JAPAN SCHOOL NEWS

Caroline Pover, Inc.

💈 Evergreen Outdoor Center

September 2014, #52

Keyshots new services for schools



Max and Declan enjoying a photography session with Keyshots. KEYSHOTS

Kerry Raftis of Keyshots Photography has long been known by the international community for her magazine covers, individual portraits, and family photo shoots. She's a familiar face on the Tokyo social scene, and has been photographing parties and other social events since 2002.

Kerry's services have recently extended to include recording memories for the younger members of the international community, especially with her new photo booth. "We have been using our photo booth at lots of school fairs and school parties, which are always really fun!" she says.

With the school photography season coming up, Kerry will be busy visiting a wide range of international schools, as well as planning Shichigo-san kimono portraits in a few months time. For this traditional rite of passage for girls aged three and seven years, and boys aged three and five

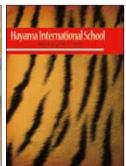
years, Kerry visits a school complete with kimono for the children to dress up in, and a stylist so the children are dressed professionally. She then takes traditional Japanese-style portraits, creating the memory of a lifetime, and the perfect gift for family members in home countries.

Keyshots also offers a wide range of photography services throughout the school year, including softcover and hardcover yearbook design and printing services, with a fully bilingual design

Keyshots is available for full coverage of school events, or just to provide support coverage of certain events that might not be covered by your official school photographer, if you have one.

For more information please see http://keyshots.com, call 03-6804-8586, or email info@keyshots.com.

Treehouse Montessori School







A selection of yearbooks produced by Keyshots Photography for the international school community. KEYSHOTS

Gregg International opens a new middle school

The Gregg International School staff have been working hard over the summer months preparing for what they hope to be an exciting year ahead. They have spent months planning a new curriculum and the introduction of an accredited British-based program (ASDAN) in addition to Gregg's core subjects.

ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) provides a range of programs to accredit young people's activities, and specifically focus on fostering the growth of skills for learning, employment, and life.

ASDAN was developed in the eighties at the University of the West of England, and was formally established as an educational charity in 1991. ASDAN's charitable purpose is: "the advancement of education, by providing opportunities for all learners to develop their personal and social attributes and levels of achievement through ASDAN awards and resources, and the relief of poverty, where poverty inhibits such opportunities for learners." A charitable fund that offers grants is in place to support "the relief of poverty."

Today ASDAN provides support to thousands of registered centres (mostly schools and colleges) throughout the UK and in other countries, publishes more than 100 resource titles, supervises the moderation and verification procedures for all its courses, and develops new curriculum programs, resources and qualifications in response to the needs of the profession.

Gregg is the first school in Japan to become a registered ASDAN centre and the staff are proud to be offering these great programs to youngsters.

Gregg has also introduced "Stepping Stones" to the grade 3 and 4 students for this academic year, in order to supplement the school's Social Studies program, and has added PSHE (Personal, Social, and Health Education), a concept that is new to Gregg.

The Gregg community wishes the new middle school students lots of luck! — SUE SOUTHERN



Gregg International new middle school students Ruruka and Haruki receiving letters from their pen pals at St. Thomas Junior School, UK. SUE SOUTHERN

Evergreen Outdoor Center



Summer Activities

Canyoning
Rafting
Downriver Canoe & Kayak
Canadian Canoeing
Kayaking
Canoe Picnicking
Firefly Canoe Tours
Mountain Biking
Climbing
Hiking & Nature Walks
Summer Camps
Team Building

Winter Activities

Ski & Snowboard Lessons Guided Backcountry Tours Avalanche Skills Training Snowboard Instructor Courses CASI ACMS

Children's Daycare Service

Thanks, Evergreen Outdoor Center. Absolutely the best ski experience that we have ever had. The whole family had a world of fun. From beginners to parallel skiing in 4 lessons. I highly recommend the experience to anyone from ages 3 to 40+. Thanks again!" The Johnsons, NY

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Kailua "Summer's Cool" assembly



Kailua Week 2 Summer's Cool children pose and say aloha before their end-of-the-week performances. KAILUA

Kailua Summer School attracted more than 125 children from ages 1 to 11 this year. Repeat enrolments formed the bulk of the attendees, with many of them encouraging friends and schoolmates to join. Enrolment increased throughout the program as some parents added school weeks to their children's summer programs.

