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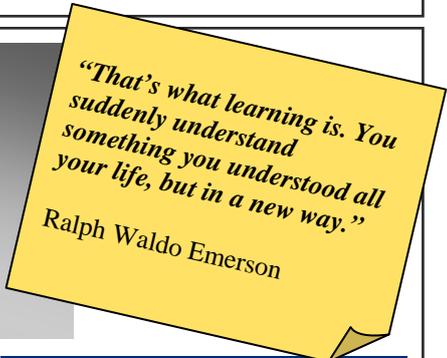
The Comet

The Newsletter of K. International School Tokyo

Volume 14 | Issue 1 | September 2010

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From the Head of School

Greetings and welcome to the 2010-2011 school year!

I would like to extend another warm welcome to all of you, including those who are new to the KIST community as well as to returning families. I was especially pleased to see so many of you at the Welcome Nights held recently, and would like to again reiterate my eagerness to join with you in *Collaboration, Communication, and Community*. This is sure to be an exciting year!

As a brief introduction, I am originally from Houston, Texas and have been in education for over 25 years, having served schools in the US, Japan, Germany, the UK, and most recently in Cameroon, West Africa. Before becoming an administrator, I taught science and special education and was a school counselor. I hold a BS in elementary and special education, an MEd in secondary education and administration, and a PhD in educational leadership and policy. However, my greatest claim to fame are my two daughters and new grandson who live in California. They will surely be visiting me in Japan before too long.

This week, we kicked off the organizational meeting for several KIST development committees. One of these is **Community Connections**, which, in addition to creating varied venues for community involvement, will also initiate a KIST parent organization. If you are interested in participating on this committee or in assisting with the parent organization, please contact me at n_shaw@kist.ed.jp. In addition, take note below of the coffee morning scheduled for Friday, September 24 at 9:00 a.m.

The motto at K. International is "**Learning for Life**." As parents, I am sure that you too are aware of the vital role you play in supporting your child's learning. We are looking forward to a rewarding and productive year!

Warm regards,
Nanci Shaw, Ph.D.
Head of School



CASUAL COFFEE CORNER

Friday, September 24, 9:00 a.m.
Multipurpose Room

Please come and share your ideas with us about community involvement in the school.

Please join us!

(Japanese translation will be provided.)

DATES TO REMEMBER



September 20:

School day
Board of Directors meeting

September 21:

(S) College Information Night

September 23:

School day

September 28:

(L/P/S) Free dress day

September 28 – 30:

(G3/G5/G7/G9) ISA testing

September 29 – October 1:

(G8) Camp

October 1:

PYP parent information session

October 4 – 5:

School photographs

October 7 – 8:

Staff development days (No school for students)

October 9:

School Explanation Day

October 11:

School day
2011 enrolment applications open
Board of Directors meeting

Secondary Achievement Awards 2009-2010

Congratulations to the following students who received awards in June for their achievements during the 2009-2010 school year.

(Classes shown in brackets are based on the 2009-2010 school year.)

Creativity, Action, Service
– **Shreya** (G11)

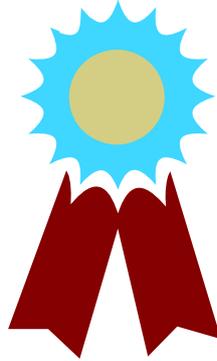
Extended Essay
– **Carmina** (G12)

Extended Essay Honorable Mention
– **Yuri** (G12)
– **Disha** (G12)

Contribution to the KIST Community
– **Matthew** (G11)
– **Dingyun** (G11)

Tokyo Metropolitan Government Award for Special Services to Cultural Activities
– **Carmina** (G12)

Tokyo Metropolitan Government Sports Award
– **Ryosuke** (G10)
– **Pyay Phyo** (G11)



Explanation Day 2010

For the 2011 - 2012 school year

KIST will hold an Explanation Day for parents interested in enrolling children for the 2011 - 2012 school year.

Administration and teaching staff will be available to answer questions regarding admissions procedures, the school curriculum, progression to universities, and general features of the school. Visitors will also be able to view the school facilities.

Date:

October 9, 2010 (Saturday)

Session times:

- (1) English: 9:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- (2) Japanese: 1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Reservations close:

October 8, 2010

Reservations essential!

www.kist.ed.jp

IB Diploma Results



During the summer vacation, the IB Diploma results were issued to the students of the "Class of 2010". This year, a record number of students successfully completed the requirements for the DP and were issued with their Diplomas.

All candidates achieved individual successes in their IB Diploma with Aditya, Disha and James achieving the highest overall scores. Three students, Yuri, Joann and Sho, were also awarded a bilingual IB Diploma as they chose to study two first languages as part of their Grade 11 and Grade 12 curriculum.

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 2010 Examination Session should be published in November.

