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Holiday Music Performances Capture the Community

Kristopher Kwiatek, Editor



Osan ES students perform during their holiday concert.

Musical performances from DoDDS Korea students filled December with holiday joy. The community was able to enjoy a wide variety of performances including holiday songs sung by elementary students, middle school chorus and string ensemble performances, along with other holiday concerts that rang through the community. Mr.s L., Seoul American High School Music Director, and her varsity strings performed at US Ambassador Habib’s home (*pictured below*) in Seoul. The Seoul Garden Club’s membership is made up of wives of foreign ambassadors and they truly enjoyed the performance by the SAHS students. These rich experiences are just more proof of the rich cultural experiences our DoDDS students have the opportunity to participate in. Other musical highlights include Osan Elementary students putting on a holiday concert titled, “Mail Call” for the community and CT Joy students performing a holiday play.



Above: SAES sing holiday songs in both English and Spanish at the Dragon Hill Lodge, Seoul, Korea.

Left: SAHS Varsity Strings perform for the Seoul Garden Club.

KOREA CONNECTION



Above: Students from Seoul American Middle School perform at the Dragon Hill Lodge, Seoul, Korea.

Left: Ms. P. poses with the SAMS String Ensemble. Later the group performed at the Dragon Hill Lodge.



Students from Seoul American Elementary School perform at the Dragon Hill Lodge, Seoul, Korea.



Message From the Korea District Superintendent

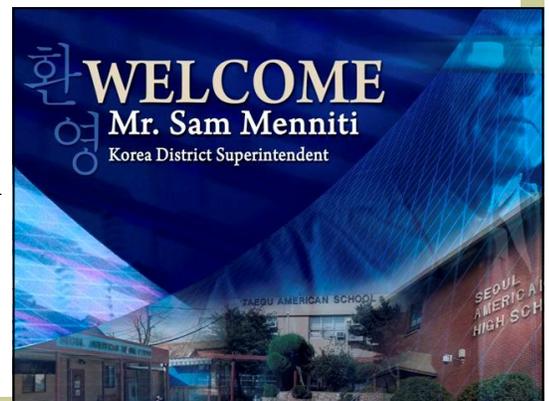
It is my distinct honor and pleasure to accept the position as Superintendent of the Korea District. The Korea District has a premier reputation throughout the DoDDS school system; it is my goal to not only sustain this reputation, but to enhance it. This well-deserved reputation is directly related to the hard work and dedication of the teachers, students, parents and military members directly involved with the schools in Korea.



Mr. Sam Menniti
Korea District Superintendent

To thrive, any modern organization must continuously improve and change to sustain its success. Success today must be matched and challenged tomorrow. As you know, the Korea District is in the midst of enormous growth and transition; however, with this growth there comes change and challenges. One of our challenges is to continue to focus directly on student achievement and to move the educational agenda forward during our transformation. At the heart of our efforts, we must focus on developing strong relationships with our students, while involving our parents, our military partners and our communities to sustain positive student growth. We must stay focused on the student by offering a rigorous curriculum focused on the standards set forth by DoDEA.

Teaching and learning are about problem solving. Education is the process by which we put teachers and learners in the best possible environment for them to do this together. Each and every classroom needs to provide a safe, orderly environment, and create opportunities to learn while ensuring there is quality time on task for students. Educators need to maintain high expectations, provide frequent monitoring of student progress and establish positive home-school relationships through frequent communication. It's important for me to let you know that I expect everyone to emphasize the importance of learning with clear goals and objectives; I believe that school time *must* be devoted to excellence in learning. Effective, successful schools engage in ongoing learning activities and continually strive to improve the instructional process. Naturally, the best possible environment to accomplish these expectations is one where people feel safe, supported, valued, and respected. It is my job to provide instructional leadership for the district and to ensure that there are pleasant conditions for teaching and learning in each of the district schools.





Links of the Month



[AdvancED Website](#)

Interested in learning more about school accreditation? Check out the AdvancED website.



AdvancED is the unified organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), and National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE). AdvancED is dedicated to advancing excellence in education through accreditation, research, and professional services.

This unified organization creates the world's largest education community, representing 23,000 public and private schools and districts in 30 states and 65 countries and serving nearly 15 million students. The inclusion of NSSE brings to schools and districts greater access to NSSE's products, services, and strong research base on the factors that impact student learning.

www.advanc-ed.org

[DoDDS Korea Webpage](#)

www.korea.pac.dodea.edu

The Korea DSO is continuously improving the content of its new homepage. We will continue to provide a high quality website that provides a wealth of useful information for professional staff, students, and the community. Please visit the district [web album](#). Feedback on the new website can be sent to the [Korea Webmaster](#).

