



The Comet

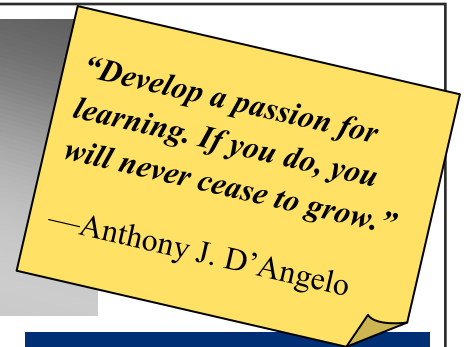


The Newsletter of K. International School Tokyo

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From the Head of School

Here we are at the end of another busy and eventful year, a great time to reflect on our accomplishments, look forward to a restful break, and start planning for the next school year.

We started off the year with a proud announcement of our 2015 graduating class DP results, the best results in KIST history. We were extremely pleased to celebrate with our community the near attainment of our goal of a 36-point average by 2018. With further recent initiatives introduced to support learning school wide, we are confident that we will hit, and hopefully exceed, our target, perhaps earlier than planned (maybe this year???)

Our continued progress from, and further development of, learning initiatives are a result of strong support and collaborative efforts of many members of our school community. This year as well, we saw great progress from our mathematics initiatives. Both our ISA and our PSAT results showed that our students are performing at a high level compared to other schools and that mathematics has become an area of strength for the school. Our strength in English as well continues to improve; we are very pleased to see such progress as a result of the initiatives that have been introduced school wide to support students with their English language development. With regards to writing proficiency in particular, the ISA results for our Grade 7 to 9 cohorts compared against the same Grade's performance last year improved significantly, indicating that the early morning Academic Writing classes are having a positive impact on learning. Also of particular note, in 2014-15 we had only one student who scored in the 80th percentile on all four components of the ISA exam – this year we had nine such students (with six of them from our Grade 6 classes). Very well done indeed!

KIST is fortunate to have amazing levels of commitment and support from our entire community. Staff, students and parents collaborate to deliver wonderful events over the year, events which continue to grow in scope each year. KISTival, the DEAR events, our annual New Year party, World Cultures Day and Family Day were once again fantastic for all who attended (we even welcomed some special 'Star Wars' guests to our DEAR event and were fortunate to have Sampei Hayashiya present Rakugo during World Cultures Day). Involvement in co-curricular events was solid as well with strong representation at off-campus arts, sports, and academic events and well-attended celebrations of learning at our concerts, exhibitions and displays over the year. These events and others demonstrate our KIST spirit and clearly communicate the power of our KIST community.

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DATES TO REMEMBER



June 2016

- 8 (G5-G11) Peer student-led conferences
- 8 (S) Secondary awards assembly
- 8 (G10) Promotion ceremony
- 8 (Nu-G11) Semester 2 reports issued
- 8 Last day of school for students (Half day for students)
- 9 (G9-G10) IGCSE mathematics examination (*Morning)
- 9-24 Office open
- 13-24 Summer program session 1
- 25-Jul 24 School closed

July 2016

- 25-Aug 5 Summer program session 2

August 2016

- 11 (K1/K2/K3) Parent welcome night
- 15 First day of school for all students
- 15 (G6-G10) Mathematics diagnostic tests
- 16 (G1-G5) Mathematics diagnostic tests
- 17 (G1-G5) Parent welcome night
- 18 (G1-G5) English diagnostic tests
- 19 (G6-G12) Parent welcome night
- 19 (G12) University information night



KIST is an IB World School

PYP | MYP | DP

Continued from previous page

Our most recent accomplishment, and one of great pride, is the graduation of our class of 2016. We have a total of 38 graduates this year who have overcome the challenges that the DP has presented and are now awaiting the announcement of their DP results in July. On behalf of all of KIST, congratulations to all families who are celebrating graduation. We wish you the best with your child's plans for after KIST and look forward to keeping in touch with you and learning about future accomplishments. It takes a community to raise a child – the care and support from all members of our community towards our graduates is second to none.

On behalf of the school, thank you to our parents, students and other community members for all that you have done to support KIST in 2015–16. We have an amazing community full of great people and I feel blessed to be working in such a great environment. Thank you also to our Community Association for the leadership they provide in getting all of us involved with school happenings. The valuable time and generous support you provide contributes so much to making KIST the best that it can be. Your efforts are truly appreciated – THANK YOU! And of course, a very big thank you to KIST and KIPS's amazing staff who work so hard to support our school and students. It is a true pleasure working with you to make a difference in the

world through education.

As we look forward to next year, one of the significant events coming up is the merging of our current KIPS preschool with KIST and the opening of a KIPS nursery school for students aged 0 to 2 years at a new location in Morishita. This is a new ambition for the school through which we will become one of the only international preschools in Tokyo offering English education to students younger than one year of age. We look forward to this opportunity to develop future KIST students from such a young age.

There are a lot of interesting articles in this edition of *The Comet* and I hope that you find the contents entertaining, informational, and a source of pride for you as you reflect on the great year that is coming to a close.

I wish everyone a delightful summer break with family and friends and I look forward to seeing you on August 15!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Jones
Head of School

Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

This time of year is a bittersweet time for our Grade 12 students. The last day of classes at the end of April is a celebratory one signifying the end of a long journey but this day also brings stress as students realize that the DP exam session, and the formal completion of their schooling at KIST, is right in front of them.



For the school as well, graduation is a time of contrasting emotions. The relationships developed with our graduates during their time studying with us, some of whom have been at KIST since Kindergarten, are precious to us. We are proud of the fine group of young adults that represent our school each year as our graduating class and take great pride in their accomplishments and in the acceptances and/or scholarships that they receive from the universities they apply to. While we celebrate at this milestone in the students' educational journey, it is also sad to have to say goodbye as graduates leave to commence the next stage of their educational journey at various universities around the world. But we do so with hope that these goodbyes are not forever, that we will continue to keep in touch with our alumni and continue to celebrate their successes and the contributions they make towards making the world a better place for all.

To the KIST Graduating Class of 2016...

CONGRATULATIONS! You have done well to complete your studies with us and we hope that the challenge and rigor of the program at KIST has provided you with a high level of satisfaction as your time with us comes to a close. We wish you the best with your next adventure and hope that you always carry with you a special pride of having been a KIST student. You have made us proud and we look forward to hearing from you in the coming years and to celebrating with you the successes to come. We wish you all the best and look forward to you visiting us at KIST again soon!

Mr Jones



Fundraising for Kumamoto

Blessed with fine weather on Saturday, May 21, we were able to enjoy an ideal day for sports at our annual Family Day this year! (There was actually sudden rain in the area of the school in the evening, so we were very fortunate.)

We were pleased to see so many people participating and enjoying the event. The G12 students, who had just finished their final DP examinations, were also present and participated wholeheartedly to enjoying the games as a group after the long and stressful days in the DP, thereby acting as excellent role models for the younger students.

The number of visitors to the information booths is increasing year by year, and we are pleased that one of the other aims of Family Day—to inform the school community of initiatives for the coming year—is definitely being achieved.

This year, a mathematics information session for G5 parents and students was also held, and we received a lot of positive feedback from those who attended.

In cooperation with the KIST Community Association (CA) and the Secondary SRC, we also ran a special booth to sell products and items from Kumamoto as a way to support the people of the Kumamoto area affected by the recent earthquakes. We sincerely

appreciate the generosity of parents, students and staff who made cash donations to the relief fund or purchased products from the booth. A big thank you also to the parent volunteers and the CA Executive Committee for their support in operating the booth. Thank you also to the school café, Café Tomato, for their cash donation.

The balance for the day is shown in the table below. The total profit of 1,025,147 yen was donated to the Kumamoto Disaster Relief Fund.

In addition to the support activities conducted on Family Day, the SRC proposed providing emotional support as earthquake relief for Kumamoto. This led to various student-led support activities. The Elementary SRC proposed an activity to send pictures and letters to cheer the elementary children in Kumamoto. Thanks to the coordination of Mr Miller, we were



able to send a package of heartwarming and caring messages and pictures to Kojima Elementary School, a public elementary school in Kumamoto. We are pleased that we already received a friendly reply from the Principal of the school on behalf of the students (photos below).

Activities to provide emotional support by the Secondary School are also in progress.

We plan to continue supporting the people of Kumamoto through further fundraising activities such as at KISTival.



	Sales/Donations	Expenses	Profit
School booth (shaved ice)	142,977	76,646	66,331
Student booth (fair-trade coffee)	15,100	4,300	10,800
Kumamoto product booth	709,150	0	709,150
Donations from Ito-en drink sales	3,740	0	3,740
Donations from Café Tomato sales	15,000	0	15,000
Donations box cash donations	220,126	0	220,126
	1,106,093	80,946	1,025,147

CIS Accreditation Update

As the CIS Accreditation Coordinator at KIST, I would like to share with you the progress of our application for CIS accreditation. As most of you will know, KIST applied for CIS accreditation at the end of 2014 and was accepted as a candidate for accreditation in January 2015. We are now coming to the end of the two-year accreditation process and the staff have been working extremely hard, gathering evidence, and building documents for our CIS visit in November 2016.

So far, we have conducted an online survey of parents, students, staff, board members and alumni through the Endicott College in Massachusetts. We analyzed the results of this survey and used the data, along with other evidence, to evaluate how well KIST is aligned to a comprehensive list of CIS standards. Reports were then written detailing this alignment and proposals were made to address areas of non-alignment.

CIS (the Council of International Schools) states that, "accredited status demonstrates that a member school has achieved high standards of professional performance in international education and has a commitment to continuous improvement." It is vital that we show our "commitment to continuous improvement" so we hope to act upon as many of these proposals as possible over the coming months.

I want thank the whole school community for your continued support during this process, and I will write another update as the CIS visit draws nearer.

