

Cover Craft: "Lunch Time Together!"

It is a cheerful moment from a field trip, with everyone spreading out their picnic mats and gathering around their lunch boxes together.

Inside each lunch box are many delicious-looking dishes, drawn freely by the children in their own unique ways.

As they show their lunches to one another, saying "Look, look!", smiles begin to spread all around.

Lunch under the blue sky must taste even more special than usual.

**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

45



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日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.

Kinder Kids Produces a New Kindergarten Experience



# MIRAI Grove Academy

A New Model Bringing  
Japanese Early Childhood Education and English together.



In April 2026, Seibu Gakuen Educational Corporation began a new chapter as **Mirai Grove Academy**. Under this new structure, Kinder Kids founder Kimiko Nakayama has assumed the position of Chairperson. By bringing together the English education expertise that Kinder Kids has developed over the years with the rich early childhood education environment that Seibu Gakuen has cherished for more than 50 years, we aim to create a new model for kindergarten education.

At Bunko Kindergarten in Yokohama, a new **Bilingual Course** has been established, incorporating English into daily kindergarten life while following Japan's national curriculum guidelines for kindergarten education. At Takatori Kindergarten in Yokosuka, a renewal is planned for April 2027 under the concept of "Play × Nature × English × Art." Through this renewal, we will continue creating an environment that nurtures the creativity and sensitivity children will need in the years ahead.



Going forward, we plan to develop all of our kindergartens not only as schools with a strong focus on English, but also as places that support working families through enhanced extended childcare and school bus services. Each kindergarten also offers programs for preschool-aged children. At Bunko Kindergarten, the **English Club** will begin in May, and other kindergartens will also hold events where children can experience English in a familiar and accessible way.

By combining the strong foundation of Japanese kindergarten education, including the development of daily habits, emotional growth, and group life, with full-scale English education at the cost comparable to that of a licensed kindergarten, we believe this initiative has great significance in expanding choices that were once limited to a wider range of families.

## Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

As we take on the responsibility of Mirai Grove Academy, my aim is not only to preserve these kindergartens, but to also create a new form of education that is truly needed in the years ahead. To achieve this, we will promote experiential bilingual education that goes beyond English education alone, integrating nature, inquiry, art, and cross-cultural understanding.

In particular, I believe it has great social significance that, as an educational corporation, we can provide high-quality bilingual education while keeping the financial burden on families lower than that of private international schools. Rather than allowing children to give up the opportunity for international education for financial reasons, I want to bring learning that connects to the world to more children. By connecting with our local communities, families, and the wider world, we will continue to develop this academy into a new model of education in Japan.



Mirai Grove Academy  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
**Kimiko Nakayama**

## Mirai Grove Academy Kindergartens



### Bunko Kindergarten

4-24-1 Nishishiba, Kanazawa-ku,  
Yokohama, Kanagawa 236-0017  
TEL 045-783-1761 FAX 045-786-5086



### Kamakura Kindergarten

6-19-1 Jomyoji,  
Kamakura, Kanagawa 248-0003  
TEL 0467-25-2391 FAX 0467-23-7885



### Takatori Kindergarten

5-30-1 Shonan Takatori,  
Yokosuka, Kanagawa 237-0066  
TEL 046-866-0700 FAX 046-866-5457



### Mabori Kindergarten

3-11-1 Maborikaigan,  
Yokosuka, Kanagawa 239-0801  
TEL 046-841-6762 FAX 046-841-4715



### Sayama Kindergarten

Certified Center for  
Early Childhood Education and Care

3-11-37 Chuo,  
Sayama, Saitama 350-1308  
TEL 04-2958-3223 FAX 04-2959-0986

For more information  
about Mirai Grove Academy,  
please visit our website.



Mirai Grove Academy Website

Infinity, Evolving for the Future

# Advancing The Future of Learning



Since opening in April 2022, four years have passed in the blink of an eye.

