

Cover Craft: "Brilliant Fireworks Light Up a Summer Festival Night"

Colorful fireworks bloom brightly across the night sky.

Dressed in yukata, the children seem to be enjoying a summer festival evening,
holding uchiwa fans, yo-yos, and goldfish.

The smiling faces beneath the sparkling fireworks capture the lively excitement and joy of a summer night.

Surrounded by the gentle night breeze,

it feels as though bright summer memories are spreading through each child's heart.

**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!

"Hiraku" Editorial Department

TEL : 06-6135-0150

Mail : hiraku@kinderkids.ed.jp

Hirakû

Published in
July 2026 Vol.46
Next issue is
planned to come
at the end of September

Kinder Kids Inc.

TEL : 06-6135-0150

Pulala Tenma 2F, 3-1 Ikeda-cho,
Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka. 530-0033

www.kinderkids.com

Expanding future possibilities

Hirakû

46



- ★ Sakai & Nagoya Schools Renewed as Adventure Schools
- ★ Japanese Learning Classes
- ★ Infinity Residential Learning Trip
- ★ Fukuoka School's 10th Anniversary Event
- ★ Upcoming Events



日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.

Exploring and Learning in Nature

Since becoming an Adventure School, Sakai School has placed even greater emphasis on giving children time to spend outdoors, connect with nature, and think and act for themselves. Through Outdoor Numeracy, Outdoor Curriculum, nature observation, rainy-day activities, and other experiences in the school grounds and nearby parks, children have more opportunities to learn while being physically active. They have also become increasingly curious about fallen leaves, plants, and other natural materials around them, often incorporating their discoveries into their play.



The School Grounds and Park Become Living Classrooms

Sakai School makes the most of its newly renovated playground and nearby Kanaoka Park as extensions of the classroom. In the playground, children grow sweet potatoes, red shiso, bell peppers, cucumbers, and edamame, taking part in every step of the process, from watering and observing the plants to harvesting and cooking with them. They also discover connections between plants and living creatures, such as junberries, butterflies, and insects taking shelter from the rain. One memorable moment came when the children listened to the sounds of stones dropping into puddles and leaves rubbing together, leading them to discover that “there are so many sounds in the playground.”

Turning Discoveries into Words, and Challenges into Confidence

During Exploration Time, children naturally use English they have learned to express their discoveries. Even during Free Art indoors, teachers encourage children to try things for themselves before stepping in, and to work together with their friends when needed. Through small challenges and occasional setbacks, the aim is to develop problem-solving skills, independence, collaboration, and confidence. We will continue to adapt and develop the environment and activities in response to the children’s growth and interests.



Hazuki Hirao
Branch Manager,
Sakai School

Fostering the Ability to Think and Take on Challenges in Nature

Even in environments such as nature, where things do not always go as planned, we want children to learn to accept the situation, think for themselves, find creative solutions, and discover ways to enjoy the experience. We also hope that by sharing ideas and working together with friends, they will develop consideration and empathy for others.

Using all five senses and moving their bodies freely outdoors not only nurtures sensitivity and curiosity, but also encourages children to want to express their thoughts in English and helps them develop the ability to keep themselves safe. As Sakai School has only just begun its journey as an Adventure School, we look forward to creating a learning environment that is uniquely Sakai together with our children and families.

Renewed as Adventure School!



Learning Begins with a Child’s “Why?”

Nagoya School has always placed strong emphasis on English education and inquiry-based activities. With its transition to an Adventure School, we are placing an even greater focus on encouraging children to think, take on challenges, and make discoveries for themselves. By increasing opportunities to engage with nature both inside and outside the school, we focus on the process of children noticing, thinking, and taking action for themselves, rather than teachers simply giving them the answers. Questions such as “Why does this happen?” and “How can I make it work?” become the starting point for learning.

Children might look closely at nature through a magnifying glass and exclaim, “It looks like magic!” or notice that colored water made from azaleas “smells like watermelon.” In this way, their senses and personal experiences naturally develop into meaningful learning.

