

Craft: "Dragonflies and Autumn Leaves in a Lively Fall Scene"

As red and yellow leaves flutter gently to the ground, lively dragonflies fill the autumn sky with energy.

Around the large tree, fallen leaves spread softly, gently conveying the passing of the season.

The dragonflies and leaves coloring the sky capture the children's joy,
spreading the warmth of a delightful autumn day.

**We look forward to
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

41



- ★Kinder Kids' First-Ever Baby Event!!
- ★25th Anniversary Event: Kinder ALOHA Carnival 2025
- ★Grad Club Summer Events 2025 ★Grad Chat "PEP" Launch!
- ★Infinity Elementary School Hokkaido Study Trip





Creating First Connections for Our Baby Class Families

Until now, most school events and gatherings at Kinder Kids have been geared toward Nursery class and above, offering opportunities for parents to connect and interact across schools. However, Baby Class parents and children have had very few chances of such interactions. We realized that for families raising very young children, connecting with others in a similar stage of parenting could bring reassurance and encouragement. That's why we decided to hold our very first Baby event.

We focused on three key elements: "Enjoying time together as parent and child," "Fostering connections among parents," and "Providing a safe and comfortable group event experience for babies." We hoped that through play in an English environment, the event would become an opportunity for families from various regions and backgrounds to connect beyond the boundaries of individual schools.

A Joyful First Experience for Parents and Babies Alike

At the Tanabata event, adorable babies gathered with their families at the spacious gym of the Osaka Bay School to enjoy making tanzaku (wish cards), decorating bamboo branches, playing a balloon watermelon-splitting game, and diving into a ball pit together. The play area was designed with safety in mind, equipped with infant-friendly equipment and soft mats. Children had the chance to interact with native teachers, allowing families to experience the joy of an English-speaking environment. Throughout the event, families could be seen taking photos in front of the bamboo or enjoying the balloon watermelon game with smiles on their faces. The entire venue was filled with a gentle and heartwarming atmosphere.

What stood out the most was the unexpectedly high number of fathers who participated. Many helped their children write the wish card, acted as photographers at the photo booths, and genuinely enjoyed the event as a whole family. A special feature of the Baby Event was how parents, even when meeting for the first time, naturally started conversations because of familiar experiences of raising children of the same age.

At the pool event held at the Nishinomiya School, the activities were centered around sensory play, including a baby pool, a slide, and water toys. Although some babies were hesitant at first, many were soon smiling and clearly enjoying themselves. While the event was held on the rooftop on the 15th, a thunderstorm



Bonding time with the teacher by the ball pit. A big smile appears at the sight of the toy whale.



A special moment decorating the bamboo tree together. The father's gentle gaze leaves a lasting impression.

warning forced the activities indoors on the 16th. In response, the team shifted the focus to indoor fun, including dancing, craft-making, and photo spots. The theater room, surrounded by three-sided Projection mapping offered an extraordinary experience where children reached out to touch the visuals and played parachute games. Despite the sudden change, we were grateful for the warm understanding and cooperation of all the parents.

"I wish we could've played more!" — A Truly Revisit-Worthy Event

"It was exciting for my baby to play with others for the first time." "Interacting with other parents raising children of similar ages gave me a sense of reassurance." "I was happy to connect naturally in English." These were just a few of the many positive comments we received. In particular, many parents shared their appreciation for the opportunity to connect face-to-face with parents from other schools, people they don't usually have the chance to talk with. They found **great value in the cross-campus interactions.** One parent mentioned, "While my child was having fun, I was also able to relax for the first time in a while." That comment left a strong impression on us. Amid the intense focus on childcare, events like this are serving as a refreshing break for the parents themselves — a realization that reaffirms the purpose behind hosting these events.

More Seasonal Events Are in the Works!

We plan to continue hosting baby events several times a year, aligning them with seasonal themes and holidays. The joint event format—like the one we had this time, where multiple schools came together—was especially well-received, and we aim to incorporate more of these going forward. We're currently planning a **special baby-friendly version of Kinder Kids' ever-popular annual Halloween event!** We also hope to create activities that a wide range of families can enjoy together. Some challenges for future improvement include designing events that aren't affected by the weather and better timing of photo opportunities to help families create more lasting memories. We also aim to enhance the experience by incorporating more natural and enjoyable English-based activities, while ensuring a safe and comfortable space where parents can connect.



