



NEWS@KIST[★]

Learning for Life

THE NEWSLETTER OF K. INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL TOKYO

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A Letter From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back!

A warm welcome to families new to the KIST community, those returning after postings overseas and to all continuing families. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

You will notice that there have been a few changes since the end of the school year. Due to the hard work of parents, students and staff at the end of the 08/09 school year many of items that were no longer needed were cleared out and the old building given a make-over.

The new building was completed on time and again thanks to the efforts of our school community classrooms were set up in a very short space of time. The excitement and joy of the Lower School and Primary students in their new environment has been a pleasure to see.

This year we are looking forward to another exciting and productive year with our students. This year we will be focusing on the school's strategic development plan (developed over the past year) to further improve the teaching and learning environment for our students and staff. We have also welcomed many new staff to our school this year. We have worked together over the past two weeks helping new staff to settle into Tokyo and become familiar with the curriculum and practices of KIST.

This year I look forward to your continued support of the school and hope to see you over the year at the many events scheduled.

Anne Grahame
Principal

Casual Relief Teaching!

The school is looking for qualified teachers to add to their casual relief teaching roster. Casual relief teachers are called upon in advance to substitute for teachers who may be absent for professional development or meetings and also at short notice when a teacher calls in ill.

A visa is required. If you have a spouse visa you will not require any other visa. If your visa is of another category, e.g. Instructor, Specialist in Humanities/International Services then *Permission to Engage in Activity Other Than That Permitted Under The Status of Residence Previously Granted* is required. This is obtainable from the Immigration Office. Interested applicants please e-mail the school at info@kist.ed.jp.



*Education is not
preparation for
life; education is
life itself.*

~John Dewey

DATES TO REMEMBER



Term 1

September 8:
K2–G1 Parent Welcome Night

September 9:
G2–G5 Parent Welcome Night

September 10:
G6–G12 Parent Welcome Night

September 22:
Clubs & ESL start

September 23:
Public Holiday

October 6, 7 :
School Photos

October 10 :
School Explanation Day

October 17 :
PSAT Practice Test (G10, 11)

October 23 :
Festival Preparation Day

October 24 :
SCHOOL FESTIVAL!

Oct 26–Nov 3 : Mid-Term Break

Lower School News

Welcome back for the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

I hope you all had a wonderful and rewarding summer season and return to school refreshed and ready for an exciting school year, I know I am! I spent part of my summer vacation cycle touring around one of the most beautiful areas of Japan, the Daisetsuzan National Park in Hokkaido. This experience, as outdoor experiences always do, reminded me of the importance of giving our students multiple and varied outdoor experiences throughout their lives, including during the school day. Mary Helen Young (2003), an American Early Childhood educator, says that "nature is the supreme provider of curriculum" and I would strongly agree. In order to access nature in a safe and inviting outdoor learning space, we continue this year with our work on developing our 'lower school' playground. Due to weather, erosion and general wear and tear our playground is in need of some renovations. These renovations will take place over the first few weeks of school. During this time we will take advantage of the various new spaces available to us with the new building for some outdoor and large indoor space experiences, as well as some trips to local parks. Once our playground is up and running again we will be able to re-engage with the environment to provide our students with the experiences best described by botanist Luther Burbank...

'Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, water-bugs, tadpoles, frogs, mud-turtles, elderberries, wild strawberries, acorns, chestnuts, trees to climb, brooks to wade in, water-lilies, woodchucks, bats, bees, butterflies, various animals to pet, hayfields, pine-cones, rocks to roll, sand, snakes, huckleberries and hornets; and any child who is deprived of these has been deprived of the very best part of his education'.

With many new staff joining our KIST community this year, we have been working hard to induct them into school life. In preparing presentations for them this week I have been reviewing presentations by renowned author Ken Robinson. Ken is author of the recent book 'The Element' which details his theories on the nature of human talents. Ken believes that finding the intersection between one's talent and passion is the key to fulfillment in life. He suggests that one of the ways to help students to find their talent is through a thorough exploration of all areas of learning, with creativity being a central element. If you are interested in hearing more from Ken and many other interesting thinkers go to www.ted.com.

