



The Crane

The newsletter of Hiroshima International School

27th August 2010

Dates to note

Please make a note of the forthcoming events.

Monday 30th August – Announced Fire Drill

Friday 3rd September – PTA Meeting @ 1pm in the Pink Room

Tuesday 7th September – Open Evening

Wednesday 8th September – Kyushu University visit (Grades 10, 11 and 12)

IGCSE Exam Results 2010

International General Certificate of Education (IGCSE)

Hiroshima International School is authorized by Cambridge University to offer IGCSE courses to our students in Grades 9 and 10. IGCSEs serve as an excellent preparation for the IB Diploma which our students take in Grades 11 and 12.

We gained authorization in 2007 and began teaching IGCSEs in August of that year. Our first students sat their exams a year ago in 2009.

This year we entered students in five subjects: First Language English, Literature (English), Mathematics, History and Combined Science. The results were again excellent. On a scale of A to G, 84% of our grades (21 out of 25) were A to C and 7 were A or A* (a grade higher than an A).

After two years of IGCSEs and 63 results, 43% have been A or A*. This reflects both the hard work of our students and the benefits of recruiting teachers with prior experience of teaching these challenging courses. All of our current IGCSE teachers taught IGCSEs elsewhere before coming to HIS.

IB and **IGCSE** exams are marked by qualified examiners who are completely independent of the school.

They are therefore an authentic and objective external evaluation not only of individual student performance but also of the school's success.

Handbook for Parents 2010

The 2010-2011 Parent Handbook is on the school website (under 'publications'). It should answer many of your questions about the school and it includes important factual information. All parents who are new to the school will receive a paper copy but, for reasons of economy, we won't be distributing it to existing families. Of course, if you would like to have a copy we'll be happy to print one for you. Please just ask the School Office.



PTA News

from Jackie Ikegami

Immediate Tasks

- To decide who will take the responsible positions this year, and how the PTA will be structured
- To make the library rota.
 - ✧ If you can volunteer any of your time to help in the library this year, please contact Ryoko Sensei at school.
- To compile information and distribute this year's school directory.
- To get started on the planning for the Halloween Trick or Treat event.
- PYP Sports Day Potluck Picnic.

First let me take this opportunity to join with everyone else in welcoming all the new members of our community, including our new science teacher, Mr Trivino, and all the new families. We hope your time at HIS is both enjoyable and valuable. To everyone else, I hope you had an amazing summer!

Being an international school with an ever-changing student body, the PTA has in effect to reinvent itself almost every year. Last year this was particularly hard felt, and all of us were effectively making things up as we went along. Hopefully we have a better blueprint to work from this year, and we will learn from our experience and build on our successes by working together. This year's PTA officers may change, and I will keep you informed. If you are interested in taking on a responsible role in the running of the PTA, formal or otherwise, please don't hesitate to get in touch at any time. All are welcome to contribute to the work of the PTA on a regular basis, or on a task by task basis, whichever suits your circumstances. More hands make light work.

The future structure of the PTA will be discussed at the PTA meeting scheduled for Friday 3rd September at 1pm. I hope that as many parents as possible will attend.

As you know from my recent e-mail (apologies for the suddenness), an initial meeting was held this morning to get the discussions started. If you were unable to make this meeting, you are by no means too late to become involved. All major decisions will be conducted by an online vote and of course you will be informed of what was discussed this morning as soon as possible.

Like last year, we will try to communicate as much as possible using electronic means, such as e-mail, facebook, and mixi, and the PTA blog on the school website, as well as face to face, so that everyone has the opportunity to be included, even if they cannot come to school.

If you have not yet sent me your e-mail address, or if it has changed, please let me know as soon as possible hisptapresident@gmail.com. If you have no internet connection in your home, please feel free to call me any time to talk about PTA matters on 082 209 4365.

Wherever time allows it, we will try to provide PTA information in Japanese and English. This is a time consuming job, so please forgive us if we cannot always manage (this week being a case in point). We will try to put the info on the blog ASAP.

Please check your e-mail regularly to make sure you know what is going on. Because we are all busy, announcements can sometimes be unavoidably sudden. Please accept my apologies for this in advance.

I am currently working on a document to give you with details of the various proposals for the use of PTA funds. Please bear with me a little longer.

Let's work together to make this an even better year than last year!



2010 Peace Marathon

from **Wayne Bartelink**

Have you started your training yet?

It's that time of year again ... time to get in shape ... time to run in support of Peace.

