

P.10

Let's make a four-panel comic
Examples of quotes

1. I like quiet evenings...
2. Me too
3. You like quiet evenings, right?
4. YES!

We look forward to
your ideas!

"Hiraku" provides useful information
and the latest news related to
English and childhood education.

- Your recent interests
- Topics you want us to cover
- New content etc etc...

If you have ideas to contribute,
please share these with us!

"Hiraku" Editorial Department
TEL : 06-6135-0150
Mail : hiraku@kinderkids.ed.jp

Expanding future possibilities

Hirakû

17



Hirakû

Published in
September 2021 Vol.17

Next issue is
planned to come
at the end of November

Kinder Kids Inc.
TEL : 06-6135-0150
Pulala Tenma 2F, 3-1 Ikeda-cho,
Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka. 530-0033
www.kinderkids.com

Kinder Kids Establishes a New Elementary School Opening

People & Culture

English in my Future 4

Online lessons have been upgraded!

Heart to Heart

日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.



news

Kinder Kids Establishes a New Elementary School Opening in April 2022



Kinder Kids CEO
Infinity International
Elementary School Chairman
of the Board
Kimiko Nakayama

The senior high school of Infinity International School opened in 2019. We will open an elementary school and junior high school in April 2022, finally providing an integrated global education for preschool, elementary, junior and senior high school students.

Kinder Kids will manage the Infinity International Elementary School!

Nurture children who enjoy their happy life anywhere in the world

About 20 years ago, I looked for an international school or an English school for infants as "I wanted to raise my child as a bilingual citizen of Japan" but I couldn't find one in line with my expectations. Then, I thought "If there isn't one, let's make one!"....This is the story about how Kinder Kids was established.... After graduating from Kinder Kids, my three children advanced to public and private elementary schools. As I watched them go through their education, I began to wonder about the education in Japan, such as "Why can't children acquire enough academic skills to pass entrance exams just by studying at school?", "Will studying only for tests be useful in society?", "Can we better nurture the skills only humans have?" and "Are there any schools where children can learn what is useful in society?". So, just as when I established Kinder Kids, I thought "If there isn't one, let's make one!" and decided to pursue to

establish an elementary school.

We are trying to create a school where children grow up to be Japanese who in the future are accepted all over the world. The elementary school will focus on eight educational programs based on the philosophy of "enjoying a happy life anywhere in the world".

Unique Educational Programs

- 1 | Multilingual education in English, Japanese and Chinese
- 2 | Skill-based individual and group with no grade level class distinction
- 3 | Subject-based teacher assignment and tutor support system
- 4 | Project-based learning
- 5 | Reading enhancement program (extensive reading, speed reading, English/Japanese/ Chinese reading comprehension)
- 6 | History, geography and social studies through traveling
- 7 | Lessons using ICT
- 8 | Money-related education

What is no grade leveling?

We take the advantages of both individual and group learning in lessons. In basic learning, depending on whether children are good at a subject or not, they are able to advance without being bound by a specific grade level curriculum or improve their academic ability by "Optimal Learning" with tutors' support to learn at their own pace until they fully understand. This is the basis of individual learning. On the other hand, group learning is achieved by different grade levels studying together. The goal is to "learn from each other" by older children teaching younger children or working on the same project together. This helps children develop leadership skills and a sense of self-worth, and accelerates the learning process compared to learning only with children of the same grade level.

Each child's infinite potential

Our goal is to complete the six years of basic learning required in public elementary schools in about two years. The time created can be used to optimize individual learning and each child will set their own learning goals and plans, such as inquiry-based learning, programming, science and preparation for junior high school entrance exams. By working closely with each child's abilities and aptitudes, they will be able to achieve their goals and make their six years more meaningful.

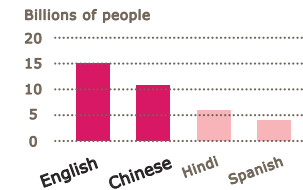
The world is changing rapidly. At Infinity International Elementary School, we have developed a program to provide children with the necessary educational system so that they will not be left behind the times. Our goal is to provide a true education that will allow children to freely create their own future, without being bound by the standard elementary school education system in Japan today.

World-class language skills

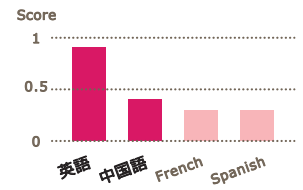
The children who enroll in our school have spent the critical period for language acquisition at preschool. They will continue raising their English to the level of a British elementary school graduate while living in Japan. In addition, they will learn Chinese over the next six years, aiming to acquire another world-class language.