Korea Web Album		
<i>Take a look at the exciting events going on in the Korea District!</i>		
 Holiday Breeze 2007	 Governor Meets with DoDDS Korea Asst. Superintendent	 Far East Tennis
 Far East Cross Country	 Far East Cheerleading	 Football, Kadena vs Seoul
 Red Ribbon Week, OAES	 USFK Awards, 2007	 Football, Daegu vs Seoul



Technology in Tokyo: Educators Attend Technology Conference

Kris Kwiatek, Editor



Tokyo, Japan

Professional educators from DoDDS Pacific attended a week-long Technology Conference in Tokyo, Japan at the New Sanno Hotel. Attendees included school Educational Technologists, Information Specialists, and the Teacher of the Year from the Korea, Okinawa, and Guam districts. Participants and presenters traveled to the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo, Japan for this special event. Highlights included presenters from DoDEA Headquarters, the Pacific Area Director's Office, and special presenter, Dr. Jamie McKenzie.

Keynote speaker, Dr. McKenzie, has presented to teachers around the world and specializes in promoting questioning, thinking skills, information literacy, and the smart use of new technologies.

SAHS Student Applies to Coast Guard Academy

R. J., Seoul American High School student, recently sat down with Dr. S. of the Korea DSO to discuss the prospect of attending the U.S. Coast Academy. R. will find out in March if he has been accepted.

Good luck!



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Humphreys American Elementary School



Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Humphreys American Elementary School's sixth grade students spread joy about the school during December by reading festive holiday stories with younger children. Sixth grade teacher B. L. wanted his students to practice their reading fluency and expression as well as provide a community service. Sure Start through third grade students enjoyed hearing the stories and getting some quality time with the older students. Teachers appreciated the opportunity for their students to hear a variety of stories read with gusto. Everyone agreed it was an enjoyable opportunity for all the students involved.



Left: HAES student A. B. enjoys reading a Christmas pop up book with his younger brother, D. B., and student L. A.

Below: C. Q. enjoys a festive story with Kindergartner F. F.



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Korea Connection

- Sam Menniti** **Superintendent**
- Peter Grenier** **Assistant Superintendent**
- T. H.** **Chief of Staff**
- K. K.** **Editor**
- C. J.** **District Consultant**

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OSAN Elementary School

Contributions by M. H.

Festive Ending for 2007!

The end of 2007 was a very busy time for students and staff at Osan American Elementary School. Ms. D., sponsor of the Music Club, and Mrs. S., sponsor of the Spanish Club, held a joint concert for students and the community. After a musical called "Mail Call", the Bell Choir performed and students sang traditional Holiday songs in Spanish.

On Saturday December 8th, the entire school was filled for the first annual Winter Carnival. Each class had a booth and the entire community turned out for a day of fun and games. Face Painting, Jumpy Castle, Miniature Golf, and a board game room were just some of the offerings. The Student Council held a "Jail" and arrested parents and staff for a fund raiser. And Principal Mr. David Petree took a pie in the face in the name of fun.



Contributions by C. V.

Celebrating Diversity at DAS

To celebrate American Indian/Alaskan Native Heritage Month, Ms. S.'s 5th grade students at Daegu American School, presented research to an audience at a base-wide ceremony. Groups of students studied various Native American tribes and presented important information which they shared with the audience and displayed on posters. Three students recited a prayer written by Chief Dan George. They also demonstrated the use of the "talking stick" as they responded to the question posed by Dr. S., the DAS Information Specialist on, "How can we honor Native Americans now?"



The students were most impressed that one military speaker—a full-blooded Choctaw, spoke the language fluently, and that an Army Ranger speaker also recited from memory the same prayer just before he jumps out of an airplane.

Ms. I.'s third grade class at Daegu American School collected "Coats for Kosovo." Collecting over 100 coats from students all over the school, the students boxed up the warmth and sent it off for soldiers to distribute.



KOREA CONNECTION

Articles Contributed by R. H.

Osan American High School

The Osan American High School Science Symposium

Over two hundred and twenty OAHS students participated in this year's science symposium. According to OAHS Science teacher K. T., the Osan American High School Science Symposium is more than just another "science fair." The OAHS Science Symposium is modeled on the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. This program benefits the students in many ways academically. The ability to set long term goals and meet them in a carefully structured timeline to produce a product that they can be proud of is of great value. They must write succinctly, carefully constructing a hypothesis that requires a complex research product to test. Eighty five community members contributed to making this symposium a successful event for our students. There were sixty-five judges mostly from the Osan military community, but also from Camp Humphrey's, Seoul, and Camp Red Cloud. Other volunteers organized the scoring sheets and made the ribbons. Still more worked to set-up and break-down the event. The Osan community was very supportive of the school program. Savings bonds and ribbons were funded by the OAHS PTSO and a generous matching personal contribution from the Branch family.