Oliver Sullivan
CIS Accreditation Coordinator



Tuition Fee Increase



Where will the money be used?

As announced earlier this year, tuition fees for the 2016-17 school year were increased slightly for our PYP and MYP programs. You may be wondering, where the increased funds from this tuition increase will be used by the school.

Although inflation has been very low in Japan, operating costs have risen substantially over recent years, partly as a result of the consumption tax increase from 5 to 8% and also due to market demands on services related to the upcoming Olympics. Part of the increased funds collected by the school will be used to cover such increased costs.

Another large part of the increased funds collected will support a salary increase of 4% for all educational staff to partially offset the 3% consumption tax increase and inflation over the past few years.

As you know, KIST has a goal to attain and sustain a DP average of 36 points. To support us in reaching this goal, various measures have been introduced, such as an increased number of support classes and programs, further curriculum development, and policy refinement. While such measures are important in us attaining our goal, quality teaching is essential as well and an aspect that KIST wishes to continue to develop, recognize and celebrate.

One way we support teacher development is through our teacher appraisal system. Each year, KIST teachers prepare and submit a portfolio of documentation to which feedback is provided on six professional standards. One of the professional standards measures the teacher's impact on learning; teachers collect data, measure their influence on learning, reflect on the progress of their learners, and make plans for future development of their practice. The appraisal system is thorough and it allows us to support our teachers with their professional development, and also to recognize great teaching. To reward great teaching, another part of the increased tuition collected has been allocated to support the introduction of results oriented bonus systems which reward teachers based on appraisal results and other data such as DP results.

While the above changes are modest, we believe that we are doing our best to ensure that the additional funds collected through the tuition fee increase are being put to best use in ways that have direct influence on the quality of teaching and learning at KIST. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Elementary School News

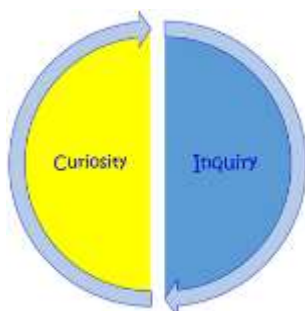
Curiosity and learning

In education we continuously ask ourselves "How do children learn best?" This is a complicated question where numerous theories and even more opinions exist. At KIST, and in line with the philosophy of the IB Primary Years Programme, we believe a constructivist approach best allows for our students to learn in an authentic and purposeful manner.

The psychologist Lev Vygotsky defined learning as "the creation of meaning that occurs when an individual links new knowledge with existing knowledge". Much of constructivist theory is based on this idea, the concept that we build on what we already know. This type of learning goes beyond the school walls; our students can use and apply what they have learned out in the real world while furthering their inquiries.

Soon we will be moving into our summer vacation. This is a perfect opportunity for our students to build on what they have learned and experienced this school year. By reviewing with our children the central ideas they have inquired into or the math concepts they have learned, endless connections and further inquiries can be found during our play and travel over the summer holiday.

I encourage you to inspire your children to continue to ask questions about the world and apply what they have learned over the summer vacation. Curiosity feeds inquiry which in turn stimulates further curiosity! This is a wonderful cycle which can motivate our children to think, puzzle and explore!



I wish you all a wonderful and wondrous summer holiday!

Warm regards,

Kevin Yoshihara
Elementary School
Principal



PYP News

Closing shop for the summer...

Each year when students and teachers reach the end of their last unit, it signals the call for days filled with fun and adventure associated with the summer holiday. Something that you might not have considered is the preparation that goes on after the building closes for the break and reopens in the fall. In this case I refer to the Programme of Inquiry which is constructed along the guidelines of the International Baccalaureate.



The IB Transdisciplinary Themes are published for the schools to use and are important as the written curriculum designed to provide students with a means to explore content that is relevant and

transcends the boundaries of traditional studies. These T.D. themes are the subject matter that will fuel the investigations for the students throughout the year and must be carefully balanced with the explorations that one expects an elementary student to have experienced on their way to graduation. The themes resemble the subject areas that you would find in a more traditional school, such as science, math, social studies and so on. Therefore, teachers and the elementary administrators alike are constantly holding these TD themes and their corresponding Central Ideas up to the light to see that expectations are being met in a meaningful way.

This coming school year, the elementary school will be looking across the board to see that these elements are all in good alignment. This means that a balanced selection of units will fall in place vertically (from the K levels on up to the grade 5), as well as horizontally (from unit to unit within a grade level). These adjustments are highly important so that the learning provided is not only interesting, but is informative in the sense that it is providing an international education with global awareness that will prepare our children for the world that awaits them upon graduation in the future.



Clay M. Bradley
PYP Coordinator



How Does Your Garden Grow?

Have you noticed that a corner in the kindergarten playground has been removed of some of its old and cluttered planters? Have you also noticed that a nice little garden has appeared in place of the old planters? The K1 and K2 students brought together some flowers and vegetable plants and we have created our own little flower and vegetable garden. It has been 3 weeks since we planted it, and already, the plants have started to grow! We have multi-colored flowers, as well as some cucumbers, bitter melon, eggplants, strawberries, tomatoes, chili peppers and various herbs planted in our garden. The eggplants and tomatoes are even starting to fruit! We picked some of the strawberries today and 3 lucky kids got to eat them...one was sweet, but the other two were still sour!

Come check our garden out whenever you have a chance! By the time summer vacation hits, maybe we will be ready to do some more veggie-fruit picking...

Claire Yoneyama and Aya Kurosaki
K1 and K2 Teachers



K2 Living Things Inquiry

The K2s spent 9 weeks studying living things and what living things need to live (Sharing the Planet). The students learned that there are 5 characteristics that define a living thing:

1. Living things move.
2. Living things grow and change.
3. Living things breathe.
4. Living things reproduce.
5. Living things need food and water to live.

Through our inquiry, the students explored our own needs and wants as human beings and as individuals, before selecting an animal and doing some research at home on the animal's needs. The students learned that some animals, even if they live in the same habitat, will have different needs according to the foods they eat and the homes in which they live.

To summarize the unit, the researched information of their selected animal was expressed in the form of a diorama. The K2s spent more than 3 weeks overall working on their individual projects...from planning what their dioramas will look like, actually completing them, and then to finally writing the explanatory paragraphs. It was an extremely big project, and we all showed effort, perseverance, creativity and uniqueness while exhibiting our understandings of the inquiry. The finished dioramas were displayed in the elementary foyer, where we also held our own "Sharing the Planet – K2 Animal Exhibition." Thank you teachers, parents and students who came to support us on exhibition day!

Aya Kurasaki
K2 Classroom Teacher



PYP Exhibition

This year's Exhibition put on by the grade 5 class was filled with success stories. The collection of teams investigated and presented a number of interesting topics with world-wide and local significance. This year also saw the greatest amount of parental involvement that the school has witnessed in recent years. The parents rolled up their sleeves and dug in to help with excursions which supported the teams' endeavors and research. Mr Archibald, Mr Grant, Ms Parkinson, and the school's staff mentors were the facilitators for the entire project that was without a doubt a stunning success. The Exhibition was held on April 28 and 29, 2016 in the school gymnasium.



Central
Idea...

The way we organize ourselves can have positive and negative impacts on us and our environment.



- Animal abuse
- Animal rights
- Bicycle issues
- Cyber bullying
- Fair trade
- Food wastage
- Homelessness
- Japan's military policy
- Littering in public
- Mammal fishing
- Non-organic food
- Overfishing
- Phone zombies
- Traffic safety
- Wasting energy
- Wasting garbage

Elementary Concert

May the force be with you! Our young Padawan learners and Jedi in Grades 1 to 5 have been working hard preparing for their end of year concert in a theatre far, far away in Funabori Hall on June 3. Students have interpreted classic Star Wars moments through song and dance. As Master Yoda would say, truly wonderful the mind of a child is!



Thank You and Goodbye KIPS Hamacho

K. International Preschool (KIPS) opened in August 2014 near Hamacho Station in Chuo-ku. As announced recently, KIPS will be moving to a new location near Morishita Station (just up the road from KIST) and will be restructured as a preschool for 0 to 2 year olds. Final details are yet to be confirmed, but we expect the new preschool to open in August or September 2016. On this page, the current KIPS class teachers share their thoughts about their final year at Hamacho.

Nursery

It was my pleasure to teach Nursery class at KIPS. Nursery class started with only one student and has grown to the biggest class at KIPS. Due to the average age of the students, students cried for mommy and most of them couldn't speak English when they started. Some students couldn't even talk yet. However, they became independent by the end of the year to be ready for K1. They don't need diapers and they can talk. It is always amazing to see how much students grow by the end of the year. I will miss this KIPS, but I also look forward to seeing the new KIPS next year! Thank you for these wonderful two years!

Tina Aya Nishihara
Nursery Class Teacher



K1

Two years ago, I was still working at a different international school, not knowing anything about this new school opening at Hamacho. In the middle of August in 2014, our new KIPS team met in the MPR at KIST to discuss for hours and hours about our coming school year, which was to start two weeks later.

We started this campus with a small number of children. We worked together as a KIPS community – children, parents and all the staff – to make this preschool a better learning place for our children. Since this is such a small environment, our children know each other well between the grades and also all the staff in the office, kitchen, as well as the cleaner. Also, as we offer before and aftercare, 7:30-19:00, some of our students stay here till 19:00 while some start to come in before 8:00. I feel that we became a big family as we worked very close to each other through our school calendar.

We are physically away from KIST. However, K1 and K2 classes visit the KIST Library every week. We also have Hamacho Park and Sumida River to visit and explore a lot with nature. The children had a well-balanced time learning outside and in the classroom, Literacy, Maths and PYP.

As the Head Teacher, I have learned a lot through dedicated parents and talented teachers here. I feel very privileged to have shared this time with all of you. Thank you for these wonderful two years – it happened because all of us love our school and our children!