30th Annual Hiroshima International Peace Marathon

On Wednesday, November 3rd, HIS will once again be participating in the Hiroshima International Peace Marathon. This will be another great opportunity for our school to be represented in an event dedicated to the cause of world peace, which is at the core of our school's mission and vision.

On numerous occasions in the past HIS has received the award for largest group entry. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could once again claim this award?! This really is a great day for families and friends of HIS to come together for an important cause.

Application Forms

If you and/or your child would like to participate in this marathon, as part of the HIS group, please complete an Application form and return it to the school office no later than **Friday September 10th**.

Should you require any extra application forms for additional family members or friends, please notify the School Office or download the application form which is on the school website along with this newsletter.

Please attach payment with the form. Details are outlined below.

1km - 5km Run	<i>adults</i>	<i>2,300 yen</i>
	<i>students in Grade 7 and above</i>	<i>1,200 yen</i>
	<i>students in Grade 3-6</i>	<i>600 yen</i>
10km Run	<i>adults</i>	<i>3,000 yen</i>
	<i>students in Grade 9 and above</i>	<i>1,800 yen</i>

Please note the following:

- Adults and students in Grade 9 and above can choose which run to participate in
- A separate application form is required for each runner
- On the day we will meet at the stadium
- This is not a regular school day so parents are responsible for transportation to and from the **Coca-Cola West stadium**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Bartelink at wbartelink@hiroshima-is.ac.jp

Hope to see you there!



Hiroshima Jogakuin University

During the first few weeks of the school year we will again be welcoming eight students from Hiroshima Jogakuin University. They will be observing and assisting HIS teachers while here as well as taking English language classes. For those of you new to the city, HJU was founded in 1886 and is a highly respected women's university. The school's association with HJU stretches back for many years with a number of HIS staff, past and present, having graduated from the university. Ten students spent three weeks in school in 2007 and started what has now become an annual event. We are happy to welcome them back.

HIS Hats

Parents of children in the Primary School will know that in hot weather we require all students to wear hats.

As of this year, we now have our own blue HIS floppy hats and all PYP students are required to have one. They are available in a number of sizes from the School Office. May I ask parents to ensure that hats are clearly marked with your child's name? (Perhaps I might take this opportunity to remind parents ensure that their child's blue HIS T-shirts are also named. At present we have something like a dozen in the lost property – all unidentified.)

As well as the required floppy hats for younger children, we also have HIS baseball caps for children (and adults!) of all ages. They, too, may be bought in the School Office.

Contact Details

Thank you to those parents who have returned the sheet updating their contact details. Every year we distribute and collect these sheets in order to be sure that our records are accurate. If you have not yet returned this sheet to the School Office, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Teams, Houses and T-shirts

On Sports Days we traditionally divide the students into three teams, each of which is identified by a colour. Parents delve into a wardrobe and find (or else buy) a T-shirt of the appropriate colour (more or less!) and that suffices for the day.

It has always seemed to me that we can – and should – do better. It also seems to be a missed opportunity not to develop the idea of teams beyond Sports Days. The excitement and enjoyment of the students as they compete on Sports Day is obvious. Why not hold other events during the year when the different teams can compete in other ways too?

And surely we can do better than to identify 'teams' simply by colour?

We will therefore be launching a competition among students to think of good names for the three teams (which we will probably call 'houses'). Japanese animals? Japanese flowers? Birds?!

Of course, the houses will still be identified by colours and so we will make available HIS T-shirts in three colours other than blue. An order form will come home to you very shortly.

Every current student will be assigned to a house (or team) and they will remain in it for the duration of their time at HIS. New students will be assigned to a house at the time of enrolment. It will be important to balance the houses in terms of numbers and ages so please understand that we can't give students a choice regarding which one they join.



Peace Love Festival 2010

The Hiroshima Peace Love Festival is a popular annual event which will this year take place on Sunday, 31st October. We have been invited to participate and I have been happy to accept on behalf of the school. We will have a school information tent, staffed throughout the day by teachers, and I have asked the PTA to staff a food stall.

This will be a marvellous opportunity for the school to contribute to the wider community and to raise our public profile. It will also be an opportunity for our students to perform in public and I shall be writing to parents about this next week.

More details will follow but I would ask you to keep the date (31st October) free.

Shakespeare at HIS

Another date to put in your diary is Thursday 18th November. In recent years our students have staged memorable productions of *'Macbeth'* and *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'*. This year our senior students will be performing of *'Twelfth Night'*. More details to follow.

It was a great pleasure to see everyone returning this week for another school year. The first week has already passed and we have got off to an excellent start.

We're back!

With very best wishes

Peter MacKenzie
Principal



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