Surrounded by immersive wall projections, families enjoyed ball games and parachute play—an experience unique to the theater room.



Eager for craft time to begin, the children couldn't wait and rushed straight to the teacher.



Today's event offered a chance to talk about parenting and to expand support networks among moms.



Education and Curriculum Department
Grace Muchendu

• • • • Message from the Organizer • • • • Creating More Opportunities for Parent-to-Parent Connections

This was the first-ever event where only the Baby class children from multiple schools gathered together, and we were truly delighted to welcome so many families. It was heartwarming to see parents from different schools naturally engaging in conversation and enjoying their time together with lots of smiles and making memories with their babies. What stood out most was the number of comments we received about how meaningful it was to "connect with other parents." We strongly felt this was one of the most valuable outcomes of the event. Going forward, we hope to continue organizing events that foster not only the growth of the children but also a sense of reassurance, connection and building an English community for our families.



25th Anniversary Event

Kinder ALOHA Carnival 2025



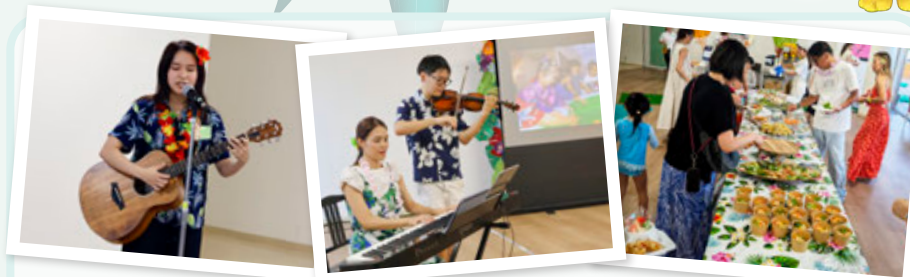
To celebrate our 25th anniversary, the Kinder Aloha Carnival was held at Kobe Seaside. The event, divided into lunch and dinner sessions, brought together many current students, graduates, and parents, all enjoying a memorable summer day to the fullest.



Guests were welcomed with leis at the reception and enjoyed the pool, festival-style booths, and photo spots to their hearts' content. A hula dance team, joined by graduates, took the stage and gave a vibrant performance. When the Moon Rockers, a group well-loved by the children, appeared, the venue was filled with loud applause and cheers, and the excitement reached its peak! Over lunch, smiles spread as parents enjoyed conversations and connections with one another.



A special day for our 25th anniversary ☆
May it become a summer treasure
in everyone's hearts!



During the dinner session, H-san, currently studying at New York University with the goal of becoming a composer, presented an original Kinder Kids song she had written and composed, performing it with guitar accompaniment. Her younger brother Haru played the violin, accompanied on piano, performing both classical pieces that showcased his skill and familiar favorites like Disney songs. The children were captivated by the performances of their older peers, leaving a lasting impression. Principal Wayne's BBQ was also a big hit! The pool, festival-style booths, hula dance, and a live performance by the Moon Rockers kept the venue buzzing with excitement. The evening concluded in spectacular fashion with handheld fireworks enjoyed by families and a brilliant display of fireworks lighting up the night sky.



Photos and highlights from
this event are also posted
on Instagram.
Be sure to check them out!



Epsom College British Summer School

A New Challenge Abroad: Experiencing British-Style Boarding

This year, Grad Club students (from 4th grade in elementary school to 2nd grade in junior high) took part in the very first **Epsom Summer School**. Held at the prestigious Epsom College in Malaysia, the two-week program offered a condensed experience of British boarding school life. It was not only about studying English, but also about living together with friends from many different countries, fostering confidence and independence through invaluable experiences. The days spent on the spacious campus became an important first step for the students on their journey toward international learning.

Learning That Connects To The World

Upon arrival, students were placed into classes according to their English level, sitting side by side with peers from around the globe. Through games and discussions, they naturally used English in their lessons, gradually building confidence and a proactive mindset within a short period of time. The diverse programs—including tennis and golf at the Sports Academy, as well as art and drama—greatly expanded their curiosity. Sharing meals and a wide variety of activities with new friends also provided opportunities to deepen international connections and friendships. The time in which learning and play came together naturally not only enhanced English ability but also nurtured a broader international outlook.