Eri Ozawa
Head Teacher /
K1 Class Teacher



K2

Being a part of KIPS these last two years has been an extremely rewarding time. From the very beginning we have worked together to build a vibrant learning environment for our amazing students where they feel cared for, inspired and challenged. I have enjoyed watching our students develop their social, emotional and academic skills. I am often amazed at how far they have come. I believe that learning can happen anywhere, anytime and that our greater community is also a vital part of our students' learning journey. It has been wonderful having the support of all the loving families who have contributed to this fantastic learning community we call KIPS. I know that we will all treasure our time here and are looking forward to new adventures at KIST and at the new KIPS campus.

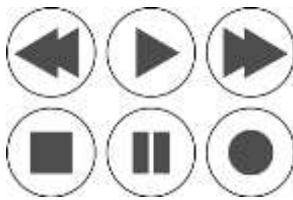
Luke Callaghan
K2 Class Teacher



Elementary ELS

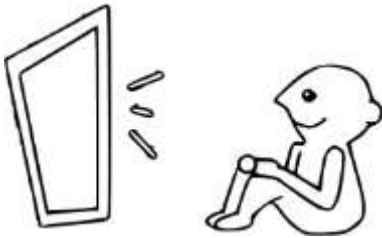
Repeat reading and viewing: A summertime luxury that's good for us

For many of us, summer may be a time when we don't have so much opportunity to speak English, however we can take advantage of our free time to get as much chance as ever to listen and read in English. Movies, YouTube videos, and songs are just some examples of how we can keep listening to English all summer long, and for reading, many books are available online. (KIST librarians recommend this site, for example: <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>). There is also the International Library of Children's Literature in Ueno (<http://www.kodomo.go.jp/english/>.)



Just as with the videos that we send home via Moodle during the semester for math or Unit of Inquiry, remind your child that even when watching movies or videos for pure entertainment, they

have power over the "pause" and "rewind" buttons. Not only is rewinding the first time you watch a video a great way to catch new words but, for the favorites, repeat viewing all the way through – any number of times – is also a fantastic language learning strategy. Once the story, characters, images and distracting details have become familiar, our attention more easily focuses in on the new words and expressions in the video, until we're even saying lines by heart.



Keep in mind also that understanding the main ideas, details and meaning of new vocabulary in what we listen to, watch and read is deepened when we

talk about it. Talking about English language books and movies in your mother tongue is a very effective way to help your child improve their understanding and expand their vocabulary in both English and their home language(s).

Have a fun-filled vacation full of entertainment and language learning!

Rachel Parkinson

Elementary ELS Coordinator / G5 ELS Instructor



Elementary Japanese

During autumn, students in Grades 2 to 5 prepared book reviews for the "All Japan Youth Book Review Contest" and the "Sakura Medal Contest". From the reviews received, representatives were selected and submitted for both contests.



We are pleased to announce that a number of students received awards in both contests.

Tomoyoshi (G3A), Haku (G5A) and Gun Hyuk (G5A) received awards in the "61st All Japan Youth Book Review Contest". Details may be viewed at the link below:

<http://www.dokusyokansoubun.jp/books2015.html>



Tomoyoshi (left), Gun Hyuk (middle) and Haku (right) with Elementary School Vice Principal, Mr Bradley.

Sara (G5A) and Taimu (G5B) received awards in the "Sakura Medal Contest". Details may be viewed at the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/site/sakurajpncontest/home/result/2015-16nian-du>



Sara (left) and Taimu (right) with Elementary School Principal, Mr Yoshihara.

Students will be asked to write more book reviews over the summer holidays in order to further develop their writing skills and prepare for next year.

Yoshiko Torikai

PYP Japanese Teacher

MYP News

MYP students and teachers look back on a successful year

KIST students, teachers and parents have worked hard all year. Wednesday, June 8 marks the end of another successful year for the IB Middle Years Programme at KIST.

There have been a number of highlights throughout the year for students in the MYP. Building on work from the previous year, teachers have been revising their MYP courses to find better alignment among the concepts, objectives and assessment within each of the MYP subject groups.

As the school moves toward an evaluation visit from the IB in November, the school is reflecting on how to strengthen its work with Service, to fully implement a program-wide Approaches to Learning focus on skills, and to explore Interdisciplinary learning for all students.

Grade 10 students completed a round of Personal Projects. For the first time, KIST is participating in project assessment through the use of an electronic portfolio system.

In addition to the regular academic work of the MYP, students in Grades 7 and 9 also had the chance to experience camp trips. These trips allowed students to put their understanding of concepts in their school subjects to work in new and exciting contexts.

Finally, students were able to experience a wide variety of school-life activities. These experiences, ranging from the arts to athletics to co-curricular activities all offer a rich education for students to grow as well-rounded individuals.

Robert White
MYP Coordinator



G7s working on a joint English/Individuals and Societies unit.



Experiential learning at the G9 camp.



G9s interview G10s at the MYP Personal Project Exhibition.



G6s in the LMC during the Spelling Bee.



G10s visiting the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo.



Ms Aoe speaks to G6 to G8 students during the semester one Wall of Honor ceremony.



G8s after they added their hand prints to the Wall of Honor; they were recognized for their work with the IB Learner Profile.



MYP students during a break participating in the KIST MUN scrimmage.



At the starting line of the KIST Cross Country.



Japanese teachers meet to discuss the self-study conducted for the school's IB evaluation visit.

Launch of the "Career Experience with KIST" Program

Expanding minds, building dreams

While opportunities have long existed for internationally minded job seekers at large Japanese companies, more and more small to mid-size Japanese companies are now looking to hire increasing numbers of foreign employees to support with globalization and expansion overseas. Globalization trends are not new, even to Japan, so there has long been pressure for Japanese companies to internationalize their workforce. Compared with Singapore, with a 36% foreign labor force, Japan's 1% foreign work force indicates a significant need for Japan to make more efforts to compete in today's increasing globalized world.



With Japanese language proficiency and strong understanding of Japanese culture, KIST graduates offer globally minded companies in Japan an attractive option to hiring foreign staff from overseas. KIST believes that through developing long-term relationships with Japanese and Japan based multinational companies, we can be of support in fostering connections to employees that support companies in managing their globalization challenges.

One related initiative that we are proud to have introduced this year is the Career Experience with KIST program.

Through this annual program, all KIST Grade 9 students participate in a two-day placement at Tokyo-based companies of interest where they learn about the host company, what types of work are available at the company, and about how they might be able to contribute to the company in the future. While some companies may involve the students in authentic work tasks related to the student's career of interest, the objective of the program is not for students to gain work experience but rather for them to gain an understanding of how the company contributes to society, what types of careers are available at the company, and whether they would be interested in working at that company at some time in the future. KIST hopes that, through this experience, company visits will expand the minds of students and build dreams for the future, dreams which influence our students' university and career choices as they enter their final year of the MYP and start planning for DP course selection. KIST also hopes that company hosts have opportunity to share about their globalization intent with KIST students and plant seeds which may develop into long-term relationships for further opportunities such as internships or future employment.

This June we were fortunate to have had strong community support to make placements for 33 students at 15 locations around Tokyo in fields such as finance, IT, manufacturing, logistics, education, sales and other areas. We look forward to expanding the placement offerings next year and ask for your support in doing so. If you know of a company that might be interested in supporting the Career Experience with KIST program, please contact Yukinori Honda, our Development Manager, in the main office.



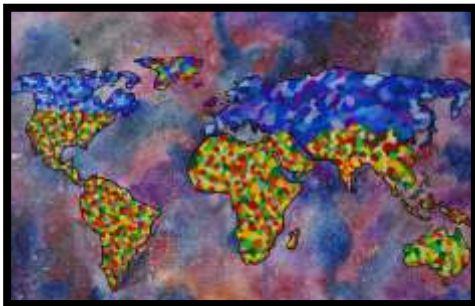
Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this project a reality for KIST! ☺

Grade 7 KidZania Excursion

On Thursday, May 12, all of the Grade 7 students set out on an excursion to KidZania in Toyosu. This was part of the interdisciplinary unit of study they are currently working on in both Individuals and Societies and Language and Literature. The aim of the excursion was to observe a real life model of a successful theme park. Whilst on the excursion the students worked in groups to observe the marketing and advertising techniques that KidZania uses to cater to the needs and wants of a global audience. It really was both an educational and a fun experience! Now the students are going to work in groups to create a business proposal and an advertising campaign for their own theme park.



G12 Graduate Visual Art Exhibition 2016



The graduating Art class of 2016 worked tirelessly to present this year's graduate exhibition, and the effort and hard work paid off to bring a dynamic, diverse and creative display of such a range of media and concepts. The DP Visual Art course does not sit a formal exam, but the exhibition is the culmination of their work which is portfolio and studio based.

This year's exhibition was titled "After the Imagination..." and suggested a theme of showcasing what happens beyond the initial idea, and all of the hard work, conceptualizing and creation that is needed in order to make art. By no means is this an "easy" or "non-academic" subject just because there isn't an exam! The students also study and document their processes, and analyse the work of selected artists in detail.

There were 11 students this year, all with different concepts and themes in their work. The work featured are just some of the pieces in this year's show, and we have worked hard to make work with variety; sculptures, installations, video installation, paintings, prints, digital work, drawing, wire work and ephemeral art are just some of the media the DP students work with. We hoped you enjoyed visiting the show as much as we enjoyed presenting it to you!

Emma Justice
MYP/DP Visual Art Teacher
...and the Graduating Visual Art Class of 2016

Artwork from top right:
Felix
Saya
Liam
Ryu
Aashvi
Masaki
Misol
Hamish
Cindy
Hee Dae
Ayaka



The World Scholar's Cup

KIST students compete in Tokyo round of the World Scholar's Cup

During the Golden Week holiday, KIST students from Grades 6 to 10 traveled to Senzoku Gakuen in Mizonokuchi, Kanagawa prefecture to participate in the Tokyo round of the World Scholar's Cup.

