

**Cover Photo: The 1st Halloween Staff Photo Contest
- Toyonaka School Wins the Grand Prize!**

The "Halloween Staff Photo Contest" was held on Instagram Stories, where staff from each school posted photos in Halloween costumes, competing for the highest number of likes♥.

The inaugural Grand Prize goes to Toyonaka School, earning a total of 52 likes♥!

We will continue to hold various events on Kinder Kids Instagram, so be sure to follow our official Kinder Kids account for more information!



official Kinder Kids
Instagram

**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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Grand Prize

Congratulations! Toyonaka School



Halloween 2023
Staff Photo CONTEST

30

Expanding future possibilities

Hirakû



KinderKids Oгимachi School Opens!

In October 2023, Kinder Kids International School Oгимachi, the 29th Kinder Kids school, opened. The school is located in "i-Mall" which houses the International General Hospital at its core, a theater complex for performing and other art forms, a hospital-run healthy food café that provides new health information, and a 24-hour Gym with a full range of training equipment.

On October 2nd, President Nakayama attended the school's opening ceremony and participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. After the ceremony, a special live performance themed "Music and Health" by two former Takarazuka Revue members showcased their splendid voices, and the first day at Oгимachi School started off with four grades from Baby to K1.

Children who had previously attended Osaka School were thrilled to explore their new classrooms at Oгимachi School. The K1 class had a fun day of doing crafts and playing in the gym after circle time. It was a great first day at school under clear autumn skies!



It is Surrounded by Abundant Greenery Despite Being in the Center of a Large City

The "i-Mall" where Oгимachi School is located is in the center of Osaka City, just a 15-minute walk from JR Osaka Station. Despite its central location, the building is surrounded by 120 Someiyoshino cherry trees, and the expansive Oгимachi Park right in front. This setting allows children to spend their time in an environment where they can forget the hustle and bustle of the city when interacting with nature and exercising on the playground and the large playground equipment to their heart's content.



Noteworthy is the "Urban Beekeeping Project" promoted by the adjacent ISEIKAI International General Hospital. As part of the SDGs, the honey collected from plants around the hospital is expected to be a new learning opportunity for KinderKids' students. Experiencing coexistence with bees in an urban setting is sure to provide a valuable experience for the children.

Also, since it is located within a medical complex, medical staff can provide immediate care in case of any injury or illness. Moreover, ISHISEIKAI International General Hospital offers childcare services for sick children, so if children need to take medical care, medical staff will take good care of them.

Enjoyable days of Learning at the Newly-Opened Oгимachi School.

One month has passed since the school's inauguration. Some children initially felt bewildered by the new environment, but now they're enjoying daily school activities. They especially enjoyed the first major event, the Halloween Party, which included impressive activities like Halloween crafts, a costume fashion show, and Trick or Treating.

Kinder Kids Oгимachi School is located in the center of the city, yet is surrounded by greenery, and will be loved by many families as an ideal place where children can learn.



Message from Branch Manager



Hazuki Hirao,
Branch Manager of
Oгимachi school

I would like to express my warmest gratitude to all the parents and guardians as Kinder Kids Oгимachi School was successfully inaugurated on October 2nd.

The children gradually became accustomed to their new environment and began to cheerfully greet and wave to all the teachers. They are learning and playing in the light-filled classrooms, a spacious gym, and a rooftop playground every day. The teachers are also welcoming the children with cheerful greetings every morning.

At Oгимachi School, we have a highly experienced head nursery teacher, teachers who have transferred from Osaka School, and staff who have worked at Kinder Kids for a long time. We are all working as a team to make the children feel happy, have fun, and make Kinder Kids a welcoming and enjoyable place.

Many of our staff members are also parents, we aspire to build a relationship where parents feel comfortable consulting with us about childcare.

Please come and visit our spacious gym and light-filled classrooms. We are confident that you will love it! We look forward to seeing you at Kinder Kids Oгимachi School.

Oгимachi
School HP



6-26
Minami-Oгимachi,
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Osaka

My Stepping Stone <File6>

Kinder Kids was the start.

Introduction of graduates who through their efforts opened new doors.

Fascinated by "Space" from the Theme-based Learning in K3, I aspired to specialize in Astrophysics at Rice University, a top-tier institution in the field of space science, and delve into the mysteries of "black holes".

I was fascinated by Black Holes introduced in Theme-Based Learning.

H, who graduated from high school this June, has been studying astrophysics at a university in the United States since August.

His interest in space began with the Theme-based learning on space at Kinder Kids. One day in a class, H was strongly attracted to the incomprehensibility and mysteriousness of black holes.