Discovering Through Water, Mud, and the Five Senses

Unique features of Nagoya School include a hand pump, a shallow water play area, and a mud play area. As children pump water, they experiment with questions such as, “Why does the water come out?” and “How can we get more?” They work together with friends to operate the pump and create channels for the water to flow. During mud play, children experience the coolness and softness of the mud, as well as its sounds, smells, and changing colors with their whole bodies. They also discover for themselves how the amount of water changes the texture and condition of the mud. Through play, they develop their five senses, cooperation, and problem-solving skills.



Seasonal Changes Inspire Inquiry

Nearby Hayatoike Park also serves as an everyday classroom for the children. By visiting the same place throughout the year, they experience the changing seasons and cycles of life firsthand—from spring flowers and insects, to summer cicadas and dragonflies, autumn acorns and fallen leaves, and the changing trees of winter. Natural materials they collect are then incorporated into art projects, number activities, and sorting exercises. Experiences such as encountering a newly emerged dragonfly give children the opportunity to think about how to interact with living things. We use the natural environment not simply as a place to play, but as a learning environment where discovery and exploration continue.



Even Rainy Days
Are Made for
Adventure!

Preparing
the Soil Together
The First Step
in Growing Rice!



Hiromi Yoshinaga
Branch Manager,
Nagoya School

Not Just Knowing The Right Answer, But Finding It

We want children not only to know the “right answer,” but also to develop the ability to think for themselves, try different approaches, and discover answers on their own. Getting covered in mud or experiencing things that do not go as planned are signs that children are fully engaged in play, learning, and the joy of taking on challenges.

We value the moments when children are inspired by nature and begin to ask, “Why?” or think, “I want to try!” Through these experiences, we hope children develop curiosity, the ability to take on challenges, critical thinking skills, and English proficiency, becoming individuals who can express their thoughts and thrive in their own way anywhere in the world. At Nagoya School, we support each child’s growth by nurturing their curiosity and guiding them through their learning journey.

Learning Japanese Language and the Japanese Spirit Alongside English Every Day

Kinder Kids Japanese Learning Classes



At Kinder Kids, we believe it is important not only to develop children's English skills, but also for children growing up in Japan to value Japanese as their native language and to grow with an appreciation for Japanese culture and spirit. Our Japanese Learning Classes are one of the ways we put this philosophy into practice through meaningful learning experiences.

Learning Beyond English

Kinder Kids provides an English-rich environment where children develop their English language skills. At the same time, our education goes beyond English. An equally important part of our approach is helping children growing up in Japan build a strong foundation in their native Japanese while developing an understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture and spirit.

In our Japanese Learning Classes, children develop fundamental skills such as hiragana, katakana, and numeracy, while also learning to listen attentively, stay focused, and express their own ideas in words. More than simply an extracurricular class, the program helps build a strong foundation so that children can move confidently into elementary school and the learning that follows.



Building Literacy and Numeracy through Hands-On Learning

In this class, children develop literacy skills such as reading and writing hiragana and katakana and learning to write their names, while also building an understanding of number concepts. Rather than relying only on worksheets, children use number tiles and other hands-on materials to see, touch, and move objects as they explore how numbers work.

For young children, recognizing the numbers "3" and "5" is different from understanding what those numbers actually represent. By arranging tiles, counting, and comparing quantities, they gradually develop an intuitive understanding of concepts such as "one more," "the same amount," and "how many more to make 10." By building on these experiences from K1 onward, children naturally progress by K3 to thinking about relationships between numbers and developing concepts that form the foundation for addition and subtraction. Rather than simply memorizing answers, we place importance on helping children visualize numbers, think for themselves, and work out the answers. Literacy and numeracy provide an essential foundation for learning in elementary school and beyond. We nurture this foundation through enjoyable experiences that give children a genuine sense of "I understand!" and "I can do it!"



