Form must be submitted to the office by this date. The form is available from the school website at:

<http://www.kist.ed.jp/files/pdf/enrolment/School%20lunch%20order%20form.pdf>

Please also note that we are unable to accept changes or cancellations to orders after the June 11 closing date.



Sakura Medal "Book Trailer Contest"

Splendid achievement!!! First prize won by Aska and Ibuki (G8A) on the novel "Kokoro-no Mori" (Middle School Section A) and many more prize winners from KIST!



On May 1, the winners of the Sakura Medal Book Trailers Contest 2014, held by the International School Japanese Teachers Committee, were announced. From KIST, 5 entries won prizes, including the First Prize won by **Aska** and **Ibuki** (G8A) with their entry on "Kokoro-no Mori". The prize winners received certificates from the committee.

The contest began in 2012 and is run by the International School Japanese Teachers Committee to promote reading. For the Secondary section, the students read a novel or picture book from the Sakura Medal book list and created a book trailer up to 2 minutes in length. The assessment criteria include: "richness of expression", "usage of digital technology", "would it inspire others to read the book?" and more.

The students participating in the contest created their original trailers with creativity, expression and technique, and demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the application guidelines, while taking care not to infringe copyright. Parents and teachers were not allowed to assist. The participants worked on their projects intensively for two weeks during their Japanese classes in February. The classes participating were G9 and G10 Japanese A (Kamo-sensei), G9 and G10 Japanese B (Phase 5) (Kanazawa-sensei), G8 Japanese A (Matsui-sensei), and G8 and G9 Japanese B (Phases 1 and 3) (Yamashita-sensei). A total of 54 trailers were entered into the contest.

As the winning trailers would be displayed for viewing on YouTube, the students obtained YouTube accounts. Out of the trailers created, some students were not able to apply due to copyright issues.

The students had to overcome a number of hurdles in order to be able to apply on time. For the G8 Japanese A class, the entire process of participation was incorporated as part of their unit "introduction to media" and the students experienced the significance of "public acceptance of information the media wants to distribute".

Takashi Matsui
MYP Japanese Teacher

The names and sections of KIST students winning prizes in this year's contest are as follows:

Middle School, Section A

First Place Award

Aska and Ibuki (G8A)
"Kokoro-no Mori"



Second Place Award

Erika and Ellen (G8B)
"Densha-de Ikou"



Third Place Awards

Yurika and Amina (G8B)
"Watashi-o Shiranaide"



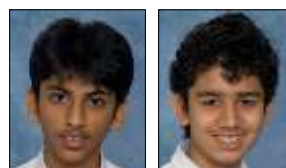
Seina (G8A)
"Password Ango Battle"



High School, Section B

Second Place Award

Raghav (G10A) and **Raj** (G10B)
"Shiiru-no Kakurenbo"



The prize winning trailers may be viewed at:

(Japanese) <https://sites.google.com/site/jtabktrailercontest/winners/ms-a-2014-msawinners14>
(English) <https://sites.google.com/site/booktrailercontestenglish/home/ms-a-2014-ms-a-awards-2014e>

Sports and Athletics Update

It has been another successful season for KIST athletes and sporting teams. Our student athletes have represented our school at a variety of events in Tokyo and the surrounding areas. Sporting the new KIST uniforms, our kids not only look like winners, but also perform with the confidence of winners.

Elementary sports and athletics

Our elementary athletes have competed in three major events this winter/spring season.

The BST (British School in Tokyo) invitational Aquathlon took place on Tuesday, March 18. The Aquathlon is a combined race involving swimming and running. Our students performed very well despite their lack of swim racing experience. Both schools, BST and Nishimachi, support swimming programs within their PE curriculums. What we lacked in the pool we made up for on the track. Our elementary kids again displayed their superior running abilities. We had many excellent individual efforts and managed to capture two medals in the G3 Boys division. Congratulations to gold medalist **Keanu** (G3A) and silver medalist **Soma** (G3A). These boys were the fastest swimmers and runners combined in G3. What a great event!!



On March 21, our mini-basketball team, made up of selected G3 to G5 students, travelled to BST to compete in the ISTAA Championship Tournament 2014. Many schools were present including:

BST, Montessori School of Tokyo, New International School and Nishimachi International School. We entered a "BLUE" team into the top division and a "WHITE" team into the second division. Both teams competed hard through the round robin tournament and managed to make it into the final match. The "WHITE" team fought hard but lost their final match to a strong team from Nishimachi, finishing second place on the day. A great effort! The "BLUE" team made it through the qualifying stage in first place. They faced a very talented team from Montessori School of Tokyo in the final match. Our boys played their best basketball of the day and easily handled their opponents to be crowned the ISTAA Mini-Basketball Champions 2014. Congratulations KIST ballers!