As the world around our children continues to change at an unprecedented pace, the skills they need to thrive are evolving as well. Children today need more than the ability to memorize given answers. Children must learn to think independently, make informed decisions, and take initiative with confidence. Equally important is the ability to collaborate with others, embrace diverse perspectives, and work together to shape a better future. These are the essential skills that will empower the next generation to navigate an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing world. This spring, Infinity Global Elementary School introduced new updates to both its educational programs and learning environment. Building on the education we have carefully developed over the years, these updates are designed to further evolve our program into **learning that connects to the future.**

## 《Further Evolving Financial Education》

At Infinity Global Elementary School, we have actively incorporated opportunities for students to think about and learn about money. Building on these efforts, we took the next step in expanding our financial literacy program last year with the launch of **IGS bank, Infinity's children's bank.**

Through IGS Bank, each student opens their own personal bank account and receives a monthly “salary” in **Infinity Coin (IC)**, our school’s original fictional currency. Students can then put their savings to use in meaningful and engaging ways. They may choose to invest their IC in school events such as EXPO, where they can showcase their ideas and projects, or spend it on items available through the school, including stationery, stickers, and other rewards. Through these hands-on experiences, students naturally develop an understanding of how to save, make thoughtful choices, and use resources responsibly.

In addition, through the introduction of an original app designed to make deposits and withdrawals easier to check, financial education is connected to even more practical learning. In the app, students can view their own balance and transaction history, and elements such as crowdfunding are also included,



Checking the Flow of Money with an Independently Developed App

| Payslip                       |           |                             |                        |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Name                          | Sally Kim |                             | Issue Date: 2023-04-25 |
| Period                        | 2023-04   |                             |                        |
| Earnings (Money you received) |           | Deductions (Money you paid) |                        |
| Base Salary                   | 400 IC    | School Tax                  | 250 IC                 |
| Badge Bonus                   | 0 IC      | Other Expenses              | 0 IC                   |
| Interest                      | 0 IC      |                             |                        |
| Other Income                  | 0 IC      |                             |                        |
| Total Earnings                | 400 IC    | Total Deductions            | 250 IC                 |
| Net Pay (Take-home)           |           | 150 IC                      |                        |
| Current Balance               |           | 400 IC                      |                        |

Monthly Payslips Distributed to Students

allowing them to enjoy learning how to use money in a planned and thoughtful way.

We will also introduce a financial learning program used in public primary schools in the United Kingdom.



An Interview with Principal Ian

## Introducing British-Style Financial Education



Infinity Global Elementary School Principal

Ian McKenzie

At our school, we have already been creating an environment where children can learn through real experience, including our original financial education initiatives and IGS Bank. Now, in addition to our original app and curriculum, we have decided to introduce a program provided by Santander Bank.

In the United Kingdom, financial education is regarded as a practical life skill that children will need in the future, and students deepen their learning step by step from the time they enter primary school. Children learn not only how to use money, but also why **they need to think carefully before spending it, how they should plan, and how to evaluate information.**

Our goal is to equip children with the skills and confidence they need to become independent, make informed decisions, and take an active role in shaping their own futures. Through learning in both Japanese and English and being exposed to diverse values, we hope they will acquire **global-standard financial literacy.**

## 《Building Financial Literacy Step by Step at Infinity》

What kinds of abilities are actually developed through this program? In our financial education, learning goals are designed according to each grade level and stage of development, creating a curriculum that allows children to deepen their understanding step by step.

In Grades 1 and 2, students learn basic ideas such as “things have value” and “shopping requires a budget.” Through actual shopping experiences and everyday life, they build the foundation for a healthy relationship with money. By also thinking about helping at home and the people who work around them, they begin to realize that their daily lives are supported by many different people.

In Grades 3 and 4, students learn the difference between “needs” and “wants,” as well as the importance of using money in a planned way. In addition to managing income and expenses with an allowance book, they also take part in activities such as growing, making, and selling products. Through these real-life experiences, they learn both the joy of working and the difficulty of earning money.

In Grades 5 and 6, their learning develops into financial knowledge connected to real society, including the role of banks, interest rates, investment, taxes, and the risks of online transactions. By developing the ability to compare information and make their own decisions, students build the skills they will need to live independently in society in the future. At our school, we value the accumulation of daily experiences in which students “think, choose, and take responsibility.” Through financial education, children learn about how society works and think about their own future. We believe that these experiences will become a valuable source of strength as they grow and navigate the opportunities and challenges of an ever-changing world.