Bilingual Learning Connected to English Theme Learning

One of Kinder Kids' signature curriculum approaches is Theme Learning, in which children explore a single topic in depth. As part of the English curriculum, children learn about a wide range of topics in English, including space, animals, nature, the human body, and cultures from around the world. Children also explore these same themes in their Japanese Learning Classes. Children express what they have learned using Japanese and revisit the ideas through picture books, creative activities, and discussions. **By exploring the same theme in both English and Japanese, children encounter differences in language, expression, and cultural background, helping them deepen their understanding.**

Moving between English and Japanese not only expands children's vocabulary but also helps them develop the ability to view ideas from multiple perspectives. In this way, Japanese Learning Classes support and extend what children learn through English.



Experiencing Japanese Culture and Nurturing the Japanese Spirit

Through activities such as paper sumo, traditional games, fingerplay, seasonal events and crafts, children learn about Japanese culture and customs while deepening their understanding of the country they live in.

During moral education, children explore themes they can put into practice in everyday life, such as expressing gratitude, showing consideration for others, and keeping promises.

Through their interactions with friends and experiences as part of a group, children learn to consider how others feel and express their own thoughts. In doing so, they develop their ability to think, communicate, build relationships with others, and show empathy.



"Learning Newsletter" from the Japanese Learning Classes

The Japanese Learning Department publishes a Learning Newsletter to share classroom activities and seasonal learning experiences with families. Through photos and comments, the newsletter introduces the activities taking place in Japanese Learning Classes and shows how children engage with the Japanese language and culture. It also gives families who are not currently enrolled in the classes an opportunity to learn more about Kinder Kids' approach to Japanese education.



Available to all schools and grade levels through "SCHOOL NEWS" on Kinder+

From the Japanese Learning Div.



Japanese Learning Div.
Michiko Kobayashi

In our Japanese Learning Classes, we place importance not only on learning the Japanese language, but also on developing children's ability to express their own feelings and recognize the feelings of others. By revisiting in Japanese the themes they have learned in English and engaging with Japanese culture and language, children are able to deepen their understanding. We will continue to support each child's growth so that they can enjoy learning and express themselves with confidence. At Kinder Kids, our goal is not simply to raise children who can speak English. We aim to help them think in Japanese, value the Japanese spirit, and develop the ability to connect with the world through English. Our Japanese Learning Classes put this educational philosophy into practice through children's everyday learning.



G3

Tokai Region

At Infinity Global Elementary School, students take part in “Journeys Through Japan’s Seven Regions,” which extend IPC learning into the real world. Building on the knowledge gained in the classroom, students travel to each region to experience its unique characteristics, local lifestyles, transportation, tourism, manufacturing, and more. This time, Grades 4, 5, and 6 traveled to the Kanto region, while Grade 3 visited the Tokai region for their residential learning trips. In Tokyo, students explored a city where the old and new come together, while in Tokai, they investigated how transportation and technology connect to the world. Rather than simply being passive tourists, the students embarked on an unforgettable journey as field researchers—asking questions and deepening their learning through firsthand experiences.

The Purpose of the Journey to Tokai

As part of their first Journey Through Japan’s Seven Regions, our Grade 3 students traveled to the Tokai region. This overnight learning experience gave them the opportunity to explore what travel is all about, from the journey itself and visiting a destination to the experiences gained along the way, while bringing the IPC theme of Travel & Tourism to life beyond the classroom. Before setting off, the students learned about linear maglev trains and airplanes. They were amazed to discover that a maglev train floats about 10 centimeters above the track using magnetic force, exclaiming, “It floats?!” They also learned how the balance of lift, thrust, drag, and gravity enables an airplane to fly, building excitement before seeing the real thing for themselves.

How Do Airplanes Fly?

On the first day, the students visited the Gifu-Kakamigahara Air and Space Museum, where they were able to see historic aircraft that had actually flown up close. After touring the museum, they also took part in an airplane-building activity under the guidance of staff.

As they learned about airflow and the forces that make flight possible, what they “knew” became something they “truly understood”.

They then traveled to the SCMagLEV and Railway Park to explore the past and future of railways. The students had the chance to see a variety of trains up close, including Doctor Yellow.