Congratulations to all the students on their individual successes in the DP curriculum!

For more information about the IB Diploma at KIST, please contact the DP Coordinator, Mark Cowe, at dp_co@kist.ed.jp.

Student Enrolments

We have started the new school year with total enrolments of around 600. Although a number of families left the school community in June to return to their home countries or move on to other countries, we were fortunate to gain around 90 new enrolments which has allowed us to keep our total numbers more or less constant.

This year, there are 47 different nationalities represented in the student body as follows:

American, Australian, Bangladeshi, Bolivian, British, Canadian, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Egyptian, French, German, Indian, Indonesian, Iranian, Israeli, Italian, Ivorian, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Mexican, Mongolian, Myanmar, Nepalese, New Zealander, Nicaraguan, Norwegian, Pakistani, Panamanian, Peruvian, Filipino, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Senegalese, Serbian, Singaporean, South African, Spanish, Sri Lankan, Swedish, Taiwanese, Thai, Turkish, Ugandan, Ukrainian

And amongst our faculty, there are 13 nationalities represented as follows:

Australian, American, British, Canadian, El Salvadorian, German, Greek, Japanese, Kyrgyzs, New Zealander, Malaysian, Filipino, Romanian

We are privileged to be surrounded by a truly international environment where we have the opportunity to learn about so many other cultures.

Craig Larsen

Director of Admissions and Personnel



Dress Expectations for Students

Some KIST students continuously "stretch" the limits regarding dress expectations in spite of repeated reminders, while others seem to absentmindedly "forget." Nevertheless, the School Handbook is very clear and detailed about the school dress code, stipulating strict guidelines, to include the following:

- Neat and well-kept appearance.
- Correct, complete and properly fitted uniform.
- All black shoes, with no motifs or colored laces.
- Black socks.
- Hair tied back if touching collar.

Next week, the Area Principals will be addressing each class to review the KIST dress expectations with students. As parents, you are also encouraged to discuss the section of the School Handbook pertaining to uniforms with your children, and to ensure that they are dressed appropriately when they leave for school. **In general, the handbook states:**

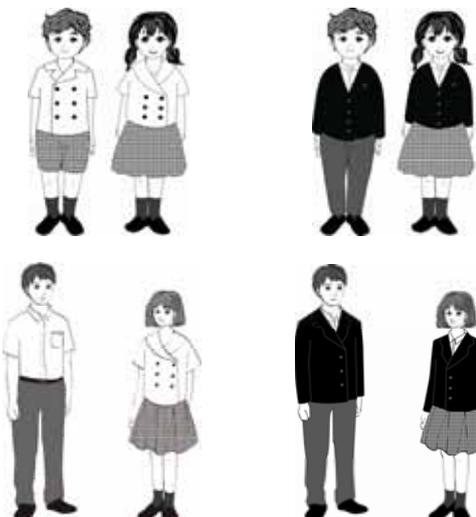
*KIST has a strict dress code which all students must follow at all times, including while traveling to and from school. The code, which covers uniforms, clothing and general appearance, has been established to encourage **respect, responsibility and safety** amongst our students.*

In general, Japanese society judges the quality of a school by the way its students look and behave. In recognition of this characteristic of our host country, all students at KIST are required to wear the correct school uniform and maintain a conservative appearance with no extremes of fashion throughout

their enrolment. As a school, we believe that the school uniform, when worn correctly, is an important tool for promoting the image of the school in the community. It also acts as a means for developing school pride as well as a sense of belonging and cooperation between students. In addition, the wearing of uniforms takes the focus away from fashion and allows students to concentrate on their academic responsibilities.

Please assist us in helping your children become responsible and respectful citizens by following the expectations set forth by the school. Thank you very much!

KIST Administration Team



Global Young Leaders Conference

Kei and Ryosuke of Grade 12 attended the Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC) in the United States this summer. GYLC is a program which selectively picks 300 students from schools in different countries to meet and discuss global issues. It is very much like Model United Nations, but on a much greater scale. This program took place in Washington DC and New York City for 12 days during the summer holiday.

First of all, this program provided us the opportunity to gain leadership experience by participating in educational simulations designed to challenge us and further develop our leadership skills. We visited many places including: American University, the World Bank Headquarters, United States Department of State and the United Nations Headquarters to listen to speakers and ask questions. This was really amazing because we could actually listen to the people who work there and ask questions of them. These speakers challenged us to think critically and encouraged us to consider the complexities of global issues. We believe that this awareness which we gained throughout the program will help us understand our roles as leaders in addressing similar situations in the future.