The BST Relay Meet was a friendly event held on Tuesday, March 13 involving selected students from G3 to G5. Three schools were invited to this event: BST, Waseda International and KIST. The top runners from each grade and school faced off against each other in individual 50 m sprints and two relay races, 4 x 50 m and 4 x 200 m. All the work we do in our PE "warm-ups" (sprint training exercises) was put on display as our kids dominated the individual 50 m sprints. Our relay teams, despite the lack of practice and training, ran very strong.

Results

4 x 200 m relay

G3 Girls: KIST 1st (2.44)	G3 Boys: KIST 2nd (2.35)
G4 Girls: KIST 2nd (2.34)	G4 Boys: KIST 2nd (2.25)
G5 Girls: KIST 2nd (2.30)	G5 Boys: KIST 2nd (2.21)



Congratulations Mini-Basketballers!

4 x 50 m relay

G3 Girls: KIST 1st (37.45)

G4 Girls: KIST 1st (36.34)

G5 Girls: KIST 1st (34.18)

50 m individual sprint

G3 Girls

1st: Miu (8.47)

2nd: Sola (8.72)

G4 Girls

1st: Hanna (7.78)

3rd: Rina (8.04)

G5 Girls

2nd: Maki (8.39)

4th: Saki (8.51)

G3 Boys

1st: Sho (7.93)

G4 Boys

1st: Ryuta (7.81)

2nd: Seung Bin (7.88)

3rd: Kishore (7.92)

4th: Kaiser (8.21)

G5 Boys

1st: Arata (7.52)



Our final Elementary event of the year saw KIST hosting 5 visiting schools for the annual ISTAA Elementary Soccer Championships. Schools in attendance included The British School, Columbia International, Montessori Tokyo, Nishimachi and New International. Our soccer club, coached by Mr Sullivan, played 5 very competitive matches over the course of the afternoon. After the five rounds of play no one was a match for the highly skilled team from BST. KIST ended up in 4th place. Better luck next year boys!



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ISTAA and high school sports

Basketball



ISTAA boys and girls basketball season came to an end at the beginning of March. All of our teams had phenomenal seasons under a new coaching staff this year. Basketball has been a strong sport for KIST over the past three years and the teams did not disappoint. All U14/U18 Boys and Girls teams were the defending champions of the ISTAA league coming into the season. For a second year, and U18 boys third year, all of our teams were ISTAA Basketball Champions. Thanks to Coach Miller and Coach Grant for your time and efforts. GO COMETS!!

U14 Girls ISTAA Champions 2013, 2014
U18 Girls ISTAA Champions 2013, 2014
U14 Boys ISTAA Champions 2013, 2014
U18 Boys ISTAA Champions 2012, 2013, 2014



Baseball



The KIST Baseball team had four friendly matches vs St. Mary's International School this season. St. Mary's has a long tradition of baseball development and their teams are always very strong. Although our squad was on the losing side for all of these meetings (1st game 12-5, 2nd game 13-11, 3rd game 12-6, 4th game 19-2) and battling injury, the boys showed improvement with every game. The boys will make good use of this experience for next year's contests. Positive season boys! A big thank you to coach Aki-sensei, Matsui-sensei and the team managers Riko (G8B) and Eimi (G9A).



Futsal



The ISTAA Futsal season is underway and KIST U18 teams return as defending ISTAA Champions. The opening matches have seen some impressive performances from our U18 boys and girls with wins

over Canadian International (Boys 12-0 and 9-1; Girls 11-0 and 8-0), Columbia International (Boys 10-4), British School (Girls 5-2) and International Secondary School. KIST has been extremely competitive again this season.

The U18 teams recently participated in the ISTAA final tournament at BST on June 1. Both teams came into the tournament seeded high. The boys struggled through the first round and lost a hard fought battle to the Canadian School. They continued through the tournament to finish in 4th place. The girls' team entered the tournament in the top seed. They easily moved through the first round defeating KAIS by a score of 6-0. The final match saw our girls facing their rivals from BST. Their regular season match saw KIST winning 5-2. After 50 minutes of play the final score was 1-0 in favor of the host team BST. The girls finished in 2nd spot. This was our girl's first loss all season. Congratulations on a great season girls!!

