

## Possible location for new campus

For the benefit of our students, KIU is actively seeking a larger piece of property. Recently, we have been trying to put together a plan to purchase Kyoto Wel Sunpia (in Kyotanabe). KIU would like to purchase the hotel and gym part of the facility, but we cannot afford to purchase the entire property. Therefore we are actively looking for partners. While we have had a couple of corporations express interest, we have yet to seal a partnership agreement. The property is up for sale for an initial auction with the entry bid of at least 120 million yen. With the bid date of September 3rd being so near, there is a possibility that the land will eventually come at a greatly reduced price in December. Before that date we would like to have a partner so we can bid to purchase the property and move the school there. This would result in larger classrooms, more play ground space and a gym for our students.

If you have questions, comments, ideas or would like to get involved, please directly contact the school president, Mr. Blocksom.

## Kyoto International University Corner

Kyoto International University continues to welcome visitors to campus. A campus visit allows prospective students to sit in on a class and meet students as well as professors. From July 13 - 21, prospective students will have the opportunity to learn more about "cross-cultural communications" from visiting professor Kurt Thompson.

Professor Thompson speaks Japanese and has lectured both inside and outside Japan on this topic. His lectures often feature active-learning exercises and would give prospective students (perhaps a family friend) an opportunity to experience KIU.

We are eager to help each student meet their educational goals. If you have questions or know of an individual who may be interested, please contact Ms. Yuki Bito ([yuki.bitou@kyotoiu.ac.jp](mailto:yuki.bitou@kyotoiu.ac.jp), 0774-64-0804, Monday – Friday).

Thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful summer!

# School starts Sept. 7!

## What is the SLEP Test?

Earlier this year, middle school and high school students who are not native English speakers took the SLEP (Secondary Level English Proficiency) Test. This test, an internationally-recognized English proficiency test, is designed to assess the English proficiency of non-native speakers at the secondary school level around the world.

The scores were sent with the with the midterm grade reports. In case you were unsure about what the scores mean, we would like to explain them again. While you are reading the explanation, you may want to have your children's scores available.

The raw scores are the number of correct responses for each section of the test. The scaled scores are neither the number correct nor the percentage of questions answered correctly. They

provide a common measure by which to evaluate how well a student did on a particular section of the test, regardless of the particular form that was administered. There were three forms used.

The percentile ranks for SLEP scores are based on the performance of 1650 non-native English-speaking students enrolled in U.S. public schools in grades 7 through 12 during February and March 2003. A score of 75%, for example, means that the student performed better than 75% of these test takers.

If you still have any questions, please contact Mr. Carman.



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KIU ACADEMY

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# The Torch

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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*

## 2 Where our graduates are going

Many of our students have been accepted to a number of different colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, and Japan. Here is a partial listing of those schools.

◆Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, IN USA

◆University of Wisconsin – Madison, WI USA

◆University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE USA

◆University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada

◆Suffolk University, Boston, MA USA

◆Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA USA

◆Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA USA

◆Master's College, Santa Clarita, CA USA

◆Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH USA

◆University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

◆Northeastern University, Boston, MA USA

◆Dordt College, Sioux City, IA USA

◆Kyoto University, Kyoto City, Kyoto Japan

◆Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan

◆Okayama Prefectural University, Okayama City, Okayama, Japan

◆Osaka Jogakuin College, Osaka, Japan

Several of our graduates were able to transfer to American universities after studying at KIU for one year. Here is a list of the universities to which they have been accepted.

◇Lewis and Clark University, Portland, OR

◇Portland Bible College, Portland, OR

◇Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

For information regarding universities or colleges in the USA or Japan, please contact either Mr. Blocksom or Mr. Goto, our guidance counselors.

## Students of the Month for April & May

The elementary students of the month for April were Sunao Fujita and Jenny Miyano. The middle school SOTM was Micha-Lukas Gaub. And the HS SOTM was Kai Kimura.

For May, the elementary SOTMs were Julia Rohrer and Abraham Lee, the MS SOTM was Ayumi Aoki and the HS SOTM was Yutaro Nishi. Congratulations to these students and all the others that were nominated. Keep up the great work!



## Teacher Profile – Mr. Rytkonen



Hello everyone. My name is Janne Rytkonen, and I am the new teacher for Middle School and High School Geography and English Language Arts, grades 7 and 8. I arrived in Japan on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April with my wife and three children. However, this is the second time we have lived in Japan as a family, and my two daughters were born in Neyagawa City.

I was born in Finland, but my family moved to Australia when I was three years old, and I grew up in Australia and in the remote mountains and islands of Papua New Guinea, where my parents worked as missionaries. I completed high school in Papua New Guinea (a long time ago!) and returned to Australia to work and to continue my studies. Over the years I have acquired a Diploma of Applied Science, a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Communications and English, and a post-graduate Diploma of Education.