Life at the Boarding School

Dormitory life also provided the students with many new experiences. In the dining hall, balanced meals were served every day, and in the evenings they spent their time freely with activities such as table tennis, movies, and reading. Moments shared talking with friends and teachers became precious opportunities to expand their circle of connections, and gave them a real sense that **learning exists within everyday life**. Through these experiences, the students strongly felt that their growth went far beyond a simple language program.

A Message to Parents

Having the opportunity to experience life at an overseas boarding school at this age is truly invaluable. The children challenged themselves, living alongside peers from different cultures, and grew tremendously in the process. This experience not only strengthened their English skills but also fostered independence and a broader perspective—providing a solid foundation for future study abroad and for thriving in a multicultural society. We hope that the abilities they developed in just these two weeks will continue to support their learning and guide them throughout their lives.

This summer, Grad Club tried something new for the very first time, with special camps held both overseas and in Japan. One was a **British-style boarding experience at Epsom College in Malaysia**, and the other was a **camp surrounded by the rich nature of Haramura**. In each of these unique settings, the children took on new challenges using English and experienced remarkable growth.

Farm to Table Haramura Camp

Taking on Nature: The Haramura Camp

This summer, Grad Club students experienced camp life in Haramura, nestled at the foot of the Yatsugatake Mountains. At **Yatsugatake Center Farm Specialized Training College farm**, surrounded by beautiful mountains and animals, the children built bonds of trust with their peers and staff while taking on challenges they could never experience in everyday life. Although many were nervous at first, as they supported one another, smiles soon appeared, and their lively activities in the midst of nature left a strong impression.

Farm to Table

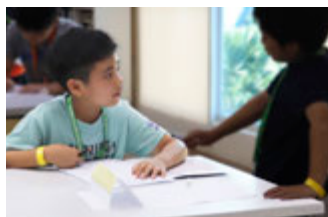
The theme of this camp was **Farm to Table**. By cooking freshly harvested vegetables right from the fields and sharing meals together, the children came to truly appreciate the blessings of nature and the human effort behind their food. On the first day, they split into three groups to make curry. The following day, they challenged themselves to cook carbonara using eggs collected from the chicken coop along with homemade cheese and butter. On the final day, they topped pizzas with vegetables harvested from the farm. The children eagerly tried ingredients they had never seen before, expressing surprise and joy at the taste of the fresh produce while enjoying their meals. Through both cooking and harvesting, they actively took initiative and worked together to solve tasks, with such scenes seen throughout the camp.

Experiences in Nature and Bonds with Friends

The program also included a variety of nature experiences that cannot be found in the city. At first, some children looked uncertain about getting into the drum-can bath, asking, “Can we really bathe in this?”—but once inside, they were delighted by how surprisingly comfortable it was. During stargazing, they listened attentively to explanations while tracing constellations, deeply moved by the beauty of the night sky. Encounters with animals such as chickens, cows, and goats also began with hesitation, but gradually the children grew accustomed, developing a positive spirit to take on even more challenges next time. Through fire-making, meal preparation, and even cleanup, they learned the importance of cooperation and shared moments of pure joy together in nature.

A Message to Parents

The Haramura Camp offered children a valuable opportunity to grow by engaging deeply with nature and taking on challenges together with their peers. We sincerely thank all parents for choosing this experience for your children. The photos captured not only the beautiful surroundings but also the children’s enthusiasm, active participation, and genuine enjoyment. To the children, “you truly did a wonderful job.” From starting fires to cooking, cleaning up, and bravely trying new things, they showed courage and a spirit of cooperation that we hope they will carry forward into their future learning and daily lives.



Working on assignments through dialogue with peers. Learning and play came together, creating time to deepen international connections and friendships.



The Science Society bulletin board. Students take the lead in sharing science themes, fostering an environment that nurtures curiosity and inquiry.



Pop art exhibition by Year 7 students. Screen-printing works inspired by the styles of Warhol and Lichtenstein were showcased as part of their class projects.



Harvesting experience on the farm. The children used the vegetables they picked themselves for cooking, gaining a real sense of gratitude and joy for their food.



Encountering free-ranging chickens in nature. By observing a way of raising animals not seen in everyday life, the children deepened their understanding of the connection between life and food.