The competition sees students from across the Kanto Plain region for a two-day event. Participants vie to demonstrate their knowledge of a range of academic subjects. Competitions included Collaborative Writing, Debate, Scholar's Challenge (a written exam), and the Scholar's Bowl (a quiz show-type activity).

This year, KIST was represented by five students in the junior division and eleven competing in the senior division. After a very short preparation period, the students did very well in the competition.

Three junior team members – **Kishore** (G6B), **Aditya** (G7B), **Nimit** (G8B) – are planning to attend the global round of the competition in Bangkok at the end of June. We wish them good luck. Student reflections from the Tokyo competition are below.

Emiri (G9A)

A word which I would choose to describe my first WSC experience would be, "Remarkable." From the moment we entered the auditorium until we departed, every second of it was spectacular. At the event, we got to participate in debates, writing, scholar's challenge and scholar's bowl, either as an individual or with your group. Regardless of how, in my case, we only were a team of two instead of three, my partner and I tried our best and as a result, we won three medals each. I felt that through this event, I was able to interact with many students from various schools and became closer with the students representing KIST. Some highlights of the event include the talent show that I participated with few of my friends, and the moment when our names were called on stage for the award ceremony. Every time we would see a name of a student from our school, we would scream and cheer as loud as we could, and celebrated our victory with one another. Considering the short amount of time that was available, I think what we have done and shown is a remarkable result. However, this would have not been possible if it weren't for the teachers who supported us, taught us and made us the scholars we are now. I would like to thank Mr White, Ms Evelyn, Ms Jesuthasan and Ms Snow for everything that they have done for us, and giving us this wonderful experience.



KIST scholars and their alpacas at the end of the competition.

Akino (G8B)

The day started in a stadium where the opening ceremony was held. I remember feeling very anxious and uneasy. I was in a place I have never been before, ready to compete with people I have never met before. I looked over to the music player that was blasting off as the two men walked up on stage. I felt better when they cracked up their funny anecdotes as the crowd went wild. I loosened up a little after writing a really long essay, but then I was told that we were going to start to debate. Three debates. My heart sank. I was informed about the debates earlier during the club sessions, but I was not ready. I tensed up, and started frantically trying to talk everything over with my partner to make sure that we were ready for it. Were we? Oh no, not at all. But did we have fun? Oh yes, a lot of fun. We ended up winning 2 debates. Meeting with other people from different schools during the debates were very fun, and looking at different types of ways to debate was also very interesting.

That was the end of all the hard part, and the next day was very chilled out and easy. We took quizzes with buzzers, listened to more of the WSC team's anecdotes, watched talent shows, and well, *most importantly*, adopted our alpacas. The debate showcase was also very interesting since I was able to see the top debaters, the cream of the crop, fight each other. Then there was the award ceremony. Hundreds of people were called out on the stage as they received silver and gold medals, along with trophies. I remember sitting on my chair feeling proud every time a student from our school was called.

All in all, going to the World Scholar's Cup was an extraordinary experience, and I was able to enhance my essay writing, debating, quiz taking and social skills. It was both entertaining and educational, and so, I hope to see more students from KIST in the crowd next year.



Akiko (G8) and Lilya (G8) prepare for the opening of the competition.



Gabriel (G10) at the podium as Shouheng (G10) looks on.



Nimit (G8), Kishore (G6) and Aditya (G7) take notes during the debate competition. The boys will also compete in the global round in Bangkok in June.



The KIST senior team prepares during the last club session before the competition.

Math Field Day Reflections

Math Field Day for students in G7 to G11 was held on Wednesday, April 20 at Camp Zama in Sagamihara.

Math Field Day is an annual competition that takes place at Camp Zama, a United States Army post in Japan. Many students from different international schools take part to compete against each other individually, and in groups. When we got to the place of the competition, we were first given individual tests to take. They were just like ordinary tests that we take in school. Then, after taking the individual tests in the morning, we were grouped together with six other students, who were all from different schools. Although it took a little time, we were able to enjoy our time together after getting to know each other. As groups, we participated in a competition where we tried to solve as many math questions as possible in a limited amount of time. We also completed a designing project, where we had to think creatively in order to make a simple machine that would complete a specific task. We did not win any of the competitions as a group, but it was altogether an enjoyable learning experience.

GaOn (G8B)

Today, I went to math field day. It the first time for me participating in such contest. After spending time there, I have realized that it is not just a gathering of nerds, but actually meeting where people who love math gather and talk about math questions that interest everyone. After solving math questions, we conducted an interesting experiment making a paper car without any engine. We had to build a car using a paper box, straw and some tape. At first, it was really hard and absurd making the car. However, by cooperating with my team mates, I successfully built a car that ran about 3 meters without power. From this event, I have learnt communication skills with team mates and more about physical studies such as making paper cars. I hope I can participate next year as well and next time want to come back to school with a medal on my neck.

Chan (G10A)



New Face

Since the last issue of *The Comet*, we have welcomed a new staff member to our team—**Dennis Ota**—who is currently performing various relief duties, but will take over as the new PYP PE Teacher from 2016-2017. On behalf of the school community, we wish you all the best in your new role and hope that you enjoy your time with us.



Dennis Ota
Relief Teacher
(PYP PE Teacher)

Office Updates

Updating your registered details

This is a reminder to families of the importance of keeping your registered details up to date. This includes details of your postal address, telephone contacts and contact details of your nominated emergency contact persons. It also includes details of any changes to your child's health condition. For example, if your child develops a new allergy, contracts any major illnesses, undergoes an operation etc., please be sure to inform us so that we can update his/her emergency card.

To update your details, please complete the **Change of Registered Details Form** (available from the school website at the link below) and submit it to the office or send an e-mail to info@kist.ed.jp.

<https://www.kist.ed.jp/node/5>

School fees payment method

To ensure efficient office operation and to avoid the possibility of problems caused through money handling, we remind you that all school fee payments (including payments for school uniform orders) should be made via bank transfer. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and ask for your understanding and cooperation in making payments by bank transfer.

Donation report

Every year on March 11, we offer a moment of silent prayer for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake at KIST. In conjunction with this day, we hold a free dress day where students and staff are encouraged to wear clothes that are red and white, the colors of the Japan flag. Those who choose to participate are asked to pay a small fee which is donated to orphaned children in Miyagi prefecture. This year, we were able to donate a total of 69,558 yen to this cause. Thank you to all those who participated for your support.

Grade 9 Camp

G9s kick-off the MYP Personal Project at camp trip to Yamanaka-ko

Grade 9 Camp took place the second week of May. Scheduled to coincide with students beginning to transition to the final year of the MYP, students and their homeroom teachers had the opportunity to work on a variety of activities to help build their sense of unity and to experience physical activities in a beautiful natural setting. The trip had a curricular focus on an introduction to the MYP Personal Project which is to be completed in Grade 10. The following gives a sense of the students' experience of the camp and its activities.

Chae Hyun (G9A)

We G9s went to a one-night excursion to Yamanashi from May 9th to May 10th, and I was able to learn new things from my experiences during this G9 camp.

On the first day, we were divided into two different groups for the group activities which were cycling, canoeing, and hiking. Unfortunately, because the weather wasn't cooperative enough and it soon started to rain, we had to change our plans a bit and shift the hiking to the next day. Even though we had to canoe and cycle under the continuing rainfall on our first day of the camp, it was surprising to find myself actually enjoying the activities; I overcame my fear on canoeing for the first time in my life by getting surrounded by the wonderful view of endless nature, and by sharing thoughts with my friends; I can't forget the swans that swam right beside our canoes. Also for cycling, I was able to feel the strong bond between friends by cheering each other, helping each other, and sometimes by waiting for each other while riding our bicycles under the rain – and I would say that, because all this happened, I was able to enjoy all the activities in such weather condition. The group games that we played that night (we couldn't do the campfire because of the rain) once again reminded me that we are all in this together, and that each of our friendship is really valuable and significant that would stay in our hearts for the rest of our lives.

We started our second day by getting to know more about the next year's Personal Project. During this session, we were able to learn new things such as how we can decide our topics for the Personal Project and how we can approach to our chosen topics. We also received individual letters written by the current G10 students who just finished their Personal Projects, and I was grateful for the G10 student who wrote me a letter on how G10's Personal Project would be like. From the letter, I learnt that time-management is the key to enjoy working on the Personal Project, and I thought this letter can really help me when I start working on my project next year. After the Personal Project explanations, all G9s went hiking together to a mountain called Mt. Ishiwari. The hardest part during this activity was that we had to climb the endless stairs and steep slopes just



Grade 9 students and teachers at the shrine on Mt. Ishiwari.

like the endless view of nature, and yet everyone tried their best to go to the destination. It was heartwarming to see people cheering and supporting each other by saying things such as "You can do it!", "Good job!" and "You are almost there!" which once again showed how powerful the friendship and the mind of caring is.

Overall, I thought this camp was a great opportunity for us to get closer with our friends – or even with someone we didn't play together before, and deepen our understanding on the terms 'together' and 'each other' – trying hard together, laughing together, enjoying the moments together, sharing ideas to each other, caring each other, supporting each other, and cheering each other. I really had fun in this one-night excursion with everyone in the grade despite the worries that I had at the beginning of the camp, and I hope everyone else in G9 made a lot of great memories at the camp as well!

Kevin (G9B)

For me, the G9 camp was the event I was excited for since the beginning of grade 9. Personally throughout my childhood camp was an activity that I did often, because my dad took me to a lot of camps in different places during occasions like the summer break. From my personal experience I believe camps are not just something that's fun, but also, you can learn different lessons in life because the lifestyle you live in camp is contradictory from the convenient life you live usually.