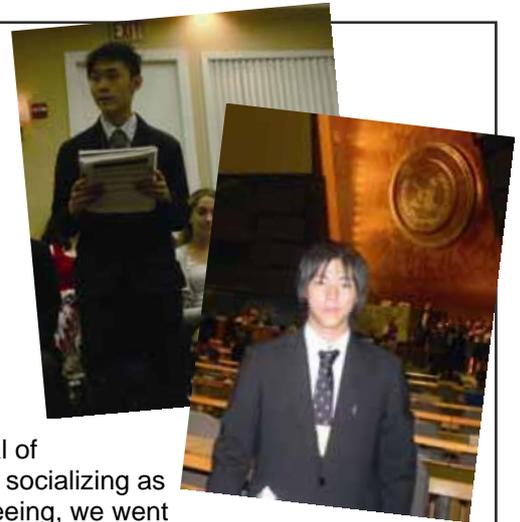
Another great benefit to this program was that we had an opportunity to explore and share ideas with many students from different countries who were intellectually curious, unique, interesting, and fun to be with. This opportunity allowed us to gain and

understand different perspectives and ideas from many countries.

Although it seems all we did was study, actually there was a great deal of sightseeing and socializing as well. For sightseeing, we went to Ellis Island; the Statue of Liberty; Times Square; Chinatown and Rockefeller Center in New York City and Georgetown; the Washington Monument; the Lincoln Memorial; and the World War II, Vietnam and Korean War Memorials in Washington DC.

Finally, this program has been an eye-opening experience that will motivate us, not just in school, but also in our careers. We, as alumni of the program, think it was a life-changing experience. We had fun, learned a lot, and had valuable experiences. If you have any further questions about our adventure please talk to us or ask Mrs Okude or Mr Wagner in the College Guidance Office.

Kei and Ryosuke (G12)
(Assisted by Mr Wagner)



Library News

Greetings from the KIST reading and resource center. Since returning to school, students have been busy using our books and computers. After running two libraries over the last year, we have made some changes. Chapter books have moved to the Junior Library. Visitors to the Junior Library are asked to take their shoes off before entering to keep our nice and soft carpet clean so that students can sit on the floor.

New Library Assistant

Please welcome our new Library Assistant, José Christian.

"Hi. I have recently joined the Library team at KIST after being involved in the school's summer program. I am really enjoying my time in the school and getting to know all the students."



Library use

Borrowing limits:

Grade	Maximum	Due
K1 and K2	2	2 weeks
K3 and G1	3	
G2 – G5	4*	
G6 – G12	6*	
Parents	4	

Opening hours:

Junior Library:
Class times until 3:00 p.m.
Main Library:
8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Out of class time usage for Elementary students

K3-G3 students and Junior Library users must be supervised by a teacher or parents.

G4-G5 students must inform their classroom teacher and parents after school (Main Library only).

Main Library computer room

For educational purposes, students are able to use the computers outside class hours. Printing is also available when the Library is open: B/W 10 yen/page, Color 25 yen/page.

Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers to assist with shelving books as indicated below; however, any support you are able to provide with this would be appreciated:

Junior Library: From 9:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for approximately 30 minutes.

Main Library: Any time on Wednesdays and Thursdays for approximately 30 minutes.

Donations

Thank you always for your book donations. There are currently over 15 boxes waiting to be catalogued. Please understand that it may be necessary to sell some of these at the school festival. Before submitting books as donations, please contact the Library in advance.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the library, please contact me at s_yoshimoto@kist.ed.jp.

Satoko Yoshimoto
Librarian

Office Updates

Identity cards

All students in Grades 1 and above and all parents are issued with school ID cards. These must be brought to school every time you visit and should be scanned at the entrance gate as you enter and leave, even if the gate is opened by another person. Lost or damaged cards should be reported to the office. A 2,000 yen charge applies to replacement cards. We suggest that you keep your cards in a **hard plastic case** to avoid damage to the internal memory chip. Cases may be purchased at the reception counter.

School communication

As announced to the school community last school year, all communication such as newsletters and documents distributed via the office are now being sent electronically to your registered e-mail address. In this system, e-mails sent from the office contain either PDF attachments or links to documents saved on the school website. To view PDFs, you must have the **latest version** of Adobe Reader installed on your computer.

To allow for any technical difficulties, a summary message is also sent on Fridays in weeks when e-mails are distributed. If there are any notices listed in the follow-up relevant to your child's grade that you have not received, please contact the office.

If you wish to change your registered address, please submit a **Change of Registered Details Form** (downloadable from the school website) to the office. Only one address may be registered per family.

School calendar

The school calendar for 2010-2011 is available on the school website "Calendar" page and may be printed out for your reference at home. A number of changes to dates in Semester 2 have been made since the calendar was first issued, so please be sure that you have printed the latest version dated August 27, 2010. The changes are:

February

17-18: (G10) MYP Personal Project Exhibition
22-24: IB PYP/MYP/DP evaluation visit

School photographs

As per the school calendar, school photographs will be taken on **Monday, October 4** and **Tuesday, October 5**. Please ensure that your child attends school on this day as this will be the only chance to take official school group photographs for the year.

