

**Upcoming Events**

- Feb.3~5 - MS Winter Camp  
Regular classes for HS
- Feb.9~10 - Elementary Winter Camp
- Feb.11 - National Holiday
- Feb.12 - KSG Bake Sale for Elementary Students
- Feb.15~19 -Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Feb.16 - Spelling Bee
- Feb.25 - TOEFL for MS/HS
- Feb.26 - KSG Talent Show

**Course Pre-registration**

On January 22, middle school and high school students received forms to register for classes starting in April, 2010. The form includes classes that will be offered next year. The students will receive recommendations from their current teachers and from the guidance department. After completing the form, students need to have their parents sign it. The forms need to be turned in to Mr. Myers by January 29. If you have any questions, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

**KIU Corner**

**New Year**

KIU's new academic year begins April 2010. As we look ahead, we continue to look for new ways to add value to the KIU educational experience. At KIU, we plan to strengthen programs, develop international partnerships and welcome students from around the world to enhance the overall KIU educational experience. Our aim is to give students a practical skill set that allows them to be immediately effective in the workplace and/or to help them achieve their continuing education goals in or outside Japan.

**New Business Program**

KIU courses, particularly our international business offerings, are experientially-rich. That is, at KIU we want to teach students the theory of business and then help them connect the theory to 'real world' business best practices. Starting in April, we are planning fieldtrips to world class organizations' such as Toyota, Panasonic and Costco. Students will also "learn lessons" from experienced business people who have worked in developed as well as developing countries. In the classroom, students will be challenged to demonstrate initiative and leadership through a variety of team projects and individual assign-



ments.

**New Partnerships**

To grow and develop, KIU continues to seek out trustworthy international partner institutions. In 2009, KIU signed a partnership agreement with Handong Global University. The KIU-Handong partnership facilitates student as well as other types of exchanges. We are currently pursuing a possible partnership with a US university. With all current and future partnerships, KIU will look to "work smart" by pooling resources to further strengthen and distinguish academic offerings and student learning experiences.

**New Students**

We continue to welcome campus visits and are still accepting applications for the incoming class of April 2010. At present, our new students in April include individuals whose homes are in North America, Asia, Europe and Africa. If you want to be part of the international mix at KIU (or know somebody that might be interested), please visit KIU on the web ([www.kyotoiu.ac.jp](http://www.kyotoiu.ac.jp)) or come to campus and sit in on a class. Please contact Ms. Yuki Bito ([yuki.bitto@kyotoiu.ac.jp](mailto:yuki.bitto@kyotoiu.ac.jp), 0774-64-0804, Monday – Friday) for more details.



**The Torch**

**Annual KIUA Science Fair**



On January 12, 2010, all of the middle school and high school students who are enrolled in science this year participated in the annual KIU Academy Science Fair. These students have been working on designing, developing, and conducting their own science projects. The purpose of the fair was to give the students opportunities to share their findings with others.



There were four categories and two divisions within each category. The categories were Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Environmental Sciences. Each category had middle school and high school divisions. Projects were evaluated by judges for creativity and originality, scientific thought, thoroughness, and clarity. Their displays were also evaluated for organization, neatness, relevance, and how well it communicated science.

**The first-place winners in each category and each division were:**

Student	Category
Sasha Stroud	HS Biology
Ekaho Maekawa	MS Biology
Tenshi Kitano	HS Chemistry
Meg Hutton	MS Chemistry
Katie Rohrer	MS Chemistry
Gabriel Nuamah	HS Environmental
Joanna Wilson	MS Environmental
Ramita Thawonmas	HS Physics
Tsumugi Mitsuta	HS Physics
Takuya Matsumoto	MS Physics
Yuri Okamura	MS Physics

The best high school science fair project was awarded to Tsumugi Mitsuta for her project on using a jump rope to generate electricity. The best middle school science project went to Takuya Matsumoto for his project on testing which type of mask was best. Congratulations to these two for their outstanding work.

This year we had a wonderful assortment of judges, including many science professionals and university professors.

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- Included with this issue is the
- ☆ February, 2010 calendar
- ☆ KIUA Family Association Seminar update

**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*

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On behalf of the KIU Academy science department, I would like to express my thanks to them for taking time out of their busy schedules to further the students' scientific experiences. Their involvement definitely enhanced the quality of this year's



**Student of  
November  
the Month**



## Elementary Winter Camp

Depending on snow conditions, we plan to go to Green Park, Kutsuki-mura in Shiga prefecture on Tuesday, February 9 and return later in the evening (around 9:00). If there is no snow, we plan to go ice skating instead. Students who want to participate may then stay overnight together at school. On Wednesday, February 10, we will have breakfast at school and then go to Masters Bowl in Kyotanabe for a fun morning of bowling. At 12:30, the students will go to Kintetsu Shintanabe station or back to school.

