

2024

SUMMER ISSUE

YOYOGI IS

2024

LOOKING FORWARD TO
2024-2025

New programs for students

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Our 25th Year!



A great year to celebrate at Yoyogi International School

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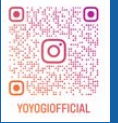
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OUR 25TH YEAR

we celebrate 25 years of Yoyogi IS



SCHOOL ADMIN

YUKO MUIR

Founder and Chairman of The Board

ROBERT MITSUGI

General Manager

KEVIN HAGGITH

Head of School

JANETTE HAGGITH

School Principal



LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

I am excited for our students as we prepare for the 25th school year.

I arrived in May of 2023 and now, a year later, I feel much more confident in my decision making and support of the staff and students in the school. My entry plan for Yoyogi IS was to listen as much as I could and learn about the culture that already existed ahead of my arrival.

During the year I have had the pleasure of speaking with many of the parents and almost all of your children. The conversations were wonderful and fun and very telling about your commitment and love for this school community. I am proud to say that I am the Head Of School (HOS) for this community and look forward to what the next year offers.

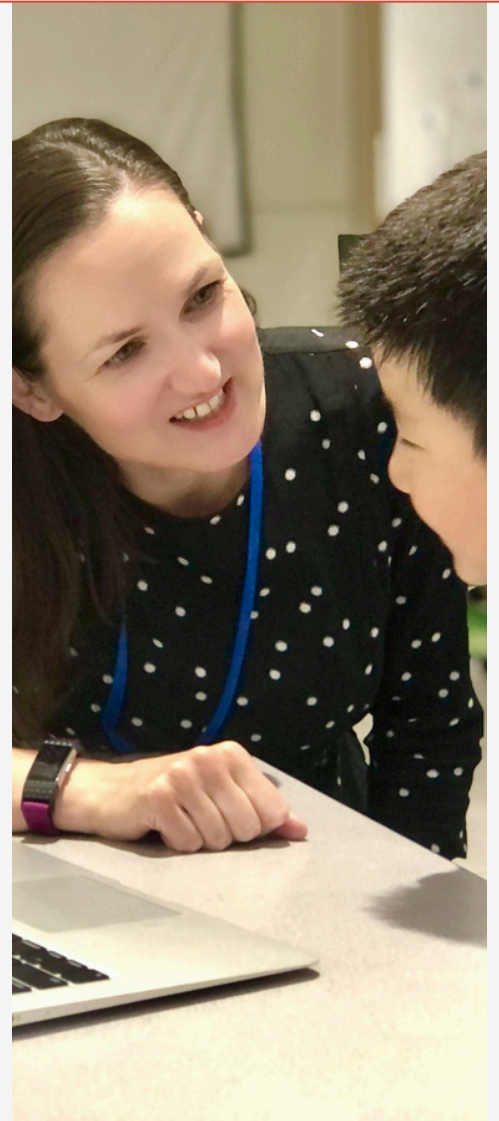
Thank you for the wonderful welcome and I am excited to share where we plan to grow and improve for you.

Kevin Haggith

HOS



IN THIS ISSUE



What a great year it was! There have been many significant moments for students and families. We are always looking to do better.

GRADUATE NUMBER 1

We celebrated our first Middle School graduate this year. Boris has been with us since he was a toddler and is a great person to hold this honour. Our numbers are multiplying, with larger classes to follow. We have worked hard to build a Middle School Program that prepares students to excel in High School.

Boris Elenkov and his parents





The Middle School provides a personal learning environment where we can focus on the individual needs of each student.

Our Middle School Program has been developed to prepare students to excel in the top high schools in Tokyo. During the past year, we have continued to add the complexity and rigour to a program that gives our students the skills they need to conduct research, express themselves clearly,

problem solve and contribute positively to an international community. The project based program relies on providing essential understandings through research and teacher-led instruction so students can extend and deepen their knowledge through projects that demand the extension and application of these skills and knowledge.

Our Middle School experience will be extended outside the campus to see real world situations, world class art and history provided by our host city of Tokyo. Skiing and other physical challenges will continue in our pursuit of well rounded students.

NEXT YEAR: WHAT'S NEW?

Each year we reflect on feedback from parents and students and try to be better.