Chubu Centrair International Airport and Suzuka Circuit

On the second day, the students joined a special guided tour at Chubu Centrair International Airport, where they learned about the airport’s role and how it operates. They also had the rare opportunity to go inside a real aircraft and visit the cockpit.

At INAX MUSEUMS, they tried making polished clay balls. Although surprised to hear, “Please polish them every morning and evening for two weeks,” the students quietly worked on them at their accommodation. The next morning, some proudly showed their teachers, saying, “Look! It’s even shinier now!”

The final destination of the trip was Suzuka Circuit. Through a collaborative program focusing on vehicle mechanisms and innovations in design, the students deepened their interest in the technologies that support mobility and manufacturing.

Reflecting on the Residential Learning Trip

Throughout the journey, the students showed growth not only through what they learned at each destination, but also through the experience of staying away from home. After reflecting on their table manners, they made a conscious effort to improve them the following day. They also naturally formed closer connections with classmates they had not previously spent much time with. By confirming in the real world what they had learned beforehand and deepening their understanding through firsthand experiences, the students gained valuable learning beyond the classroom. As they explored the systems and technologies that support transportation and manufacturing, they developed a stronger habit of asking their own questions and learning with curiosity.



Children learn how airplanes fly. Through explanations from expert staff, they gained a deeper understanding of the four forces they had learned about before the trip.



At INAX MUSEUMS, the students experienced Tokoname’s long-established pottery culture by making polished clay balls. They were fascinated by how the clay became more beautiful and shiny the more they polished it.



The students took part in a program exploring vehicle mechanisms and design. As they considered the shapes and parts best suited to different purposes, they discovered the ideas and ingenuity behind manufacturing.

Tokyo: A City Where Old and New Come Together

Our Grade 4 to 6 students traveled to the Kanto region by Shinkansen. As they made their way there, they enjoyed views of Mt. Fuji from the train before arriving at their first destination, Tokyo Skytree. From the observation deck, they took in a panoramic view of Tokyo, providing the perfect starting point for exploring the IPC themes of Travel & Tourism and The Holiday Show. They explored what makes Tokyo such an attractive destination for visitors from around the world, while also observing how the city continues to evolve with its modern architecture without losing sight of Japan’s traditions and history. From the observation deck, the students looked out over the city’s vast infrastructure and the countless neighborhoods stretching into the distance, gaining a true sense of the scale of Tokyo. As a symbol of Japan’s outstanding engineering and architectural innovation, Tokyo Skytree is also one of the country’s most popular attractions, welcoming visitors from around the world.

Exploring Japan Through Tourism and the Tea Ceremony

In Asakusa, the students walked around Senso-ji Temple and observed the flow of tourists while experiencing the many different languages spoken around them. Along the lively Nakamise Street, they also wondered what kinds of souvenirs might appeal not only to themselves but also to visitors from around the world.

They then took part in a tea ceremony experience, learning how to prepare matcha and the proper etiquette of the ceremony.

Experiencing Japanese culture while thinking from an international perspective is an important part of both the learning in “Journeys Through Japan’s Seven Regions” and Infinity’s educational philosophy.

Learning How Food Travels from Source to Table at Toyosu Market

The next day, the students visited Toyosu Market in small groups and observed the auction area. In the lively market environment, they learned about a special system of hand signals used to communicate bids quickly. They also discovered different types of tuna and the regions where they are caught. Sushi and sashimi are well known around the world as iconic examples of Japanese food culture. By learning that fish served at local restaurants comes through Toyosu Market, the students had an opportunity to think about the connection between food and distribution.

Tracing Tokyo’s History at the Edo-Tokyo Museum

On the final day of the trip, the students visited the Edo-Tokyo Museum to explore the history of Japan’s capital. The museum featured a wide range of fascinating exhibits, including models, artifacts, and historical materials. They were able to see how Tokyo developed into the modern metropolis it is today while still retaining traces of its past.

Through this journey, the students experienced both the “new” and “traditional” sides of Tokyo and discovered the city’s appeal from a variety of perspectives.