Looking forward to a great year!

Amanda Cooke
Lower School Principal



Primary School News

It is a great year to be a primary student at KIST!

I have seen the excitement of students, parents, teachers and staff as we transition into a new, bright and spacious building. I know we all appreciate the work of the many people it has taken to make this transition a reality. In addition, the KIST Primary School will benefit from the return of many of our teachers as well as the addition of a few new teachers bringing their enthusiasm, expertise and experience with them. Over the summer, the Information Technology department has been working very hard investing very long hours and enormous effort into providing teachers and students with upgraded and additional IT resources. These resources will not only help the teachers be more effective but will help the students learn and practice the skills they will need to express themselves and be successful outside of our school environment.

I was recently involved with admission interviews for the primary school. The purpose of the interview is to help ensure there is a good fit between the family's expectations of our school and the school's educational philosophy. As I listened to the parents talking about the goals they have for their children, it was a reminder of why we are all here. KIST's enrollment continues to increase, even in these economic times, which is a sign that we are meeting our community's educational needs. As the years go by and the student population increases, inevitably there is change. Understanding that every experience a student has at our school shapes who they are as a person, we make decisions based on the best way we can provide for our students. While keeping that which has served us well and by continuing to find better ways to meet the needs of our school community, KIST becomes more internationally known and respected each year. The accomplishments of our DP students and the universities who are offering them admission and even scholarships is evidence of this.

I am proud to continue working for KIST this year and serving as the Primary School Principal. I hope to continue the hard work of others before me by building on their successes while working with the other staff to accomplish even more. We have a year ahead of us that I am sure the primary students are going to really love and learn from. I look forward to working with you all this year to make our school even better.

Greg Brunton
Primary School Principal

IB Diploma Results 2009—Fourth year in a row of fantastic results!

During the summer vacation the IB Diploma Results were issued to students from the “Class of 2009”. As a year group, the results were very positive. The table below summarizes the performance of the candidates.

Year	Candidates	No. of Diplomas Awarded	Av. Points Score for Diploma Students (45)	Highest Score (Max. score 45)	Av. Subject Grade for Diploma Students (7)
2009	10	9	32	45	5.02

All candidates achieved individual success in their IB Diploma but public mention goes to **Daisy**, who achieved the **maximum score of 45**. To put this figure into context, in the May 2008 Examination Session, only 74 candidates, or **0.19% of all students who did the IB Diploma worldwide achieved this grade in 2008**. Statistics for May 2009 are not yet available. **Sophie** also achieved an exemplary result with **39** points awarded overall.

Parents who would like more general information on IB Diploma Results should go to <http://www.ibo.org/diploma/assessment/results/>. The IB publishes a “Statistical Bulletin” summarizing the IB Diploma Results, a link to which is on this webpage. The “Statistical Bulletin” for the May 2009 Examination Session should be published in November. Information regarding the university destinations of the “Class of 2009” will be published in the next newsletter. **Congratulations to all students and teachers on this very encouraging set of IB Diploma Results!**

Mark Cowe
IB Diploma Coordinator
dp_co@kist.ed.jp

College Acceptances for KIST Graduates 2006-2009

JAPAN

Waseda University
Sophia University
Temple University
International Christian University

CANADA

University of British Columbia
University of Toronto
McGill University



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Boston University
University of Virginia
Gonzaga University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Worcester Institute of Technology
Brigham Young University (Hawaii)

Northeastern University
University of Dubuque
Portland State University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Illinois Institute of Technology

UNITED KINGDOM

University of Bath
University of Nottingham
University of Cardiff
University of Exeter
University of York
University of Birmingham
University of Sheffield
European School of Business (London)

AUSTRALIA

Monash University
University of Queensland (QLD)
University of Sydney
QLD University of Technology

OTHER

University of Antwerp
University of Delhi

School ID Cards and Bicycle Parking

From the beginning of the new school year, the location of the main school entrance gate has changed to the western side of the campus in front of the new West Building. Both Student and Parent ID Cards will continue to operate the gate in the same way as the previous system. All visitors to the school (including students travelling to school by bicycle) are required to use the new gate.