A decorative graphic consisting of a series of orange, overlapping arrow shapes pointing to the right.

We value the student and parent experience at Yoyogi International School. We have investigated where we can improve and listened to your feedback through surveys and face-to-face conversations.

The student-teacher interaction is the critical point of what makes quality learning and support effective. This year, we will provide professional training to teachers to improve our literacy program and assessment processes. New MAP assessments from K-8 will help us monitor student learning and where we can make the greatest gains.

This past school year, we worked to improve the student experience by focusing on after-school activities (ASA) and winter and summer camps. Next year, we will add a house system for all students to join a K-8 mixed team and engage in fun contests and activities. Families will also join a team and participate together in fun challenges throughout the year.





Stand and Deliver. Our students often present their learning and share it with their peers and parents where possible to support communication skills and solidify their learning.

We have a lot to celebrate in our 25th Year as a school.

English language development has always been important to our parents and staff. We begin the first year of operating a full English as an Additional Language (EAL) program at the school. Students have enrolled to have the focus and support of a specialized teacher.

Trips will be increased and expanded where possible. Student learning needs a real-world connection, which trips can provide. Part of the PYP's demand is embracing our host nation and its opportunities.

We will focus on community building and connection in the school for all of our stakeholders. Yoyogi Friends will continue to grow and provide opportunities for parents to connect with the school and each other. Their support in the past year has improved student experiences and supported our teaching staff.

Celebrating our 25th Year in education will provide some time for celebration and reflection. Please look for your opportunity to participate with us.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

We now have an English as an Additional Language (EAL) Program supported by full-time staff.

Parent request and concerns that I hear at Yoyogi International School often revolve around a desire for strong English Programs at the school. In the 2024-2025 school year we are making a big leap forward in the quality of instruction for English Language Learners (ELL) and existing English speakers who need to improve and grow.

English Language Learning for a student belongs to everyone in the school and parents at home. A complete and supportive picture will accelerate learning. Our school community operates in a primarily English environment.

Often one of the main academic reasons parents have placed their child in our school is for a supportive English program. Exposing your child to English language at a young age will set them up for competent English reading, writing and speaking within about three years. Large gains are noticed in the first year but refinement and academic standards of English are attained in later years.

English instructions needs were seen as a priority and resources have been dedicated beginning this August.

How do we increase the quality of English learning in the the school? Your child:s English language learning will be supported in many ways.

What is new for 2024-2025?

All new students admitted for the 2024-25 school year have been screened for their level of English language understanding through an intensive WIDA test. If their English language abilities were low they have been required to participate in our EAL Program which is supported by a dedicated teaching staff supported by an EAL Program fee. The details can be seen on our website.

By accelerating new English Language Learners (ELL) the level of English in the whole school is elevated. More usage creates greater opportunities for all students.

By supporting new English Learners, the comfort with using the language increases, generating more opportunities for all students.



Students in the program will be primarily supported in the classroom during lessons with support tools and clarification when needed. Initially, students without any English may be withdrawn during Japanese lessons for an intensive program to get them to a reasonable level of comfort to function easier in the school.



What if my child is already enrolled in the school and needs additional English Language Support?

All students are currently supported in their development of the English language by their homeroom teacher. For those that are already in the school and parents feel that they could benefit from an additional level of instruction can apply to a Wait List through the Admission@yoyogiinternationalschool.com. Please read through the description on our website before inquiring.

Students are not automatically accepted into the program. Their English level will be tested through WIDA and determined to be of sufficient need for our program to address. Not all students require this program and may be beyond our target English level already.

We are also working on our overall approach to language and literacy instruction in the school. This year all staff will participate in a year long training program through Erin Kent Consulting (EKC).

EKC is well known in the International School Community for leading top schools to vibrant and effective literacy levels of instruction.

During the year our staff will interact with a team of professionals that will guide and shape their approaches to literacy instruction. Ms Janette and the Literacy Committee will oversee the process to ensure that we attain new standards and supports for our students. Ms Janette has worked with Erin Kent Consulting previously and has seen great results.

We will continue to review our programming and approaches to literacy each year. Student MAP and F&P data will be reviewed so that we target areas of greatest need.