Community involvement marked the end of the first week of summer school, with about 60 children providing the opening numbers at the Tsudanuma Yasaka-jinja Festival. The children entertained the large audience with a 30-minute program of songs and dances. In the middle of the second week, Kailua hosted a sunshine guitar concert that added even more life to the school's summer school. Mr. Hidekatsu Miyazato — a radio personality, singer, and "sanshin" guitarist — performed several Okinawa-based songs with the children joining in, especially to the tune of the popular "Chinsagu no Hana."

Several parents attended an assembly at the end of the second week, where each class put on a show. All the performances were related to the week's theme, "The Menehune Ditch," a very important irrigation canal in Hawaii. The songs performed were "Deep and Wide" (toddlers' class), "Digging It Up" (kinder 1 class), "Listen to the Water" (kinder 2 class), "Menehune Victory Chant" (elementary basic English class), and "Menehune Boogie" (combined kindergarten and elementary bilingual classes).

Summer certificates were awarded to the 17 students who finished their summer program that week. Certificates were also awarded for the Eiken and UN English Tests. Pass rates were 100% for the UN Tests and 98% for the Eiken Step Tests.

For more information about Kailua International School, see http://kailua-international-school.info.

— ROBERT GOMEZ

AIDLC Water Fun Days

Aoyama International Daycare and Learning Center (AIDLC) held "Water Fun Days" at the end of July and again at the end of August. The AIDLC students had fun swimming at a nearby community centre while also sharing and making friends with children from other schools, providing a good learning experience for all the children, as well as lots of fun! — ANA GERVACIO



Aoyama International Daycare and Learning Center students having fun in a community centre pool this summer. AOYAMA INTERNATIONAL DAYCARE AND LEARNING CENTER

HYIS's fall term campaign

Hitokoe Yokohama International School's fall term campaign is still open throughout the months of September and October. Registration is open for the regular preschool for children aged 17 months to six years. The after-school and Saturday school English classes (ESL beginners to advanced) are accepting students from primary to high school. After-school classes are available in steel pan drums, piano, violin, dance, and karate. Spaces are also available on a new course on Business English. Please phone the school on 045-363-3356 to inquire about the campaign discounts. — PATRICIA ALDANA

New Hope Int'l open day

New Hope International Preschool, in Itabashi-ku, is holding a school information session on Saturday, October 11, from 2–3pm. Phone 03-5383-0421 or see http://www.newhopeclc.jp or http://www.facebook.com/newhopepreschool for more information. — JEREMY SEMINOFF

NewIS students learn to play the violin in just weeks



Students at the NewlS summer program playing the violin after just a few weeks of studying. NEWIS

Yes, they can! Students in the New International School (NewIS) of Japan summer program learned to play the violin after only a few weeks of daily group lessons. The Suzuki Method has the students learn by ear, and they can all do it! The technique fits well with the New International School philosophy,

which emphasizes learning through experience throughout the regular school year. All of the NewIS children learn to play the violin from age six, and many go on to other instruments as well. They also learn all subjects in both English and Japanese. For information about NewIS go to http://newis.ed.jp.

Back to school at St Alban's Nursery



Staff and students enjoying the playground during this year's summer program at St. Alban's Nursery. ST. ALBAN'S

After a fantastic and rejuvenating summer, the St. Alban's Nursery team is looking forward to starting the new school year and meeting lots of new friends. They have prepared a variety of new activities, songs, crafts, stories, and "show and tell" opportunities to share with the children. The team is also looking forward to meeting all the parents informally during a Welcome Coffee Morning on September 15.

