

未来をひらく 思いをつたえる

# Hirakû

26

Cover picture : Craft "Spring in full bloom!"

Everyone was waiting for spring to come, and the cherry trees are in full bloom at Kinder Kids!

There are countless flowers blooming on the big and strong trees.

Tulips are also blooming under the trees, and the butterflies seem to be happy with the arrival of spring.

We can't wait to play outside!

**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**

Published in  
March 2023 Vol.26  
Next issue is  
planned to come  
at the end of May

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- ★Kinder Kids Adventure School opens!
- ★Interview with Parents of Kinder Kids Graduates
- ★Global Transfer Experience ★Successful Examinee File 009
- ★KINDER KIDS Composition Contest ★Renewal of Kinder+



日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.

# Kinder Kids' New School Opens!



**KINDER KIDS**  
International Adventure School

キンダーキッズインターナショナル  
アドベンチャースクール

K1 students entering in April 2023 will start in  
"Kinder Kids International Adventure School!"

K2/K3 students will remain in Kinder Kids International School Tokyo.

## The Adventure School is designed to stimulate children's curiosity.

The spacious grounds are lush with trees, waterfalls, and ponds where children can play to their heart's content. In April 2023, Tokyo School will launch a new program that will add outdoor activities to the existing curriculum, making the most of this natural environment. The philosophy of the program consists of three basic concepts.

### Three Concepts of Adventure School



#### Health

Nurture a healthy body and mind, which are the most important things in life

#### Wealth

Build a wonderful life through friendship and love.

#### Growth

Always work hard to the best of your abilities and pass on what you have learned to friends and those younger than you.

Kinder Kids has always provided an education with the hope that children will be exposed to nature on a daily basis and develop a sensitivity to the seasons. The Adventure School will increase the number of outdoor activities by about three times, and through the study of nature, we aim to develop the following skills.

- (1) Ability to overcome adversity
- (2) Foster independence and social skills
- (3) Deepen the relationship with nature
- (4) Experience a sense of accomplishment through experiences with nature



## Effects of the Study of Nature on Child Development

While it is important to be good at using digital devices, spending too much time looking at the screens of smartphones and tablets has been pointed out to be detrimental to the healthy development of the body and mind. It is necessary to limit the time spent using these devices, and **spend more time talking with friends and playing outside.** By spending more time in contact with nature, children will encounter new sights, sounds, and smells, and their curiosity will be stimulated. Research has shown that **daily contact with nature improves self-awareness and the ability to perceive the feelings of others, and it also develops children's observation and imagination skills.** It is said that the brain is more active and **absorbs more information** when the same activity is done outdoors rather than indoors.



## Outdoor Activities at Kinder Kids Adventure School

In the Adventure School, students **exercise, interact with plants and animals,** make crafts using stones, branches, leaves, and other **items found in nature,** and learn **science through nature,** such as compost making and building small dams. By developing an interest in the nature around them and through teamwork and imaginative play during the outdoor activities with friends, they will be encouraged to **try new things as well as gain self-confidence.**

## Collaboration with outdoor brand "CHUMS"

"CHUMS" is an outdoor brand founded in 1983 by a river guide in Utah, USA. It offers a wide variety of products, from colorful and eye-catching camping goods to practical outdoorwear and fashionable kids' wear, and is loved by many fans around the world.

The Adventure School, based on the concept of learning in nature, and the popular outdoor brand CHUMS have collaborated to create an original backpack.

Designed **to be fun to wear while also being highly functional for outdoor activities.**



Adventure School  
Curriculum Director  
Ryan Lopes

### Message from the Curriculum Director

We are embarking on a "new adventure" to achieve an education that deepens relationships among friends, supports children's healthy lifestyles, and raises children's learning proficiency. Children nowadays are accustomed to a life without any inconveniences where they can easily get whatever they want. We believe that by experiencing the always-changing conditions of nature, children can **overcome mental and physical challenges, overcome fears and stress,** and gain the ability to produce better results in their academics and future careers. Come on! Join us, and get muddy!

HP



Instagram



41-20  
Higashinemachi,  
Ota-ku, Tokyo

## Interview with the Parents

How you spend your time is more important than getting into a good school. I want my child to become strong, and learn from mistakes rather than avoid making mistakes.