All students must wear the correct formal **summer uniform** for school photographs, not the PE uniform. Students who have PE scheduled on these days are required to bring their PE uniform to school separately and change into it before their PE class.

Students who do not wear the correct uniform or do not meet dress code standards in terms of general appearance (see the School Handbook) will not be permitted to join school photographs.

Further information regarding the photograph schedule will be distributed to all families soon.

Car Parking Reminder



All families dropping off and picking up children by car are reminded to use a public car park. It is illegal to park along Kiyosubashi-dori Avenue, in the street directly in front of the school entrance gate, or the street near the Akafudado supermarket. We continue to receive complaints from local residents and businesses regarding cars parked in the streets surrounding the school in the mornings and afternoons. The police department has directed us to remind families that parking on public roads is illegal at all times including situations where someone is present inside the car for more than five minutes.

We ask you to assist us in maintaining a good relationship with our neighbors by using a public car park instead of parking on the streets.

Furthermore, for many years, through an informal agreement, the local community has used the road in front of the main school entrance gate as a **one-way road** to enable a smooth flow of traffic. Visitors to the school are also asked to follow this procedure by turning off Kiyosubashi-dori Avenue next to the Comfort Hotel and leaving the area via the street next to the Akafudado supermarket.

Searching for Singers

KIST occasionally allows a recording company called Star Fruits Entertainment to use our facilities to record professional CDs. To date, over 75 of our students have been singers for these recordings. The CDs are sold commercially in music shops and on the iTunes Music Store. Star Fruits is planning to record some songs for a new CD during October. If you are interested in your child being considered for this, please e-mail Mr Adams at t_adams@kist.ed.jp for more information. The commitment usually requires approximately 3 hours after school.

Trevor Adams
Secondary Music Teacher



Elementary School News

It was wonderful to see so many families at our recent Welcome Nights. The teachers put lots of time and effort into preparing for the night in order to inform you about how they will be helping your child. Hopefully you have a better understanding of what to expect this year from your child's teacher.

Our top priority is ensuring that our students receive the best education possible. To continue to improve our curriculum and increase student learning, we have been focusing our attention on making the best use of instructional time and clarifying our educational objectives so students develop in all academic and social areas. The best way families can help is by communicating with your child about what they are doing and learning at school. Looking at your classroom's website with your child on regular basis may help stimulate the conversations.

This year in the Elementary School, Subject Area Coordinators have been appointed to support our K1 to Grade 5 programs within the areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Technology Integration. Each of the Coordinators shares with us below a little about themselves and information about some of their plans for the year. We wish them all the best in their new positions.

Greg Brunton
Elementary Principal

Literacy



Welcome! My name is Diana Hudson, Literacy Coordinator for K1-G5, and classroom teacher for K3A. I hail from Melbourne, Australia and have been working at KIST for the past 3 years. This is my sixth year in Japan. I am really looking forward to sharing literacy insights with you all and keeping you

abreast of what is happening across the Elementary School. Some exciting events to look forward to this year are a Read-a-thon (reading marathon), World Book Day (March 4) and Children's Book Week (May 2-8).



Diana Hudson
Elementary Literacy Coordinator

Mathematics



Hello everyone! My name is Kevin Yoshihara. I am currently teaching Grade 5B and this is my second year at KIST. Previously I have taught in Canada, Kuwait and Shanghai.

This year in mathematics, we have made some positive changes to our program. The first is the implementation of the online program "Mathletics" in the Elementary School. I piloted

the program with my Grade 5 students last year and it proved to be an amazing resource. This year we have implemented it in Grades 1 through 4 as well. We are also developing various tools to assess the students' mathematical skills and knowledge in order to inform our planning here at KIST. I am excited about this year and look forward to working with the teachers and students to further improve our mathematics program!

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Kevin Yoshihara
Elementary Mathematics Coordinator

Science



Hi Scienceholics (that means people who LOVE science)! My name is Ms Lee and I am a teacher in Grade 2B. This year I will be running the Science Club all three terms for students in Grade 1 and Grade 2. I am really excited about Science Club and look forward to

doing lots of cool experiments. We will look at the colour spectrum, flying objects, water, bugs and much more. We will also learn how to record our science experiments. I'll see you at Science Club in the G2B classroom on Mondays at 3:30!



Cool science fact #1:
Cats use their whiskers to check whether a space is too small for them to fit through or not.

Susan Lee
Elementary Science Coordinator

Technology Integration



My name is Erwin Dumenden, Grade 3B's classroom teacher and the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Coordinator for the Elementary School. I hail from Melbourne, Australia and come from an Engineering background having studied Civil Engineering. In Australia, I have worked as a classroom teacher in grades 5, 6 and 2; and later for the

Department of Education as a Mathematics, Science and Technology Integration consultant collaborating with half a dozen schools on developing their mathematics and science programmes and improving their technology integration.