Students should bring the following items: lunch for Tuesday, warm clothes for playing in the snow, towel, a change of clothes, sleds,

toothbrush, pajamas and other things for staying overnight, a flashlight, 1,000 - 2,000 yen for Thursday's supper, drinks, and snacks. We recommend that you write your children's names on all of their belongings.

There will be no classes on Tuesday or Wednesday for those who do not participate in this trip. Students who are absent from school Monday, February 8 must bring a note from the doctor certifying they are not contagious. Students with a fever or flu symptoms on Tuesday, February 9 should stay at home since they will not be allowed to go on the trip.

We hope this year's camp will be fun for all!

The November students of the month were:

Elementary – Hikaru Hirata, Hiroshi Bu

Middle School – Emi Saeki

High School – Tsugumi Sugimoto.

Congratulations! Keep up the great work!

## TOEFL Testing Time Again!

That time of year has rolled around again when students will be taking the Pre-TOEFL and TOEFL Tests. The Pre-TOEFL and TOEFL tests are currently given to all middle and high school students to evaluate their pro-

gress in English from one year to the next.

This term, the tests will be given on Thursday, February 25 during 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> periods.

## Parent-Teacher conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences for the winter trimester are scheduled for Feb.15 - 19. We want to use this opportunity to inform parents of their children's progress up to this point. You will soon be receiving your reservation form. Please return it to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible to ensure your pre-

ferred time.

If you are unable to meet at any of the times listed, please make arrangements with your child's homeroom teacher to set up a different time.



## MS Winter Camp

As we mentioned in the December Torch, on February 3-5, we will be sending the middle school students to the National Outdoor Youth Learning Center in Soni, Nara Prefecture for the annual winter camp. Thankfully, flu season has not hit yet, so we anticipate going ahead with the camp. But, if too many students have the flu prior to the camp, we may have to cancel it. Again, please be sure that your children practice good hy-



giene and wise eating and sleeping habits.

During this camp, students will not be allowed to use their cell phones. If parents need to contact their children, they are asked to contact the school. The school will relay the message to the teachers at the camp. If it is an emergency, parents can contact their children's homeroom teacher directly. The same is true if children want to contact their parents.

We hope that it will be a good time for students to develop good relationships with each other and with their teachers.

## Spelling Bee

On February 16, KIU Academy will hold its first official Spelling Bee. Eligible students from fourth through eighth grade will take part in an in-school competition. Our school's winner will then join competitors from over 25 other international schools at the first All-Japan Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Japan Times, in mid-March, 2010. The winner from that competition, and an escort, will be awarded a round-trip to Washington, D.C., with travel and hotel accommodation expenses provided. There, they will take part in the American competition of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, to be broadcast by ABC TV.

Preliminary in-class competitions will take place in early February in all eligible ELA and ESL classes, according to department heads

Barrett Carman of the ESL department and Paul Miller of the ELA department. "From there, eligible students will take part in our local competition, which will be held during school hours", says Mr. Miller. These students have, according to principal Richard Myers, "an excellent opportunity" for academic growth which is part of the mission of KIU Academy.

For those interested in what sort of excitement can be generated by a spelling bee, Paul Miller, the ELA department head, suggests that people go to YouTube and search for "[Akeelah and the Bee](#) official trailer". "The Scripps National Spelling Bee is big. It's very big!" says Mr. Miller, "It is something like the Olympics of spelling."

## KIU Academy Sports



### HS Basketball

This season has been one of much improvement for our high school boys' basketball team. With Kendrick Miyano and Gabe Nuamah taking the places of graduates in the starting line-up, the team gained height and ability. Although the team has a young base, it has shown great potential. During the weekend of January 15, the boys' team was invited to our first "big school tournament" at CA. Our less-experienced got to play in our blow-out win over Yokohama International School. After losing to OIS, we played against E.J. King

(Sasebo) in the semi-finals. Even though we lost to them in the regular season, we won and advanced to the finals against CA. CA won by three points, 44-41, after a very competitive and intense four quarters. It was a heart-breaking loss, but the team was proud to have advanced that far. We went from fifth place in the small school tournament last year to placing second in the big school tournament, a real improvement. The CA coach, a former Canadian Olympian, said that he saw us playing with heart and thought we had played the best of all the teams present.

*By David Rohrer, team captain*