In our grade 9 camp this time, unfortunately it was raining for the whole of the first day and we had to cycle and canoe in the rain. However, for me cycling and canoeing in the rain didn't feel as bad as it seems, because we had extra clothes and being wet wasn't a problem so we could break out our shells and just splash into the rain. So even though it was raining the cycling and canoeing activities were very enjoyable. Personally speaking, I really liked the canoe because it is not an experience we have often, and I was very bad at rowing the oars but once I got used to it I was able to improve a lot so that was one skill I was able to develop in the camp.

Continued on next page



Mr Otis leads a singalong with the G9s.

Continued from previous page

However, the worst part of the camp came after this. We couldn't do the camp fire because it was raining! For me the camp fire was one of the main events, and that being cancelled was very shocking. However we did the activities we were planning to do in the camp fire indoor, which was overall enjoyable. We sang and played games, and Mr Otis played his guitar for us which I thought that was very good in creating a very happy mood for everyone erasing the fact that we couldn't do the camp fire.



On the bike trail around the edge of Yamanaka-ko.

Also in the next morning we had a session for planning our personal projects, which I thought helped me get an idea about what and how I want to make my personal

project look like. But considering everything, overall I thought that the camp was enjoyable.

Igor (G9A)

On May 9th and 10th, G9 went to an overnight trip to Yamanakako, and there we did various activities, such as canoeing and cycling, that required many skills, such as collaboration, critical thinking and interpersonal skills.

Throughout the camp, I learned various things and generally had a great time. Some things that I learned at the camp include; how to work with others more effectively. Specifically, the activities we did on the first night required a lot of collaboration (such as selling your product). Here, I noticed that each person has his/her own unique idea, and it is important to listen to them to make sure we can get the best possible outcome.

Another thing that I learned is more about the Personal Project. Thanks to the activity on the second day, I already have a pretty good idea on what my topic will be for the PP, and it was really helpful to get the ideas that the teachers might have. I thought the camp as a whole was very fun, especially the three main activities (while quite tiring). My favorite activity was the cycling, as we did for quite a while, and I also like cycling myself. Some people complained about the rain that was pouring on us while doing these activities. I thought differently, and felt that the rain had added to the excitement.



Sharing advice on the Personal Project in letters from the G10s.

Overall, this camp was a great experience for me, where I learned a lot of things and also had a great time. If I were to rate the camp, it would be from a 9.5/10 to a full 10/10.

Athletics Update



Staff vs students basketball match

On April 23, ISTAA basketball players took on a small group of staff athletes in our KIST Staff vs Students friendly match. Representatives from the U18 girls' and boys' teams as well as the champion U14 boys all combined to challenge the staff. This year, despite a great late 4th quarter run by the staff, the students won by a score of 59–49. Special recognition to our team captains **Tyson** (G12B) and **Oshin** (G11A) for leading their fellow students to victory on the day.



KIST Middle School Basketball Champions



On the Saturday morning of March 12, 2016, the KIST Comets U-14 Boys Basketball team gathered at Sangenjaya Station before heading to The British School in Tokyo (BST), hosts of the ISTAA Under 14 Basketball tournament 2016.

It was a round-robin tournament, meaning that all of the teams played each other once. The team with the best record at the end of the tournament would be declared ISTAA champions.

The Comets were quietly confident, as they had won all of their games leading up to this tournament. However, some of the more experienced players were quick to remind each other of last year, where we had lost our first game to the eventual champions of the tournament. So the team knew that they would need to be focused from the very beginning of the tournament.

The Comets' first game, against TIS, proved to be their most dominant performance of the tournament, winning 52-5. They then went on to win their second match against CIS, 26-13. After playing back-to-back games the Comets faced BST, who have proven to be tough opponents in past competitions. With fatigue starting to set in, the Comets traded baskets with BST in the early stages of the game. However, after a tense first half, the Comets started to edge away from their opponents in the second half, eventually winning the game 26-16.

After playing three straight games, the team had a welcomed rest before playing their last match. In the final game, the Comets finished as they had started, with a fantastic win against valiant opponents, KAIS, winning 49-18.

With an unbeaten record of 4-0, the KIST Comets were declared the ISTAA U-14 Basketball 2016 Champions!

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank those students and parents who came along to support the team, as well as the support we received at all of our home games at KIST.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of the players on an excellent (undefeated) season!

Scott Grant
Middle School Basketball Coach

Team members:

G6B: Kaiser, Roi

G7A: Deniz, Dohyun, Koju, Preston, Jihoo

G7B: Den, Jun

G8A: Aryan, Kenzo, Kai



Court 1

	BST	KIST	TIS	KAIS	CIS
2	BST	16-26	25-8	40-11	20-17
1	KIST	26-16	52-5	49-18	26-13
4	TIS	8-25	5-52	20-20	11-30
5	KAIS	11-40	18-49	20-20	17-29
3	CIS	17-20	13-26	30-11	29-13

ISTAA Cross Country Invitational



The ISTAA Annual Cross Country Invitational took place on April 8, 2016 after many cancellations and rescheduling due to inclement weather conditions.

A total of over 275 runners from grades 1 to 12 representing eight different schools participated in this year's event. Our KIST runners made us very proud this year, bringing home many bronze, silver and gold medals.

Special thanks to Mr Jay, Mr Aki and Mr Lee for organizing and running another wonderful event. Also, special thanks to the KIST Community Association volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!!

Congratulations to these student athletes!!



ISTAA Cross Country Invitational		
	Boys	Girls
Grade 1		
Gold:	Luca (G1A)	Uta (G1A)
Silver:	Sora (G1B)	Aina (G1B)
Bronze:	Akihiro (G1A)	Akane (G1A)
Grade 2		
Gold:	Roan (G2B)	Kate (G2A)
Silver:	Naoki (G2A)	Sara (G2A)
Bronze:	Mark (G2A)	Emily (G2A)
Grade 3		
Gold:	Killian (G3A)	
Silver:	Ryo Y. (G3B)	
Bronze:	Sebastian (G3B)	Mano (G3B)
Grade 4		
Gold:	Kaito (G4B)	
Silver:	Lance (G4B)	Aina (G4B)
Bronze:		Homare (G4B)
Grade 5		
Silver:	Keanu (G5A)	
Bronze:	Soma (G5A)	Elena (G5B)
Grade 6		
Silver:	Ryuta (G6A)	Manaka (G6B)
Bronze:	Hugo (G6A)	Nanami (G6A)
Grade 7		
Gold:		Ririka (G7A)
Silver:		Alia (G7A)
Bronze:	Den (G7B)	
Grade 8		
Gold:	Nimit (G8B)	Karen (G8B)
Silver:	Ewan (G8B)	Emily U. (G8A)
Bronze:	Namiki (G8B)	Katherine (G8A)
Grade 9		
Gold:	Keina (G9B)	
Bronze:	Tom (G9A)	Ayumi (G9B)
Grade 10		
Gold:		Seina (G10B)
Silver:	Moe Min (G10A)	Leia (G10A)
Bronze:	Shouheng (G10A)	Selena (G10B)
Grade 11		
Silver:	Ken (G11B)	

Logo Design Winner

KIST is proud to announce the new logo for our Future Horizons Scholarship Program. **Chae Hyun** (G9A)'s design was the student submission selected. Her rationale for the design is as follows.

Thank you Chae Hyun for your support!

"In my logo design, I tried to emphasize the KIST spirit by using all four house colors, drawing the KIST logo, and the KIST motto. Also, I drew the graduation hat and the book to represent education and scholarship."



Developing Community Connections

With Japanese language proficiency and strong understanding of Japanese culture, KIST graduates offer globally minded companies an attractive option to hiring foreign staff from overseas. Through developing long-term relationships with Japanese and Japan based multinational companies, KIST can be of support in fostering connections that support companies in managing their globalization challenges. We believe that such relationships will benefit companies in globalizing their workforce but also that such relationships will benefit our students by allowing them to utilize their skills and abilities, explore opportunities, and build dreams of how they can make positive contributions towards making our world a better place for all. We see such relationships as a win-win for all parties involved.

In order to establish and further develop KIST connections with our local community, KIST has been networking with local organizations and inviting a number of company representatives to come in and learn more about the school and about what we do. Already we have made some foundational relationships that have enabled collaboration to begin in areas such as:

- Guest speakers from organization visiting regular classes to provide real-life perspective on issued related to our curriculum.
- Sites being arranged for off campus excursions for regular classes and also students in our summer camp program.
- Establishing our first ever Career Experience with KIST program where all KIST Grade 9 students spend a two-day placement with local organizations of interest to learn about the host company, what types of work are available at the company, and about how they might be able to contribute to the company in the future. This year 33 students participated in placements at 15 local companies/ organizations.

To build on the progress made thus far, we would like to ask our KIST community members for support with further developing our community connections in the coming school year. Some areas where support is needed are:

- **Expanding our placement options for the Career Experience with KIST Program**
If your company or organization would be able to host KIST student(s) for a 2-day placement in June of 2017, we could love to hear from you. Through sharing time with professionals in a career of interest, and experiencing real life knowledge and skills, students will have the opportunity to expand their career options and gain knowledge of the various career choices.
- **Providing guest speaker workshops or seminars**
If you or someone you know are able to share

practical knowledge and experience with KIST students, we want to hear from you. We are planning on holding various workshops/seminars that bring the real world into classroom experiences. In international community there are many who can share with students of all ages. Some Economics seminars and IT Programming workshops are being planned. Why not share your passion with curious minds?