Haramura, known as “Starfall Village.” Under a sky full of stars, the children enjoyed stargazing, and tracing constellations sparked their curiosity about the universe.

Practical English Practice Begins!



Gain practical English skills for real-life situations abroad—while having fun!

Grad Chat has launched a new lesson series, PEP (Practical English Practice).

Through role-plays set in real-life contexts such as restaurants and homestays, students practice how to express themselves effectively in English.

New Group Lesson “PEP” Begins!

“PEP (Practical English Practice)” was created in response to parents’ voices wishing their children could acquire English they can truly use in real-life overseas situations such as travel or study abroad. In these lessons, children practice English expressions through role-plays with native-speaking instructors, focusing on scenarios they are likely to face in the future. The greatest aim of PEP is not to memorize English as knowledge, but to develop the ability to use it as their own words. Through interactions with English speakers, the program is designed to help children learn not only pronunciation and phrases but also the very way of expressing themselves. PEP started in May 2025 and has since been held every other month. Each lesson is limited to a maximum of three students, ensuring ample speaking opportunities while enhancing their practical conversation skills. One-on-one lessons based on the same themes are also popular, providing a more personalized practice option. With a new theme each time, PEP offers enjoyable ways to learn English expressions directly connected to real life. By becoming comfortable with communication in English, children naturally cultivate the power to express themselves.

Example PEP Themes

May Theme: “How do I order at a restaurant?”

Students practiced how to read menus and communicate their orders through role-plays. They learned useful phrases for ordering and how to tell the server about foods they dislike—expressions that can be used right away when traveling abroad.



July Theme: “How do I tell my host family my needs or concerns?”

Scenarios included situations such as “I don’t know how to use the microwave” or “I feel a little homesick.” Students practiced ways to express their feelings in simple, gentle English that can help them during a homestay.



Student Feedback

Learning practical English expressions gave me “confidence.”



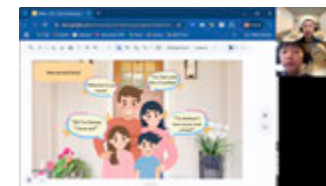
K.H.(G4)

I took PEP to prepare for my study program in Australia, so that I could feel more confident when speaking with my host family. I remember enjoying the option-based games where I learned things like how starting with “Excuse me” makes conversations flow smoothly, and how to explain allergies or foods I don’t like. Unlike the free conversations we usually have in Grad Chat, the situation-based practice in PEP helped me naturally pick up polite phrases and responses appropriate to different contexts.

By actually practicing how to express myself in English, I felt the joy of “I can do it!”—and that feeling turned into confidence.

During the actual program in Australia, on the very first day when I was most nervous, I faced a situation we had practiced in PEP and was able to respond right away.

I was so happy that I could ask without hesitation, “Can I bring my suitcase straight into the room?” and “Where should I sleep?”



English naturally became part of my everyday life.



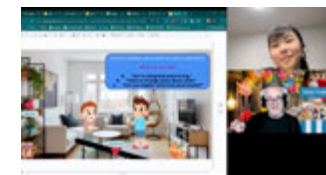
R.M.(G5)

I joined this PEP lesson as preparation for the study program in Australia. Unlike ordinary English conversation classes, it focused on the kind of English used in daily life, like during a homestay, so I was able to approach it with a fresh mindset. During the lesson, I found myself laughing out loud without realizing it, and it felt so lively that I thought, “It’s like the teacher jumped right out of the screen!” During the actual program in Australia, I was happy that I could naturally say, “Sorry, I couldn’t catch that. Can you repeat that?”

Also, when asking about foods I didn’t know, I could use the alternative ways of asking that I had learned from PEP’s Jelle-sensei instead of repeating the same phrase—which was very useful. Another advantage of Grad Chat is that I can set the lesson schedule based on how busy or free I am.

PEP lessons like this, which connect directly to real life, are perfect even during times when I might step away from English a bit due to exams or other activities.

It’s a program that makes me want to keep participating English in the future.



If you’re interested, please contact our Customer Support first.

TEL : 06-6573-0166

E-mail : support@gc.kinderkids.ed.jp

For the latest themes and schedules, please check the “Information” section on the Grad Chat booking site.