My parents became followers of Jesus Christ soon after we arrived in Australia, so I grew up in a Christian home. I came to a truly personal, independent faith in Jesus when I was 23 and have come to know

God as a real and living being, who can guide us and provide for all our needs in every circumstance. God has a specific, purposeful plan for us, and He can use each one of us, in spite of our character, personality and individual perspectives on life. And sometimes He uses us *because* of these quirks. I look forward to working with the students, colleagues and parents here at KIUA and wish you a long, sunny summer.

## Elementary Last Day Activities

Friday, July 10, will be the last day of this trimester, but elementary students will not be having regular classes on that day. They will start off the day by cleaning out their desks, lockers and classrooms. All of their textbooks and school supplies should be taken home, so parents may want to pick up their child at school that day or send along an extra bag for their children to put their belongings in.

After cleaning there will be a party with a variety of games and activities including water games with water balloons and squirt guns. Students should bring a bathing suit or clothes that can get wet, a towel, and a change of clothes. They may also want to bring a squirt gun and goggles or sunglasses to keep water from going

## Farewell to Sayaka - sensei!



The last day of this term will also be the last day for Sayaka-sensei. Sayaka-sensei has faithfully taught elementary Japanese for the last 5 years. She is leaving KIUA Academy to pursue another career – motherhood! We will miss her but wish her the best as she begins this exciting phase of her life. God bless you, Sayaka-sensei! May you, your husband, and your soon-to-be born child enjoy all that the Lord Jesus Christ has to bless you!

in their eyes. Students will need to pay twenty bonus bucks to participate in the party and may also use bonus bucks to buy ice cream or drinks. The party will be our last day with Mrs. Sayaka Mori, so we hope it will be a special day for everyone.

## MS/HS activities during the last week of school

During the last week of school, there will be several things going on for middle school and high school students.

Both levels will be taking finals on Monday and Tuesday, July 6 and 7. For a schedule, please take a look at the article about the finals.

July 8-10, the high school students will be attending summer camp at the Wakasawan Youth Outdoor Learning Center in Obama City, Fukui prefecture. They will be departing from the school Wednesday, July 8, and returning Friday, July 10. Originally, the plan was to return to school by 5:00 PM. However, a change in the schedule will allow us to return around 2:00. High school students will then be expected to leave campus soon after arrival at school.

While the high school students are at camp, the middle school students will participate in enrichment programs. Classes like tape sculpting and self-defense and awareness will allow middle school students to learn different things to enrich their learning experience. More information and registration forms will be given out soon.

The last day of school is Friday, July 10. High school summer school starts July 20. And the first day of the fall term is September 7.

## MS/HS finals



Finals for middle school and high school students will be held on Monday, July 6 and Tuesday, July 7. Here is the schedule for these two days.



Monday, July 6, 2009	
Time	Subject
8:45 – 9:00	Homeroom
9:05 – 10:35	Japanese
10:35 -10:50	Break
10:50 – 12:20	English / ESL
12:20 – 13:05	Lunch
13:05 – 14:35	Social Studies
14:45	All students are dismissed

Tuesday, July 7, 2009	
Time	Subject
9:00 – 10:30	Science
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:15	Math
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:20	MS/HS Combined HR
13:20 – 15:30	Cleaning

If students do not have a test during a particular testing period, they are not required to be at school. However, if they come, they will be placed in study hall for the entire testing period. Students will need to leave school at the regular time on Tuesday, July 7.

## 2009 Summer events

It will soon be summer. The spring trimester ends July 10. Even so, there are still a number of activities in which students can participate. These were mentioned in last month's newsletter. They include the Summer English program and a volleyball clinic. The summer English program will be held July 14-17. Many activities are being planned to help elementary students use English. Children will play games, learn important lessons, practice and perform a play, and other fun activities.

From July 13-17, KIUA Academy will be having a volleyball camp for all KIUA Academy students in grades 6-12 who have ever played volleyball or are interested playing volleyball. It will be held at the Noto youth hostel in Ishikawa prefecture. Applications can be picked up at the office.

## Using summer vacation to level up your reading! By Ms. Kami

Summer vacation is almost here. Some parents may be concerned that their children may forget some of the English they have learned. Others may be looking for some good tools to enrich their child's learning outside of school. I have some good news! I have been looking up resources online to help with English reading, pronunciation, and fluency. I have found a very good website for building these important skills. Best of all, it is free.

Let me introduce Starfall.com. Starfall features reading activities for various levels of reading ability. I recommend that first and second grade students start with **Level 1: ABCs** and move their way up to **Level 2: Learn to Read**. Even if the child's level is higher than ABCs, it is good review and the

activities are very fun. For second and third grade students, **Level 3: It's Fun to Read** has longer stories and really fun poems.

For all of the sections, children can click on words to hear them sounded out, pronounced, or even have the story read to them, or they can click on the pictures to watch them move. At the end of each story, the child can vote for whether or not they liked the story. Some of the fun activities can be printed and kept, such as a personal profile made by the child in Level 3. The stories and activities get even more advanced in **Level 4: I'm Reading**, so even fourth grade students can enjoy this website.

Please check it out for yourself. Go to [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com).