

Upcoming Events

Jan. 1— New Year's Day

Jan. 5 — New Student

Orientation

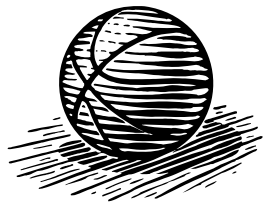
Jan. 6 — First Day of

Winter Term

Jan. 12 — National Holiday

Jan. 13 — MS/HS

Science Fair



KIU Academy Sports

High School Basketball

The teams have continued to practice since the end of classes.

Coach Blocksom and Coach Kusakabe have worked hard in December to help the players improve their basic skills. The result was improved scores and success in the games at Nagoya IS on 12/13. The girls fought hard, but lost to the Lady Dolphins. The boys were able to win their game rather handily. Both teams play their final WJAA league games at Osaka on Friday, January 9. There will be other practice games before the tournaments January 23-24. Both will be in Kobe where the girls will play at Canadian Academy and the boys at Marist. The girls' JV team will have their first opportunity to participate in the Yokohama Invitational January 16-17.



Middle School Boys Basketball

Coach Andy Carrico (KIU student) said it was a good but tough season with 11 boys on the team. Some were new to basketball and they quickly learned the basics. The team finished in 6th place at the season-ending tournament at Marist. They lost a close game against Hiroshima, but the boys played well. Coach Carrico feels that though several of the key players will be moving up to high school, those returning next year will provide a solid core for a good team.



Middle School Girls Soccer



Mr. Simoes and the girls completed their season at the CA tournament December 13. Much like the rest of the season, they played with the bare minimum of 7 players. All the girls worked hard and played well in spite of having little time to rest between the 5 matches they played. Next season, Coach Simoes would like to see more girls join the team and find out how much fun futbol (soccer) can be!



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KIU ACADEMY

January, 2009

! *The Torch*

Annual KIU Academy Science Fair



On Tuesday, January 13, 2009, all middle school and high school students who are taking science classes will participate

in the annual KIU Academy Science Fair. Students have been working on experiments they designed themselves, testing their hypotheses, collecting data, and making conclusions. The projects will be divided into a number of different categories, including botany, biology, environmental sciences, chemistry, and physics.

The fair will start at 9:00 with students setting up their project displays. Because of the magnitude of the fair, all middle school and high school classrooms will be used to display projects. Therefore

there will be no regular classes for middle school and high school students. From 10:00 to 12:00, judges will be interviewing the students, evaluating their projects, and assessing points for the projects based on a list of pre-determined criteria. From 12:00 to 1:00, students will have lunch; all display rooms will be closed. From 1:00 to 2:30, the displays will be open for public viewing. At 3:00, all students will gather in A-B1 for an awards ceremony, giving certificates and awards to the fair participants.

Parents and visitors are welcome to come and see the displays, talk with the students about their projects, and see who gets what awards.



Elementary events

Fall trimester ended on December 5 with a busy day for our elementary students. After music practice and cleaning, the students enjoyed the Christmas party with a flea market, food and games followed by the Christmas program for parents. We hope everyone enjoyed the day. We would like to thank all of those parents who helped with food and games, donated items for the flea market, and came to listen to the children sing.

If you were unable to attend and would like to order a DVD of the music program or the world history video, "Xerxes and Esther," please contact the receptionist by January 13. We now look forward to our next elementary event, snow camp, which is scheduled for January 22-23 but may be changed depending on snow conditions. More information will be distributed as that event draws nearer.



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KIU Academy Mission Statement:

To provide, from a Biblical perspective, a safe, nurturing environment where students can develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, and an academically challenging environment where students can potentially become people of academic excellence.

KIU Academy Vision Statement:

To be the leader in quality bilingual education based on Christian principles

Administrator's Corner – Mr. Myers

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, KIU Academy is going through the process of seeking accreditation from the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Earning this accreditation serves many purposes. One is to evaluate every facet of the operations, procedures, and policies of our school and to ensure that everything that we do is in line with our philosophy, mission, and vision. This evaluation will bring the things that we do well AND the things that we need to improve to light. Another purpose is for our students. Since accreditation through ACSI is internationally accepted, it means that our graduates will be accepted at colleges and universities almost worldwide.

