



## NEWSLETTER

September 2020



### PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Greetings from the OGCIS principal, Mr. Gregory Halfyard. It is the end of August and that means the beginning of the second term of the 2020-2021 school year. I wanted to express my gratitude to the staff, students and parents at Osaka Gakugei Canadian International School for welcoming me into this dynamic and engaging school community. I have been impressed with the level of respect, perseverance and kindness displayed by each of our students. Their levels of communicating in English have significantly improved since April! I am honoured to have the privilege of being the new principal at OGCIS.

I would also like to thank OGSHS principal, Mr. Morimatsu, on behalf of the Osaka Gakugei Educational Foundation, for his continued support of our program, our staff and grade 10 and grade 11 students. Our mission statement is, "To empower future mindful leaders who will flourish in and enrich a global society." With the ongoing support of the host school we will continue to provide a challenging bilingual school experience for our students that will prepare them for future international opportunities. Finally, we are proud to have received the official BC Ministry of Education seal as a Certified Offshore School in the Global Educational Program.

はじめに、このダイナミックで魅力的な学校に私を歓迎してくれた OGCIS スタッフ、生徒、保護者の皆様に感謝しています。OGCIS の新しい校長であることを光栄に思います。生徒一人一人が示す尊敬、優しさに感銘を受けました。4 月以降、生徒の英語のコミュニケーションレベルが大幅に向上しました!

大阪学芸高等学校の森松校長にも感謝を申し上げたいと思います。ホストスクールの継続的な支援により質の高いバイリンガルな学校プログラムを提供することができています。最後に、BC 教育省の公式オフショアスクールとして認定されたことを誇りに思います。



# Special Summer Course

We were all disappointed -especially our grade 10 students- with the cancellation of the Sooke Homestay in July and August due to the pandemic. However, we were pleased to be able to offer a five-week summer Social Studies course during the time that students would have been in British Columbia. Ms. Allen taught our grade 10s a locally developed course titled, Japan and Canada in a Modern World. Gakugei High School teachers (Mr. Matsumori, Mr. Kawakami) co-taught the course with one block of Japanese history each day before the two blocks of Canadian and Japanese history and culture taught by Ms. Allen. Along with learning a great deal about their own history and Canadian history, students practiced their English language proficiency and showed significant improvement in their oral, listening, reading and writing skills. The final project involved groups of students presenting an inquiry topic to classmates and OGCIS staff!



5週間の Social Studies の夏期講習を行いました。アレン先生は日本とカナダの現代社会について教え、松森先生と川上先生は日本の歴史を教えました。生徒は日本とカナダの歴史について多くのことを学ぶと共に、英語のスピーキング、リスニング、リーディング、ライティングのスキルを大幅に向上しました。最後のプロジェクトではクラスメイトと OGCIS スタッフの前でプレゼンテーションを発表しました。



## Evacuation Drill

Student safety is our first priority and we will hold several emergency drills throughout the year. Our first drill was an earthquake drill on Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>.

We follow the safety guidelines of Osaka Gakugei Junior and Senior High School when doing evacuation drills. Emergency evacuation routes and procedures are posted on the walls in our classrooms and office. The drill went well with students taking cover by dropping to the floor at the start of a mock earthquake and holding onto the legs of their desk while counting to 60 out loud two times. Teachers and students then exited the building to take attendance at the assembly area on the main field.

7月16日に地震の避難訓練を行いました。大阪学芸中学校・高等学校の安全指針に従い、緊急避難経路と手順は教室やオフィスの壁に掲示されています。生徒の安全は私たちの最優先であり、年間を通じていくつかの避難訓練を行います

## Student Health & Safety Guidelines

Parents should know that their students are safe at OGCIS and Gakugei High School with extensive health and safety guidelines in place since June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please check with our office if you have any questions about protocols for COVID-19.



# Teacher Perspectives

Students did well to adapt to online instruction at the start of the term and have been working hard since returning to school. In Science 10, Chemistry 11, and Physics 11, students have been learning key concepts through lab activities and experiments. Science 10 students recently completed a natural selection simulations to learn about the effects of selection pressures on populations. Chemistry 11 students recently completed a dilution lab where they were tasked with creating solutions of specific concentrations.

Students worked hard in term 1 social studies and expanded their thinking. They especially worked hard in their summer studies. Grade 10 students completed the BAA course comparing Canadian and Japanese history, while grade 11 students learned debating skills while arguing their first motion. We are excited to continue discussions about culture and especially the upcoming focus on Indigenous peoples.

In English Language Arts this term, Grade 10s are exploring the structure and format of formal academic writing. Together we are learning to recognize the different parts and purposes of a paragraph, and will be using them to develop and strengthen our opinions through essay writing. For the Grade 11s, our focus this term is on Indigenous perspectives and voice in text. We have started by exploring what we know about the topic and what it means for a text to be "authentic." Students will be analyzing different Indigenous texts, including a full novel study. This term will be done in complementary collaboration with the Socials Studies teacher.

In Math 10 & 11, students have been learning about rational and polynomial expressions. Students have been working in groups to solve problems and to discover important properties of both types of expressions. I am impressed with the strong effort students have put forth so far this term.

# Parent-Teacher Conferences

It was a pleasure to meet many parents during parent-teacher interviews on the week of July 25 - 29. Homeroom teachers gave out the Term 1 Report Cards which include BC and Japanese course grades and percentages. We are proud of our grade 10 and 11 students and their improvements in learning and achievement in the British Columbia curriculum and with their levels of proficiency in the English language.

7月下旬に行われた三者面談で多くの保護者様に会えたことを嬉しく思いました。担任から OGCIS のレポートカードが配られたかと思えます。OGCIS スタッフは 1 年と 2 年生の学習の成果と英語のスキルアップを誇りに思っています。



# Guest Speaker

Mr. Halfyard's daughter speaking to the grade 11 students in June.

ハーフヤード校長の娘さんが 2 年 A 組のためにプレゼンテーションを発表してくれました！

# Fall Event Calendar

September 2 – 4	Culture Festival Days CANCELLED
September 16	Academic aptitude tests-No Classes
September 20	Open Campus Day
September 21	Respect for the Aged Day- National Holiday
September 22	Autumn Equinox- National Holiday
September 30	Sports Day at Nagai Park
October 1	School Assembly 2:25 - 3:15
October 7	AM classes only
October 8 – 9	Japanese Classes Midterms
October 12 – 14	BC Classes
October 15	Health Check for students (no classes)
October 19	School wide Fire Drill 6 <sup>th</sup> period

## Concluding Statements

I am excited about the second term of our academic year. Special thanks to each BC teacher and our Japanese host school homeroom teachers **Mr. Matsumori** (grade 10) and **Ms. Takakusa** (grade 11) for being part of our educational team. I would also like to recognize **Ms. Aoi Kitaoka**, office manager and Program Director, **Mr. Gabriel Estrada** for their excellent work in supporting staff and our students every day here at OGCIS. The next focus for the OGCIS team is to prepare for the yearly Ministry of Education inspection in late October. The purpose of this inspection is to ensure that we continue to provide a high-quality educational program for our students. Please contact me with your questions or concerns at any time.

- Principal Halfyard



Visit our website: <https://ogcis.osakagakugei.ac.jp/>