We interviewed the mother of N.M., a graduate of Kinder Kids Takatsuki School's first graduating class who is currently in the first year of junior high school. This interview resulted from a discussion meeting we held with four mothers of Takatsuki School graduates, and received a lot of feedback from the parents of current Takatsuki School students. This time, Ms. M spoke on behalf of the discussion meeting members about her thoughts on Kinder Kids and her daughter's experience with the junior high school entrance exam.



**R.M.**  
Mother of N.M.,  
a graduate of  
Takatsuki School

### ▶ Why did you decide to let your tstart learning English when she was a baby?

I wanted to expose her to English from an early age so she would not have trouble in the future with listening and speaking, which Japanese people are not good at.

I was also influenced by the information, "The ability to distinguish between L and R pronunciation is determined by the age of five"

I thought when she was older she could study abroad, but when I was pregnant with my daughter and saw the social turmoil caused by SARS and a new strain of influenza, I felt that even if she wanted to study abroad in the future, she might not be able to do so. Actually, that thought became a reality with the COVID-19 pandemic.

I thought that **by going to an international school in Japan, she could study in an environment similar to that of foreign schools and also she could learn English with peace of mind, without being caught up in the confusion of the world.**

### ▶ She transferred from another preschool to the newly opened Takatsuki School. What attracted you to Takatsuki school and how did you like it?

There are three main reasons why we decided to enroll her in Kinder Kids.

#### 1. The system is designed for Japanese children

In the school she attended before Kinder Kids, she had to follow the foreign class system. It was divided into classes based on age in months, and my daughter, who was born between January 1st and April 1st, sometimes did not have the same opportunities as other preschoolers in her grade, I was fascinated by the fact that Kinder Kids had the advantages of both a Japanese preschool and an international school.

#### 2. Adaptability to Japanese elementary schools

**Kinder Kids taught her how to behave properly, so I didn't have to worry about it when she went to elementary school.** In fact, when I asked her elementary school teachers about my daughter's behavior and Japanese language skills, they assured us that there were no problems at all.

#### 3. Children first and open to opinions

At her previous school, when I made some requests, they were immediately turned down and not even considered. I thought Kinder Kids' system was almost perfect, I could feel **the staff's ambition to make the school even better by putting the child first and listening to parents' opinions.** Kinder Kids was really just as I thought it would be and I thought "I wish she had enrolled sooner! I envy parents whose children have taken lessons starting from Baby Class!"

I heard that Kinder Kids recently established a new elementary school, if it had been opened in my daughter's time, I might have had a hard time deciding which elementary school to attend. I envy the current Kinder Kids students because they have more options.



### ▶ About keeping English skills after graduation

Because of the influence of her older brother, she was considering taking the junior high school entrance exam and had been attending cram school and taking other lessons since the first grade of elementary school. She chose to focus on other subjects, believing **that the English language skills she had gained in Kinder Kids would not be lost.** As a result, the school that my daughter entered emphasized English and she was able to make the most of her English skills.

### ▶ I understand she took the Eiken test at a late age.

I was certainly anxious because some children in K3 were already taking the Eiken Grade Pre-2 test. I thought it would be better for her to take the test later, and she decided to take the test in her first year of junior high school and could pass the exam just by solving past questions about 3 days before the exam. Unless your child is planning to take exams that require Eiken qualifications, it is hard for parents to support their children in taking exams at an early age. If your child is not enjoying preparing for taking the Eiken test, I think it would be better to delay the test to avoid putting pressure on your child.

### ▶ How did you overcome your daughter's rebellious stage before the entrance exam?

Parents want their children to have a happy future, so they tend to put too much emphasis on their children's entrance exams.

I researched various study methods, adopted whatever I thought was good, tried the then-popular "Sato-mama" method, and enrolled my daughter in an intensive study course for a hard-to-get-into junior high school. She followed my methods and learned more and more, but she began to rebel because I kept making demands. She was having a hard time and began to think, "It's hard to do what mom says" and stopped listening to me. I thought that if she continued to rebel, it would be difficult for her to take the entrance exam, so I changed the way I treated her.

Gradually, she started studying again, passed the entrance exam, and is now enjoying a fulfilling student life at her current school.

### ⟨Don't make taking the entrance exam your goal.⟩

Passing the entrance exam of the target school tends to be the goal, because after passing the exam, children often lose their motivation for studying, so I think it is necessary to support them so that they can have goals beyond the exam.