Big thanks to coaches Mr Jude Ross (U18 Boys), Ms Lucila Zornosa and Mr Ilich Granados (U18 Girls).



Message from U14 Coach Kenyon

It has been a season of development for this year's U14 futsal team. I am happy to say that an almost entirely new group of players, who played as individuals at the start of the season, have worked hard to adopt the tactics and strategies practiced in training and now resemble a team who play for one another. Many of the team took on feedback and criticism in a positive manner and have grown to become more rounded futsal players. All of this was encompassed with an 8-0 win against ISS in our final warm-up game.

I hope that the team continues to grow and gives their all at the ISTAA tournament at BST on June 8. Finally, I would personally like to thank the parents who have attended our games, especially Mrs Sivakumar who has kindly supported us both at our home, and away games.

Mr Kenyon



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ISTAA most valuable athlete awards 2014

These awards are chosen by the Athletics Director (Mr Leroy) and represent the most successful and active KIST athletes at each level of competition in the ISTAA league for the competitive year of 2013-2014. There are many athletes in our school that represent KIST in multiple sports and clubs and this is a way to celebrate their commitments.



U14 Most Valuable Female Athlete

Emiri (G7A):
U14 Volleyball; U14 Basketball ISTAA Champions; U18 Basketball ISTAA Champions



U14 Most Valuable Male Athlete

Ke Yi (G8B):
U14 Basketball ISTAA Champions; U18 Volleyball and Baseball



U18 Most Valuable Female Athlete

Keerti (G11B):
U18 Volleyball ISTAA Champions; U18 Basketball ISTAA Champions; U18 Futsal



U18 Most Valuable Male Athlete

Motoi (G10A)
Co-captain U18 Volleyball; U18 Futsal and Baseball



Most Valuable Graduating Athlete

Miku (G12B)
Captain 3 seasons and 3 time ISTAA Volleyball Champions 2012, 2013, 2014; Captain 3 seasons and back to back ISTAA Basketball Champions 2013, 2014



Keerti, Miku and Emiri with their award certificates.

What a great year in sport for KIST Comets! Keep up the good work and let's get ready for 2014-2015 seasons!! Enjoy your summer holidays and be safe!

Jay Leroy
PYP/MYP PE Teacher / Athletics Director

Sakura Medal Book Report Contest

First prize in the lower grades goes to Homare (G2A)! Awards for 5 others!

This year, the 5th Annual Sakura Medal Book Report Contest was held. The contest aims at developing Japanese ability and an enthusiasm for reading through friendly competition among students attending international schools where different languages are used. Each school was able to select 5 entrees in total to enter a lower and higher division. This year there were close to 100 entries, with 9 entries being from KIST students. The contest provided an opportunity for students to learn report writing skills in class through considering questions such as:

- When reading a book what part moved you the most?
- Why did it move you?
- What were your own feelings?
- What is the best way to structure an essay so that is easy to follow?

Furthermore, parents kindly provided an assigned reading book appropriate to their child's own personal interests, and all of the students challenged themselves to include the things that they had learned at school in their essays. Thank you to all of the parents for your support! The contest will be held again next year so we hope to see lots of fantastic entries once again!

Yoshiko Torikai
Japanese Teacher



Award Winners

Lower Grade Division

First Place Award

Homare (G2A) "Shige-chan"

Second Place Awards

Remi (G2A) "Shige-chan"

Shin (G3B) "Janken-no suki-na onna-no ko"

Encouragement Award

Sara (G3A) "Majo-no shuukuriimu"

Higher Grade Division

Second Place Award

Rei (G4A) "Kokoro ya"

Encouragement Award

Ryuta (G4A) "Kokoro ya"

College Guidance News

College acceptances for the "Class of 2014"

It is our pleasure to announce that KIST has had another successful year in college acceptances. On the right is the list of universities which offered acceptances and offers to the "Class of 2014" up to May 31, 2014. There are some students who are still waiting for their results or are planning to start the application process after graduating from KIST, so this is not a final list for the Class of 2014. This year again, our students were admitted to many major and very selective universities in the world including KAIST, University of Hong Kong, Boston College, New York University, George Washington University, Florida Tech, UC Santa Cruz, UBC, McGill University, University of Toronto, London School of Economics, King's College, University of Edinburgh, Akita International University and Waseda University. It is notable that many students have received partial to full scholarships from universities to cover their tuition and fees.

Congratulations! We wish you continued success in the future!