Source: Statista

The World's Most Spoken Languages

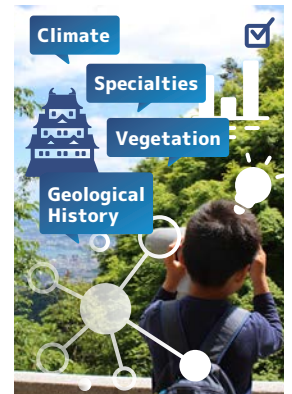


The World's Most Powerful Languages



Learning through practice

We help children "Explore to learn(Inquiry-based learning)" through traveling around the 47 prefectures to nurture their multifaceted thinking and decision-making skills by being able to apply their knowledge and findings in history, geography and social studies. We also provide "money-related education" where children can learn how to calculate income and expenses and marketing through actual experiences by creating their own currency and using it within the school.



2021 General Application and Entrance Examination Schedule C

Application Period:
October 27, 2021 (Wed) 9:00 ~
October 28, 2021 (Thu) 17:00

Date of Examination:
November 19, 2021 (Fri)

Eligibility:
Preschool children graduating
in March 2022 or preschool graduates

Scan the QR code for the latest information!





005

Tom Billson

From Nottingham, United Kingdom

Head Office, Kanto Area Manager

Poster Boy of Kinder Kids

Do any of you remember the photo on the right?

It's me over ten years ago when I was slimmer! Around this time, I was often used in promotional photos for Kinder Kids. I could be seen on billboards in train stations, flyers, ad banners and many other places, earning me the nickname "Poster Boy."

The photo shoot was not a "staged" event, but a photographer sneaked into our regular lessons and took photos of us without any prior notice. I remember how surprised I was to find myself in the ad!



Love of adventure leads toward a world I've never seen

Ever since I was very young I have always wanted to live in a foreign country. The excitement that comes from overcoming challenges in an unfamiliar environment is very special. A different culture and language that I am exposed for the first time is always fresh for me and I love the feeling of the excitement when stepping into an unknown world.

I was attracted to countries as a place steeped in history, culture and technology. Japan was one of many countries on my wish list. One location within Japan I've always enjoyed has to be Hokkaido, especially Sapporo. I enjoyed driving in the beautiful nature, snowboarding, and overwhelmed to see snow festival. Hokkaido produces some great food items. I always make sure to leave space in my suitcase for some Royce Chocolate Potato Chips!



Introduce my country!

UK's best food is home cooking!

Most of visitors to the UK only try eating out menus such as Fish and Chips, Roasted Beef, etc. But I think the UK's best food is in the homemade recipes.

For example, "HP Sauce" made in Nottingham and became popular throughout the UK. It is poured over bacon or fried eggs, and is also good as a secret ingredient in stews and curries. It can be bought online at a slightly higher price than in the UK.

One of my favorites is "Mince Pies" which has been loved by UK families for centuries. It has the sweetness of dried fruits with a spicy flavor that is light and addictive. I hope you will try it at home!



Mince Pie



Scan the QR codes to check (as of September 2021)

out recipes on YouTube



006

Grace Muchendu

From Thika, Kenya

Head Office, Education Division

Through cross-cultural understanding

At University, while majoring in psychology, I took a Japanese language class and I was particularly interested in the unique culture of Japan. My Japanese class lecturer taught me about Japanese children and the differences in the norm between Kenya and Japan, which sparked my interest so I finally came to Japan after graduation. Now, more than 10 years later, I am truly happy to be able to work together with people from different backgrounds, cultures and customs to create a great team to bring smiles to children.



The home country where I was born and raised

I grew up in a quiet little town called Thika, Kenya in East Africa. There were vast pineapple and coffee plantations, the perfect place where we played hide and seek as children. At the time, it was still a small, quiet, rural town.

In Kenya, I have lots of memories of going on safari with my family and friends. Spending time surrounded by nature of the endless savannah never gets old for me. I still remember how excited it was when running across the prairie and encountering the wildlife, such as lions, buffaloes, elephants, leopards and rhinos. The great wildebeest migration with its power of life of a huge herd is one of my favorite scenes, which cannot be experienced in a zoo.

"No Human Is Limited"

"No Human Is Limited", which is a quote, said by the most famous marathon runner from Kenya, the 2020 Olympic winners and the marathon world record holder. He has left behind many words of wisdom along with his accomplishments. His messages through his marathons certainly motivate and encourage us to be our best! Just like that, I want to be the one to encourage children from all over the world, that they can do anything they set their minds to.

"Mukimo", the soul food of my country

When I traveled back to my hometown, my grandmother and mother always made "Mukimo" for me. Now that I am a mother, I love to make this dish for special events and occasions, even small gatherings, and enjoy it with everyone.

Mukimo is made of potatoes, pumpkin leaves, red beans and white corn. Boil the peeled potatoes first, then add pumpkin leaves (spinach is also good), red beans and white corn. After the ingredients are cooked, discard the water, add butter (optional) and then mash it together. At last, add salt and/or pepper to taste and it is now ready to serve. Mukimo is best served with a spicy beef stew and a side of vegetables!



