international schools directory

The value of international schools in Japan

James Yellowlees Ph.D. SPECIALTOTHE JAPANTIMES

As many Japanese schools grapple with efforts related to globalization, international schools in Japan are leading the way in terms of supplying base values and progressive curriculum and learning environments.

"We are focusing on providing even more attention and valueadded opportunities for our current and future students," said Terence Christian, headmaster of Nishimachi International School in Tokyo. "We have expanded our diversity outreach and financial assistance programs and it has had a profound effect both within the school and in the community at large. We involve our students and parents through our Nishimachi Outreach Scholarship Day and they participate in a walk,

evening musical performances and other events that directly support the fundraising and support activities."

These scholarships were established so that Nishimachi could reach out to the community and provide financial assistance to promising students who would like to study at an international school, but may not have the financial means to do so.

Nishimachi International School has continued its Tohoku relief and rebuilding efforts, especially the relationship with Shizukawa Junior High School in Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture. "The opportunity to participate in helping Shizukawa to build a new community center and to have exchanges with the students has deeply enriched our values, the sense of helping others and the importance of volun"Columbia International

School Student Diversity Scholarship awards reductions of tuition fees by up to 50% to students who need financial assistance," said Christopher Holland of the Columbia Admissions Team. This program includes the "Columbia Scholarship" for new applicants and the "Hon-our Scholarship" for current students at Columbia and they are awarded for one academic year, with renewal options up to graduation if good grades are maintained.

"We are striving to provide a strong base with clear values and innovative education," noted Sister Margaret Scott, head of school at Seisen International School.

"Our school motto is 'preparing global leaders, critical thinkers and compassionate women for tomorrow' and we are working hard to accomplish it with a balance between core values, innovative education and sports and cultural activities."

Indeed, since Sister Margaret arrived in 2012, Seisen has com-

population and are working hard

to maximize the benefits of this. Canadian Academy established

a 'Headmaster's Symposium,'

which gives students, parents,

more community contact."

of school Gill Tyrer.

pleted a new playing field and outdoor sports infrastructure and officially opened a new indoor weight training area adjacent to the basketball court in early 2014.

The Seisen students, parents, faculty and administrators have been involved in fundraising and voluntary activities that helped finance these efforts and this has helped to raise awareness of the importance of working together to improve the infrastructure and that it should not be taken for granted.

"Our strategic plan is to renew, enrich and energize our learning environments and to prepare our students to go on to the best possible universities and careers, so it is very good for everyone to be engaged and involved," Sister Margaret said.

International School of the Sacred Heart (ISSH) in Tokyo is continuing support of its impressive list of development projects both in Japan and in other countries, such as Kenya, Thailand and Nepal.

"Our students have become very aware of the impact that our

Outreach: Aoba International School offers a summer program for students in the local community. AOBA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

modest contributions can have in communities and countries that are in need," said Mary Hisaoka of ISSH. "This really helps them to develop their values as

global citizens going forward." Aoba International School in Hikarigaoka, Nerima Ward, in Tokyo now offers a full K-12 curriculum and full support for incoming students, such as ESL and a Value Education Program, to help them acclimatize.

"We also implemented a very

successful summer program in 2013, largely through the excellent efforts of Greg Culos the program coordinator, and it provided an opportunity for students in the local community to participate in English classes, soccer and other activities on our campus," said head of school Royce Jacobs. "We think this and other community outreach efforts will really help both Aoba International School and the greater community going forward."





Global-minded: A "Mideast spice market" at Chateau School CHATEAU SCHOOL

Innovative international preschools and kindergartens

A number of leading international preschools and kindergartens currently provide stable and innovative programs in addition to flexible schedules and options to meet the needs of

working parents. Mizuho Preschool & Nursery at Home was established in 2001 and offers programs for children school options in a friendly and spacious suburban environment in Shakujidai, Nerima Ward in

"We focus on developing selfexpression, curiosity, creativity and good communication skills with Montessori as a base," program coordinator Misaki Wakatsuki explained. "The children love to play and develop their creative and motor skills in the sand boxes and lawn in our outdoor play area," she said. "Our location affords children the opportunity to learn and grow in a relaxed, homey and green environment."