Please ensure that you bring your Parent ID Card with you every time you visit the school. If you forget to bring your card, please use the intercom at the entrance gate to state your name. You will be required to sign in at reception upon arrival, and sign out again when you leave. Once inside the grounds, please hang your card around your neck or attach it to your clothing so that it is visible at all times. ***If you have lost or damaged your card, you must apply for a replacement at the office.*** The use of ID cards allows us to know that the holder is authorized to be within the school grounds. This is for the safety of your children and we ask for your cooperation and support in this matter.

Students must park their bicycles in the bicycle parking area to the right of the main entrance gate, filled progressively from the back to the front. Parents dropping off children or visiting for a short time only are asked not to use this area due to the congestion it causes. Instead, for short term parking only, please use the area to the left of the entrance gate.



New West Building - Thank you to everyone who helped achieve the impossible!

We are all excited about our new 'West Building'. K1-G3 students have enjoyed their new classroom space in the building and Secondary students have made good use of their new music room. Thank you to all the families and staff who volunteered to help us with both the cleaning and moving process.

Message from the Ministry of Education

Management of students with prescriptions to self-administer Epinephrine (Adrenaline) injections

The Ministry of Education has given approval for non-medical personnel such as teaching staff to perform emergency first aid treatment on students identified with symptoms of anaphylactic shock. This is due to a relaxation of legal restrictions as based on considerations of the risks to these students.

- Families of students with prescriptions to self-administer Epinephrine (Adrenaline) injections are required to inform the school.
- After receiving permission to do so from families, the school is to provide details of these students to the local fire department in order to cooperate in taking immediate and appropriate action if required.
- In situations where a student in a state of anaphylactic shock is reported to the emergency service line 119, the school should state that the student has a prescription to self-administer injections.
- In situations where students are unable to self-administer injections due to anaphylactic shock, the school may administer the medication on behalf of the students. This should be reported to emergency services.

End of Year Event 2008-2009

The Secondary End of Year Event on June 26th 2009 was a great success and enjoyed by students, parents and staff. The event also saw inaugural awards to Grade 11 and 12 students. The awards are as follows:

<i>Creativity, Action, Service</i>	Grade 11 Soo Min
.....	Grade 12 Emi
<i>Extended Essay</i>	Grade 12 Daisy
<i>Contribution to the KIST Community</i> (for outstanding contributions to the KIST community)	
.....	Grade 11 Carmina
.....	Grade 12 Sagar



Student Representative Council Elections

This week the SRC Executive spoke to the secondary school to get the nomination and election process underway for class representatives. On Friday next week students will vote for their class representative. SRC meetings will be held on Thursday afternoons after school.

Supervision Notice

A start of the school year reminder to parents regarding supervision of students at school and the duty of care we hold. The level of supervision changes with the age of the student and is provided so that foreseeable accidents may be prevented. Students are supervised in the following spaces and at the following times only:

Lower School	Primary School	Secondary School
8:00 K1 & K2 Not available unless signed up for Before Care (Before Care classroom advertised at front reception each day) K3 Lower School Playground G1 Same as Primary School	8:00-8:30 Ground	8:15-8:35 Ground/Building
G1 Same as G2	10:00-10:20 G2 Recess 10:20-10:40 G3/G4/G5 Recess	10:45-11:05 Ground/Building/Roof
G1 Same as G2	12:00-12:30 G2 Lunch 12:00-12:30 G3/G4/G5 Recess 12:30-1:00 G2 Recess 12:30-1:00 G3/G4/G5 Lunch	12:50-1:15 Lunch eating on 2nd/3rd floors
2:00-3:30 K1, K2, K3 not available unless signed up for After Care 3:00-3:30 G1 Same as Primary	3:00-3:30 Ground	1:10-1:35 Ground/Gym/Building

Please ensure that you do not send your child to school before the appropriate time as supervision will not be available. Further, when visiting the school individual parents/guardians are responsible for the supervision of other children and all children when at school outside of the times outlined above.

