

MARCH 24-28, 2025

MAIN CAMPUS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

March 31

- Student-Led Assembly
- ILTRM Closing Assembly
- Service Learning Day

April 1

- U20 Boys Volleyball Qualification Game @ APIS

April 3

- MYP Open House for G6 Parents & Students

April 4

- Classes End
- Songkran Celebration

April 5-20

- April Break

April 21

- School Resumes

April 22-24

- No ASAs

April 23

- G6 Parent Meeting @ PC

April 25-May 21

- DP Examinations

April 29-May 1

- MAP Testing

May 5

- Teachers' PD Day (No School for Students)

May 16

- MYP Personal Project Exhibition

May 23

- Last Day of Grade 12

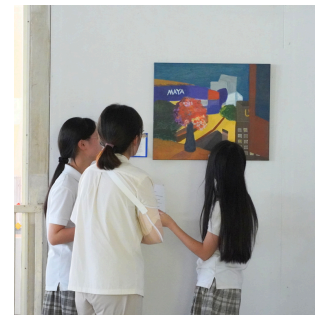
May 28

- Class of 2025 Graduation Day

DP ARTS EXHIBITION

On Thursday, March 27, 2025, our DP2 Visual Arts students hosted their DP Arts Exhibition at the Main Campus, celebrating two years of dedication and artistic growth. The event showcased a diverse collection of artworks, including paintings, sculptures, digital media, and mixed-media installations, each representing the students' unique creative journeys.

Friends, family, and staff gathered to admire the talent and hard work behind each piece, engaging in meaningful conversations with the artists about their inspirations, techniques, and artistic processes. More than just a display of artwork, the exhibition marked a significant milestone in the students' creative opportunities.



CAS HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Three Grade 11 students are using their creativity and business skills to make a difference! As part of their CAS project, they are hosting holiday-themed bake sales to raise funds for donations to Wildflower Home. Along the way, they've applied their Business Management knowledge to improve their sales model and expressed their creativity through delicious treats. Thank you to everyone who has supported them so far! Stay tuned for the final fundraising total, and don't forget to pre-order for the next sale to enjoy some sweet treats while supporting a great cause.



MYP OPEN HOUSE FOR G6 PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Dear Grade 6 Parents,

As your child prepares for the transition from the Primary Years Programme (PYP) to the Middle Years Programme (MYP), we are excited to provide them with an opportunity to visit our Main Campus and experience middle school firsthand.

On Thursday, April 3, 2025, Grade 6 students will visit MYP classrooms to observe lessons, interact with teachers and students, and learn more about the differences between the PYP and MYP. This visit is designed to help them gain a better understanding of what to expect in their next stage of learning. We also invite you, as parents, to join us for this visit. You will have the opportunity to observe classes, see the learning environment, and ask any questions you may have about the MYP curriculum, teaching approaches, and the transition process. I will be available to discuss how the MYP builds upon the foundation of the PYP while encouraging greater independence and inquiry.

Event Details:

 Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025

 Location: Main Campus

 Time: Leave Primary Campus at 9:30 am; return to PC at 2:30 pm

 Meals: Snacks and lunch will be provided

We encourage you to attend and be part of this important step in your child's educational journey.

G6 PARENT MEETING

Dear Grade 6 Parents,

You are invited to our Grade 6 Parent Information Meeting. We will talk about the PYP Exhibition as well as MYP Language Choices.

Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Time: 2:30-3:30 PM

Location: PC Auditorium

Ms. Shivani, our PYP Coordinator, will be sending out more information via Toddle.

JAPANESE B HL: EXPLORING JAPANESE TRADITIONS

One of the aims of the IB language courses is to deepen students' understanding of language by guiding them to explore its craft and cultural significance. In the Japanese B HL class, G11 student Shima has created a pamphlet for the festival and a handcrafted piece representing Japan. Click the picture to view the file!

Gion Festival & Naruko Kokeshi

祇園祭と鳴子こけし

I recently researched about Japanese traditions and artifacts. In Japan, there are numerous famous cultural events. Although the most popular one is the summer festival. The most famous summer festival is the Gion festival held in Kyoto. Throughout the cultural artifacts, I would like to introduce the Naruko Kokeshi, which is a traditional Japanese wooden doll.

References (link):
[How to make Naruko Kokeshi](#)
[Gion Festival history](#)
[Gion Festival](#)



Kyoto

Gion Festival (祇園祭)

History:
It was first introduced in the year 863. During this year diseases such as malaria, and influenza infected many people. The Japanese believed that the spread of diseases was due to the soldiers who died many years ago, looking for revenge and cursing people with illness. In addition, in the year 864, Mt. Fuji erupted, causing major effects all over Japan such as natural disasters. To ease the vengeful spirits and bring health and luck to the people, they decided to pray for the god of health by making three portable shrines. Now the Gion festival is held every year during July, where people are most prone to illness.



The Gion festival has many unique features. The most famous being the Yamaboko (山鉾). These are similar to the portable shrines but are floats. One yamaboko weighs around 12 tons, 4 meters tall and 3.5 meters wide. In order to support this weight, roughly 180 people are needed to lift it. On top of the yamaboko, a golden doll plays drums. On the side of the Yamaboko, tapestries of tigers and cranes are decorated.

The uniform used in the Gion festival are old Yukata's (a traditional Japanese garment) which were adapted for craftsmen and workers from over 400 years ago. They also wear pieces of cloth on their heads called 'hachimaki' to show their passionate spirit. Since it is a large well-known festival, over 60,000 tourists from Japan and all over the world come to experience it. In addition, roughly 2000 volunteers help out and make the festival happen.




Miyagi ken

Naruko Kokeshi (鳴子こけし)

Naruko Kokeshi which originated in the Miyagiken Naruko Kokeshi Onsen. Kokeshi was originally used as a toy for young children during the Edo period and before. Now it's more commonly seen as an aesthetic decoration with a rich history.



Kokeshi has many unique features. It is said that the painters heart is reflected in the face which they paint. Another interesting thing about Kokeshi is that although the head is significantly larger than the body, it doesn't fall due to imbalance. Every year, there is a Kokeshi festival where old, tattered, broken kokeshi is shown gratitude to and new Kokeshi which is yet to be made are prayed to have a long lasting life. Many tourists from Japan and all around the world gather to celebrate the creations to Kokeshi.



Step 1:
Prepare cherry wood.



Step 2:
Remove bark.



Step 2:
curve into a cylinder and sphere. Connect by making a protrusion.



Step 3:
hand paint face and patterns.

When the kokeshi's head is turned, it should make a squeaking noise therefore giving it the name 'Naruko' (translates to sound making). The colouring is done with colours such as yellow, blue green, and red. The face and pattern of the Kimono is hand painted.

Personally, I have never been to a Gion festival so being able to learn about it in Japanese class has helped me dive deeper into my own culture and learn about the history and not just what happens during the festival, but why they do it. I had seen a few Kokeshi dolls in local stores in Japan but I had no idea what it was special about it. Now I have learnt more about them it makes me realize how special they are since many toys these days are factory made. Whereas Kokeshi is hand crafted entirely which gives it a traditional value. I'm glad I was able to research about these two cultures since it gave me the opportunity to deep dive into subjects which are not commonly known by everyone, and I wouldn't have known otherwise. I hope that my leaflet was able to inform others too about Japanese culture and hopefully inspire some to visit Japan and experience it themselves. What kind of cultural traditions do you have in your country?

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