

Upcoming Events

Nov.2 - High School Restart

MS/HS culture Festival
Decision

Nov.3 - No School - National
Holiday

Nov.20 - College Night presenta-
tion

Nov.24 - No school - national
holiday

New Season

Middle school boys, high school boys and girls have begun basketball season. Games will be held throughout November and December, with the middle school boys completing their season December 12. Mr. Blocksom is the basketball coaching coordinator and will be working with others to coach the teams. Mr. Simoes and the middle school girls are looking to put together a soccer team to compete with the other international schools this season. Interested athletes and parents should contact the coaches, or the office, for more information.

Parents please encourage your children to participate in sports clubs. The purpose of our clubs is to help your child's development in ways that cannot be done in the classroom.

Health Forms

In September, we sent out health forms asking you to update the information. We have received some but are still waiting for others. If you haven't updated your health form yet, we ask that you do so

as soon as possible. Once you have updated the form, please have your child bring it to the office.

If you have any questions, please call the school. Your cooperation is most appreciated.

MS Girls' Volleyball

On October 9-10, the MS girls' volleyball team participated in the annual middle school girls' volleyball tournament at Marist Brothers International School (MBIS) in Kobe. The girls played hard against the MBIS Bulldogs, winning the first set 25-23, but losing the next two sets 17-25 and 13-15. It was tough to lose since they had played so hard. Katie Rohrer played superbly all-around, with strong serves and net play.

The next game was against Aoba-Japan International School (AJIS). It was scheduled several hours after our first game, so the girls were excited to play. This showed when we beat the Jaguars in two sets. This was an all-around effort, but with a strong performance by Jessica French. This is the first time I

can remember that our girls qualified for the semi-finals, playing against Senri-Osaka International School (SOIS)!

We played the Sabers on Saturday. It was a tough game, since SOIS was a seasoned team. Even so, we gave it our best. We lost both sets, 22-25 and 18-25. Despite the loss, the girls were still upbeat, knowing that they did their best.

Next year, we will only be losing two out of 10 players. If the remaining 8 return, we will definitely be in contention for the championship next year!

Middle School Boys' Baseball

When we first started practice during the spring term, there were some boys that had never played organized baseball before. But the boys really practiced hard during every practice. They got better and better with each practice game, making spectacular progress in my eyes. On the day of the

tournament at Nagoya, we played NIS in the consolation round and beat them. We got third place! I was sincerely proud of them, knowing that the boys worked really hard all season. I really want to say thank you to all my boys. You guys did a wonderful job! - Coach Harii

KIU Corner

The mission of Kyoto International University (KIU) is to educate individuals from a Biblical worldview in the western-style liberal arts tradition. To fulfill KIU's mission, KIU is seeking to build partnerships with other like-minded international Christian institutions. Potential partnerships allow for student exchanges and expand educational opportunities for KIU students across cultures as well as bring greater value to the overall KIU educational experience.

Based on a recent KIU survey, top regions for students' to study overseas include the United States, Canada and Korea. Given these findings, we are moving forward. In November, KIU will host a dinner in Osaka for representatives and

international students from Handong Global University in Korea. Handong Global University is well-known for its distinctive Christian education and international focus. Also, in December, President Blocksom and Dean Taylor will travel to the United States and Canada where they will meet with university presidents as well as directors for international studies to explore potential partnership opportunities.

We will keep you updated on these initiatives. In the meantime, if you want to learn more about KIU or know of a prospective student that might like to visit KIU, please contact Ms. Yuki Bito (yuki.bitto@kyotoiu.ac.jp, 0774-64-0804, Monday - Friday).

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KIU ACADEMY

November, 2009



The Torch

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Included with this issue is the
★ November, 2009 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

Note on the MS/HS Culture Festival

Since we canceled high school classes because of the flu, the MS/HS culture festival will be either postponed until a later date or canceled. The decision will be made next week. Once the decision is made, information will be given to the MS/HS homerooms.

Elementary History Camp

On October 22-23, Mr. Rohrer's Social Studies 5 class had their annual video camp to make this year's historical drama, "Around the World: the story of Magellan." Students learned about Magellan's voyage last

semester and worked on writing the play over the summer. During the camp, they went to the Kizu River to do filming and stayed overnight at KIU Academy. It was memorable experience for all.



Rice Harvesting

On October 20, 1st through 3rd graders participated in rice harvesting at the Minami's farm in Kumiyama-cho. Students could cut the rice by hand, remove the chaff, and learn how a rice harvester works. It was a beautiful and enjoyable day.



Correction for July Article

In July Torch, we had an article of universities / colleges which this year's graduates enrolled. And there is one misnamed for a university.

(wrong) Okayama Prefectural University

(correct) National Okayama University

We announce this correction with apology.