After-School Activities

Information on after-school activities will be distributed to all students next week. Please follow the instructions on the forms to ensure that your child is able to enter the club that he/she wishes. Forms must be returned by the due date. As indicated on the school calendar, after-school activities will commence from week 4 (September 21).

Frequently Asked Questions in the MYP

Ross Ferris, MYP Coordinator

What is the status of the MYP certificate as a school-leaving certificate?

The MYP was not developed in order to lead to a “school-leaving certificate”, but to provide the student with good preparation for further studies (IB Diploma Programme (DP) or other) and to develop lifelong learning skills and dispositions. The MYP certificate represents global achievement within an MYP curriculum framework, and takes into account academic as well as non-academic aspects (and, very importantly, the evidence of an understanding of the core dimensions of the programme through the personal project and community and service activities). Experienced MYP schools tell us that students graduating with the MYP certificate are well prepared for independent study and the rigour of the DP.

Will the MYP ever be administered like the Diploma Programme, with a written curriculum and external assessment?

The MYP is different from the Diploma Programme in a number of ways: it caters to an age group where curriculum is controlled in varying degrees by national systems; it is offered to a great variety of schools as a framework within which schools can adapt their curriculum; and it is taught in many languages.

However, and very importantly, the MYP curriculum framework requires teachers to revisit their own curriculum and practices, and to work as teams of educators to develop their own progression of learning, enriched with the fundamental principles of the programme. Therefore, the MYP **has** a written curriculum, but one that must be written by the teachers themselves in accordance with the basic principles of the programme.

The MYP assessment criteria are aligned with the objectives of each subject group. Here again, teachers are required to work as teams to adapt their practices to some basic principles, keeping the student at the centre of focus.

From the IB MYP Coordinators Handbook, 2009/10

Letter of Thanks

We have received a letter from the Principal of Marysville Primary School in Victoria, Australia, to express her appreciation for the contribution made by KIST staff to the bush fire appeal at the beginning of 2009. Thanks goes to Ms. Val Gray (G4A) for organizing this appeal. A certificate of appreciation has been placed on the school notice board.

Learning Support Assistant Required

We are looking for a learning support assistant for a Grade 5 student starting at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Suitable applicants will have the ability to work closely with the classroom teacher in order to implement an individual learning program in conjunction with the regular class program. Implementation of the program may require the teacher assistant to make adaptations to class activities. Applicants should have experience working with children and show a patient but firm disposition. Applicants should possess strong English language skills. The position requires the person to initially work with the student at least three full days a week and then slowly reduced if needed. The learning support assistant will work under the guidance of school staff, although salary and working hours will be a private arrangement between the student’s family. This would be discussed at the time of interview. Please apply in writing to Greg Brunton (Primary School Principal) g_brunton@kist.ed.jp by Friday, September 11.

H1N1 New Influenza Virus Update

The number of cases of *Swine Influenza A (H1N1)* reported in Japan over the summer has grown. The Ministry of Education is predicting infection rates to increase dramatically with the return of school this week. In accordance with this the school has revisited its response to H1N1.

Normally if we have a third of a class absent from school due to illness we cancel that class; however, based on the seriousness of this particular virus we will implement a different plan. As this influenza seems to be particularly dangerous for children under the age of 6, in the Lower School, if there is one case, either teacher or student, the Lower School will close. For the Primary & Secondary sections of the school if one case is discovered in a class then that class will close. If more than 10% of staff or students are infected then the relevant section of the school will close.

It is important that we all work together to limit the spread of this infection. For your own safety and that of our wider school community, we ask that families take particular care with and closely monitor your health. We ask that you monitor your temperature and if you have a high fever or if you develop flu-like symptoms (such as coughing, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, body ache, headache, chills, vomiting or diarrhea) please contact your physician and do not come to school. ***We ask that parents strictly adhere to the school policy which states that if students display symptoms of illness they must be kept at home and that the school is contacted.*** Upon returning to school, please ensure that you submit a medical certificate directly to the office.

