

**Upcoming Events**

- Mar.3 - ES Joint Homeroom
- Mar.6 - MSBS/ MSGBB tournament
- Mar.7 - MSBS/ MSGBB tournament
- Mar. 13 - HSBS tournament
- Mar.14 - HSBS tournament
- Mar.18 - MS/HS Finals
- Mar.19 - MS/HS Finals  
5th Grade Farewell  
MS/HS Awards ceremony
- Last Day of Winter Term
- Mar.20 - No school  
National Holiday
- Mar.21 – Graduation
- Apr.10 - New Students Orientation
- Apr.13 - First day of spring trimester

**MS/HS Awards Ceremony**



On March 19, KIU Academy will have its annual MS/HS Awards Ceremony. Awards will be given to students who have demonstrated high academic achievement, shown the most improvement, or are considered the best in a subject.

Sports awards will also be given.

Parents are invited to come to the awards ceremony. It will start at 2:00 in A-B1.

If parents do come, we ask them to park their cars near the C ground.

**MS/HS Finals**



This term's finals for middle school and high school students will be on Wednesday and Thursday, March 18-19. On March 18, students will take their finals for Japanese, English, and social studies. They will be dismissed at 2:45. On March 19, students will take their finals for science and math. Afterwards, there will be cleaning and the awards ceremony. Students will be dismissed at the regular time on Thursday, March 19. If parents have any questions, they are asked to contact the school.

**Upcoming Musical Event at KIU Academy**

The talent show put on by the KIU Academy student government (KSG) on Friday, February 20, was a big success. It gave students a chance to show their skills, talents, and gifts as performers. Some faculty members participated as well, and people enjoyed having a stage on which to entertain their friends. Comedy, drama, slight of hand, and modern dance were just a few of the items on the event schedule.

On a similar note, students in the middle school and high school music classes will be having another opportunity to perform during our lunch concert on March 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be an opportunity for students to perform some of the music they have been working on this semester in front of their peers. The three choirs here at KIU Academy, the middle school choir, HS Choir A and HS Choir B, will all be represented. The B choir has been showing a lot of progress this year and will also sing special selections at the graduation ceremony on Saturday, March 21.

Let's support and encourage the performing abilities of our students here at KIU!

**Thank you for participating in parent-teacher conferences**

The administration and staff would like to thank all the parents who came to this trimester's parent-teacher conferences, which were held February 9-13. We are thankful that the parents are interested in the

progress of their children.

If you were unable to attend, please feel free to contact your children's homeroom teachers to make an appointment to discuss their progress.

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**! The Torch**

**HS Graduation – March 21**

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March 2009 calendar  
2009-2010 academic calendar

**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*

On Saturday, March 21, we will have the Kyoto International University and Academy high school graduation ceremony in A-B1. The graduation ceremony will be for students graduating from twelfth grade and from university. Along with issuing graduation diplomas, academic awards and speeches will be given.

This year's speeches will be given by the valedictorian and the salutatorian. Some of the seniors who are in choir will also present songs.

The KIU Academy valedictorian is Tim Momose. The salutatorian is Taku Kuribayashi. These honors are awarded to students based on grade point average (GPA). The student with the highest GPA is selected as the valedictorian.

The student with the second highest



2007 Graduation  
GPA is selected as the salutatorian.

All members of the KIU community are invited to attend the graduation ceremony. Friends and relatives of the graduates are also welcome to attend.

The ceremony starts at 10:00 AM. For more information, please contact the school.

**2009-2010 KIU Academy Student Government election results**

On February 18, the election of the three executive posts, president, vice president, and chairperson, for the 2009 KIU Academy student government was held. Since only one person ran for each of the positions, the election was a vote of confidence for each candidate. During the speeches held before the election, it was obvious that the candidates were nervous, wringing their hands, which matched the nervousness they felt inside. Even so, the candidates were encouraged by the audience as they made their appeals. Mao Ueda, an upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> grade student, was elected as president, Inori Hayashi, who will also be a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student next year, was elected as vice president, and Yun Soo Park was elected as chairman.

This year's KSG acted on a lot of their plans, facing many new challenges. One of the things that it will be remembered for will be having the first woman chairperson in KIU Academy history. With a brief history and working with limited resources, they were motivated to do their best, striving to accomplish all that they could.

## Administrator's Corner – Mr. Myers

This month, KIU Academy will complete its tenth year. It's hard to imagine that KIU Academy started almost 10 years ago with only six students and a few teachers and staff members. Now, we have almost 240 students in grades 1-12 and over 30 staff members. The school started in A building and now takes up almost all of buildings A, B, and C. We have indeed grown!