The impact of this experience stayed with him and nurtured his interest in astrophysics, especially black holes. His interest was heightened by the news he heard in junior high school about the successful filming of a black hole.



Astronomical observation with an astronomical telescope given to him by his uncle

Studying Hard at a Public Elementary School and Enrolled In an International Middle School

After graduating from Kinder Kids, H went to a public elementary school and was devoted to the martial arts "Tai Chi," and spent his days without thinking about taking the entrance exam. However, he started to wish to enter an international middle school and began studying English in the returnee's course. He was good at English in elementary school, but he had to study very hard for a short period of time to reach a level that would allow him to pass the exam.

Because He was good at math, He was able to pass the exam by concentrating on studying English. After entering an International Middle School, he continued to watch English videos on YouTube and TED to improve his listening skills and knowledge.

Volunteer work at Kinder Kids that led to obtaining the IBDP

When H was looking for volunteer opportunities to fulfill the requirements for the IB Diploma, his former teacher, Ms. N, recommended volunteering at Kinder Kids. Since he likes speaking English and small children, he immediately seized this opportunity. H worked with young children from the first year of high school until graduation.

Nara
Tomigaoka School
Graduate
H.K.
Rice University
Freshman



Rice University [RU]

Rice University is a prestigious private university and is located in Houston, the fourth-largest city in the United States.

It is one of the top universities in the United States and is renowned for excellence in chemistry, space science, and architecture.

Houston is home to NASA's Johnson Space Center and also has an active aerospace industry. In 1967, it was given the official alias of "Space City."



The reason H has chosen to study astrophysics in the United States is due to his days of learning at Kinder Kids and the support of his mother. We had the chance to hear about episodes and parenting advice from his mother.

[What advice did you give him to maintain his English skills]

I always told H not to mix English and Japanese because I wanted him to grow up to be a person who could thrive in the world. Also, to foster an interest in the Japanese language, we spent quality family time engaging in activities like reading books aloud and playing traditional Japanese card games.

[Things that should have been done]

When considering H's future international endeavors, I believe it would have been beneficial for him to learn about traditional Japanese culture such as karate or tea ceremony.

[Things that shouldn't have been done]

While at Kinder Kids, I attempted to explain unfamiliar words to H using an English-English dictionary for children. Looking back, it might have been better to explain those words in Japanese.

[How did you decide which school to attend?]

Our foremost consideration in choosing a school was based on its educational philosophy. My three children have different strengths and interests, so after middle school, we let them go to the school of their choice based on their aspirations and individual strengths.

[Parenting advice from his mother]

To share our family's experience, we paid attention to what the children were saying and captured the moments when we felt they were "interested".

We actively looked for related books and materials and enjoyed exploring their interests together as a family. For instance, when he brought up a conversation about space from KinderKids, we'd pick up a science magazine like 'Newton' and expand the conversation by asking, 'Does it mean something like this?'

He was also passionate about manga, anime, and video games but I have tolerated this as part of the pursuit of the popular culture that Japan is famous for.

We have learned that parents' support was behind H's higher education and English skills. We sincerely hope that he will continue to explore and grow in the field of astrophysics.



After being postponed for four years,
It is finally back!

Grad Club Australia Study Abroad Trip



After being postponed for 4 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to be able to resume the Grad Club's Australia study abroad trip. The study program took place in the Sunshine Coast region, north of the center of Brisbane in Queensland. Our students attended local schools and participated in activities with local students of the same age.



They took classes in various subjects at school, including a study on money management using a supermarket scenario. During the cultural exchange program, they introduced Japanese culture to local students, such as how to write their names in katakana and fold origami. They had the chance to interact with many local students. **All the student seemed to enjoy the lunch break with their "Buddies" and as soon as the lunch bell rang, they'd rush outside with their lunchboxes, playing card games, sports, or just sitting and talking together.**



On weekends, they enjoyed time with their host families, fishing in the sea or swimming in the home pool, and made the most of the holidays. High school students visited the nearby town, Noosa, while those staying with host families in rural areas had the opportunity to interact with animals like cows on farms! It was a fantastic experience for everyone.



R.G.
[G4/Kyoto School Graduate]

The most memorable part of my homestay was the various activities we did in the backyard, which is not common in Japanese houses. My Buddy taught me about the school, and I found the Australian schooling system to be quite different from Japan's, such as no designated time for cleaning, and parents driving students to and from school every day.

Regarding English, I learned new expressions like "Pardon?" and "Ta" that I hadn't known before. I believe my English skills improved significantly through this Australia study trip. **Attending a local school there was truly a precious experience, and I'd highly recommend the Australia study trip to my friends in Grad Club. It's a fantastic opportunity to enhance our English proficiency.**



The host family welcomed him as a member of their family and took him camping and to the park on weekends, which was a good experience for him. The relaxed atmosphere of Australian primary school, made him hope to study abroad and he is now studying even harder. The staff members were incredibly attentive and caring toward the children, which made this program a truly wonderful experience.