During the tea ceremony experience, the students learned how to prepare matcha and the proper etiquette, as well as the spirit of Wa-Kei-Sei-Jaku—harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility—and the importance of enjoying a bowl of tea with a calm mind and consideration for others.



The students learned about different types of tuna and how they are distributed. Through their visit to Toyosu Market, they explored the connection between food and the market.



The students viewed models recreating the streets and everyday life of Edo. They learned about Tokyo’s history and the city’s journey of development into the present day.

G4~6

Kanto Region



A Special Day Celebrating 10 Years of Gratitude at Fukuoka School

On Friday, July 17, Kinder Kids Fukuoka School held a special private event at KidZania Fukuoka to celebrate its 10th anniversary. Although there were periods of heavy rain outside, the venue was filled with the smiles and excitement of children and families, creating a warm and lively atmosphere throughout the day. Fukuoka School began with only a small number of children, but over the past decade it has grown into a school attended by more than 180 children. This special event was created as a way to express our gratitude to the families who have warmly supported Fukuoka School over the past 10 years, as well as the teachers who have dedicated themselves to supporting the children every day. It was a special celebration created to mark this important milestone for Fukuoka School.

Celebrating 10 Years with a Special Private Event at KidZania Fukuoka

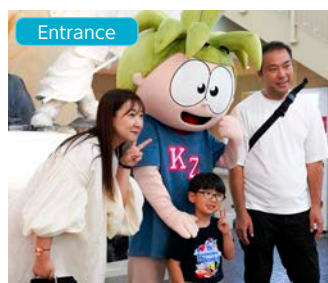
Children wearing 10th anniversary T-shirts and Kinder Kids uniforms arrived one after another at the venue. The children were filled with excitement as they met their teachers and friends in a special setting, different from their usual school environment.

At the entrance, KidZania's main character, Urbano, welcomed everyone with hugs and high-fives, and many families stopped to take commemorative photos. Inside the venue, videos featuring the familiar Moon Rockers were shown on a large screen, building even more excitement for the event. Following speeches and a KidZania performance, everyone practiced KidZania's signature greeting by placing a peace sign over their chest. Then, at last, it was time for the children to begin their job experiences.

Exploring Different Jobs While Using English

The children took on a variety of job experiences at different pavilions. One of the most popular was the firefighter experience, where children put on helmets and uniforms, headed to the scene of a fire, and worked seriously to spray water on the flames. They also took part in a range of other experiences, including working as police officers and auto mechanics, as well as activities at a dental clinic, science laboratory, and sausage factory. By choosing jobs that interested them, the children gained a better understanding of how society works and the roles different professions play.

At some pavilions, explanations were also given in English, making this a valuable opportunity to encounter real-world learning while using the English they have developed at Kinder Kids.



Families enjoyed taking pictures with Urbano, who welcomed everyone at the entrance.



The children rushed to the scene in a fire engine and worked together as a team to experience putting out a fire!

A Kinder Kids Area for Younger Children to Enjoy

To ensure that younger children below K1 age could also enjoy the event, a special Kinder Kids Area was set up inside the venue. With a craft corner and activities that children could enjoy together with their families, the area offered age-appropriate experiences in a relaxed setting.

The special area was also decorated with familiar characters from Phonics Island, bringing the warmth and fun of Fukuoka School into the world of KidZania Fukuoka. Seeing the younger children enjoying the activities together with their families was another heartwarming scene unique to this 10th anniversary celebration.