- **Volunteer opportunities**
We aim for our students to take action to make the world a better place for all. Since its foundation, KIST has actively participated in volunteer activities. Some activities have been small in scale but some have been major ones as well, such as earthquake relief efforts in Tohoku, food drives through Second Harvest, building houses overseas through Habitat for Humanity, and this year we have a group of students and teachers going to Cambodia to empower underprivileged youth through the TASSEL project.
- **Donations to the Future Horizon Scholarship Program**
As a whole school effort to make the world a better place through education, KIST established the Future Horizons Scholarship Program to provide opportunity to academically inclined high school students, located domestically or overseas, whose personal context does not allow them access to quality international education. The program is funded through corporate and individual sponsors and hence provides excellent opportunity to further support globalization in Japan and increase access to quality international education.
- **Contributions to KISTival**
KIST does not receive any subsidies from the government to support with operating our school and hence community support is essential in the school being able to deliver quality education and to keep tuition as low as possible. Our biggest fundraiser of the year is KISTival and we are grateful to the strong community support we receive each year for this event. We are always looking for corporate sponsors or groups/individuals able to offer entertainment during the event. If you or someone you know may be able to support our annual festival, through tax-deductible donations, revenue generating entertainment options, or other ideas, please do contact the school office.

If you are able to support your school in developing community connections that expand minds and build dreams for our students, please do not hesitate to get in contact with our Development Manager, Yukinori Honda in the office at yukinori.honda@kist.ed.jp.

Spotlight on Clubs



Cross Country Club (Elementary)

The Elementary Cross Country Club in its present form, finished its fourth year in May this year. In this time, the club has been successful in both the number of members as well as the results attained from the students' hard work. Each successive cycle has produced students who are able to run farther and enjoy the time we spend together in a more meaningful way.

The club can point to many of the participating runners in the school's Cross Country as well as the ISTAA Cross Country who have performed at a high level, as having used the club as a training ground for their performance. Many of the club members in the second cycle of the year join with that particular goal in mind. Strength and endurance are not the only focuses that are important with the group, proper training as well as stretching techniques are emphasized to enhance every runner's experience.

The runners range from grades 3 to 5 and have a lot of enthusiasm for running and exercise. The supervising crew made up of Mr Vodden, Mr Yoshihara and Mr Bradley are runners themselves and spend the time on the course pushing their own limits as well as over-seeing the development and safety of each club member. If you are looking for a fun, productive way to apply yourself next school year, look to the Cross Country Club for an experience that could truly be "Life Changing"!

Clay Bradley

Cross Country Club Co-Supervisor



Drama Club (Secondary)

This semester, the Secondary Drama Club has been working hard to prepare an original skit for the End-of-Year Concert. Building on the skills many of the students developed during the Drama Intensive Workshop in the fall, the club members (in Grades 6–10) enjoyed a number of improv games and activities.

Each Wednesday afternoon, the club has worked towards our final performance. For the first few weeks, in addition to getting to know each other, we also wrote and performed a number of short scenes or sketches. A few students wrote longer scripts to share with the group. One of these, written by **Leia** (G10A), became the idea we selected to expand and adapt for the concert.

As we prepared the script, we gathered lists of elements we wanted to include: a story of two different worlds, much like that of 'Romeo and Juliet' or 'West Side Story'; a connection to school life and summer vacation; a story with both comedy and authenticity; and a story with music. While we are still busily revising and rehearsing, we are excited to share the final product with you at the End-of-Year Concert.

Steven Otis

Drama Club Supervisor



KIST is a really special place: the only school where ALL of the students arrived 10 - 15 minutes early, excited and ready to go, the most motivated group of students we've worked with, the biggest age range but most inclusive, and overall the best teamwork we've seen.

Celine Held from Drama Intensive regarding her experience leading the Secondary School drama workshop in January 2016

Staff 10!

In this month's *Staff 10!*, we are pleased to present **Helen Campbell** who joined us in August 2013 as the PYP Art teacher in the Elementary School.



Ms Campbell and a feline friend.

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

I am originally from Edinburgh in Scotland, although when I start to count the years, I have actually spent more time living in London and the SW of England...Perhaps I will share something interesting about Edinburgh, apparently JK Rowling wrote her first Harry Potter series at the Elephant House café there.

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

Oh my! This is a tricky one as I have been extremely privileged to live in quite a few different countries and travel extensively around this amazing world of ours. I love nature, expanses of space, whether desert, water, mountains, forests, or city skylines, and feel just at home and happy in quiet environments as I do in a buzzing busy city metropolis...to name one favourite place I'm afraid is impossible, as there are too many!

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

One of my closest friends when he was in elementary school ☺...or Gandhi!

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

I have been told that I take good photographs.

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

I write poetry and am working on refining my haiku skills. Words often inspire my artworks (nature and travel also) I don't broadcast this much, but I am a practicing artist and have exhibited my artwork in London, Singapore, and several times in both Vietnam and Japan.

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

My family, friends and of course my two cats, who sometimes disguise themselves as monsters!

Oh and freedom...

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

Dependable, determined, calm, compassionate, humorous, easy going and creative. But better to ask those who truly know me ☺

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

No, I am most thankful for the life I have led. I try to live life with no regrets.

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

Personal:

- I am always trying to learn and improve myself – here are just some of the things that I am striving to improve: my cooking – I love to cook and eat!!; my downhill skiing technique and cross country skiing which I learned for the first time last year; my swimming – I go every week, not so sure if my style is improving though (I swim like a

dog, with my head above water!), but I love it as a form of relaxation and exercise; doing Pilates; and getting out of the city on hiking trails when the weather is good.

- Finding peace and balance in life.

Local/Cultural:

- Seeing as much art as I can absorb while in Tokyo town, it's a great city for culture and catching live music performances whenever possible.

- Learning more about haikus.

Global:

- Searching for ways to contribute to humanitarian and animal welfare while in Japan.

- Being a responsible consumer, particularly of plastic items.

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

Yikes... just one?

- Carp diem!

Don't sweat the small stuff – life's too short!

- Try not to waste...anything!

- Grow, learn, teach. Try to give back to those less fortunate than yourself.

- Keep wondering...don't just google it! discuss it, guess it, debate it!

- Laugh lots ☺

- Learn to love and appreciate everything around you.



Library News

Sakura Medal Book Bowl

For the second time, KIST students participated in the **All Japan Sakura Medal Book Bowl**. Eleven KIST students visited Yokohama International School to compete against other students from schools in and around Tokyo.

Our team worked hard to prepare, taking detailed notes and practicing together to do their best. The competition was in April, but our team started preparing way back in September. New members joined us in January and did double time to catch up. Congratulations to all of you!

Interested in joining us next year? The Sakura Medal club is open to G4 and G5 students. Please see Ms Hynes in the Elementary Library for more information.

Winners of KISTv 2016 Sakura Book Trailer

This year, the Library Team has launched the **KISTv Channel** on the KIST Office 365 video site. This channel aims to share information about library events and to display students' work. Last March 25 during the secondary school assembly, the winners of the 1st KISTv 2016 Sakura Book Trailer were announced and awarded with a token, certificate and iTunes card. Special thanks to Mr Jones, Mrs Shindo (CA President) and the teachers from the Japanese Department for helping us choose and decide who will be awarded with the following:

- ◇ Best in Video and Sound Editing – **Amina** (G10B) and **Yurika** (G10A)
- ◇ Best in Script and Storyline – **Emiri** (G9A) and **Kevin** (G9B)
- ◇ Best in Animation and Effects – **Manaka** (G6B) and **Se Young** (G6B)
- ◇ Best in Book Interpretation – **Miu** (G10A) and **Erika** (G10A)
- ◇ Best in Graphic Illustrations – **Natasha** (G9B) and **Hitomi** (G9B)
- ◇ Best in Middle School Category – **Julie** (G8A)
- ◇ Most Trending Book Trailer – **Natalie** (G10B) and **Nikita** (G10A)
- ◇ Best Actor – **Tomomi** (G9B)
- ◇ Best Actress – **Maki** (G7A)
- ◇ Best Director – **Ellen** (G10A)
- ◇ Sakura Book Trailer of 2016 2nd Runner-up – **Natasha** (G9B) and **Hitomi** (G9B)
- ◇ Sakura Book Trailer of 2016 1st Runner-up – **Ellen** (G10A)
- ◇ **Top Award** - KISTv 2016 Sakura Book Trailer of the Year – **Aska** (G10A) and **Ibuki** (G10A)



Mr Cowe with Asuka (G10A) and Ibuki (G10A).



Mr Cowe with Tomomi (G9B).

If you would like to watch the winning book trailers, please visit the **LMC Moodle Page**, then click the **KISTv** logo. The videos are only shared within the KIST community so you will need your official KIST e-mail address and password to access their work. Congratulations to all the winners!



2016-2017 sneak peak

Without giving too much away, the Library Team wants you to know that we have some exciting things planned for next school year. You'll see some old favorites like **DEAR** and **World Cultures Day**, but with a new twist. We're spicing up DEAR with a "Mystery Book Swap" and "Blind Date with a Book". Ever heard the expression "don't judge a book by its cover"? Well, we'll be hiding some book covers, and you can choose based on the blurb. Who knows? You might find your new favorite book! And to think, you might never have picked it up.

KIST Library Team



Service Opportunity in the LMC

The Book Blog Team

Research studies claim that there has been a decline in the number of students who like reading books once they move-up to middle school (Gander, 2013; VanSlyke-Briggs, 2011). This could have negative impacts in our KIST community as we believe that "reading is a life-long learning skill" that will benefit us in the future. This situation pushed me to create a group of students to come together and organize a book blogger's forum whose aim is to review and recommend books to the LMC which we think will be interesting to our fellow students.

This "Book Blog" Service is a new opportunity and platform that will promote "reading for pleasure" in the library. My team reviewed several books that we think is worth the student's free time to read. We exchanged ideas and discussed why these books must be included in the final recommendation list.