September Students of the Month

The September elementary students of the month were Riku Nakato and Yohogi Maekawa. The middle school student of the month was Miyu

Mashimo. The high school student of the month was Ramita Thawonmas. **Congratulations to you all!**

Administrator's Corner - Mr. Myers

The H1N1 influenza virus continues to make news around the world. In a recent article in the Daily Yomiuri Online, it was reported that 20% of junior high schools in Japan had either closed or told students to stay home (<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20091019TDY02303.htm>). Until recently, we have been blessed to have only a few students have influenza. I would like to remind you of the school's policy regarding the influenza situation. This information was sent out at the beginning of the trimester.

If the flu becomes more severe, we may take additional steps to prevent the spread such as:

conducting active fever and flu symptom screening of students and staff as they arrive at school,

making changes to increase the space between people such as moving desks as far apart as possible and postponing class trips,

closing school at the respective grade levels (elementary school or middle school or high school) if 10%-20% of students in any one of these divisions are out sick with the flu, and/or

dismissing students from school for at least 7 days if they become sick.

For now we are doing everything we can to keep our school functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help.

Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.

Teach your children not to share personal items like

drinks, food, or unwashed utensils, and

Teach your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.

Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (37.5 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.

Do not send children to school if they are sick. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school **will be sent home**. Please make plans to pick up your child or meet them at home, if KIU Academy calls to inform you that your child must be sent home. Please make sure that the school has your update phone number, if you have made changes recently.

For more information visit http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/influenza_a/general_info.html (English or Japanese) or contact your local government health office. We will notify you of any additional changes to our school's strategy to prevent the spread of the flu.

teacher conferences, which were held October 19-23. 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 teacher to make an appointment to discuss their progress.

tion of enrolling at KIU will also be presented. There will be a question and answer period. During this time, the audience will be allowed to ask questions to the presenters.

If you are unable to attend but would be interested in talking to any of the presenters, please feel free to make an appointment with them. The information they have can be helpful for you when making decisions about your child's future.

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-

College Night

On November 20 from 7:00 PM, KIU Academy will hold its College Night. The purpose of this event is to help parents of secondary students better understand available post-secondary options. Mr. Blocksom will present information on admission to US colleges and universities, as well as information on funding for university or college. Mr. Goto, KIU Academy guidance department, will share information on getting into Japanese universities. Information regarding the op-

MS/HS Sports Day

On October 2, KIU Academy held its annual MS/HS Sports Festival at the Ide gym. It was a fun-filled day, with an obstacle course, relay races, treasure hunts, basketball, soccer, and other great games. After a long but great day, the winning team was the gray team, followed by the blue team, the red team, and the yellow team. Even though the competition was fierce at times, there was only one injury. All in all, everything seems to have gone well.

As principal, I would like to say "Thanks" to Mr. Simoes, Mr. Carman, and the sports day committee. They did a great job, so much so that I think this was the best sports day.



Elementary Sports Day

On October 3, the KIU Academy elementary sports day was held at the Wel Sunpia Kyoto. It was still raining that morning,

but God blessed us with clear weather during our sports day, and many family members came to watch the children participate in a variety of activities.

In the gym in the morning, after stretching everyone enjoyed the "dress the teacher" race. Many parents got involved in the piggyback race for 1st and 2nd graders and tug-of-war for 3rd through 5th graders.

After lunch, we were able to hold the program at the ground. Many families participated in the "find someone who" game and borrowing race. First and second graders played dodge ball while the third through fifth graders played kickball. Students participated in the 50 meter dash, and the climactic

event of the day was the final heat of the relay race which ended with victory for the green team.

We were glad to meet so many of the parents at the sports day, and we thank you for your attendance and participation in various events. We would especially like to thank the parents who came to practices, helped with preparations, and aided students on the day during the events.

Whether the children won or lost, we hope everyone enjoyed working together and playing at the elementary sports day. (Note: Some photos from sports day are now displayed on the bulletin board on the first floor of B building. More photos from this and other KIU Academy elementary events will be available for parents to order during the last week of the trimester.)

Upcoming Elementary Events

Fall is full of activities for elementary students at KIU Academy. Besides the activities reported in this *Torch*, all of the elementary students can go to fall camp at Yamashiro Shinrin Koen on November 5-6. Details for this event have been distributed, but if you have further questions, please contact the school.

Also, the elementary students will have their Christmas party on the afternoon of the last day of the trimester, December 11. During the party, they will have opportunities to use their bonus bucks to buy food and other items at the flea market and to play a variety of games. Items for the flea market are being accepted now, so if you have toys or other items you would like to donate which elementary students would enjoy, please give them to the receptionist by Tuesday, December 8. We will also need parents' help in the kitchen and

with games during the party. If you would like to help, please tell the receptionist or Mr. Rohrer.

This year's elementary Christmas program will be held on Saturday, December 12 at the Community Hall next to the Kyotanabe city office. The elementary students will sing and play some songs, and those who are interested may watch the 4th and 5th grade history video, "Around the World: the story of Magellan." At this time, parents may order photos taken at KIU academy events during 2009. More information concerning the schedule at the end of the trimester will be distributed later.

We hope the activities of the coming weeks will be both enjoyable and educational for the KIU elementary students.