This year's summer program was a great success weather permitting, there will still be many chances for even more outdoor and water play in the beautiful nursery playground.

The St. Alban's Nursery program aims to help children build foundations for a lifetime of creative learning while fostering a love of learning. All activities are designed to help develop each child's skills in the following core areas: language, social, emotional, and physical development, as well as independence, self-confidence, creativity, mathematics, and logic. The nursery's show-andtell provides the children with the opportunities to speak in front of a group of their peers while learning to listen and respect others. — GILMA YAMAMOTO-COPELAND

Aoyama International Daycare & Learning Center

Aoyama IDLC welcomes applications from families of all nationalities.

Designed to help families with their children's daycare and English education needs at an affordable rate and with an easy-

Parents are welcome to stay anytime to play and work with their children along with other families and staff. Wi-fi and a comfortable workspace are provided for parents who want to stay and work near their children.

Professional, highly experienced English-speaking teachers or staff will be on hand for support and conducting learning center activities throughout the day



GE REQUIREMENTS
Age requirements will yary depending on parents' participation. 0 to 2 will require more parent participation. Ages 2 to 6 is our base range and older children are accepted on a case-by-case basis.

OPERATION HOURS

Monday to Friday from 9am-3pm. Weekends and holidays are being considered as well as longer days until 6:30pm depending on demand.

TTENDANCE

You may participate on a part time or full-time basis.





We are currently accepting applications for middle school elementary (grades 1–6), and kindergarten (K1–K5)

Please feel free to contact us for a tour of our school.





INQUIRY





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- Check website for monthly orientations in English or Japanese, and seminars open to the public.
- Visitors are also welcome by individual appointment.





http://newis.ed.jp

3-18-22 Minami-Ikebukuro Toshima-ku Tokyo 171-0022 Tel: 03-3980-1057

Accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA); Members of the Progressive Education Network (PEN) and the Coalition of Essential Schools (CES)

Tokyo Association of International Preschools

TAIP provides networking, marketing, and professional development opportunities for teachers, staff, and administrators. See http:// tokyopreschools.org for membership information. Current regular membership includes:

ABC International School Aoba-Japan International School ASIJELC Avla International School The British School in Tokyo Canadian International School Central Forest International School Chateau School Columbia International School Eton House International Preschool Gregg International School Happy Days International School Hello Kids Preschool & English School Honey Tree Tots Cooperative Preschool Horizon Japan International School International School of the Sacred Heart Jingumae International Exchange School Joy to the World American Int. Preschool J's International School K. International School Tokyo Kailua International School Keiki Intercultural Preschool Kincarn International School Komazawa Park International School Kunitachi Kids International School Makuhari International School Mitsui Gardens International Preschool The Montessori School of Tokyo New International School New World International School Nishimachi International School Ohana International School Orange International Preschool Poppins Active Learning International School St. Albans Nursery Seisen Int. Sch. — Montessori Kindergarten Shikahama English Adventures Int. Preschool Summerhill International School Tokyo International Kindercare Tokyo International School Tokyo YMCA International School Waseda International School Willowbrook International School Yoyogi International School

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TELL's October workshop on "Grief and Loss"

TELL's Exceptional Parenting Program (EPP) is hostingaworkshop on "The Other Side of Happiness Coping with Grief and Loss" on Tuesday, October 7, from 10am-midday. The workshop will be facilitated by TELL psychotherapist Sukanya Wignaraja, MSW, and held at the Wesley Center 2F, Seminar Room, 6-10-11 Minami Aoyama, Minatoku, Tokyo 107-0062. The workshop is free, but donations are highly appreciated.

Sukanya Wignaraja has a masters degree in social work from Oxford University, UK. She also has a graduate diploma in solution-focused brief therapy and is a certified solution focused therapist. Sukanya has over 15 years' experience in adult mental health services, in the UK and in the Philippines. She has worked in a range of clinical settings, such as community mental health teams, hospitals, and prisons. She has provided individual therapy for adults living with depression, anxiety, work-related stress, domestic violence, and grief and loss, and also has extensive experience in couples counselling. She can speak English, French, Spanish, Bengali, and Hindi.