Shopping with “Infinity Coin” at EXPO  
Learning About Money Through Real-Life Experiences

## 《Developing Mathematical Ability in Both Japanese and English》

Another new initiative introduced this academic year is the addition of i-Ready, an English-language mathematics program taught by native English-speaking teachers for students in Grade 5 and above. This program complements our existing Tamai-style Mathematics classes, which are conducted in Japanese. In Japanese mathematics, students carefully develop foundational academic skills and logical thinking. In mathematics conducted in English, they develop the ability to think through, understand, and explain problem-solving in English. Through these two approaches, building a strong foundation in Japanese and applying that knowledge in English, students naturally develop the thinking skills, expressive ability, and problem-solving skills they will need to succeed in the world, while learning to view a single concept from different perspectives.



i-Ready: A Learning Program that Develops the Ability to Think in English Through Mathematics

## 《Updating the Learning Environment》

Along with the evolution of our educational programs, we have also made new improvements to the school environment.

This time, we reorganized the office layouts for both Kinder Kids Academy Tennoji Yuhigaoka School and Infinity Global Elementary School. This has created an environment that allows daily communication and operations across the school to run more smoothly. The area around the entrance has also been transformed into a brighter and more open space than before. We aim to create a space where children can come to school feeling comfortable and positive, and where parents can also feel the warmth and energy of the school as a whole.

In addition, new classrooms for Grades 4 to 6 have been established on the fifth floor of the school building. By creating learning spaces suited to each grade level and stage of development, we are continuing to build an environment where students can feel calm and concentrate better on their studies. On the same floor, new offices have also been set up for the principal and the native management team. By creating a system in which the educational setting and the management team can work together more closely, the support system for each student has been further strengthened.

Infinity Global Elementary School will continue to value the creation of an environment where each child can learn with confidence and grow in their own way, while continuing to build a school that connects to the future.



The First-Floor Library Space,  
Now More Open After Its Layout Renewal



New Offices for the Principal and  
Native Management Team Established on the Fifth Floor



Infinity Global Elementary School

# School Information Session

## Class Observation & Individual Consultation



We will hold school information sessions for families considering admission for the 2027 school year. The session will include an explanation of the entrance examination, an opportunity to observe actual classes, and individual consultations afterward.

### Dates

- ① Tuesday, June 9
- ② Wednesday, July 1

### Time

- 9:45 Reception  
10:00 - 11:30 Slide Presentation  
11:35 - 12:30 Class Observation & Individual Consultations by Reservation

### Venue

Infinity Global Elementary School (Kinder Kids Tennoji Yuhigaoka School)  
1-2-22 Karasugatsuji, Tennoji-ku, Osaka

### Target Participants

Parents of children in K1 and above who would like to learn more about Infinity Global Elementary School. This session is intended for parents attending an information session for the first time.  
・Up to two adults may attend per family. ・Children may not attend.

### What to Bring

Please bring indoor shoes and a shoe bag.

### Dress Code

Appropriate attire

### Parking

There is no parking available at the school. Please use public transportation or nearby parking facilities when attending. Street parking for drop-off or pick-up is strictly prohibited.

### Application

Please access the application form using the QR code on the right and submit the required information.

Apply Here



## Upcoming Events

for  
All Grade  
Levels

### Discussion Sessions

What is Kinder Kids' Elementary School like? This session will answer your questions and offer a different perspective from our regular information sessions.

#### Period

Mid-June to mid-July

#### Locations

Held at 13 schools in the Kansai area

#### Target Participants

Parents of children from Baby Class to K3

#### Application

Via the Google Form on Kinder Plus

#### Time

9:20 Reception - 11:15

for  
K2  
Students

### Infinity Summer Trial Event

#### Date

July 21

#### Venue

Infinity Global Elementary School

#### Time

9:00 - 12:00

for  
K3  
Students

### Summer Real Experience Event

#### Date

July 22 or 23 Please choose one day.

#### Venue

Infinity Global Elementary School

#### Time

9:00 - 12:00

※Please check Kinder Plus for details.

# My Stepping Stone (File 11)

Kinder Kids was the start.

Introducing graduates who opened new doors through their own efforts.

Aiming to become a world karate champion.

Connecting with friends around the world

through the English skills developed at Kinder Kids.

Graduate of Sakai School

**Yuria Minami**

Grade 8  
Risho Gakuen  
Osaka Ritsumeikan  
Junior High School

Yuria Minami is an All Japan karate champion with her sights set on the world stage. Through rigorous training, she has learned both the pain and discipline of karate, continually refining not only her technique but also her character. Along the way, the English foundation she built at Kinder Kids has remained an important part of her growth. After deciding to take on the challenge of the Prince Takamado Trophy All Japan Junior High School English Oratorical Contest, she once again returned to Kinder Kids for support. We take a closer look at where she stands today as she pursues the world through both martial arts and English.