But we have grown in more than just numbers. Since that time, we have done what we can to provide a quality educational experience. Since we are interested in more than just our students' academic development, we have added art, music, and physical education programs.

We changed from the traditional elementary-junior high- senior high school levels to elementary-middle school-high school levels. We wanted to help our Japanese

students be literate in Japanese, so we added Japanese language arts classes for each grade level. We expanded our computer classes for our middle/high school students. We added sports clubs, student government, yearbook, and more. We have indeed done a lot in just 10 years! But none of this could have been possible if our God, our Heavenly Father, the Creator of heaven and earth, were not with us. All that we are able to do is because of His continued presence and influence in our lives.

Even when things do not go well, we realize that God wants us to improve so that we can reflect His excellence, His glory, and His character.

With all of these accomplishments, we may be tempted to rest on our achievements and just coast along for the next few years.

That is not the case. We realize that we still have a lot of room for

improvement.

And in the next couple of years, those improvements will become more obvious. The thing that is driving us to improve is ACSI accreditation. The self-studies that ACSI requires will make us review all of our processes, procedures, policies, and programs to be sure that we are doing what we say we are doing.

This is an important process, one that I know will greatly enhance the quality of the educational experience here at KIU Academy.

I want to thank you for being a part of the history of KIU Academy! We believe that you are here because of a loving God who cares for your children and wants to help them grow to be the people of tomorrow.

## From the Guidance Counselor:

Last year our graduates got into SAIT (Canadian), Asia Pacific University (Ritsumeikan), Kansai University, Dordt College (USA), Drexel University (USA), Whitworth College (USA), Seika University, Hill Song International Leadership College (Australia) and KIU.

And from KIU we had successful transfers of students to California State University Long Beach, Pepperdine, and University of South Dakota. This year's graduates so far have been accepted to the following colleges: Worcester Polytechnic Institute (USA), Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (USA), University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA), Okayama National University, Ritsumeikan University, Osaka Women's University, Northeastern University (USA), Yonsei University (Korea), Master's College (USA), Dordt College, Redeemer University (Canada) and Sonoda Gakuen Women's Junior College.

One of our graduates who was studying in the US also transferred to Osaka Women's University.

We are making progress in placing students. It is a one-step-at-a-time process. For students entering Japanese universities, the admissions office (AO) application system is the easiest to utilize, but it is important that students and parents research to find the AO application system that best fits the student's talents and abilities. Most universities have an AO system. Some work very well with KIU graduates and others do not. KIU Academy will cooperate and help graduates with the AO application system, including teaching them how to interview. Even so, it is still the responsibility of the parents and the students to find which school has what kind of AO system.

Generally speaking, those who are studying abroad are doing quite well. Transferring credits to almost all institutions in the US has gone very smoothly this year. If you have specific questions, please schedule an appointment with either Mr. Goto or Mr. Blocksom.

## "Omochi" Pounding



On February 20, we had a rice cake pounding activity for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. We had a great time pounding and eating rice cakes. We especially appreciated Mr. and Mrs. Kita, parents of one of our students, for all their hard work in preparing the rice cakes and cleaning up afterwards. We learned about the process of how to make rice cakes and how to eat them in a safe way. The rice cakes were so delicious that some of the students said, "I have never eaten rice cakes like this before!"

## Fifth grade farewell

On Thursday, March 19, the last day of this school year, we will be having a short ceremony to congratulate our fifth graders who will be moving up to middle school next year.

It will be held at 9:05 in the basement of A-building.


Parents of fifth graders are welcome to attend.



## Visiting Science Museum of Photons



On February 13<sup>th</sup>, elementary students in grades 3-5 visited the Kids' Science Museum of Photons in Kizu. First of all, we worked on making rubber band helicopters colored with special markers. These markers can only be seen with a black light. They flew up to 10 m high. The students really enjoyed making them. After that we visited the laser lab. Here, students learned about the differences between regular lights and laser beams, and how they reflect, refract, and interfere. It was a good opportunity for students to have their scientific curiosity stimulated for the light around them.

**January**   
**Student of the Month**

The elementary students of the month for January were **Marika Nishiguchi** and **Becky Lee**.

The middle school student of the month was **Sasha Stroud**.

The high school student of the month was **Mao Ueda**.

Congratulations to you and everyone else who was nominated.