Mukimo





Interview

English in my Future 4

N.F-san is a Kinder Kids Sakai School graduate and is in her third year of high school. Ever since she was a child, she has dreamed of becoming a Kinder Kids teacher. This summer, she participated in a Grad Club summer event to gain work experience and learn more about her career path!

I worked for Grad Club!

#Volunteering #Work Experience

There was just a call for volunteer staff at the Grad Club, and I accompanied them to a camp and museum visit event. I was given the role as a group leader, and on the first day I was worried about whether I would be able to organize and lead the children well, using only English, but the university student staff who had already participated in the event kindly gave me instructions and made it very easy for me to work with the children.

As a first-time participant, I had no idea what kind of atmosphere the group would have, and I was worried about whether the children would accept me and what I would say to the children in English. I was very nervous, but the children relied on me as well as the other staff members, which soon made me relax. I am happy I had a great experience.

Next time I participate, I would like to be more aware of how I talk with children so that they will be more willing to use English.

She still remembers memories of the Christmas parties, camping and other fun events.

N-san graduated from a local elementary and junior high school. Many of students could not speak English when they wanted to because they only memorize and learn writing and listening in their English lessons. She continued to study English at Grad Club until the second year of junior high school. She was able to not only maintain good academic scores in English, but also improve her speaking skills.



Participated as a Grad Club staff member At the Nature Experience Museum



N-san says that she has been able to think more deeply of things because of her volunteer activities. All the activities gave her opportunities to observe the current situation and causes of problems, what could be expected from problems and the impact on variety of environments and people from multiple viewpoints.

Power of English+α

When I was a first grade in high school, I participated in the "Global Youth Conference", a program sponsored by the YMCA. It is a global event where people of the same age group gather from all over the world. Starting with cultural exchanges, we deepened our understanding of the SDGs, the common global goals by exchanging opinions and learning about the issues.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, a volunteer group (ICS: Impact Citizens for SDGs) was set up to plan and produce a daily calendar to increase understanding of the SDGs and distribute them to nearby junior high schools. We also set up a special corner at the Maruzen Junkudo bookstore in Umeda, Osaka, and held our own in-store events to educate a larger audience to SDGs.

For those of us who had never done anything like this before, everything we did was a learning experience. When we made mistakes, we discussed what the problems were and devised ways to solve them, and even though we sometimes clashed, we all felt that we were growing together.

Thanks to our hard work since 2019, we were able to experience a great sense of accomplishment when we were selected as the winner of the Excellence Award in the contest for the 2020 "One World Festival", one of the largest international cooperation and exchange events in western Japan. The most important thing for me was that I gained the ability to listen carefully to each individual's opinion and learn how to find solutions.

She was a full-fledged staff member providing great support even as a high school student!

The appeal of an international high school, said to be the first of its kind in Japan

The high school I attend opened two years ago as the nation's first public sector managed integrated junior and senior high school.

When I first entered the school, there were no seniors or juniors, so I was very excited to take the initiative to create the first page of a brand new school history.

The reason why I wanted to attend this school was because it was an accredited school where I could obtain an International Baccalaureate. The math, biology, and chemistry classes taught in English were difficult, but they were rewarding because the classes were explained in an easy-to-understand manner when I asked questions.

School life is more liberal and open-minded than at other schools.

Students are free to dye their hair, wear makeup and nail polish, and have piercings.

There were basic principles regarding safety, human rights, and bullying and other detailed rules were established based on student opinions. We had plenty of time for discussions, and I think it was a privilege for the first-year students to have their own opinions and listened to the opinions of others to come up with answers.

In such an environment, I realized the importance of the purpose of going to school, studying together, listening to and respecting the feelings and opinions of others. I am proud of being a first year student at my school!

Hirakū

At high school, N-san has been recognized for her leadership qualities, such as being able to "react quickly" and "lead a team". She is making steady progress toward achieving her dreams. We will continue to support her as much as we can as she moves into the workforce!

My dream to study early childhood education at the University and become a bilingual Kinder Kids teacher



5 N-san during her Kinder years



Adapting to the times



GradChat

Online lessons have been upgraded!

The demand for online lessons has been rapidly increasing in various educational fields. We also have been working on expanding our services of Grad Club's online lessons "Grad Chat". Now is the time to use online tools as it's getting harder to go out. Through "Grad Chat", let's enjoy improving your English speaking skills, regardless of race, culture or region!



Online is now more fun and convenient!

Contact us info@grad-club.com



One-on-one lessons are now available

Lessons are adapted according to individual skills, knowledge and level of understanding. You can order lessons according to your objectives and focus on the key points to efficiently overcome your weak points!