Everyone was eagerly anticipating the chance to go surfing. First, we received instructions about the equipment, how to catch waves, and how to protect ourselves when swept off by the waves. With the help of the staff, we managed to ride the waves but struggled with falling over and getting swallowed by the waves!! Some of us got the hang of it and managed to stand on the surfboard. Once you get the hang of it, it seems easy, and those who managed to stand could repeatedly stand on the board!



After taking a class to learn about animals unique to Australia, they visited the Australia Zoo and seemed very excited to be able to see real Australian animals. They had the fantastic experience of touching koalas and even took pictures with them!

The 16 days flew by. On the last day, we reminisced about our memories by watching a slideshow of the photos we'd taken and enjoyed eating cake together. Some Junior high school and High school students shed tears as the time to say farewell approached. **Their tears of "I wish I could stay longer" and "I will miss you" showed how much they had enjoyed their time there.**



Grad Club
Saeka Deguchi

On the flight from Japan, our students impressed the flight attendants with their fluent English, showcasing their high proficiency. But when I spoke to them in English, since I'm Japanese, they often responded in Japanese. However, the following morning after spending a night at the host family's home, they responded all in English. I was amazed at how they could change after just one night! Also, it was particularly impressive to see students with moderate English proficiency greatly improving their language skills during their stay. Seeing the children, who had been homesick for the first few days, gradually gaining confidence in the latter part of the program, I realized once again the significance of this study abroad program. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the students who participated in the program and to the parents who trusted us and entrusted us with their children, despite the uncertainties of the program's availability and the restrictions and conditions that we had to deal with. We will continue to do our best to make the program even better.



Grad Club
Matthew Horne

Many host families commented on how polite our students were. They were also very impressed by the English level that our students displayed. Particularly, the elementary school students exhibited a much higher level of English proficiency than anticipated by the host families and were able to develop excellent relationships. I was very excited to join the Australia study abroad trip for the first time. To be a part of this trip with our students and to share wonderful experiences with them that I hope they will remember for many years was a privilege. Taking a large number of students overseas was quite a daunting task, however, the attitudes of our students and the maturity they demonstrated throughout the trip were fantastic. I believe that this study abroad trip has allowed the students to realize that English is not just a subject that they can study in a classroom, and I also believe that for some of our older students, it has opened their minds to the endless possibilities for their future studies and career options that lay ahead of them.



The Information session on
the Australia study trip for 2024 to be held!
please visit our **Grad+** website for details ...>





British Hills

British Hills this year, the second time to visit, there were participants not only from the Kanto region but also from Kansai and Nagoya, as well as from Sakura International School. It became

a cross-school exchange. Participants from Kansai had an early morning meeting time, yet seeing the excitement on the children's faces upon arrival made us truly glad they could participate.

We took the '3D Pictures' and 'British Hills Explore' program for the first time! The 3D Pictures, a multi-layered art form that has long been a favorite in the UK, required a lot of detailed work. The students created wonderful pieces by carefully following the instructions and selecting their favorite illustrations!



In the 'British Hills Explore' program, students enjoyed a 'Treasure Hunt' in the vast British Hills, where the students searched for places indicated by clues, answered questions, and completed a secret word. The students were excellent at expressing their thoughts clearly in English! The Grad Club students are truly impressive!

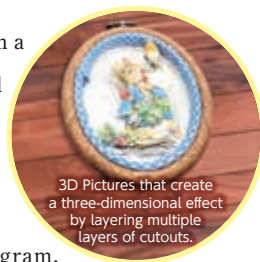
There are not many facilities in Japan where children can spend time experiencing different cultures in English like this, so we would like to continue to participate in these programs and offer experiences to more children in the future.



British Hills Study Tour

A large site that recreates a medieval British town, and once you step into the site, you are already in England.

We spent two days immersed in English at this resort site, which has the most popular international study abroad program in Japan.



3D Pictures that create a three-dimensional effect by layering multiple layers of cutouts.

Grad Autumn Camp in Karuizawa

We went camping at an outdoor resort in the Jōshin'etsu-kōgen National Park, a habitat for many wild birds and wild animals such as a type of antelope, which is a protected national animal, to enhance "survival skills" through nature activities.



Glad Club planned this camping trip to develop the students' unlimited abilities through unique experiences. In the "Ropes Course" activity, all the students worked together to leap onto a

small island. Utilizing the Tarzan ropes, the children brainstormed ways to transport everyone to the island. Through this activity, they experienced the joy of success and the importance of teamwork!