Furthermore, please ensure that you wash your hands and gargle regularly to help protect yourself against the infection and to prevent its further spread. Teachers will be emphasizing the importance with hand washing with their students. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance to the school and other locations. If you are concerned about your child due to a respiratory condition, please do not send them to school.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our Administration team.

Technology Requirements for a Changing World

Due to technological advancements in recent years and the increasing importance that technology plays in our daily lives, we ask for the cooperation of all families in ensuring that children are provided with adequate access to technology at home. Throughout the IB programmes, students are encouraged to use a variety of technology. In order to improve upon the skills they have learned at school in the use of technology, students need to have the opportunity to practice these skills at home. It is also important that students are able to transfer the knowledge and skills they learn at school to other situations and environments. In addition, as the IB programmes are based on inquiry learning, it is essential that students have access to information on the Internet for research purposes.

Furthermore, an increasing percentage of communication between people takes place on line. Currently, KIST offers families the option to choose to receive school communication in either paper or electronic formats; however, due to various difficulties in maintaining this dual system as well as the desire to become more environmentally friendly through reducing paper consumption, we hope to move to a solely electronic distribution system for all school communication in the near future. We envisage that the new school website (currently under construction) will be the main focal point for communication at all levels of the school. We plan to post all school communication in an online communications log that families will be able to access after logging in. In order for this system to operate effectively, however, it requires the cooperation of families in providing the necessary equipment at home. For this reason, if you have not already done so, we encourage all families to set up a computer with Internet and e-mail access as well as a printer at home as soon as possible. This will be a requirement of enrolment for all families from the beginning of the 2010 – 2011 school year. Your support and cooperation in this matter is appreciated.



Welcome to New Staff

On behalf of our school community, we would like to welcome our new staff to KIST!



Trevor Adams
t_adams@kist.ed.jp
Secondary Music



Nicola Cahill
n_cahill@kist.ed.jp
ESL



Robin Coe
r_coe@kist.ed.jp
K1A



Juliet Collier
j_collier@kist.ed.jp
Lower/Prim/Sec Art



Laura Collings
l_collings@kist.ed.jp
K2B



Jacqueline Cussen
j_cussen@kist.ed.jp
English



Wesley Dennis
w_dennis@kist.ed.jp
Technology



Erwin Dumenden
e_dumenden@kist.ed.jp
G3B



Elaine Eacott
e_eacott@kist.ed.jp
K2B



Jamie Farquhar
j_farquhar@kist.ed.jp
PE



Sharon Gibbons
s_gibbons@kist.ed.jp
Welfare Counselor/Math



Elly Hausner
e_hausner@kist.ed.jp
K3A



David Heppenstall
d_heppenstall@kist.ed.jp
Math/Science



John Hoare
j_hoare@kist.ed.jp
English/Humanities



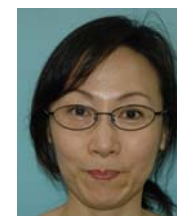
Marnie Hollindale
m_hollindale@kist.ed.jp
K3D



Emma Homerlein
pyp_co@kist.ed.jp
PYP Coordinator



Erin Hoover
e_hoover@kist.ed.jp
G1B



Seiko Kasada
s_kasada@kist.ed.jp
Music



Susan Lee
s_lee@kist.ed.jp
G2B



Masahide Muramoto
m_muramoto@kist.ed.jp
Lab Assistant



Mark Ralph
m_ralph@kist.ed.jp
PE



Sarah Ritcey
s_ritcey@kist.ed.jp
English/Humanities



Will Spring
w_spring@kist.ed.jp
Math/PE



Elsa Taylor
e_taylor@kist.ed.jp
Science/Biology



Kevin Yoshihara
k_yoshihara@kist.ed.jp
G5B



Satoko Yoshimoto
s_yoshimoto@kist.ed.jp
Librarian



Andrew Young
a_young@kist.ed.jp
Biology/Math

*We hope you
enjoy your time
at KIST!*