Grad Chat's first online event

A different kind of lesson will motivate you to learn English. The game based lessons are exciting and thrilling. You can enjoy leaning together with multiple people!



Additional lessons are now available for purchase

You can now easily purchase both "one-on-one" and "group" additional lessons!



Now available for all grades from Monday to Saturday

You can now choose lessons for all grades that are offered 6 days a week. You can book and/or reschedule your classes 24 hours a day on our website!



Upgraded video call software for an easier operation and more stable communication environment



Credit card payment system available

User's Comments

The best thing is taking lessons without commuting to school. My child can make good use of their time. They enjoy talking with teachers of their choice, even at a time as an adolescent who finds it difficult to talk with anyone. It's a great way to kill not only one or two birds but also three or four birds with one stone while keeping and improving their English skills. Thanks to the system support, we don't have to worry about any problems with a computer.



GradChat

Scan the QR code to access the "Grad Chat" website!



grad-chat.net/guide

The Fantastic Quiz Show!

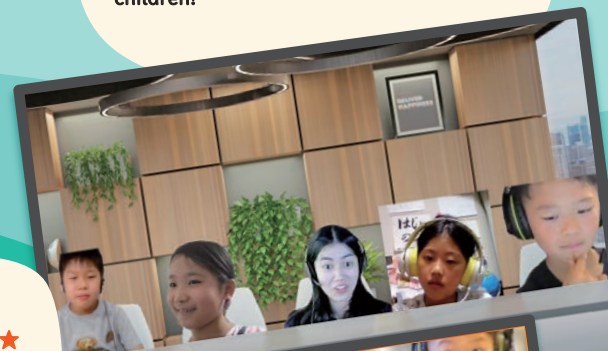
In this event, participants answered quiz questions and competed for points. The host teacher picks a challenger in order. Then, the challenger reads aloud a question and chooses the correct answer from four options shown on the screen. If they don't know a word, the teacher will explain how to read it and its meaning. The options include English words that are useful to know, which helps children increase their vocabulary. We created the witty structure with a wide range of topics to choose from, including science, culture and the popular Olympics to stimulate the intellectual curiosity of children!



Challenger I.O-kun (Nara Tomigaoka G2)'s Interview★

*Photos and interview by his mother

It was my first time to participate in such an event, and I was looking forward to the day with great enthusiasm. It was nice to learn English in a different way from my regular online lessons. At Grad Chat, I enjoy meeting my former classmates and others for the first time.



Who trains a person/team in sports? (200 points)

- A. Manager
- B. Coach
- C. Leader

More exciting events coming soon★

This event was held as our staff members wanted to give children an opportunity to enjoy playing and learning together in English while they were being forced to endure the prolonged travel restrictions. If you haven't joined us online yet, let's participate in our online lessons and enjoy learning together with Grad Chat members from all over Japan and native teachers by taking online lessons!



Grad Chat Teacher Maiko Yamane

Heart to Heart

How much can we do about the problems that keep coming up—
Heartful communication always leads to solutions.
Kinder Kids Episode about
true feelings between parents and staff.

Introduction

episode 02

Kanto
Head Office

Connections

as of 2021

Before we bring you the episode in the next issue, let us give you a brief introduction to the positions of the staff members we will be introducing. They are the key persons in the Kanto Head Office. They are always discussing how to improve schools in different regions, environments, and sizes, as well as the issues that keep changing in response to COVID-19. Let's take a look at all the faces of the Kanto Head Office!

Tom Billson has worked as a class teacher and leader at various schools in Kansai, and with over 10 years of experience working with other staff to improve lessons of Kinder Kids. Tom is now one of the managers in Kanto who is responsible for educational development as well as operation.

Tom Billson



Shinagawa ●
Tama Plaza ● Tokyo Honko ●
Yokohama ●

Sara Koizumi

After working as a cover teacher in Kanto, she built up her career in the childcare field at Yokohama School. Currently, she is focusing on the management of the school, while working across the Kanto area to improve the childcare program.



Natsuko Ijima

She has worked in a variety of roles and positions including class teacher and operation manager of Shinagawa and Tokyo schools. At the Head Office, she is the lead manager of the Kanto Grad Club based on these experiences.



Currently on
Childcare
Leave



Mark Palcsak



Hungry Hippo

Juggling Jellyfish

Let's make a four-panel comic

By PHONICS GARDEN

A four-panel comic filled with the charm of the Phonics' unique friends. This time, we have food loving Hungry Hippo and young and innocent Juggling Jellyfish. Then here comes Zippy Zebra, the mature older brother. Put the four sentences below in the correct box to complete the four-panel cartoon!



Zippy Zebra

『 ~,right? : ~だよね? 』



1



2



3

4

"You like quiet evenings, right?"

"I like quiet evenings..."

"Me too"

"YES!" Reference the back cover for dialogue examples