Learning History, Geography, and Society Through Travel

Hokkaido Exploration Study Trip



Learning About “Coexistence” with Nature and Culture: A Journey to Hokkaido

From June 17 to 20, students in Milepost 2 (Grades 3 and 4) at Infinity Elementary School traveled to Hokkaido. The theme of this exploration trip was “Learning about the coexistence of nature, animals, and culture, and thinking about their future.” As part of their cultural studies of Japan’s seven

regions, the students visited facilities such as Upopoy, Ekorin Village, and the Lake Shikotsu Visitor Center, and also enjoyed an exchange with the Junior High School division. Before departure, they studied the geography and features of Hokkaido and worked in groups to propose solutions to SDGs-related issues. They also learned about Ainu culture—including traditional lifestyles, language, and crafts—during their lessons. Some children even took the initiative to research the Ainu language on their own, demonstrating how their spirit of inquiry had grown greatly before the journey began.

Encountering Diverse Values at Upopoyo

On the second day, the students visited Upopoy (National Ainu Museum and Park), a national center for learning about Ainu culture. What resonated most strongly with the children was the Ainu teaching that “a god (kamuy) dwells in everything.” After hearing this, their attitude toward the exhibits clearly changed: they looked closely at each tool and costume, whispering to one another, “I wonder if a god is in this too.” In addition to experiencing powerful performances of traditional songs and dances, they crafted and played the traditional mouth harp mukuri, and also tried their hand at archery. By engaging with history and culture through all five senses, the children went beyond mere knowledge acquisition to begin developing an attitude of understanding and respecting different values.

Thinking About Coexistence with Nature at Ekorin Village

On the third day, the students visited Ekorin Village. Here, through rice planting and observing creatures living near the water, they experienced the connection between people and nature. As they stepped into the rice paddies, the children’s voices bubbled up: “What is this creature?” “Why does it have this shape?” Their curiosity naturally turned into learning. Some children who already knew the names of certain creatures explained them to others, while groups pooled their knowledge to think together. When they still could not find the answer, they actively asked staff or teachers—



Guided in the art of traditional archery, the children eagerly immersed themselves in this hands-on cultural experience.



In front of the Ainu craft exhibits, students diligently took notes, deepening their understanding of traditional skills and cultural heritage.



田んぼにすむ生き物の役割や、自然と人とのつながりを学びました。

Exchange with Infinity Junior High School

The students joined up with the Junior High School division, which was also conducting an exploration program in Hokkaido at the same time, and shared their learning. Because they had already exchanged with one another online beforehand—presenting the results of their projects—the in-person meeting was an even greater joy. They looked up to the older students as role models, and it became a moment to truly feel that they were connected by the common language of “exploration.”

Learning and Growth Fostered Through the Journey

Throughout this trip, the children expressed gratitude to one another, took responsibility, and supported their peers. They also began to naturally form questions starting with “Why?” , which marked a significant shift in their attitude toward learning. The diverse experiences—Ainu culture, the SDGs, agriculture, and the environment—nurtured the ability to integrate knowledge under a unifying theme rather than learning each subject in isolation. By developing the ability to integrate knowledge under the overarching theme of “coexistence among nature, animals, and culture,” they cultivated a perspective that everything—nature, culture, and human activity—is interconnected. This perspective will serve as an essential foundation for deepening their learning in the future. Above all, the questions of “Why?” that arose during this journey brought the children an active rather than passive attitude toward acquiring knowledge. This attitude will become the very strength that enables them to carve the course of their own future explorations.



A memorable photo with friends they had connected with online, meeting face-to-face for the first time.



At KUBOTA AGRI FRONT, the children observed the “PLANTX” automated cultivation system. Watching robots handle seedlings gave them a real sense of the future of farming.



G3 Tutor /
Domestic Course
Social Studies
Akika Suzuki

Nurturing the Power of Exploration in Hokkaido as a Driving Force for Future Learning

What impressed me most on this trip was how the children deepened their learning by working together and sharing insights with one another. I also saw remarkable growth in the way they acted proactively in nature—something we rarely witness inside the classroom. The confidence and empathy cultivated through these experiences will surely continue to shape their school life and exploration activities going forward. It would be great if this trip became a starting point for families to reflect together on what their children felt and thought during the journey.

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