

Front cover : Wood work " Wild boar "

This is wood work that we made during Winter School 2018.

Children got to hammer with a mallet and attach springs for the first time!

With help from the instructors in the woodwork class, they made a wooden "Wild boar" that represents this year' s Chinese Zodiac!

Please share
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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Expanding future possibilities

Hirakû

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Welcome to Bilingual Education!

Is the future bright for Japanese English levels?

Japanese Spirit with an International Future. Kinder Kids inc.



Welcome to Bilingual Education!

“Hiraku” Published

We have previously shared news about Kinder Kids activities through “Head Office News” but in order to build a closer connection to parents, we will cover a range of topics such as “people” “products” and “services” that we hope you will find engaging. When we were a smaller group of schools, it was easier to talk to parents face to face, but it has become more difficult as we have grown. That is why we decided to go back to where we started and create “Hiraku”, a tool for sharing our thoughts with you. We will be sharing insights in “Hiraku” not mentioned on our Website or brochures. Staff members’ thoughts and reflections about our students and recognition of their extraordinary passion for contributing to Kinder Kids school operations.



Kinder Kids 2019

Hiraku

This is a free magazine that connects kinder kids and parents!

Nice to meet you!



“Making Kinder Kids connections all over the world”

The long awaited Hawaii School will open soon, following the opening of our Canada School in 2014.

The industry's first transfer system enables children to transfer not only within Kinder Kids Japan, but also Kinder Kids locations overseas. Families who have taken part in this transfer system loved the experience! We also endeavor to provide our graduate students with opportunities for internships in worldwide Kinder Kids locations and will even give support while they’ re overseas if they need us, functioning almost like an embassy. In the future, we aim to build an environment where children can freely visit any Kinder Kids in the world and have a cross cultural experience. We are planning to open up another school in South-east Asia and are accelerating our overseas expansion. 2019 will be the year for realizing a system where Kinder Kids families can connect with each other all over the world, anytime.



Kimiko Nakayama
CEO Kinder Kids Inc.

Is there a bright future for Japanese English levels?

EF Education First, a company specializing in study abroad and language training in 116 countries, published “The EF English Proficiency Index 2018” which was calculated using test data from 1.3 million test takers in November 2018. The index shows Japan was ranked 49th among 88 listed non-English speaking countries and Japan ranked 11th among listed Asian countries. Japan’ s ranking has continued to slide, from 14th among 44 countries since 2011 when the survey started. Even worse, Japan’ s ranking fell significantly, by 12 places, in just 1 year between 2017 and 2018.

The number of new entrants into the survey compared to when it began has contributed to the slide down the rankings, however countries such as India and Vietnam had English proficiency levels which were “low” initially but are now “average”. For many people in developing countries, English proficiency is an essential tool for improving their prosperity, and their motivation for learning English is clearly different when compared with that of the Japanese. It may be inevitable that Japan will be left behind in international society and lose its standing in the world if Japanese English proficiency fails to keep up.

Research has shown that there is a steady decline in English proficiency measured at adult level (20yrs+) but there are indications that the level of 18-19 year olds will improve the statistics when they mature. In 2020, implementation of the English Education Reform Plan means English classes will start from Grade 3, and English will be a mandatory subject from Grade 5 in elementary schools. It will be intriguing to see how this reform plan impacts improvements in English proficiency in Japan.

Due to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and 2025 Osaka, Kansai Expo, Japan is expected to become an even more globalized country. We will continue to cover relevant information and new research in our publication moving forward.

What is “The EF English Proficiency Index”?

It is based on examination data from the EF SET (www.efset.org/ja) which is a free online English proficiency test published and provided by EF. They publish it every year as a benchmark for measuring English proficiency over time in non-English speaking countries and regions.



Understanding Kinder Kids in Numbers

infographics
as of 2019

Characteristics of Kinder Kids in Numbers.

Staff nationality

We have staff members of various nationalities from all over the world. Therefore our children are able to interact with many different cultures which develops their broad international view whilst acquiring a more global English.



Approx. **40** countries

Native staff

263 people

Japanese staff

469 people

Founded

2,000

Domestic **21** schools

Overseas **2** schools

Graduate students

Approx. **3,000** students

Hours of study in English

Hours that Kinder classes learn English

Approx. **1,200** hours a year

When English becomes a formal subject in 2020,

Grade 5, 6
Class hours

70 hours a year

Calculated based on curriculum time for Kinder 1-3 classes.

Students spend most of their day in an English only environment

They acquire proficiency through their immersion in English every day.

They will be well-balanced, learning the four core skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening).

We have a strong literacy focus and aim for our students to acquire English proficiency equivalent to a native Grade 2 level, at the time of graduation from Kinder Kids.

Speaking

Listening

Writing

Reading

Kinder 3 classes pass rate for Eiken

as of 2017

Eiken Grade-3

65%

Eiken Grade Pre-2
Some children passed!

Eiken Grade 3&4 is roughly equivalent to the English proficiency level for Junior high school 2nd or 3rd year students.

Eiken Grade-4

76%



Topic1

Xmas Party

by Grad Club

Santa Time!



Making a Snowman!



Marshmallow Catch!



What is

Grad Club ?

Grad Club is designed to support and develop English proficiency for students who have graduated from Kinder Kids, as they progress through elementary, junior high and high schools. In addition to a variety of English lesson options, we provide fun events such as summer camps, overseas study trips, speech contests and more to show our students that learning is more than just reading textbooks.

We held Grad Club Christmas parties again this year in Kansai and Kanto. More than 300 Grad Club members and their parents joined in the fun.

The Grad Club Christmas party is an opportunity for students who continue to study English to be rewarded with a magical end to the year. Everyone who comes to the party looks forward to interacting with students and teachers from other schools that they rarely see. As always, we played a lot of interactive and enjoyable games such as "catch the marshmallows", "build a snowman" and a "Twelve Days Of Christmas" parody, guided by group leaders dressed like "Phooee" (a conversation class character) reindeer or elves. All the teams bonded and showed outstanding teamwork as they tried to win. After playing games and enjoying a delicious meal and dessert, everyone was so excited to receive a gift from Santa Claus! We took a fantastic group picture together at the end!

Kansai, Hard Rock Cafe



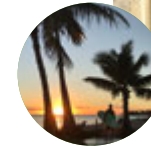
Kanto, PIZZASALVATORECUOMO & GRILL Kawasaki



Topic2

Newly Open!

in Hawaii



Staff Training in Osaka



"Kinder Kids Hawaii" teachers, Mandy and Keris came for training in Osaka School for a 2 week stay in Japan. Typically Hawaiian, they were warm, positive and friendly when we met them and they blended seamlessly into the school - the children loved them very much! On the last day of their training, they each led Circle Time in their training classes. They're really looking forward to using the knowledge and skills they learnt from Kinder Kids Japan when their classes open in Hawaii School.

Mandy

"The teachers here are very experienced and their classroom management skills are top notch. The planning and the activities are very well thought out. Seeing how well the teachers are able to work together as a team, and the communication they have with each other is really important in the classroom"



Keris

"There was good teacher control, there was good respect for the teacher and for the student as well. I picked up a lot of tips, giving examples and showing how to use words in context and how to keep the conversation going. The techniques and the strategies we've seen should be brought into our classrooms in Hawaii".