

未来をひらく 思いをつたえる

# Hirakû

25

Cover picture: "Soar high! "

Many kites are flying in the New Year's blue sky.

Some look serious, some look happy, and some look a little silly...

All the kites are so powerfully soaring high in the sky that they seem to exceed the height of Mt. Fuji.

It is as if it represents everyone's growth for the year ahead.

## 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!

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Hirakû

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# Awaza School Open!



## KINDER KIDS Academy Awaza School has opened!

KINDER KIDS International Academy Awaza School, the 28th KINDER KIDS school, opened January 2023.

The large school facility has 12 classrooms, an indoor gym, an outside playground, and a rooftop playground all decorated in lovely colors. The large wall mural on the second floor depicts with the school's original characters, it is as if they are leading children into the world of PHONICS ISLAND.

Awaza School is also equipped with a cooking facility where delicious lunches are prepared for children, a parking lot and bicycle parking for parents, and a ramp for baby strollers.

The school's facilities are designed to help children enjoy their day and for parents to feel comfortable picking up and dropping off their children.



## Nishi-Ku in Osaka City is becoming increasingly popular among families with small children.

Awaza is adjacent to Honmachi and Higobashi areas, and may have a strong image as an office district. However, due to the recent trend of returning to the city center, Nishi-Ku ranks high among the 24 wards of Osaka City in terms of both a growing population and rising birth rate, making it one of the most popular areas for families with small children.

Kinder Kids Awaza School is conveniently located about a 5-minute walk from the Awaza Metro station, and while the neighborhood is bustling with the opening of the Frespo Awaza complex, which consists of a supermarket, a drugstore, medical clinics, etc., it is located just off a major road and in a quiet environment. There is a park with many trees in the immediate vicinity of the school, which is expected to be used as a playground for the students together with the school playgrounds.

Kawaguchi town, on the west side of the Kizu River, is an area where a foreign settlement was established in the Meiji Period and is called "The cradle of Osaka's modernization and opening to the outside world". Kawaguchi Christ Church, which is considered "The birthplace of modern education in Osaka", still remains and gives historical link to the area.



"Frespo Awaza" shopping complex



Shimazu Park with it's lush greenery



Old Kawaguchi foreign settlement site  
Kawaguchi Christ Church

### Message from Hiromi Seyama, the head of Awaza school



Hiromi Seyama,  
the head of Awaza school

As a mother of a son who goes to a preschool, I try to communicate with all the parents based on **how I would be happy to be treated.** I also deal with any possible concerns in advance so that parents do not have to worry.

With clear and detailed explanations, I want to make the parents who are sending their children to a preschool for the first time feel at ease and can rely on us.

We look forward to meeting all of you at Awaza school which offers an excellent learning environment.

### Message from Thor Helgason, the Academy Manager



Thor Helgason,  
the Academy Manager

I'm excited to welcome you to our new school that opened right after New Year.

Various innovations have been made at Awaza school, including the introduction of interactive walls with magnets in all classrooms and the first appearance of the new PHONICS ISLAND characters.

**Our goal is to provide children with the best education in a safe environment. The Academy team is hoping to build a long-lasting bond with each and every child at Awaza School.**

HP



Instagram



6-5-13 Itachibori, Nishi-ku,  
Osaka-shi, Osaka



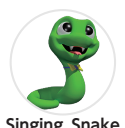
# PHONICS ISLAND

## Characters have been Renewed!



Infinity Global Elementary School performed its first English-language play at the 2nd Semester EXPO

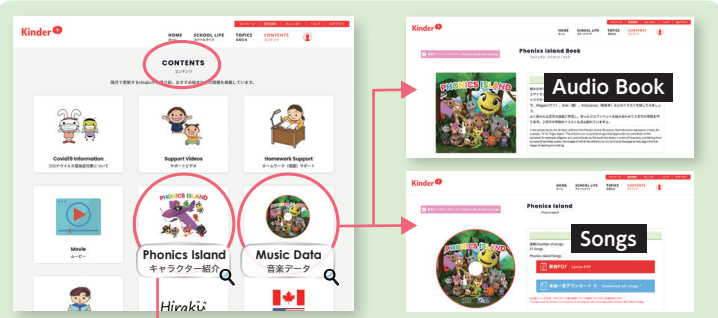
In December, Infinity Global Elementary School concluded the second semester with an English-language play. Children prepared a lot for this day.



The renewed characters of PHONICS ISLAND, which were supposed to appear last year, were finally unveiled in January 2023!

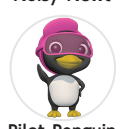


**[Phonics Island Picture Book]**  
With the new look of the phonics characters, **Phonics Garden Picture Book**, which was previously included in the initial set of teaching materials, will be replaced by the **[Phonics Island Picture Book]** for children enrolling in KINDER KIDS from January 2023. "Phonics Song" has also been changed to "Phonics Island Song" to match the feel of Phonics Island.