Stamp Rallies and Reunions Bringing the Warmth of Fukuoka School to Life

Between activities, the children also took part in a stamp rally, collecting stamps by finding teachers and Kinder Kids staff around the venue. They eagerly approached not only their favorite teachers, but also teachers and head office staff they do not usually have many opportunities to speak with, cheerfully asking, "Can I have a stamp, please?" Through the stamp rally, children, families, and staff naturally interacted with one another throughout the venue, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The event was attended not only by current students, but also by many Grad members. The venue was filled with the joy of reunion as they reconnected with their teachers and friends after some time apart, while families also enjoyed catching up with one another. The atmosphere felt almost like a class reunion, reminding everyone that Fukuoka School continues to be a **place where connections remain strong even after graduation.**

Celebrating this important 10th anniversary milestone together with children, families, graduates, and staff became a cherished memory for Fukuoka School. The smiles throughout the venue, reunions with familiar faces, and conversations that naturally took place reflected the strong connections and sense of community that have been built over the past 10 years. Seeing the children enjoy every moment of the event made it a truly memorable day and a fitting celebration of Fukuoka School's 10th anniversary.



Wearing lab coats, the children became researchers and conducted experiments using beakers and microscopes to study bacteria.



At the craft area for younger children, they enjoyed making ramen together with their teachers.



The stamp rally created warm opportunities for the children to interact with teachers and staff they do not usually have a chance to talk with.



Asuka Tsujimoto
Branch Manager,
Fukuoka School

Message from Fukuoka School

We Hope to Always Be a Warm Place That Feels Like a "Second Home"

I am truly delighted that Fukuoka School has reached its 10th anniversary. What began as a small school with only a few children has grown into a community of more than 180 students today. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the families who have supported us so warmly over the years, as well as to the teachers who have helped build Fukuoka School into what it is today. This anniversary event was also a valuable opportunity to once again feel the warm connections we share with everyone in our community. We will continue striving to make Fukuoka School a welcoming "second home"—a place where children can have fun and where families can feel at ease and supported. We sincerely appreciate your continued support of Fukuoka School.

Our Special Events

Kinder Kids has an exciting lineup of events this year!

We have planned a variety of events in regions across Japan.

We hope you will join us and create some wonderful memories together.

Nagoya

Halloween PARTY

We're holding our Halloween Party 2026!

This is a special event that both the children and staff look forward to every year!

Families are invited to join in the fun and enjoy Halloween together. Come dressed in costume and take part in a variety of exciting activities, including games, dancing, and Trick or Treat! Let's make some wonderful Halloween memories together as a family!

Date Saturday, October 31, 2026

Venue Kinder Kids Nagoya School

Eligibility Kinder Kids and Grad Club members and their families



Kansai

Awaza Festival 2026

Enjoy a wide variety of family-friendly activities, including crafts, games, outdoor activities, food trucks, and a photo booth!

We hope your family will join us again this year for a fun-filled day together!

Date Sunday, October 4, 2026

Venue Kinder Kids Awaza School and nearby facilities

Eligibility Kinder Kids, Grad Club, and Infinity members and their families

Activities Craft activities, outdoor activities, food trucks, photo booth, and more



Kansai

Speech Contest 2026

This year, we will once again hold our Speech Contest as an opportunity for students to showcase the progress they have made through their daily English learning and to further boost their confidence. We look forward to receiving many applications!

Date Sunday, September 27, 2026
Scheduled to begin around 10:00 a.m.

Venue Tennoji Yuhigaoka Gym

Eligibility Grad Club members in G1-G6 and current Infinity students

Fee ¥3,300 per participant

How to Apply Please access the application form using the QR code at the bottom right.



※Further details will be provided via CommuNavi and Grad+.

Apply Here



New G1/G2 Beginner Division!



Kanto

Voices of Tomorrow Speech Contest

At the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ), a venue where journalists and cultural exchange professionals from around the world gather, students will have the opportunity to share their dreams and aspirations in English. Through this unique challenge in a special environment, they will develop their ability to express themselves, build confidence, and communicate their ideas to the world.

Date Sunday, November 29, 2026
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (tentative)

Venue Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ)
5F Marunouchi Nijubashi Building, 3-2-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Eligibility Elementary school students in Grades 1-6

Number of Participants Approximately 30

※Audio screening will be conducted by Grad Club. Only successful applicants will be invited to participate.

Fee ¥5,500 (entry fee)

More Details

Voices of Tomorrow Speech Contest Special Website



Every Challenge Builds Confidence!