Our discussion forum is found on the LMC Moodle page. If you have time, you can read our book reviews and brief introductions about our chosen books. Some factors that we considered in choosing the books were based on how good it is in terms of teaching us important life lessons and how to deal with trials and difficulties. Most importantly, we considered books that will be appropriate and aligned to the school philosophy.



Fortunately, we were sponsored by the **CA Library Committee** with 30,000 yen to buy all of our book recommendations for the LMC. Thanks to the **KIST Community Association** and to the **Library Team** for allowing us to voice-out our opinions in helping our library address the needs of declining readership in middle school.

Nikita (G10A)

Cited works

- VanSlyke-Briggs, K. (2011). What went wrong: Middle School Students and Alliteracy. In *North Caroline Middle School Journal*. Available from <http://www.ncmle.org/journal/PDF/Dec11/VanSlyke.pdf>
- Gander, L. (2013). Put an end to the middle school reading decline. *Library Media Connection*, 32(3), 20.

Standardized Test Results



Congratulations to the following students for attaining above the 80th percentile on all 4 components of the International Schools Assessment (ISA) test sat by all KIST students in Grades 6 to 9 in February!

WELL DONE!!

Nanami (G6A)
Hugo (G6A)
Kishore (G6B)
Minn Thant (G6B)
Kaiser (G6B)
Michiko (G7A)
Ririka (G7A)
Natasha (G9B)



The PSAT exam is taken by all G10 students at KIST. Results are in and once again our students have produced some AMAZING results:

Mathematics: 69% of our students scored above the 80th percentile

Reading and Writing: 57% of our students scored above the 60th percentile

Overall Score: 52% of our students scored above the 80th percentile with 33% scoring above the 90th percentile!

A BIG PAT ON THE BACK FOR OUR GRADE 10s.

If your child is looking for practice resources for the PSAT or SAT, check out the official College Board online SAT preparation resource available **FOR FREE** through Khan Academy at the link below:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

Secondary SRC



With the 2015-16 school year coming to an end, the SRC is busy tying up loose ends and constructing the figurative bridge (i.e. the upcoming SRC Executives Elections) that will lead it into the next year and beyond. After an eventful year, it is important to look back at all that has been achieved by this dedicated team of young individuals. Starting with our first ever, student-run Amazing Race-style event "Survival of the KISTest", the SRC made efforts to strengthen bonds between grade levels, promote teamwork skills, and provide an opportunity for students to gain familiarity with each other at the beginning of the academic school year. The SRC then went on to organise an information booth at KISTival and the annual Winter Concert in November, garnering a total of ₩29,580 for the SRC General Budget and Student Fund, both of which were used to fund events and long-term investments for the students and wider school community. Some of these involved the first SRC dance of the year, "Diamonds in the Sky", as well as the first ever Middle School Dance and High School Dance, which were organised as a response to student feedback that the dances could be made more engaging for certain age groups. Long-term investments in the form of dance party lights were made through the purchase of three versatile dance lights, which not only served to cut down dance expenses by approximately ₩23,000 in total, but were also rented out to other events such as the World Cultures Day fashion show in February. The Student Fund was used this year to provide funding for the purchase of several board games for the LMC as requested by the House Colour Heads, the provision of food and drinks for the enhancement of the DP Art Exhibition as requested by G12 DP Visual Arts students, the provision of celebratory cake at the Graduation of KIST Class of 2016 as requested by the G12 Graduation Committee, to provide funding for the TASSEL Family Day fundraiser as requested by the KIST TASSEL team, and to fund the End of Year House Colour Victory Pizza Party as requested by the House Colour Heads.

Following the observation that the field is not an accessible area for a majority of students during lunch times due to its long-upheld reservation as a football field, the SRC was able to implement the Open Field Day proposal, thus creating a day each week when ball sports are prohibited to make the field open to all students at lunch time. The implementation of Wednesday Open Field Days received an approval rating of 73% from the student body and as such was established, with the help of Secondary School Principal Mr Cowe, as a permanent component of KIST lunch times.

The administration team has supported the SRC throughout the year, be it to help donate our March Free Dress Day revenue to the child victims of the 2011 Fukushima earthquake or to lend materials for events, and among other collaboration, helped to implement our Bathroom Air Fresheners proposal as well as create an SRC Video Archive on the school website. The SRC again worked with the administration in organising a Logo Design Contest for the new Future Horizons Scholarship Program, through which G9A **Chae Hyun's** logo was chosen and will soon be displayed on the school website.



The SRC, under G10B **Rachel's** lead, also collaborated with the administration and CA on the Kumamoto project for family day, which aimed to raise funds for donation, and to set up a pen pal system between KIST students and the young victims of the Kumamoto earthquake to provide moral support and a much needed sense of normalcy during a difficult time.

On March 25, the SRC was able to host another KISTalk event in which students from grades 10 and 12 (**Aska, Kunthu, Kuni, Rachel** and **Jiu** from G10 and **Kei** from G12) presented interesting talks about their experiences both in and out of school through which they also shared important messages and advice to other students in the audience. The theme of "sharing ideas" was also promoted by the continuous funding the SRC provided for the printing and activities of its 4-year-old brain child, the KISTeens student magazine.

The Arts and Sports Committees are also (albeit younger) brain children of the SRC under the lead of heads **Muskan** (G12A) and **Thayalan** (G11B), who continued to provide events and organisation relevant to Arts and Sports, such as numerous artistic competitions, biweekly lunch time concerts, competitive relay events and a myriad of lunch time field reorganisations. The SRC has also recently confirmed the 2016 Electoral Commission, an independent group of graduating G12 students who will not be voting in this year's elections. **Pranita, Saya, Motoi, Raj** and **Angela** have sworn in to organise the SRC Executives Elections and look to ensure a smooth transition between this year's SRC and the next.

All in all, the SRC has had another productive year in improving student life at KIST while also providing opportunities for students in all grade levels to hone leadership and collaborative skills, increase interest in student politics and cultivate an appreciation for democracy and community service. We hope that we have been a positive presence to secondary school students and the wider KIST community and look forward to another great team and year ahead. Yet, this representative group and its functions can only be as good as the students of the school, who mould the SRC with their suggestions. The SRC would like to thank the secondary school student body and the wider KIST community for a fruitful year, and would like to remind all readers to Let Your Voice Be Heard.

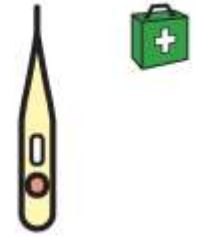
Angela (G12B)
President

Nurse's Notes

Thermometers

Body temperature

When taking the temperature of students who visit the nurse's room, I often ask them what their normal body temperature is; however, most of them do not know the answer. As you may be aware, a person is said to have a "fever" when their body temperature is 1°C or higher above normal. In general, it is said that a person's normal body temperature is the average of temperatures taken 4 times a day: when you get up, in the morning between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., in the afternoon between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., and in the evening after 8:00 p.m. If you do not know what your normal temperature is, I recommend trying this when you are feeling well.



What part of the body is best for measuring temperature?

Different parts of the human body have different temperatures. The temperature of peripheral parts such as the hands or legs, and the surface of the face is unstable as these parts are influenced by seasons and the environment. On the other hand, the temperature of the inner parts of the body – known as the centrum – are stable in order to maintain the functions of the brain and heart. The temperature of the inner part of the body is called the "core temperature", and measuring this gives a stable temperature. However, since this is the inner part of the body, it is difficult to measure it in an ordinary setting. Therefore, the **armpit**, under the **tongue**, **ears** and **rectum** are usually used to measure the temperature which most reflects that of the core, without putting too much strain on the body.

Advantages and disadvantages of different types of thermometers

- Thermometers that measure temperature on the forehead are often used for infants and younger children who are unable to remain still. The advantage of these is that the temperature can be taken quickly; however, temperatures obtained by this method should only be used as a rough indication. As mentioned earlier, as the temperature of the face (forehead) is influenced by the seasons and the environment, it is not an ideal position for measuring temperature accurately.
- Thermometers that measure temperature in the ears tend to produce inaccurate results. This type of thermometer measures body temperature by detecting the infra-red rays emitted from the ear-drum and its surrounds. Therefore, the thermometer must be inserted deep in the ear towards the ear drum to avoid the influence of the outside environment. If this is not done, it tends to produce errors due to its physical nature.
- Thermometers that measure temperature in the rectum are suitable for obtaining an accurate temperature that is not affected by the environment. However, it may not be practical to take a person's temperature by this method due to hygiene issues, as well as the difficulty in doing so in a public setting. This method is usually used at NICUs for infants, or when performing autopsies.
- Thermometers that measure temperature in the armpit or under the tongue are not influenced by the environment and so will produce stable measurements. However, when considering hygiene, there can be resistance to using the same thermometer someone else has used, even if it has been sterilized. This may also be the case even with family members. If the tongue is selected as the position to take temperatures, each family member may prefer to have their own thermometer. Under the tongue is an ideal position to take body temperature, but also may be disadvantageous if the thermometer has to be shared.
- Thermometers that measure temperature in the armpit may be shared without concern for hygiene. As the axillary artery, which is connected to the subclavian artery, runs directly under the skin of the armpit, it enables body temperature close to the "core" to be measured. The armpit is the best position to take the most accurate temperature in a home setting.

I hope this information is useful for families when selecting a thermometer.

Makiko Whittaker
School Nurse



LEAP News

LEAP Semester 2 has come to an end. We thank all parents who participated, and hope to see you again next year.

We are offering various play based and academic programs for KIST students over the summer holidays. Please see more information about our programs on the LEAP website (<http://www.k-leap.jp/summer-programs>). Spaces are filling up fast so get in quick!



If you have any questions about the Summer Programs, please do not hesitate to ask. We look forward to hearing from you.

Anna Holdaway
LEAP Coordinator



Summer Day Camp (New K1 – G6)

Our Summer Day Camp is a play based fun filled program where students get to explore their interests and build up their inquiry skills. This program can also be a great opportunity for students who are in Tokyo to have fun in an English environment, and make friends in their new school.