Attention G9 and under! Major changes to the SAT from 2016

The College Board has announced the following major changes to the SAT from 2016:

1. The essay section will be optional and will return to 1,600 points from 2,400.
2. Obscure words to memorize only for the test will not be included. Only words useful for college and careers will be tested.
3. Evaluate the abilities to read and analyze the content of various types of scientific and other texts containing graphs and charts in the reading section.
4. No penalty points for incorrect answers.

These changes have been made in response to ongoing criticism that the current SAT test does not match the content that students study in school and requires them to put in a significant amount of extra work outside of school and forces families to pay as much as \$20,000 for tutoring and to attend special preparation programs if they want to achieve high scores on the test. The current president of the College Board that offers the SAT said that he made the decision to redesign the test to solve those problems.

For more information, please read the announcement from the College Board at the link below:

<https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign>

Mrs Keiko Okude
College Guidance Counselor
keiko.okude@kist.ed.jp

KIST College Acceptances and Offers Class of 2014

*Scholarship offered (number of students accepted)
As of May 31, 2014

UK

University of Edinburgh (3)
Queen Mary University of London (2)
Ashton University
Durham University
King's College London (2)
London School of Economics and Political Science
University of Birmingham
University College London (3)
University of Exeter
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
University of Nottingham
University of Surrey
University of West of England, Bristol

USA

Birmingham Southern College*
Boston College*
Boston University*
Florida Institute of Technology*
George Washington University* (2)
Lynn University
Midwestern State University
New York University*
Northeastern University* (4)
Pacific Lutheran University* (3)
Pennsylvania State University
San Jose State University
Soka University of America*
Syracuse University
UC Santa Cruz
University of Iowa
University of Oregon* (3)
University of Wisconsin, Madison

CANADA

University of British Columbia* (7)
McGill University* (2)
Mount Allison University*
Simon Fraser University
Trent University*
University of Northern British Columbia
University of Toronto*
University of Victoria*
York University

JAPAN

Akita International University
International Christian University (2)
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
Sophia University, Faculty of Liberal Arts (6)
Waseda University, Political Science and Economics*
Waseda University, Advanced Science and Engineering (2)

KOREA

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

HONG KONG

University of Hong Kong

Alumnus Report

Kei Komaki is an alumnus of KIST's "Class of 2012." He is currently in his second year of studies at International Christian University in Tokyo.

It is already 2 years since I graduated from KIST and entered International Christian University (ICU). ICU is a private Japanese University in Tokyo, and I entered through the admission process for the September entrance for overseas students and international school graduates. It will be my honor to share my experiences and learnings at ICU in order to help you understand how practical and high quality the IB programmes offered at KIST are.

I currently major in physics, while taking the teacher-training courses as well as leading the university drama club. Recently, I played the lead role, Jean Valjean for the big-hit musical, "Les Misérables", which was a great success having a total audience of approximately 800 for the 4 performances. As you can see, I am enjoying my university life, but focusing on my studies and assignments at the same time. ICU adopts the American liberal arts education model, and aims for the students to gain knowledge from a wide variety of fields. Therefore, although I major in physics, I take courses in psychology and history of music. One of the attractive points of ICU is that it offers a lot of classes in English, although it is a Japanese

university. Even if the class is offered in Japanese, textbooks may be in English, or we get to submit or take the assignments and tests in English. The largest advantage of majoring in physics at ICU is, due to the small class size, students get to use experimental apparatus which are usually only for graduate students, while still an undergraduate. As ICU gives strong emphasis on the quality of education, I am surrounded by many serious students with a high level of awareness, which creates a great learning environment for me.

ICU is well known for offering high quality education, and thus is one of the most selective universities for those who enter through the ordinary admissions process from Japanese high schools. Therefore, I was a little worried at first, if I was competitive enough. However, after entering, I found out I had great advantages over others as one who has gone through the IB. For example, I found the differences of Japanese education and that of the IB, in various aspects, such as writing experiment reports, presenting in class, and analyzing literature. I became aware that I was exposed to an advanced level of learning that the Japanese high school



students were not able to experience. I could also feel the advantages of an IB education not only in academics, but in ways through which leadership and communication skills are required, such as participating in extracurricular clubs. Recently, I was asked by a professor in the teacher training course to give a lecture on IB education. After the lecture, I heard many students comment that they too, "wanted to experience the IB".

My message for KIST students is that the IB education you are going through will definitely become a driving force for your future. You are so fortunate to have the opportunity to receive this great learning experience, and I want you to make the most out of it. What you have gone through and put effort in, will be a valuable asset in your life.