In the 'Treasure Hunt BBQ,' children are divided into teams and rely on maps with clues to find ingredients for the evening's barbecue. Cooperation was crucial, and the ingredients each team found were shared, resulting in an amazing BBQ thanks to fantastic teamwork!

Despite a light rain, the campfire got everyone excited with fun Grad games!

Gathering around the flickering fire, it surely became a cherished memory etched deep within everyone's hearts.

It was the Grad Club's first full-scale tent camp. The children were filled with anticipation and excitement for this first experience. Many of the students had never stayed in tents before, and for some, it was their first time attending a Grad Camp. Each activity carried out in the great nature is undoubtedly a valuable experience for their growth. They learned the importance of teamwork, challenging themselves, and succeeding on their own in the great outdoors.



Learning About History, Geography,
and Our Society Through Travel

Infinity Global Elementary
School's Inaugural Class

Trip to Shikoku

(Tokushima & Kagawa)



September 7-8
Tokushima & Kagawa



"Learning through Traveling," this time, aimed to acquaint students with **the nature of Shikoku and experience industries that take advantage of its natural resources and climate.** Our daily lives and industries in Japan are supported by abundant **water and forests.** Since our students usually live in urban areas, they don't have many opportunities to experience nature, and it is difficult for them to realize that their lives are supported by nature. We chose Tokushima and Kagawa in order to have students become familiar with nature through nature activities.

Before departing on our trip, students were divided into groups based on prefectures in Shikoku and studied about the region. Each group researched their assigned prefecture's distinct features, historically significant places, and popular tourist spots, and compiled their findings on Jamboard.

The students also **learned about the town of Kamikatsu, Tokushima Prefecture, which aims to become a "zero-waste town", providing a good opportunity to learn about the SDGs, which they have been studying in various subjects, and the initiatives that are actually being implemented in Japan.**

The learning materials
compiled by students
using Jamboard.

[Jamboard]
A whiteboard
powered by Google
Cloud that allows
sharing the screen.



Kamikatsu Zero Waste Center

[Zero Waste Town / Kamikatsu Town, Tokushima Prefecture]

Kamikatsu Town, located about an hour's drive from Tokushima City, is the least populated town in Shikoku with approximately 1,300 residents (as of September 2023). In 2003, they became the first in Japan to declare a 'Zero Waste' policy, aiming for a society where garbage is not disposed of and not generated. They implemented the sorting of waste into the most detailed categories in Japan, with a total of 13 types and 45 classifications. The town achieved a recycling rate of 80.6% in 2019.



Receiving a lecture on rowing
techniques, and off we go!

learning in the midst of nature.

These marine activities were meant to connect to larger challenges. For instance, those who experienced kayaking at a younger age will understand ocean currents and safety precautions when near or on the sea. Through firsthand experiences and understanding, older students would then try to reach an uninhabited island by boat. **Growing mentally and physically through these experiences, and taking on larger challenges leads to confidence and nurtures a curiosity to know more about the world.**



Making udon noodles
to the cheering tambourine.

The next day, the students experienced making Sanuki udon noodles in Kotohira-cho, Kagawa Prefecture, followed by a visit to Kōmpira Shrine, which has been worshipped by many people since ancient times. After returning from the trip, we reflected on the trip using a reflection sheet. The students thought about what left an impression on them, what they learned, and what they would like to do on their next excursion. They also thought about how the city differed from their own city and expanded their learning.

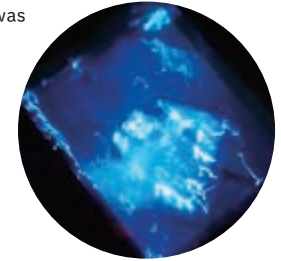
The Future Vision of "Learning Through Traveling"



Head Teacher
Akifumi Nakayama

We would like to make "problem-solving" the main focus of "learning through traveling" so that children **to get involved in solving social issues by actively engaging in them.** Currently, predicting the future, even a year ahead, has become difficult, and for a better future we must understand "Now." Understanding the current social issues and the direction the world should take becomes clearer by knowing "Now."

In Japan, there are high technical skills and culture nurtured within its rich nature and historical heritage, and many industrial projects have been created that take advantage of these strengths. We are planning to conduct classes on interesting projects, such as "Agriculture with minimal water," "Wave power generation," "Sustainable seaweed business" and "Fusion power generation by the artificial sun." **These would help solve social issues and we expect students to take leading roles in these projects.**



Observing the glowing tiny
crustaceans called "sea fireflies"

HP



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