(Continued next page)

My educational philosophy centers on my personal mission and passion for... "continuous improvement and innovation", which means I'm always looking to improve what I do no matter how good I think it is currently; there is always room for improvement. As the PYP ICT Coordinator, I will endeavor to help students, teachers, and parents grow and constantly looking for new and innovative ways of providing our students with a better education.



Starting this month is the exciting new Computer and Digital Publishing Club where students will expand their digital design and publishing skills and create bright, attractive and inspiring projects.

Internet Safety Education @ PYP

With the increasing integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) both in PYP

classrooms and our students' lives in general, we recognize the need to develop safe and responsible technology and internet users at school. Several upper elementary classes are running Internet Safety Education programs provided by www.cybersmart.gov.au that are specifically designed for elementary students with short animated lessons, interactive activities and engaging information that highlights the benefits and dangers of being online (www.cybersmart.gov.au/cyberquoll). There is also a very informative parents section packed full of useful guides, quizzes, checklists and downloadable resources, giving you the tools to keep your child's technology and online experiences safe and positive (www.cybersmart.gov.au/en/Parents.aspx).

If you have any questions, queries or comments please don't hesitate to drop me an e-mail at e_dumenden@kist.ed.jp.

Erwin Dumenden

Elementary Technology Integration Coordinator

Founders' Awards



We are pleased to announce that Matthew (G12) has been awarded a Silver Founders' Award for the 2010-2011 school year.

Matthew said of his selection: "I was very happy to hear that I received the award. But I think the most important thing is that it motivates me to do my best this year, too."

We congratulate Matthew on his award and wish him all the best for a successful year.

Moodle News

KIST's new online learning system, Moodle, is off to a strong start. On



average, approximately half of our students (and/or parents) access the site every weekday. As more and more teachers make their Moodle pages available, this number will likely continue to rise.

All parents have been e-mailed their login information for each child enrolled at the school. For parents of Elementary School students, please be sure to log in and update the e-mail in the system to your own e-mail. Instructions on how to do this were sent on August 27. Secondary students should have already entered their own e-mail address. Parents are encouraged to log in to the system and keep apprised of class events, topics of study, and assignments.

Please note that Moodle is a tool for teacher and student/teacher and parent communications regarding what is going on in each student's classes. Official communications from the school office will continue to be distributed via e-mail from KIST Contacts.

Please contact moodle@kist.ed.jp (or telephone the school office) if you have any questions or difficulties regarding the use of Moodle.

Christian Thompson

Education Technologies Integrator

ISA Testing

The International Schools Assessment (ISA) is designed especially for students in international schools in Grades 3 to 10, and measures reading, writing and mathematics skills. The ISA is based on internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

Previously, the ISA was administered to KIST students during the month of March. However, this year, the decision was made to change to the fall testing session in order for teachers to have a longer period before the end of the school year to address student performance.

The ISA testing dates this year will be September 28-30, 2010 for students in Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The ISA was developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), an independent research and development organization, and is administered annually in approximately 240 schools worldwide.

KIST Administration Team

Secondary School News



I would like to introduce myself one last time. My name is Robin Schneider, your new Secondary Principal. I have been in education for the last 16 years where the last 8 have been in Korea at Korea International School as the Middle School Principal. Before Korea, I worked at Nishimachi International School in Tokyo as a math teacher. It is very exciting to be a member of KIST and I'm looking forward to working with all of the student and parents.

My educational approach is that a student's education is like a triangle (being a former math teacher). Each corner represents the student, their family and the school. If all three parties work together will the common goal in mind of a balanced education, we, students, parents and KIST, can achieve anything.

So I ask for your help and support in communicating with me and being involved in the school. Please feel free to contact me at r_schneider@kist.ed.jp.

Parent Welcome Night

It is hard to believe that KIST Secondary is already a month into school! I would like to thank all of the parents that had a chance to make it to the Parent Welcome Night. For the parents that could not make it, please feel free to contact your teachers by e-mail at anytime for information about your child's progress or events happening at school.

College Night

We have a very exciting night planned for all of the KIST parents on September 21. We invite all of the parents in the Secondary; however, the evening will be focused around the parents of students in Grade 11 and 12. Mr Wagner, Mr Cowe and Mrs Okude will be discussing the college process and making sure that the parents, students and KIST are on

the same page. The evening starts at 6:00 and ends at 8:00. We look forward to seeing you.

Teacher's e-mail

To contact teachers by e-mail, use their first initial, then underscore, then family name@kist.ed.jp. For example, Mr John Smith would be j_smith@kist.ed.jp.