Below: *Winners (from left to right) pose with judges.*

- L.-A. S. (Social Science) 3rd
- A. K. (Environmental Science) 2nd
- E.-L. T. (Microbiology) 1st
- S. A. (Botany) 4th
- L. C. (Meteorology) 5th
- S. C. (Mycology) 5th





**Seoul American
Elementary School**

Contributions by K. Y.



Parties with a CSI Learning Purpose

SAES fifth graders D. M. and S. T. finish a presentation during Ms. K. B.'s holiday party with invited parents and guests. S. wrote a talk show script to advocate saving precious rainforest land and D. offered to help with the script reading. The presentation was an assignment that sought to support the SAES (CSI) Continuous School Improvement plan. The goal states that, "all students will improve informational writing across the curriculum." The rainforest was the topic of the talk show presentation.



**Visit the Seoul American
Elementary Internet Site!**

www.seoul-es.pac.dodea.edu



Hail and Farwell

The counseling team at SAES hosts ice cream socials for incoming and departing students. It is a way to welcome new students to the campus and say goodbye to students leaving our school. SAES principal Donna Kacmarski serves ice cream to departing student J. M. during a recent social.

French Class Shares with Orphanage

Students from Ms. K. R.a's French class at Seoul American Middle School learned more about French culture as they hand-made quilts to take to a local orphanage for All Saints Day (Toussaint). Students decided to share what they made with the three and four-year olds of the WahSung Orphanage and discovered that children are really what Christmas is all about. Imaginations went wild as children and students discovered how many new games can be played with the small quilts and pillows given to the orphanage by the students. After playing with the children



for the morning, all eight orphans were taken to McDonalds for lunch by the students. Thanks to the parent volunteers, this activity was a great success and students learned a greater appreciation for family life and sharing what they have.



The middle school art students at Seoul American Middle School recently visited ancient Egypt through their art classes. Students painted typical events in Egyptian life, important gods, and created a large Hieroglyphic alphabet for display. The class also created a life-sized mummy and sarcophagus.



Seoul American High School

German Club Gives to the Needy

German Club members at SAHS were baking frantically in November to make money for their annual altruistic project, Toys for Tots. Members saw their plan come to fruition when they spent their earned money and time to shop for the Toys for Tots program. Mrs. K. Hick's was the POC at SAHS. German Club Vice President, K.



Pictured here are S. R., S. N., Frau C., K. W., and K. H.



Members of the German Club at Seoul American High School experienced the Christmas market at Deutsche Schule Seoul (German School in Seoul) on Dec. 8, 2007. Pictured are L. C. (sponsor) S. R. (senior) and K. W. (senior). German Club historian, R. said, "It was delicious. We were surrounded by German speakers. It was a really unique experience."



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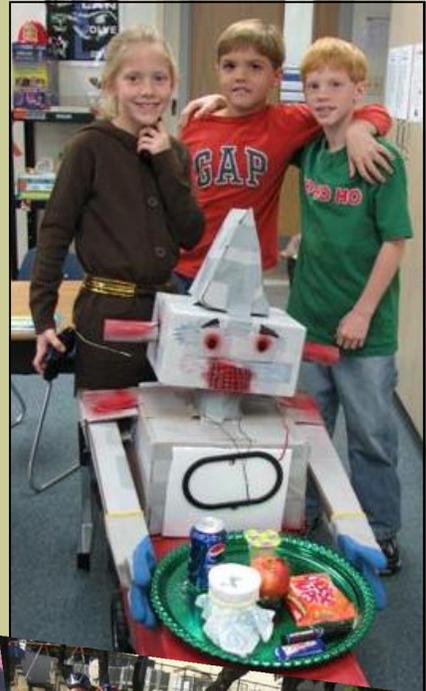
CT Joy

Contributions by Ray Paulson, Principal

Oh, Santa!

On Friday, 14 December, the Penguins and Reindeer of Ms. B. and Ms. L.'s class from CT Joy ES saved Christmas. It seems that Santa Claus fell and hurt his head, giving him amnesia. Not knowing what to do on Christmas, Santa just laid in the snow until the penguins and reindeer found a way to make him remember, thus saving Christmas!





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KOREA DISTRICT SNAPSHOTS

