



**Principal's Message**

***KIST Students Taking Action!***

One of the fundamental parts of the IBO philosophy is the idea of action. Although described using different names, all three programmes promote the idea that students, over time, should take action as a consequence of their learning. Through the idea that the context for learning provides an opportunity for students to make connections to their own lives, students are constantly encouraged to think about their learning using questions such as:

**How does what I have learnt change what I think, feel and do?**

Earlier this week I was delighted to be part of our school's Crisis Management Meeting and be witness to two of our Grade 3 students acting as representatives and sharing a plan for action and change that their class has developed.

Picture this....

A meeting amongst six school teachers on a Monday afternoon at 3:30pm. Two very confident young Grade three students enter the room and wait quietly for the meeting to start. When the meeting starts and the two students are invited to speak, they step forward and with great confidence and enthusiasm they introduce themselves and begin their presentation.

The students carefully explain that they have been learning about disaster preparedness in their unit titled "What a Disaster". They explain that through their discussions, learning activities and an idea that was shared amongst students about an emergency card for students, they had developed an idea that they would like us to consider adopting as a school.

Within minutes they had the agreement and praise of the committee and a new school plan to promote school and student safety was embraced.

Over the coming weeks we will be introducing the new student safety card through various activities at school. In short, the idea is that students will keep an emergency card that is completed by families in their bag. Although the use of this card will be voluntary, the school will promote the use of this card and remind families through various means of the importance of keeping these cards up to date.

**Congratulations Grade 3 on a great action project! We look forward to using this idea to keep our school community safe and sound.**

Sasha Marshall  
School Principal

**Dates to Remember**  
**Term 3**



**April:**

**22nd:**

Earth Day

**23rd:**

Study Skills Workshop  
Grade 8 and 9

**26th-6th:**

School Holiday

**May:**

**14th:**

MYP/DP Parent Evening

**21st:**

PYP Parent Evening

**23rd:**

Grade 5 Exhibition

**24th:**

K1-G5 Sports Day

**26th:**

K1-G5 Holiday

Secondary Normal Day

**31st:**

Secondary Sports Day

**June:**

**2nd:**

K1-G5 Normal Day

Secondary Holiday

**3rd to 6th:**

No ESL or Clubs

## **Safety and Responsibility at School**

A few safety issues have arisen recently that require whole school community cooperation.

### **Earrings**

For safety reasons, it is our school policy that earrings are not to be worn at school. However, when ears are pierced for the first time it is necessary to wear stud earrings for a period before changing earrings. This results in a clash with our school policy. We would like to suggest that students who wish to have their ears pierced do so in the summer weeks, in order to avoid this clash.

### **Field**

We would like to ask that students and parents leaving the school use the path around the outdoor play area at all times. Walking across the play area interferes with PE lessons, play times and the bus turning circle. This can be both dangerous and disruptive to staff and students.

### **Going Home and Supervision**

Throughout the school day, we work hard to ensure students are safe by providing adequate supervision. For primary and ECE students, this supervision ends at 3pm (2pm for ECE students not in aftercare and 4:30 for students who have after school activities). We would like to ask all families to ensure that students are going home as soon as their school day has finished. We ask that all students have left the school grounds within 15mins of the conclusion of their school day. For students who finish at 3pm, this means they should leave the school grounds by 3:15. For students who have an after school activity, they should leave by 4:45.

Your support and cooperation with these issues will help us to keep our school a safe and positive place.

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### **Primary Class Parents**

For many years now, we have had a system of class parent organizers for our ECE classes. These parents have performed a range of duties including compiling class contact lists, organizing birthday celebrations and coordinating events. Through discussions with staff and the PTA, we have decided to introduce class parents for the primary school. The role of these parents is to:

- Create a class contact list and phone tree.

- Lead the organization of a class stall for the school festival.

- Assist the class teacher with organization of events, collection of resources and material making if and when required by the class teacher.

As there are only about 8 weeks left until the end of the year, we will introduce these class parents in the new school year. At this point we would like to invite you to think about whether this is a way that you could help to support the school. Early in the 2008-2009 school year we will invite families to volunteer for this role.