Kei Komaki
KIST Alumnus
"Class of 2012"



Study after study has shown that students who participate in IB programmes are better prepared academically for university-level courses, and are more likely to graduate (and graduate sooner) than other students. This year, more than one million IB students worldwide will have participated in the Diploma Programme. IB programmes develop the intellectual rigour and personal, emotional and social skills students need to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world.

International Baccalaureate Organization, 2014

<http://www.ibo.org/recognition/eventsandinitiatives/hei/documents/HED-short-flyer-14032014-FINAL-web.pdf>



IT News

Why KIST decided to go Windows only.

We understand that many organizations operate in an Apple and Windows environment and that in such an environment it seems to users that Apples are able to do everything, and some argue more, than Windows based PCs can. But in our KIST context we simply cannot provide support for both operating platforms and I will try to present you with a few concrete examples of what technical complications we have with hopes to gain your understanding of our decision to only permit access to our network by Windows based hardware (machines with a windows logo key in the keyboard) from the 2014-2015 school year.

Earlier this year we had a science class where a teacher prepared PowerPoint slides with animations that was critical for the students to watch in order to grasp the concepts being taught in their class. Despite Office being available on PC and Mac it is not the exact same thing, the menus the display the keyboards shortcuts you use on a PC compared to a MAC are different. Although PowerPoint generally works on Windows and MAC OS PowerPoints with ActiveX built into the PowerPoint do not. As a result, these students then came to the office asking to borrow a school laptop so they could view the content that would not display on their Mac OS, essentially taking away access to a library for the current G6-G9 students which would not have happened if these students had followed the school recommendations of bringing a Windows laptop as their main computing resource. As we allowed students to bring MAC OS to our school until now, it was quite difficult to get a student to install Windows on their machine when our regulations did not say they could not use Mac OS.

Although Windows 8.1 can run on Mac hardware, the next problem we have for students who do choose to use Windows running in a Mac OS environment is that the technical knowledge needed to do

this for some students is quite difficult. For example, we had a student who had a Mac OS and Windows 7 installed on their machine and due to the way that they installed Windows they ended up running out of disk space for Windows to run and as a result could not load Windows at all. This student was not strong with computers and they lost all their data on their Windows installation as a result. So when Windows stops working in this situation, managing the Mac OS becomes key to solving this problem and that is something we do not have the technical support for. This is another example of why we wish to only have Windows-based hardware used at KIST. Otherwise we risk having students in the unfortunate scenario of us not being able to support them fully.

The reasoning to unify hardware is the same reasoning behind why we ask G11 students to purchase the exact same TI84 graphic display calculator for math class. While there are many varieties of graphic calculators that do the same functions as a the TI84, the button you need to press, the display menus on the screen etc. are not the same for all models. Not unifying graphic calculator purchases creates an inefficient teaching environment as teachers would be required to teach operational use of many different models. By unifying the hardware in this context, we are able to better support students in using the technology and to direct more time to supporting learning.

We had a similar situation in a recent G8 mathematics class with a student who had Windows installed as a virtual machine on Mac OS. The class was using Graphmatica, available for both Macs and Windows PCs. However, the instructional procedures Mr Jones taught the students were not the same for the Mac scenario (CTRL+A cannot be entered on the Mac) and this resulted in the student needing to ask a question as to how to do what was being taught on the Mac. As Mr Jones is

not familiar with Macs, he was unable to support the student, and the student had to figure out how to annotate the graphs on their own (which they successfully did). While this is a simple example that was easily overcome, it does demonstrate that even though Macs seem very similar to Windows PCs, they do not operate in the same way.

This is a simple example of where not having the same hardware as the teacher can interrupt the flow of lessons where it shouldn't and this has the potential to impede learning of the whole class. This kind of thing has been happening across G10-G12 for the past two years. We even had a lesson totally cancelled due to a document created in Windows Word 2010 and locked down for protection to preserve formatting would not open in Office for Mac 2008. Even though Office for Mac and Office 2010 should be compatible they are not a complete match, there is still a substantial gap between features. Using approved software formats does not solve this issue; aligning hardware and software to what the school uses does.

Our objective in creating a one platform environment is to minimize technology related interference to instruction and hence ensure the greatest amount of time spent supporting student learning. We would rather have students use their time grasping new concepts and applying their learning rather than unnecessarily struggling how to use technology. I hope these examples better clarify for you some of the reasons for our decisions related to student laptops requirements.

Thank you for your understanding. I look forward to hearing from you again

Rob Whittaker
IT Software/Hardware Coordinator
KIST IT Office





Family Day 2014

Saturday, May 30