母と娘の心を繋いだホメカ(褒めカード)

### ▶ How exactly did you treat her?

I tried to raise her self-esteem by praising her. **I praised her when she voluntarily went to her desk to study, when she found her weak points and worked hard to strengthen them, and so on, I praised her for her efforts and what she was able to do on her own, even if it was a small thing.**

### ⟨I tried to make her think that taking the entrance exam was hard but also fun.⟩

I gave my daughter decorated cards praising her for her hard work, imitating the decorated cards that my daughter was so happy to receive praising her efforts from her cram school

### ▶ Lastly

I do not think there is only one correct educational method, but I often communicate with my children to make an atmosphere where they can easily express their feelings, and I try **not to miss any signs from them.**

Rather than trying to prevent children from making mistakes, help them **to have the confidence to overcome the negative feelings** of frustration, pain, and sadness!

The children will feel safer with their mother and father by their side, so please keep supporting them.



Future dreams written in the graduation album

### 【From Editorial Department】

Since she was a Kinder Kids student, she has been studying hard to pursue her dreams of becoming a doctor.

She also likes to draw pictures, so she joined the art club and is working on a perfect copy of an anime character, which she hopes will be useful in communicating with people from overseas in the future.

**Thank you for sharing your valuable story with us.**



# We Went to Study at a Kinder Kids School Abroad!



## ~Global Transfer Experience~



R.Y. (Ibaraki Saito K1)  
Transferred to Clarkson school

On her first day, I was worried about whether my shy daughter would be able to adjust to a foreign school, but she was warmly welcomed by the teachers, and I was relieved to see that she immediately fit in at her new class. I think it would be wonderful if she continues to exchange letters with her new friends she met through Kinder Kids. She also seemed to enjoy the warm school lunch because she was eating a lot.



H.A. (Takatsuki K1)  
Transferred to Oakville school

Oakville was rich in nature and we had a wonderful time walking around Lake Ontario and exploring in the bush! The magnificent natural landscape must have been mind-blowing for her. Oakville seems to have strict laws regarding childcare, which was interesting to me because it was quite different from Japan.



M.K. (Fukuoka K1)  
Transferred to Hawaii school

Before the transfer, a teacher at the Hawaii school sent us an email in Japanese and I could ask some questions beforehand, which was great. I was worried that my daughter might cry and refuse to go to school, but from the first day, she had no trouble going to school and seemed to have a great time because she was reluctant to leave school. Probably because the transferred school was one of the Kinder Kids schools. She also liked the teacher and became more enthusiastic to speak and write English after this experience abroad.



Y.A. (Yokohama K2)  
Transferred to Hawaii school

We tried Global Transfer because I couldn't give my son a chance to travel abroad during the coronavirus pandemic. The school environment was similar to Kinder Kids schools in Japan, so I think that made it easier for him to get used to the Hawaii school. The Kinder kids staff were helpful and supported us starting from our preparation stage. I thought it was quite reasonable to pay only the handling and transfer overseas fees.

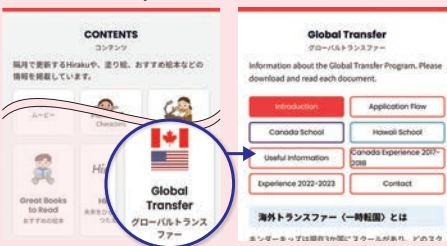


H.S. (Nagoya K1)  
Transferred to Hawaii school

There were events related to the local culture, which were interesting and enjoyable for us. On weekends and after school, she was taken to see hula dancing which she loved, climb Diamond Head, play with dolphins, and the beach and pool from the daycare facility in the hotel. The school seemed popular among locals because we were often spoken to when she was walking around in her uniform.

### For more information about Global Transfer System, please visit kinder+.

Please login to Kinder+ and check "Global Transfer" on the contents page. We are also planning to post Global Transfer journals.



# 英検合格者 File009

## Examinee

# H.H.

School	Nagoya
Test date	February 2022 (The Third exam in 2021)
Grade	Level 2
Grade at exam	G2



### My Study Methods

I'm taking lessons at Grad Club's After (school) Class and Saturday Class, and before the Eiken, I took "Eiken Study for Grade 2 Preparation Video Lesson". I was busy with other studies too, so the video lessons were very helpful so I could study at my own pace and convenience at home. I also used the official Eiken app "Study Gear" to learn vocabulary, because many of the words in Grade 2 were difficult. I was focusing on studying English before, but now I started studying Japanese and math in the evening group classes. I would like to keep studying English by using many different kinds of methods.