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### **Update for ECE Playground Use**

Last newsletter I spoke of our discussions regarding parent use of the ECE playground between 2-3pm. The ECE staff have discussed this issue in order to find a way that we can offer parents a place to wait and to socialize, thus contributing to a sense of school community. In our discussions, staff discussed the benefits of being able to use this space for aftercare students. Many staff felt that this is difficult and too crowded if there are also parents and other children in the playground at this time. So, unfortunately we have decided to continue to keep the playground closed so that it is available for aftercare groups. Some families have been using the deck space outside the office area and this seems to be a successful way of spending waiting time together on school grounds.

### **Primary Assemblies**

This is a reminder that families are now invited to attend our primary assemblies. These assemblies include important school messages, sharing and performances by students, singing and often a story from me! Our next assemblies are on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of May and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Primary assemblies start at 9:15 am. We hope to see you there.

Amanda Cooke  
Acting Lower School Principal

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## **Second Harvest Food Bank Drive**

Thank you for all the donations of food for the food bank drive. We collected ten boxes of food and three large bags of rice. These have been delivered to the Second Harvest Food Warehouse. Thank you to the many families who generously donated to this worthy cause.

Ms Conrick and Grade 9 students

## **Reader's Cup Challenge**

This year we will again be running the Reader's Cup Challenge for students in Grade 6-10. Teams of four students may enter and the event is held to encourage students to read and enjoy a range of novels. The novels this year are: The Conch Bearer, Journey to Jo' Bourg, Fat Boy Swim, Natasha's Will, and Samurai's Tale. The challenge requires students in their teams to answer a variety of questions about these novels. The students are not expected to have read all five novels, it would be a good idea if the students have read at least two of the novels. Please encourage your son/daughter to be involved in this event.

Ms Conrick, Ms Cox, and Mr Hough

English Department

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## **Requesting documents**

We would like to remind you of the procedure for requesting documentation from the school. The following documents should be requested using the "Request for Documentation Form" which may be downloaded from the school website:

- Proof of current attendance
- Record of past attendance
- Re-issuance of school reports
- Letters of recommendation

All requests must be made by submitting the form to the office. Payment must be received before documents will be issued. Please note that two week's notice is required to prepare letters of recommendation. For all other documentation, one week's notice is required.

Craig Larsen

Admission Officer



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## **Report from Ohanami Spring Festival**

This year's Ohanami Spring Festival was held on April 6, a fine and clear day. We were fortunate that the day proceeded very smoothly with no problems. Thank you to everyone who helped make the festival a success.

Thanks to the large number of people who attended on the day, we raised the following amount to put towards the school's participation in Habitat for Humanity:

238,998 yen from the PTA booth

265,796 yen from the staff food booth (takoyaki, barbecue, churros and corn dogs), K Shop, school café and sales of various items

123,000 yen donations for the sushi booth from the Kurihara family (K2) and Izutsu family (K3)

TOTAL: 627,794 yen

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who assisted at the festival, including those who provided donations of food. Thank you very much.

## Water Day

On behalf of our school celebrations committee we would like to thank all of our families, students and teachers for their participation in our recent Water Day Celebration. Through your support we were able to raise enough money to build not one, but two wells for families in Cambodia. Later this week this money will be sent to the Kasumisou Foundation and then off to Cambodia! Thank you for your support!



## K Teacher/Oxfam Japan 100 km Charity Hike News

### **Deadline!**

First of all we want to send a **HUGE** thank you to all of those who have generously supported us so far. We still have a long way to go to meet our promise of ¥120,000 by May 7<sup>th</sup> however. If you were planning on making a donation to this worthwhile cause then please do so before the deadline.

Every week Mr. Paterson, Mr. Weston and Mr. Thompson go for a tour of the city for 3-4 hours. On the weekends we have done hikes in Kanagawa, including one walk from Kitakamakura to Enoshima and back with a little bit of trail walking thrown in. Over the break we will be doing a long stretch of the official trail as well. We have been training hard but need your support.