Clubs

We have over 30 different clubs in the Secondary School this term. Please take note that clubs this year run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:30 – 4:30. A few sporting clubs for the Under 18 teams will hold their practices at 4:30 – 5:30. Term 2 clubs will be coming in December if you didn't get a chance to sign up for Term 1.

Moodle

The KIST teachers are using Moodle to communicate with the students. Moodle is an excellent way for you, the parent, to know what your child is doing in all of their subjects. For more information about Moodle, please contact Mr Christian Thompson, our Education Technologies Integrator at c_thompson@kist.ed.jp.

Grade level trips

KIST is trying to prepare the students for the real world and one part of this is outdoor education and relating the KIST curriculum to the outside community. Therefore, we are working on planning a camp or day trip for each MYP grade. All of these are mandatory as they are connected to the curriculum and the teachers will be referring to the trip to deepen the students understanding of the



Areas of Interaction and content curriculum.

Grade 8 Camp: Grade 8 will go to Saitama Youth Center to connect the Areas of Interaction to content areas like PE, science, art, health and English. This trip will occur on September 29 – October 1. All information has been sent home by e-mail and is on your child's Moodle page.

Grade 6 Camp: Grade 6 will be going to Nikko again this year. The trip is currently being planned and more information will be coming soon. All information will be sent home by e-mail and will be placed on your child's Moodle page.

ISA testing

Once again, Grade 7 and Grade 9 will be taking the ISA test to help KIST's curriculum and instruction be in line with other schools in the world. We have moved the testing to September this year for better usage of the data that we will receive.

The test will be held on September 28 and 29 with September 30 being a makeup day for absent students.

Drama Festival

KIST will be hosting the Middle School Drama Festival for international schools in Tokyo. This busy day will happen on November 3 when over 100 middle school students will be performing and acting up a storm. This is the same day as our Parent/Teacher/Student interviews so please stop by and enjoy the DRAMA!

Robin Schneider
Secondary Principal

Staff 10!

In this month's *Staff 10!*, we are pleased to present Secondary Art teacher, **Daryl Bates**, who is from the USA. He has been at KIST since 2008. He is currently the Subject Area Coordinator: The Arts and the CAS Coordinator.



Mr Bates participating in Habitat for Humanity in Indonesia, June 2010.

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

Riverside, California is home to the parent navel orange trees that were originally brought over by Spanish missionaries from Spain. These two trees which are over 100 years old still produce fruit, and are responsible for the acres of orange groves that were a thriving agricultural crop throughout southern California for more than 100 years.

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

Amsterdam, Netherlands is my favorite place for its serenity and art (Rembrandt's house is there).

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

I would like to meet Rembrandt van Rijn so I may apprentice with him, then I would travel forward in time to paint Guy DuBord's Portrait while he simplifies his opus work, "Society of the Spectacle".

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

I make classical figure drawings and paintings from life models, and life size realist portraits.

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

I suffered a bankruptcy in 2002 by purchasing a 96 foot ocean-going historic tugboat in San Francisco, California that was to become an entertainment dinner gallery cruise around the San Francisco Bay. This is when I decided to go to graduate school and become a teacher.

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

My body.

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

Self-conscious, original fake, casual, hippy, art-nerd, sneaker freak, second place.

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

Yes, I would have studied Spanish, being from California, and majored in Critical Theory at UCLA under the tutelage of Peter McLaren.

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

Trying to learn the Japanese language; trying to improve my health and painting ability.

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

I have fans? Be humble, problematize systems, be patient, exercise passion, seek knowledge of self, and go everywhere.

Counselor's Corner

How to help your teen survive Secondary School

The secondary students in Grades 6 to 11 are using a new organization system this year. All students are required to have **one** large current unit binder which is organized with one divider per subject. All students are required to record assignments in their diary for each subject. If there is no homework for a subject, your teen will write "none."

The following list will help you to ensure your teen is prepared for each school day:

1. **Check your teen's binder.**

There should be no loose papers in their backpack. All papers in the binder should be organized by subject with the newest information on top.

2. **Check your teen's diary.**

There should be an assignment recorded for each subject studied on that day. A circled assignment with a teacher's initials means the assignment was not completed.

3. **Have your teen study in a common area, like the kitchen table.**

Teens struggle to stay focused when near computers and cell phones in a closed room, like their bedroom. Social networking sites are far too tempting when open while working.

4. **Have your teen pack their backpack at night before they go to bed.**

Check for the following items: diary, binder, USB stick, ruler, pencil case, texts and novels.

5. **Give your teen some downtime in the evening to do something they enjoy.**

Being balanced is essential to being healthy and performing well in school the next day.

6. **Have a set bedtime for your teen. Teens often run on empty due to lack of sleep.**

If your teen is staying up too late studying, he/she is not using their time well. Contact the advisory teacher if this is a persistent problem.