TELL's Exceptional Parenting Program (EPP) provides a forum where parents and professionals can broaden their knowledge of issues related to raising and educating children with diverse needs, seek and exchange information in a supportive atmosphere, and access a lending library of books, magazines, and recorded presentations.

The workshop series features six or more presentations by speakers from a variety of disciplines, and takes place between October and May every year. The workshops are centred on providing insightful, practical information designed to increase awareness and understanding of various issues associated with raising and educating a child with learning differences/diverse needs.

Some workshops are now provided in three different formats: onsite, live offsite, and online. Please note that some workshops will be available only onsite. For more information see http://www. telljp.com and RSVP Chie Sawa at excep.parents@ telljp.com. — AI KOKUNUGI

JSN seeks freelance writers

Japan School News is steadily growing, and would like to hear from freelance writers interested in contributing to this monthly and online publication. We are looking for people interested in writing about and for the international school community (students, teachers, and parents). This would suit writers who are already connected with international schools, PTAs, or parenting groups and, as such, have a range of ideas or news stories that they might like to write about. Aspiring writers are also welcome - don't worry if you haven't been published before. Please read some back issues at http://www. japanschoolnews.com, and send writing samples and rates to caroline@carolinepover.com.

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nschoolnews.com September 2014, #52

Jingumae International Exchange School's summer fun



Children enjoy making papier mache masks during this year's summer school at Jingumae International Exchange School. JES

Jingumae International Exchange School held its summer school from July 14 through August 8. A total of 31 children from ages four through 11 participated in the program this year. They all enjoyed activities such as games, science experiments, cooking, drawing, craft making, singing, and dancing, all thematically linked to the weekly topics of countries, science, sports, and fairy tales.

On the last day of each week, summer school attendees went on a group excursion. During the first week they enjoyed watching insects and seeing the various animals at Tama Zoo, during the second week they explored science at Miraikan, and on the third week they went to Shinrin Koen and had fun at a water pool. It was a hot but definitely fun summer!

— SAIKO KOBAYASHI

Ohana International School opens new classroom



The new classroom opening at Ohana International School this year. SHELLEY SACKS

The Ohana International School community is excited to be opening its third classroom. The school now has "Flowers," "Petals," and "Buds" classes, and prides itself on creating an environment that encourages the blossoming of children and the blooming of friendships.

Ohana International School is in Motoazabu, and caters to children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years. 60% of the children are non-Japanese, 10% are bicultural, and 30% are Japanese. Please contact the school by phone on 03-3408-8888 to schedule a visit. — SHELLEY SACKS



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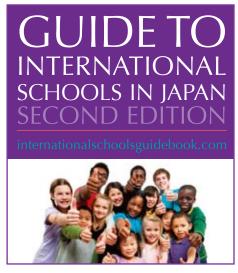














International schools help bring I



The new playground in Ayukawa, sponsored by Meikei High School. CAROLINE POVER

The international school community left their mark on a remote peninsula in Tohoku this summer by contributing to the building of a community library and a playground on Oshika-hanto. A total of ¥2.6 million was raised to pay for the construction of these much-needed community spaces, with a third of the money coming from five international schools — Meikei High School, Azabu Music Together, Tokyo International Kindercare, India International School in Japan, and American International School Joy to the World.

The students at Meikei High School in Tsukuba have supported Ishinomaki — the city nearest to the Oshiko-hanto area — since soon after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, with several of the students visiting the area to offer assistance. The school raised a total of ¥430,000 to sponsor the building of a new outdoor play space for children of all ages, and also contributed ¥100,000 toward the library project. Staff member Stephen Bird, along with his daughter Aya (a student at Meikei), visited the peninsula to assist with the construction of the playground alongside members of the local community and other volunteers.