K1 – G2 students take part in various play based activities at school. This year we are offering: technology, water play, dance and movement, music, story writing, art, t-shirt making and many more!

G3 – G6 students will be visiting various locations for fun excursions every single day! This year students will be going to the Haneda aircraft carrier, local farms, have backyard tours of many factories, and even have visits from a TV host to teach them how to be a good presenter.

Check the website for further details!

Summer Academic Program (All grades)

At KIST, we run regular diagnostic testing throughout the year to ensure that students are on track with their learning. Did you know that students' scores typically drop over the summer holidays?

Our Summer Academic Program is an intensive two-week program to help your child to brush up on areas that they are struggling with, and even extend their learning onwards into the next grade.

Diagnostic tests for English and mathematics are held in the first week of school, so we highly recommend taking this opportunity to get your child out of 'holiday mode' and back into 'study mode' for the start of the school year.



Applications for the LEAP Summer Programs are still open:

Session 1 applications close:
Wednesday, June 8

Session 2 applications close:
Monday, June 16



University Guidance News

Women in Japan conference at ASIJ

A group of high school students from ASIJ (The American School of Japan) organized and hosted a one-day conference: "Women in Japan 2016: Realities, Challenges and Opportunities" on Tuesday, March 8 at the ASIJ campus. A total of 19 KIST students from G9, G10 and G11 participated in this informative program with Ms Christian, Ms Snow and Mrs Okude. Below are comments from some of the students who participated. Information about the event and presenters may be viewed at: <http://women-in-japan.com/>

I learned that the issue of equality among women takes many different forms.

Depending on your career choice, you will come across this issue differently. It was a very eye-opening experience, learning about what to look out for and how to be more cautious.

Sara (G10B)

I learned about Japan's current condition about gender balance. It (Ms Asako Osaki's session) was similar to Ms Renge Jibu's talk where Japan's ranking is 101 out of 147 countries etc. The rankings of Japan was very surprising because I did think that Japan would be ranked low.

Meng Ting (G9A)

It was especially interesting to listen to Mr Sachin Shah as I believe when looking at gender equality, oftentimes many believe women only are involved. However, it is an international problem which also affects men. In this sense, it was very interesting to hear the male perspective and I believe it is important for men to also understand the importance of gender equality as Sachin Shah mentioned a number of economic benefits which may arise from not only an equal workplace but an equal world.

Nina (G11A)

Mrs Akie Abe's speech was inspiring and moving, and is definitely something that I will remember for as long as I will live. Mrs. Abe's speech told her story about the role of being a female and a wife of the prime minister.

Emily (G9A)

Through Ms Kazue Kurihara's discussion, I have learnt that achieving a high degree PhD will be beneficial throughout the whole life. Also I have learnt that having a wide range of relationship with various people, it will be helpful in the later life. Last of all, I have learnt that I must speak out and say my opinion or else, things will not go as you initially planned.

Seina (G10B)



ASIJ Women in Japan panel.

KIST Spring University Fair

Thank you attending the fourth annual university fair at KIST. I hope you were able to gather information directly from the admissions officers and faculty members at their tables. This year we hosted 36 representatives from 19 universities. We opened the door to other high schools and 7 students from Kato Gakuen, Gyoshu, 2 students from Ritsumeikan Uji and 8 parents from ASIJ came to attend the fair. As always, the reps enjoyed a relaxing time after the event with a range of refreshments provided by the KIST Community Association.



KIST Spring University Fair

Class of 2016 college and university acceptances and offers

This year again, KIST has had a successful year with college applications. A total of 33 students out of 38 graduates sent applications and have so far received 103 acceptances and offers from 68 colleges and universities. There are several students who are still waiting for the results, or are planning to send applications after graduation to universities in Asia-Pacific and South America. Congratulations and wishing you all the best for continued success in your future!

Mrs Keiko Okude

Career and University Guidance Counselor
Office hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10:00-17:00
keiko.okude@kist.ed.jp

College and University Acceptances and Offers

KIST Class of 2016

*scholarship offered (number of students accepted)
As of May 27, 2016

UK

Brunel University London
City University London
Imperial College
King's College London (2)
London School of Economics and Political Science
Queen Mary, University of London
Royal Holloway, University of London
Royal Veterinary College, University of London
St. Georges, University of London (2)
University of Bath (3)
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol (2)
University College London (3)
University of Edinburgh (3)
University of Essex
University of Exeter (2)
University of Kent (2)
University of Lancaster
University of Leeds
University of Nottingham
University of Reading (2)
University of Strathclyde (2)
University of St. Andrews (3)
University of Warwick (3)
University of West London
University of York

USA

Bard College
Bentley University
California State University East Bay
Fordham University*
Georgia State University
Hofstra University
Indiana University
Maryland Institute College of Art
Millsaps University
New York University
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
Pace University (2)
Parsons School of Design
Philadelphia University
Rutgers University
Sacramento State University
San Diego State University (2)
SCAD Savannah
School of Visual Art
SUNY Buffalo
SUNY New Paltz

SUNY Stony Brook University (2)
Syracuse University
UC Riverside
UC Santa Cruz
University of Alabama*
University of Oregon*
University of Illinois (3)
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska*
University of San Francisco
Virginia Commonwealth University

CANADA

Algonquin College
Sheridan College

JAPAN

International Christian University (ICU) (4)
Keio University PEARL (3)
Nagoya University (2)
Tokyo International University
Waseda University SILS
Waseda University Social Science
Waseda University Political Science (2)

HONG KONG

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology* (2)

UAE

New York University Abu Dhabi*



Alumnus Report

Keerti Palanisamy is an alumnus of KIST's "Class of 2015." She has just finished her first year in the BS Engineering program at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, in Minneapolis, USA.

This time last year, I had just finished the most stressful period of my life following my DP exams. My first year of college was just a few months away and I was really nervous. Now, I have come out as a confident, independent person who doesn't need her parents to sign contracts or ride airplanes.

My college experience began with Welcome Week. Most colleges in the US have this week where they introduce freshmen to the campus before school starts. Throughout the week, we learned the school chants, interacted with many people, and we also had various reflection activities which tied to things I had learned in the IB. Not even three months had passed and I was already talking about the Learner Profile attributes. The U had rented the Sea World Aquarium and Nickelodeon Universe amusement park for one night and that was the highlight of the week. (Actually, the homecoming football game which was free for all freshmen was pretty sweet too).

The rest of the school year was great. Academically, the DP had prepared me for the rigor of my courses as an engineering student.

Also, because the university was so big, there were all sorts of classes offered. The freshman seminar about children and talking animals and the pottery class I took provided me with a break from my awfully challenging technical classes. Socially, there was always something to do on campus so I was able to have some social life. On campus, you can join clubs, go to games, or even take a road trip to Florida to do community service like I did during Spring Break. I found my niche through joining my sorority and pushing myself out of my comfort zone by running for positions. Never did I imagine that I would be a senator in the undergraduate student government or a secretary in the College of Science and Engineering's student government for the next school year.

"Now Keerti, wasn't it cold" is the number one question I get from people. I'm not going to lie. Yes, it was cold, but it was a different cold from Tokyo since you don't feel it as much. Plus, Minnesotans are very prepared for the cold and after



Keerti standing in the back row, second from the left.

minus ten degrees, it doesn't really matter if it gets any colder.

Initially, it was somewhat hard adapting to my new life. But making new friends, taking risks, and putting myself out there really helped. The only advice I can impart at this point is, try to become really close with the people in your dorm because they really do shape your college experience. Now, when I think about my new family I made and the things I am going to be involved with this year, I can't wait to return. I mean, how many students can boast about the Mississippi River floating in their campus or a train running through? Go Gophers!

Keerti Palanisamy
KIST Alumnus, "Class of 2015"



Message from the Board President

Now that the DP examinations, promotion and graduation ceremonies and the elementary and secondary school concerts are over, another year is about to end.

As our Head of School Mr Jones has already informed you, and as we communicated with you on Family Day, the Board of Directors has recently revised the school's mission statement as follows.

KIST Mission Statement (revised for 2016-17)

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

In the previous version of the statement, the phrase 'highly motivated children' left for interpretation by the reader as to how we expect our students to demonstrate motivation. In the revised version, therefore, the word 'highly' has been replaced with 'academically' to make clearer to all in what ways KIST expects students to demonstrate their motivation to the school. Similarly, the school's vision statement has also been revised in line with the changes to the mission as follows.

KIST Vision Statement (revised for 2016-17)

K. International School Tokyo seeks for all learners to demonstrate excellence in academics and a commitment to making the world a better, more peaceful place.

The school's mission and vision define KIST and as such, drive all the decisions that we make as a school. In order for a clearer understanding of the vision, we have added the phrase, 'all learners to demonstrate excellence in academics'.

In April 2011, I assumed the role of Head of School in order to realign the school with our original founding vision through the introduction of various educational initiatives. In August 2014, I handed over the role of Head of School to Mr Jones, and with the strong leadership and cooperation of the administration team, we were able to further pursue these initiatives.

As a result of the reforms and initiatives we have made, the students have demonstrated significant progress over the last five years. This is evident from the fact that students are achieving scores that are well above the world average in external examinations such as the ISA (International Schools' Assessment), PSAT, IGCSE and the DP, as well as internal assessments.

Based on these results, the Board decided to revise the school's mission and vision statements.

We recently conducted a satisfaction survey with families and found out that the majority of parents are satisfied with the school's direction of aiming for high academic levels. In order to achieve high standards, it is important that parents have the same expectations as the school.

We ask for the continued support of the school community in working together in order to achieve our goals.

Yoshishige Komaki
Board President



Family Day 2016

Saturday, May 21