You can inquire about adding EAL Support for your child by emailing Admissions@yoyogiinternationalschool.com

OUR 25TH YEAR



The school has evolved and grown with the Yoyogi Community



Yuko Muir founded Yoyogi International School in 1999, with the vision to provide a first-class education to the expatriate community in Tokyo, creating an environment where children can feel safe, secure, and confident, which will help enhance their excellent learning experience.

Over the years the school has evolved from an Early Childhood model to where we are today with Kindergarten through Grade 8. In many ways the school has grown up with the families it has served. The addition of the PYP Programme and the Project based learning in the Middle School has created a quality education system in the Yoyogi Park area.

This year we invite you to join with us in celebrating a great achievement and our exciting vision for the future. Please join us when you can and make this a special year for all of us.

YUKO MUIR, FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

UNIFORMS FOR 2024-2025

We have added some options for uniforms and will now require a dark blue bottom of shorts, pants or a skirt.



1
NEW SYNTHETIC PE SHIRTS

We consistently look at improving our uniforms for wear, cleaning and longevity. The new PE shirts are made of sports team materials that are easy to wash and maintain.



2
DARK BLUE BOTTOM

This year we will enforce wearing a dark blue bottom without logo or patterns. You may purchase skirts, shorts or pants from the school or purchase your own items that meet the same standard.



3
SCHOOL POLO OR SWEATER

Each day students must wear a school purchased polo top or PE uniform. During cold weather school hoodies are available. There will be special dress days when students can wear costumes etc according to a theme.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Please note these events on your calendar as we prepare for the new school year.



AUGUST 5-18

- **New Class Lists** released to parents
- **Student Testing** for EAL
- **Information Sharing** for health and safety
- **Staff Training** and school preparation



AUGUST 19 (9-12 AM)

We will host a whole school **Open House (9-12)** for all to attend on August 19. You can meet the teachers and staff and get familiar with the school spaces before we start. Please watch for timing and an invite coming to you in August.



AUGUST 20

First Day of school. Homeroom teachers will help prepare students for the first day with communication about routines and needed items.



CALENDAR 2024-25



Please note the 2 half days on Nov. 21 and May 2 for staff CIS accreditation preparation.

Yoyogi International School 2024-2025 CALENDAR

		AUGUST 2024							FEBRUARY 2025									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					
August 19	Family Open House					1	2	3							1	Feb. 10-11	Mid-term Break	
August 20	First Day of School	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28				
		SEPTEMBER 2024							MARCH 2025									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					
Sept. 13	Staff Professional Development Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7							1	March 10	Last Day of Term 2	
Sept. 13	No classes for students	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	March 11	First Day of Term 3	
Sept. 16	National Holiday/ Regular School Day	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	March 20	National Holiday/ Regular School Day	
Sept 23	National Holiday/ Regular School Day	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	March 21	Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences	
		29	30						23	24	25	26	27	28	29	March 21	No classes for students	
									30	31						March 24-28	Spring Holidays	
		OCTOBER 2024							APRIL 2025									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					
Oct. 14-18	Autumn Holidays		1	2	3	4	5											
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
		27	28	29	30	31			27	28	29	30						
		NOVEMBER 2024							MAY 2025									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					
Nov. 4	National Holiday/ Regular School Day					1	2					1	2	3	May 2	Early Dismissal at 1:30 pm		
Nov. 19	End of Term 1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	May 5-6	Golden Week Holiday	
Nov. 20	First Day of Term 2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
Nov.21	Early Dismissal at 1:30	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
Nov. 22	Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Nov. 22	No classes for students																	
		DECEMBER 2024							JUNE 2025									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					
Dec. 13	Winter Concert	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	June 12	Last Day of School	
Dec. 17	Last Day before Break	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	June 13	Staff Professional Development Day	
Dec. 18-Jan 8	Winter Break	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	June 13	No classes for students	
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	June 16-July 31	Summer Camps	
		29	30	31					29	30								
		JANUARY 2025							JULY 2025									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					
Jan. 1-8	Winter Break					1	2	3	4								July 1-31	Summer Camps
Jan. 8	Staff Professional Development Day	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
Jan. 9	First Day of Classes	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
		26	27	28	29	30	31		27	28	29	30	31					

180 student instructional days with three balanced terms of approx. 60 days.



CALENDAR MAY BE UPDATED DURING THE SCHOOLYEAR