Azabu Music Together held various events to raise ¥400,000, which was used to help build the library, and Tokyo International Kindercare held an "international week" where the students learned about social responsibility by engaging in various fundraising activities. They had hoped to raise ¥20,000 and were very happy to greatly surpass their target by eventually reaching ¥100,000. India International School in Japan donated money they had raised at an international carnival they

had held soon after the earthquake, and American International School Joy to the World donated part of the proceeds from the spring bazaar they held earlier this year.

Other sponsors included Farmor's School in Gloucestershire (UK), the Japanese community in Oxford (UK), Sun and Moon Yoga Studio (Japan), Plympton Rotary Club (UK), Amity Yokohama (Japan), and The 1966 Quartet (Japan), as well as individuals Lucie Kapner (US), William Hill and Kellie Fitzmaurice (New Zealand), Julian Lusardi (UK), Peter Bacon (UK), and Ruthie lida (US).

Carpenters from Saitama and Tohoku constructed the library over a two-week period at the end of July and beginning of August, with assistance from members of the local community and volunteers. Created in the style of a home-based library in a warm log building, this new community space was furnished with items donated by IKEA, and the walls are adorned with hearts featuring photographs of all the different sponsors.

To ensure that the books inside the library were relevant to the people in the area, local residents were asked for the titles of books they had lost in the tsunami, as well as books that they would like to read. These books were added to a wish list on Amazon, and people throughout the world bought books from the wish list, which were then delivered directly to the library. Around 700 books for young children, teenagers, and adults have been donated to the library to date. When visitors lift the seats of stools that have been placed in the library, a range of wooden games for children and adults to play surprises them.

ibrary and playground to Tohoku



Oshika Community Library, in Oharahama. CAROLINE POVER

The library is built on the land where the local police box used to be, in an area known for its beautiful sunsets (Masamune Date made this village his summer home in the 16th century and more recently, a well-known Japanese politician had a second home here until the tsunami). Construction regulations require that a structure larger than 10 square metres must gain planning permission from local authorities, so the library is exactly 10 square metres, and has an outdoor terrace for further space. Outdoor cushions and mats are stored inside the library, so that people can take advantage of the beautiful view.

During construction, a small piece of land was noticed next to the library (formerly, it had the police car's garage on it). It was still full of tsunami debris, with the addition of piles of unwanted bamboo on top — someone had dumped it on top of the debris a year after the tsunami. The debris was cleared,

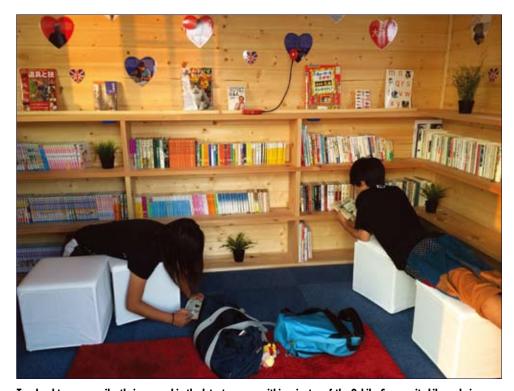


The local community's "beer garden." CAROLINE POVER

and the bamboo was painted and used to make a wall around the edge of the space, thus creating an outdoor seating area. (The locals have since proudly come to call this their "beer garden.")

Three and a half years on, with a quarter of a million people still living in temporary housing, and very little rebuilding happening in the small fishing villages on this peninsula, much of the land here still looks like wasteland. The playground and community library that the international schools in Japan made possible this summer have brought much-needed social spaces to people who otherwise feel very forgotten.

If your school would like to get involved in community projects like these, please email caroline@carolinepover.com. The wish list for the library is still open — please search "Oshika Community Library Wish List" and send a book or two, if you can. — CAROLINE POVER



Two local teenagers silently immersed in the latest manga, within minutes of the Oshika Community Library being









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