Once your teen is in a routine, you can do periodic checks of the binder and diary. Some teens will need this guidance daily for all of their secondary time. Students diagnosed with ADD/ADHD and students who struggle with staying organized need parental support to establish and maintain these organizational practices.

Thank you for your support.

Sharon Gibbons
Student Welfare Counselor
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College Admissions Season



The college admissions season is in full swing! Although the school year has just started, there have been many opportunities for KIST students to meet with representatives from colleges and universities around the world. These meetings are very important for all the students, but particularly the Grade 12 students who will be making their college and university applications within the next two months.

The application deadline for most American colleges and universities

is December 31, so most of the work must be accomplished before Winter Break on December 17, 2010. The colleges and universities in the UCAS (United Kingdom) system have an application deadline of January 15, 2011. All this means that parents and students must be researching and discussing college and university options over the next few weeks.

To help in that regard, Mrs Keiko Okude and Mr Michael J. Wagner, the College Guidance Counselors, will be hosting a College Information

Night on September 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Grade 12 students and parents are expected to attend and all Grade 9 to 11 students and parents are encouraged to attend. Attached to this newsletter is a listing of college events that have occurred thus far as well as a listing of events in the near future. As always, if you have any questions, you may contact Mrs Okude (k_okude@kist.ed.jp) or Mr Wagner (m_wagner@kist.ed.jp).

College presentations at KIST

- **Colgate University, Skidmore College, Reed College, Northeastern, Colorado College, USA** | Thursday, September 2 | 9:40 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- **NYU (New York University) Abu Dhabi, UAE** | Monday, September 13 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Glion Institute of High Education, Switzerland** | Friday, September 17 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **ICU (International Christian University) Japan** | Monday, September 27 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Swiss School of Tourism and Hospitality, Switzerland** | Thursday, September 30 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.
- **University of Melbourne, Australia** | Thursday, September 30 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **UBC (the University of British Columbia), Canada** | Monday, October 11 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **PLU (Pacific Lutheran University), USA** | Friday, October 15 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Binghamton University, USA** | Monday, November 1 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

College Fair

- **CIS College Fair at St. Mary's International School** | Thursday, September 9 | 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- **UK College Fair by British Council at Grand Hall Shinagawa** | Saturday, October 2 | 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **UK, USA, Australian College Fair by beo at L Tower Shinjuku** | Sunday, October 3 | 1:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- **Kanto Plains College Fair at ASIJ** | Monday, October 25 | 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Other important dates

- **College Information Night at KIST** | Tuesday, September 21 | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **PSAT for G10 and G11** | Saturday, October 16 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Free Dress Day



The first free dress day for 2010-2011 will be held on **Tuesday, September 28**. There will be a charge of 200 yen per students. Proceeds from the day will go to the Secondary Student Representative Council. The theme will be **RAINBOW**.

The rainbow represents the beauty and wonder of diverse elements coming together. What more appropriate symbol for an international school? We encourage you to theme your clothes according to a particular color of the rainbow on Free Dress Day. On this day, the whole school will come together for a

memorable photograph: a giant school rainbow because we support diversity, not discrimination.

We would like to remind families that all Free Dress Days are for the **whole school**. Separate notification will not be distributed, so please make a note on your calendar. Further, we remind you that although students do not have to wear the school uniform on these days, the clothes they wear must uphold the image of the school. In addition, all students are expected to follow the regular school dress code in terms of general appearance. Please check the School Handbook (available on the Admissions >> Documentation page of the school website) if you are unsure of these expectations.

Sino-Japan Youth Conference



I am Taisei from Grade 9. During the summer holiday this year, I got an opportunity to visit Hong Kong and Guangdong Province in China.

The purpose for visiting Hong Kong and China was to participate in the Sino-Japan Youth Conference. At this conference, 45 junior high and high school students from China, Hong Kong and Japan got together to discuss the relationship between China and Japan seriously.

In order to participate in this conference, we needed to pass the test for essays in Japanese and English and also the interview. I believed that I could pass this test because I had many chances to write essays in class under the IB educational program. So, I was selected by the Sino-Japan Youth Conference Committee as one of 15 teenagers who represented Japan. After I was chosen as a member of the conference, I and 14 other boys and girls from Japan went to Hong Kong where the conference was held.

At the Sino-Japan Youth Conference, we stayed at the dormitory of Lo Po Chun United World College for a week and discussed with each other about the future relationship between two Asian countries. We focused our discussion on the history, culture and other problems happening in China now. We had several experiences, learned and discussed mainly about the Tibet

issue, Yasukuni issue, strikes at Japanese factories, Hansen's disease, differences of historical events in textbooks in schools in China and Japan, world peace and anti-Japan activities issues etc. Actually, I visited a factory owned by a Japanese company in China and heard opinions from employees, had a group discussion with other participants about the differences of historical events in textbooks in schools in China and Japan, and had an opportunity to discuss with a person who has an emotion of anti-Japan.