## From "Having Fun" to "Wanting to Win" : Growth and a Change of Heart Through Karate

Karate has been a familiar part of my life since before I can remember. My home is also a dojo, and with both of my parents as instructors, I naturally became accustomed to training.

When I first started, what I enjoyed most was seeing my friends at the dojo. However, as I gained more experience, I began to feel that I wanted to win matches, and my attitude toward karate started to change. I moved from simply attending because it was fun to taking initiative and working toward my own goals.

Rather than just going through training, I began to think for myself about what I needed to do in order to win, and I started practicing with a clear purpose. One of the appeals of karate is that, through tough training and competitions, you come to understand hardship and pain, which helps you develop consideration for your opponents.

Karate has also allowed me to meet and talk with people from different schools and age groups, broadening my perspective. For me, karate is not only about improving my techniques. It is something important that helps me grow as a person and feel connected to many people.

## A Victory Reached Through Effort and the Support of Many People

I have practiced so much over the years and experienced frustration many times. There were times when I could not achieve the results I wanted and felt like I had hit a wall. Still, I kept going without giving up, and that effort eventually led to winning a major tournament.

The moment my victory was decided, I was so happy that I could not stop crying. Of course, I was happy that my hard work had paid off, but what remains most strongly in my heart is seeing my father and mother rejoice as if it were their own achievement, and hearing so many friends from the dojo say, "Congratulations."

I feel that this victory was not something I achieved alone. It was possible because so many people had supported me along the way. It was a moment when I truly felt glad that I had continued without giving up.

Winner, Grade 7 Girls 45 kg and Over Division  
The 3rd ALL JAPAN CHAMPION CUP  
Hosted by NIPPON BUDO SHINKOKAI



As a K3 student at Kinder Kids, she reported her tournament victory to her teacher, championship belt in hand.

## Expanding Possibilities Through Karate and English as She Aims for the World

My ultimate goal as a karate competitor is to compete in a world tournament and become a champion. Through accompanying my father, who teaches at international karate seminars, and meeting people from around the world, I developed a strong desire to one day become an instructor who is invited to teach internationally.

Supporting that dream is the English ability I developed at Kinder Kids. In elementary school, I took on the challenge of the school recitation contest. I was selected as a representative from Grades 4 to 6, and won the Gold Prize in Grades 5 and 6. Before the actual presentations, I also practiced many times at Grad Club, which allowed me to present with confidence.

Through these experiences, I became comfortable speaking in English, and at overseas seminars, I was able to naturally connect with local athletes and become friends with them. The listening skills I developed at Kinder Kids have also helped me pass Grade 2 of the EIKEN Test and communicate with people from overseas. I will continue working toward my dream while valuing both the perseverance I have learned through karate and the ability to connect with the world through English.



Interacting in English with Peter Aerts, a legendary former K-1 star

## Taking on the English Oratorical Contest as a New Challenge

This time, I took on the challenge of the Prince Takamado Trophy English Oratorical Contest. The process of translating my own speech into English, memorizing it, and presenting it in front of a large audience was more difficult than I had imagined. One of the most difficult aspects was learning how to communicate my message in a way that would leave a lasting impression on the audience. Since there were no other participants around me who were taking on the same challenge, I had to find my way through much of the process on my own. However, the practice and feedback I received through Grad Club before the competition helped me build the confidence I needed for the event.

Although I still feel some disappointment about the result, this experience helped me discover many areas for improvement and became an important step forward. I will continue working hard, with the goal of being selected as my school representative again in Grades 8 and 9 and advancing to the national contest in Tokyo.



Continuing to Take on New Challenges  
Prince Takamado Trophy English Oratorical Contest

## Message to Younger Students

I am still connected with the friends I met at Kinder Kids, and even after graduating, the teachers have continued to support me. Kinder Kids feels like a family to me. The time I spent with my friends and are some of my most treasured memories. I hope all of you will make many wonderful memories and enjoy learning English!

## The Power to Continue and the Connections with Others Nurtured Through Karate

Because we run a dojo at home, karate has been part of my daughter's life since she was very young. Through rigorous training, I hope she develops a spirit that does not give up, learns about pain, and grows into someone who can show consideration for others.