The first step is to put together the committees that will make the reports. There will be 11 committees, one committee for each standard and a steering committee. The 10 standard committees collect the information that is required to determine to what degree the school meets the expectation of their specific standard. The standards are:

- Standard 1 - Philosophy and Foundation,
- Standard 2 - Governance and Administrative Leadership,
- Standard 3 - Home and Community Relations and Student Services,
- Standard 4 - Personnel,
- Standard 5 - Instructional Program,
- Standard 6 - Library, Media, and Technology Services,
- Standard 7 - Crisis Planning, Safety, Health, and Food/Nutrition Services,
- Standard 8 - Facilities, Environment, and

Transportation,
 Standard 9 - Character, Values, and Spiritual Development of Students/Children, and
 Standard 10 - Continuous School Improvement.

In the next few newsletters, I will be explaining more about each of these standards so that everyone will be better informed about what we are working on.

The amount of time that this requires on behalf of the staff is tremendous. So to facilitate the process, we are making a slight change to our monthly schedule. Every Thursday, middle school and high school students are expected to leave by 4:30 so teachers can have their weekly staff meeting. Starting in January, all students will be expected to leave at 4:00 one Thursday a month, the Thursday that is designated ACSI Thursday for staff. This is usually the second Thursday. This will allow staff to have concentrated time to work on the reports required for accreditation.

We appreciate your continued support of the school. If you would like to learn more about accreditation, please make an appointment to come talk to me. I will be happy to share with you the great potential this has for KIU Academy.



Professional Soccer Player visits KIU

Mr. Sidiclei de Souza, defender for the Kyoto Sanda professional soccer team, visited KIU Academy and talked to the elementary, middle school, high school students on December 2. He is originally from Brazil and has played in Japan for 11 years for five different teams.

He shared how difficult it is to play soccer at the top level and be competitive all the time. The pressure caused problems in his personal life. Three and a half years ago, through the encouragement of a Gamba Osaka teammate, he began to attend a Bible study. There he learned about Jesus and how He could change His heart and give him a foundation to stand on. He gave his heart and life over to Jesus and though life is not perfect, Sidiclei knows that Jesus has changed him and given him a purpose for living. His relationships with his wife, sons, and teammates are much better because Jesus lives in and through him. This season, all four of the international players for the Kyoto Sanga were Christians. They could pray together and encourage each other as well as their other teammates.

Winter Trimester Sports

As was mentioned in the previous TORCH, the MS teams will begin new seasons at the beginning of the new trimester. Mr. Blocksom will be coaching the middle school girls' basketball and Mr. Simoes will head the middle school boys' soccer team. Practices for the middle school girls will be Mondays and Wednesdays beginning January 5. The bus will leave the school at 12:20 and Shintanabe station at 12:30. They will practice until 4:00 PM.

The middle school boys' soccer practices will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays, starting January 6 right after school at 3:40. Once school starts, practices will go until 5:45. Permission forms and fees should be handed in at the office as soon as possible.

High school soccer practice for those not

Students were able to ask him several questions in both the middle school and elementary sessions. When asked how early he began to play soccer, he replied, "Before I could walk." What is the best way to improve soccer skills? "Practice, practice and practice."

Thank you, Sidiclei, for giving your time to come and speak to our students!



involved in basketball will begin January 6. The focus in the beginning will be on developing skills. High school girls are very welcome to attend the practices. If we have 10 girls committed to the season, we will work at making a schedule for them.

Are there any high school girls interested in learning to play softball? Most of the Western Japan Athletic Association (WJAA) schools have high school girls' softball in the spring. It is considered one of the most popular sports for girls at these association schools. Please talk with me if you are interested!

Gregg Hutton, KIU Athletic Director