The audio of "Phonics Island Picture Book" and "Phonics Island Songs" are available for download and listening on Kinder+ CONTENTS page. The Introduction to each character is also included. We hope that each family will enjoy practicing pronunciation by singing the Phonics Island Songs.

Phonics Island Picture Books can be purchased at the school office.



**September** In the project-based learning, students learned about the history and evolution of clothing, how clothes are made, what kind of impression the colors give, and other things related to stage costumes. They even made a loom out of cardboard boxes and made original coasters. Students also had a field trip to a theater and saw the musical "Dorothy" and felt the power of expression and words.



**From October to the Performance Day** In order to please the parents who would be attending the event, students made drinks from four countries (U.K., U.S., Singapore, and Japan) that would appear in the play. The students made props for the play, learned how to dance from a stage dancer, and practiced how to say their lines out loud.



The English language play is an original story inspired by the Mexican picture book "Nino wrestles the world" in which the main character challenges the world champion Harutoki, but loses the battle and sets off on an overseas training trip. Each country's team has its own special skills (e.g., the U.S. team tells jokes to make their opponents laugh! and the Japanese team uses mindfulness to attain enlightenment!?). The main character learns each country's signature skills and challenges Harutoki once again, and with the combined strength of the entire team, they win the title of World Champion. The main stage for the play was a real wrestling ring!



After the finale, the students' faces were glowing with a sense of accomplishment. We received many positive comments from parents, such as "It was great to see how enthusiastic the teachers were and how the students responded to that enthusiasm" and "The best part was the students enjoyed themselves from the rehearsals to the actual performance", and comments like these were a great encouragement to the teachers.

The third semester's EXPO will be the culmination of the year, and we look forward to seeing the Infinity students grow even more.



## Interview with graduate students

I want to become a teacher who smiles and enjoys childcare like the teacher I met as a child.

Ms. A.U. graduated from KINDER KIDS Higashi Osaka School.

She attended Grad Club from her first year of elementary school to the third year of junior high school and is currently working part-time at Grad Club. We interviewed Ms. A.U. about her past, present, and future at Kinder Kids.



**A.U.**

Kwansei Gakuin University  
4th year student  
in the School of Human Welfare



### ▶ What were the best things that you learned at Kinder Kids and Grad Club?

Since I was listening to a variety of English accents at KINDER KIDS, I did not have much difficulty with the listening comprehension test. Also, **the Grad Club classes covered a wide range of topics, so I was able to learn a lot of vocabulary.**

### ▶ What motivated you to work part-time at Grad Club and what was your impression of working there?

When I was looking for a part-time job where I could use English, I saw an ad for a position at Grad Club and applied for it. I am currently working in the Saturday Class, and I have noticed **how hard the teachers work and how much responsibility they have when taking care of the students**, which I did not realize when I was a student.

### ▶ What made you decide to work for Kinder Kids?

The main reason is that I really enjoy spending time with children through my part-time job at Grad Club. Also, I had always wanted to work in an English-speaking environment, so I began to think about joining Kinder Kids because I thought that providing childcare in English would be ideal for me.

### ▶ What kind of teacher do you want to be? What are your objectives at Kinder Kids?

When I was a student at Kinder Kids, there was **a teacher who was cheerful and always had a smile on her face. I'll do my best to become a teacher**-who enjoys providing childcare and spending time with children, just like my teacher. Also, I'd like to transfer to an overseas school and experience childcare abroad! I would like to carefully and thoughtfully work at each job and **build good relationships with children, parents, and all the staff I work with.** I will do my best with a cheerful and energetic attitude.



## Grad Club Message

2022 --> 2023



Grad Club Manager  
Andy Asher

In 2022, we were able to resume many of our popular events as well as hold new ones. Our newly planned excursions to interesting places and our first trips to "British Hills" and "Niseko" were memorable experiences. We will continue to offer unique English experiences through a snow event and a trip to Okinawa and so on. In 2023, we will finally resume the Study Tour to Australia! We are excited to once again offer this wonderful overseas experience to our students, which had taken place for 10 years until 2019. Children will have many valuable experiences on this trip and that will greatly increase their motivation to learn English! We hope that this opportunity to speak English in a rich nature-filled environment and to experience a new culture will help many of our Grad Club students to make even greater strides! We thank you for your continued support. May this year be happy and fruitful for you all.

Andy Usher



British Hills



Niseko Trip



Australia Study Tour

Study Tour to Australia is coming back!



## GRAD CLUB'S Christmas Party

**12/18 (Sun.) Kansai** **YOLO BASE, OSAKA**

We were proud to see the children enjoying the all-English musical performance by the Theater company founded by graduates of Osaka University's School of Foreign Studies. It was the only event that parents could attend and we were happy to be able to leisurely talk with them.

**12/3 (Sat.) Kanto** **ALICE AQUA GARDEN TAMACHI, TOKYO**

A funny English magic show made the last Kanto Grad event of the year enjoyable for all the parents and children! We will continue to plan many more events that cater to their interests!