Over many years of teaching, I have found that children who continue to grow and succeed share several common traits: they take initiative, have clear goals, and, perhaps most importantly, are supported by a strong community of peers. Although karate is often seen as an individual sport, the encouragement and support of others play a vital role in helping students stay motivated and committed. My daughter was once supported by those around her, but now I see her growth in the way she encourages younger students. The experience of devoting oneself to something one loves can become a great strength in the future. To all parents, trust in your children and be their greatest supporters as they pursue their goals and grow alongside them every step of the way.



Yuria's Father

### Takehiro Minami

Acting Director of Hakuren Kaikan and Branch Chief of the Sakai Branch, Minami Dojo. During his active career, he won the Hakuren Kaikan All Japan Tournament seven times, including five consecutive championships, and was also runner-up at the World Karate Championship.



Ibaraki Saito School Graduate

One of the World's Leading Music Institutions

# ACCEPTED TO THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL!

Haru Nakamura, a graduate of Ibaraki Saito School, was featured in the "My Stepping Stone" section of Hiraku Vol. 39, published in May 2025. He has now been accepted to the Bachelor of Music program at The Juilliard School, one of the world's leading institutions in the field of music.



**[The Juilliard School]** Based in New York, The Juilliard School is one of the world's leading institutions for music education. It has consistently ranked among the world's top schools in the field of music in the QS World University Rankings, and was ranked No. 1 in the world in 2026.

Having first learned English at Kinder Kids in his early childhood, Haru Nakamura has continued to pursue his passion for music with dedication and determination.

In our previous interview, he spoke about his dream of building a career in music and taking his talents to the international stage, using English as a valuable tool along the way.

Now, he has reached a major milestone on that journey: acceptance to The Juilliard School, one of his long-held goals.

On his own social media, he shared his feelings, saying, "I'm still a bit stunned, but mostly just really relieved and excited," as he announced that he will take a new step forward in New York this fall. He also expressed his gratitude to the teachers, friends, and family who have supported him, and shared his determination to work even harder than before as he looks toward new heights.

Haru says, "Without my experience at Kinder Kids, this acceptance would not have been possible." This suggests that growing up without feeling a language barrier from early childhood helped lead to his big dream of studying at a music university overseas. Speaking about music, he also described its appeal as "a form of expression so powerful that even a single note can introduce who you are, without the need for words."

With his learning at Kinder Kids as his starting point, Haru Nakamura has continued moving forward into the world through his own efforts. His older sister, H, has also chosen the path of music and is currently studying at New York University. Each of them continues to take on new challenges in a new environment. We sincerely look forward to seeing their journeys expand onto new stages, and we wish them continued success in the years ahead.

Read  
Haru Nakamura's  
Interview Article  
Here



Hiraku Vol.39 My Stepping Stone



North London  
Collegiate School  
Kobe



KINDER KIDS  
HOLDINGS

Educational Partnership MOU Signed with the Prestigious British School NLCS Kobe

## A New Pathway of Learning Connected to the Future

Toward a Seamless Educational Journey from Early Childhood to University

To bring out each child's full potential, continuity in learning is one of the key elements that supports children's growth.

As a new initiative designed to connect the skills nurtured at Kinder Kids, we are proud to announce the launch of an educational partnership with the prestigious British School, NLCS.



Kinder Kids has entered into an educational partnership with North London Collegiate School Kobe (NLCS Kobe), a prestigious British school.

This partnership was established through ongoing dialogue between the two schools about the educational philosophies and approaches to learning that they have each valued over the years. Through these discussions, we confirmed a strong affinity in our shared commitment to respecting children's independence and nurturing their ability to learn, think, and act on their own, leading to this new partnership.



Through this partnership, NLCS Kobe and Kinder Kids schools in Hyogo Prefecture will work together as Priority Education Partners. By promoting exchanges among faculty and staff and deepening mutual understanding of each other's curricula, we aim to realize a seamless educational pathway that looks beyond early childhood toward the next stages of learning.

The English ability and self-directed attitude toward learning nurtured at Kinder Kids provide an important foundation for future learning. Through this partnership, these strengths can be smoothly connected to NLCS's advanced academic curriculum, allowing children to adapt naturally to a new environment and move forward into a higher level of learning.

In addition, by presenting an educational roadmap from age 2 to 18, we will create an environment that provides appropriate learning opportunities at each stage of growth while also expanding a wide range of possibilities for future academic and career pathways. Through this new initiative connecting Kobe to the world, we aim to provide new value to the educational environment in Japan and contribute to the development of the next generation who will thrive in the international community.