The most impressive thing during the conference for me was that we visited a village for ex-patients of Hansen's disease. In the past, the Chinese government had a governmental policy to send Hansen's disease patients to an isolated village. At this moment, there are no Hansen's disease patients and people with the aftereffects of Hansen's disease are currently living in the village. Though they spend painful days without their family and brothers, JIA, a Japanese NGO, started to stay at the village from several years ago for the purpose of encouraging the people living there. Since then, many villages where JIA had some activity became more active and people in the villages had smiles on their faces. Many volunteers from all over the world were living together with the villagers when we visited the village. I was impressed very much for having this opportunity that people can cooperate and support each other though the

nationality is different.

Most of the committee members of the Sino-Japan Youth Conference were graduates of United World College. They are still studying at university all over the world and participating in several volunteer activities and trying to learn about the world. They are very frank and can communicate easily to consult with difficult issues. I met with many wonderful people through this conference and saw several things with my own eyes and learned the actual situation of the world. This conference really changed my way of thinking and I have a feeling to go abroad and tackle several issues which we have to solve.

Even though the conference is over, all the participants are working towards their next stage to change the world. Some of the participants from China decided to participate in JIA activities, some of the participants from Hong Kong are trying to make a correspondence program between China and Japan, and some of the participants from Hiroshima in Japan talked to me that they went to the United Nation's office and want to participate in an international conference for world peace. All the participants of this conference, including me, are now moving to try to change the world with their friends. I really feel that I want KIST students to participate in this kind of opportunity as volunteers outside the school.

Taisei (Grade 9B)



Important School Sport Dates

We are very excited about the upcoming autumn term of school sport at KIST. The clubs are now underway and have been training hard for the ISTAA season ahead. Below is a list of the volleyball and cross country fixtures for the autumn term. We have several more possible fixtures and if confirmed will be added in future newsletters. Letters regarding the sporting clubs have been sent home.



Volleyball

Date	Age level	Opponent	Venue
Sep. 21 (Tuesday)	U/18 Boys/Girls	Canadian International School	KIST
Sep. 22 (Wednesday)	U/14 Boys/Girls	Tokyo International School	TIS
Sep. 27 (Monday)	U/18 Girls	International Secondary School	ISS
Sep. 28 (Tuesday)	U/14 Boys/Girls	Canadian International School	KIST
	U/18 Girls	American School in Japan	ASIJ
Oct. 5 (Tuesday)	U/18 Girls	Canadian International School	Canadian IS
Oct. 8, 9 (Saturday, Sunday)	U/18 Girls	<i>Tournament</i>	Yokohama IS / St Maur IS
Oct. 12 (Tuesday)	U/14 Boys/Girls	Canadian International School	Canadian IS
Oct. 14 (Thursday)	U/18 Girls	International Secondary School	KIST
Oct. 19 (Tuesday)	U/18 Girls	Columbia International School	KIST
Nov. 2 (Tuesday)	U/18 & U/14 Girls	Nishimachi International School	Nishimachi IS
Nov. 9 (Tuesday)	U/18 & U/14 Boys	Nishimachi International School	KIST
To be announced	U/14 Boys/Girls & U/18 Boys/Girls	<i>End of season tournament</i>	To be announced

Cross Country

November 5 (Friday): KIST Inter-House Cross Country Day
November 19 (Friday): ISTAA Inter-School Cross Country Meet

Please be aware that these dates are subject to change.

Will Spring

Sports/PE Coordinator



School Festival

The School Festival returns again this year with a brand new name - KISTival! The festival is the most important fundraising event during the school year and will be held, rain or shine, on **Saturday, October 23**. This year, proceeds from the festival will be put towards improving IT facilities across the school. For this reason, we ask for the support of the entire school community in ensuring the success of the festival.



All visitors including teachers, parents and students (yes, Secondary students, too!) are encouraged to wear a costume on the day to add to the festive atmosphere.

The festival is open to members of the public. A small entry fee of 100 yen is charged at the entrance gate to cover the cost of garbage disposal on the day.

Further information about the festival will be distributed to all families over the coming weeks.

Welcome to New Staff

Faculty



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Head of School



Robin Schneider
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Secondary Principal



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Other staff



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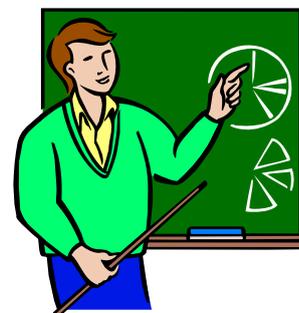
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We wish you all the best for a great year!