Thank you,

Mr. Paterson, Mr. Weston and Mr. Thompson

“The Crew” Team #182



### **Donation Information (English):**

[https://oxfam.jp/forms/en/sponsor\\_teams\\_form.html](https://oxfam.jp/forms/en/sponsor_teams_form.html)

## Secondary Newsletter

*Change to Secondary School start times for the 2008/2009 school year*

As the student population grows we need to revise structures such as our timetable to maximize the use of our facilities. With our predicted growth for next year we will need to stagger the start of our ECE, Primary and Secondary Schools in order to allow all students across the school access to the field at recess and lunch times. One change that will allow us to do this is the movement of the start of the Secondary School day to 8:45am from its current start time of 8:30am. This will allow us to differentiate the use of the playground without altering the schedule significantly as school would finish at 3:25pm and students could move straight to clubs or ESL. This change would also create time for a ten minute secondary homeroom before the start of school from 8:45am to 8:55am where teachers could meet with a class and assist students with structures targeting effective organization and also communication between the school and home.

### *Secondary School Schedule*

Homeroom	8:45am – 8:55am
Lessons	9:00am – 3:25pm
After school ESL and Club Activities	3:30pm – 4:30pm

These changes will commence from the new school year in September 2008

### *Study Skills Workshops*

We have recently held two Study Skills Workshops run by Mr. Fortin where students from Grades Six and Seven had the opportunity to work with their parents outlining the various activities that compete for the limited amount of time available to students during a week, prioritize these activities and try to organizing a balanced weekly schedule. We would like to thank all of the families who came along to these sessions. This support from families is extremely important for students and we hope to continue activities targeting this study skill development in our Homerooms next year.

Damian Rentoule

Upper School Principal

## PYP NEWSLETTER ARTICLE #7

### **Whole School Inquiry Cycle – DEMONSTRATING UNDERSTANDING**

In previous articles, I outlined the different parts of the Inquiry Cycle, which teachers use when planning inquiry units. This, the final article in this series, will focus on – **Demonstrating Understanding**.

When students **Demonstrate Understanding**, they explain, interpret and apply the knowledge and skills learnt during the unit. Students can demonstrate understanding during any stage of the Inquiry Cycle. Listing new facts gained, demonstrating new skills, writing a report and creating an annotated illustration, are some examples of tasks that allow students to demonstrate their understanding. Teachers use a wide variety of **Demonstrating Understanding Tasks** in order to check for students' understanding. Using these checks, teachers adjust their planning and make it more responsive to the students' needs.

#### **Supporting your Child**

On a more practical note, here are some ways in which parents can also foster *Demonstrating Understanding* at home:

- After reading a story with your child, have them retell the story. At a more advanced level, ask your child to provide the key ideas, themes or morals of the story.
- Provide your child with opportunities to explain and teach others. E.g. perhaps you have shown your child how to correctly set the timer on your DVD recorder. Give them the chance to teach this to another family member or a visitor; thus demonstrating their understanding.
- When you are teaching your child something at home, teach them in small steps. At the end of each step ask them to explain, show or draw what they now know. From their response you will be able to assess the level of their understanding. If it is low, you might need to go back and re-teach the previous step.

Paul Langtree  
PYP Coordinator



### **K. International School Celebration**

May 15<sup>th</sup> is **International Day of Families!**

We would like to celebrate and we would like your help to do this.

Our celebrations will include...

- A non-uniform day where students are encouraged to wear your family's traditional dress, or clothes that represent your family in some way. Students are asked to pay ¥100 for this, which will help us raise money for...
- A school donation to a family in need. Through one of our staff members, we have links to an organization in the Philippines that assists families with loans in order to develop sustainable businesses. This money would be paid back by the family and then loaned to another, thus continuing support for families over time. This money will be collected at...
- A celebration assembly! During this assembly we will give a presentation on the program in the Philippines. We would also like to celebrate by sharing thoughts, photos and family gatherings of some of our school families. We will be approaching several school families to help out with this. Each year we will approach different families so that we can learn about the diversity of our school community.

We hope you will join with us in celebrating International Day of Families by doing something special with your whole family on the day!