Chateau School is conveniently located in Harajuku, Tokyo and has many progressive between the ages of two and five and innovative features. Chateau into Pre-Kinder (0-3 years old), Kindergarten (3-6 years old) and After School (3-12 years old) areas. The After School program is available into the evening and offers students English, Japanese, Spanish, French and Mandarin lessons and cultural experiences. It is aimed at working parents and addresses a growing need as Japan has a real problem in

terms of access to affordable day care options. "Our students are given special school passports and will

'travel' to over 50 countries during the program," said founder Rina Chateau. "Our programs are based on Montessori and World Diplomacy methods and our students develop enhanced communication skills and global

Columbia International School has enjoyed success after the introduction of new kindergarten and preschool programs in April 2013. "We have brought quality Ontario-based education in the early childhood education area to Japan," said Columbia principal Barry McCliggott. "It leads seamlessly into our K-12 program." (J.Y.)

COBIS STREET

Flexible college, university and MBA options in Japan

Japan residents are seeing an increasing range of quality college, university and MBA options at which to pursue their education, and the following are good examples of some of

The Lakeland College Japan Campus offers an extensive range of undergraduate programs in Tokyo. "We have flexible admissions and provide an excellent start in undergraduate studies in English for students who wish to complete associate or four-year university degrees in Japan, the U.S. and other countries," said Interim Dean and Director of External Affairs Alan Brender.

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) in Beppu, Oita Prefecture, in Kyushu region, offers a strong undergraduate program in English. Non-Japanese students develop fluency in Japanese while they earn bachelor degrees while Japanese students must attain sufficient proficiency to study at the undergraduate level in English.

"We also have a leading-edge MBA program that is conducted in English," said Ritsumeikan APU College of International Management Dean Kenji Yokoyama. Many graduates are hired by leading Japanese and foreign capital firms to work both in Japan and throughout the Asia Pacific region.

The one-year full time HULT MBA program is perhaps the most global of all MBA programs as it has campuses in Boston, Silicon Valley, London, Dubai, New York, Sao Paolo and Shanghai. Students are able to complete MBA degrees by studying at one campus or taking semesters at up to three different ones.

"Our Shanghai campus is well-situated for Japan-based students as it is very close to Japan, and has program participants from over 70 countries," said HULT EMBA/MBA Asia Associate Director of Enrollment Eriko Aparcero.

Blended learning is the leading edge approach that works best in distance learning situations and London School of Business and Finance (LSBF) offers a blended learning MBA program in cooperation with Concordia University. "Blended learning means that our students are fully supported with live instruction, counseling and full assistance in Japan while they complete the distance learning components of our MBA program," said LSBF global marketing director Max Etingen.

Leading the way in Kansai Canadian Academy in Kobe is in perience as it is colocated with its 100th anniversary year. Senri International School of "I am so pleased to be part Kwansei Gakuin (SIS), a school of the long tradition that Canathat mainly supports Japanese dian Academy has established returnees. "Due to our unique in Japan," said current head of location and relationship with school D.J. Condon. "We have SIS, we are able to develop inan increasingly diverse student

According to Deutsche Schule Kobe-European School Principal Ursula Shioji the school provides an interesting alternative to the other international schools in Kobe and is focused on developing communication skills and critical thinking novative programs related to in young learners. (J.Y.)

faculty and administrators opportunities to discuss key trends in education, introduce new ideas and suggestions and have St. Michael's International School also has a strong tradition in Kobe. It was established in 1946 and provides quality education for students aged 3-11 in the Kitano area of Kobe. "We are very proud of the community legacy that St. Michael's International School has developed and of our cooperation with both the City of Kobe and with Japanese schools in areas of communication and interaction," said head Osaka International School of Kwansei Gakuin (OIS) is in dents with a unique learning ex-

Tradition: Canadian Academy students prepare for the school's centenary. CANADIAN ACADEMY

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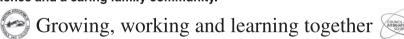
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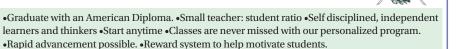
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