### Asked her parents How did you support her?

My daughter had other lessons and classes as well, so we decided not to concentrate on Eiken too much but to keep studying at her own pace. My husband and I are both working, so we didn't have much time to support her studies. She loves English, and Grad Club's After (School) Class and Saturday Class helped her to study for the Eiken and I am very grateful for those Grad Club's programs. The writing test and the interview test for Grade 2 are difficult for children because they need to express their opinions and thoughts on social issues and current affairs. We didn't take any special preparations but talked about current events in the news while watching the morning and evening news once or twice a week. I thought it would be better to gradually get used to talking about social topics and not to be in too much of a hurry.

### What I like about Kinder Kids!

From an early age, I started practicing writing English at Kinder Kids, and I think that helped me when I studied for the Eiken test. I also liked the fact that all the lessons in "Eiken Study" were spoken in English. I often have a hard time understanding the Japanese explanations, but the explanations in English were easy to understand.

### Asked her parents My advice to friends

We were also reading the past issues of "Hiraku" and knew that some children were studying hard for the Eiken. A teacher at Kinder Kids told me, "Even if the parents are not good at English, their children will learn a lot if they like English", which has always supported me and encouraged my daughter to do her best. I now realize that was correct. I believe that if you keep studying the integrated programs from Kinder Kids through Grad Club, you will be able to pass the exam.

### About Grad Club's Eiken Study

You can take online video Eiken lessons that proceed at the same pace as the ordinary in-person Eiken group lessons. You can watch the video lessons as many times as you like for 12 days after the posting of the video, and you can take the lessons whenever you like. You can take the same lessons as the school lessons from your home.



# KINDER KIDS Composition Contest 2022



Kumiko Shinoda,  
Senior Manager, Examination  
and Learning Division

Thank you very much for your entries to the Kinder Kids Japanese Essay Contest for the year 2022. The total number of students taking Kinder Kids classes exceeded 1,200. We have received many positive comments from parents such as, "Since joining the Japanese study class, my child has learned and memorized a lot of proverbs", "My child can now write hiragana and she writes Japanese letters to me" and "It is a great opportunity to learn Japanese while having fun in an English speaking environment.

In Japanese language classes, children learn a variety of words through exciting conversations with other children. **Increasing the vocabulary of the native language in early childhood is useful for learning foreign languages.** Keep writing about what you think and share your experiences and impressions.

The award-winning works are also posted on our Instagram. Please scan the QR code to visit the posted page.



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【Picture Diary Section - Grand Prize】  
S.K.(Yokohama School・K1)

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【Composition Section - Grand Prize】  
M.T.(Yao School・K3)

## 【入賞者一覧】



【Picture Diary Section - Grand Prize】  
S.K.(Yokohama School・K1)



【Composition Section - Grand Prize】  
M.T.(Yao School・K3)

### 【Picture Diary Section - First Place】

R.I.(Tokyo School・K2)

Y.K.(Yokohama School・K2)

### 【Kagayaki Prize】

Y.N.(Kobe Seaside School・K3)

K.U.(Sakai School・K3)

S.T.(Osaka Bay・K3)

T.F.(Takarazuka School・K3)

K.F.(Yokohama School・K3)

### 【Tweet Prize】

M.K's Dad(Tama Plaza School・K1)

### 【Habataki Prize】

S.O.(Nishinomiya School・K2)

I.T.(Ibaraki Saito School・K1)

R.K.(Kyoto School・K1)

J.F.(Ashiya School・K2)

Y.S.(Toyonaka School・K2)

I.W.(Toyonaka School・K2)

R.A.(Sakai School・K2)

R.M.(Kyoto School・K2)

H.H.(Fukuoka School・K2)

※"Tweet Prize" is given to a Tweet by a parent/guardian.

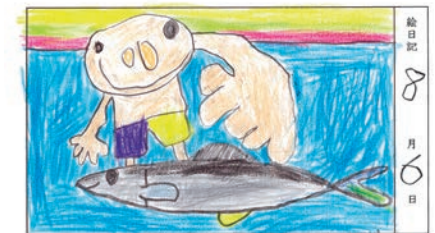
"Kinder Kids Japanese Essay Contest" is looking forward to your entries.

Not only children but also their parents are welcome to apply for the "Tweet Prize".



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【Picture Diary Section - First Place】  
R.I.(Tokyo School・K2)

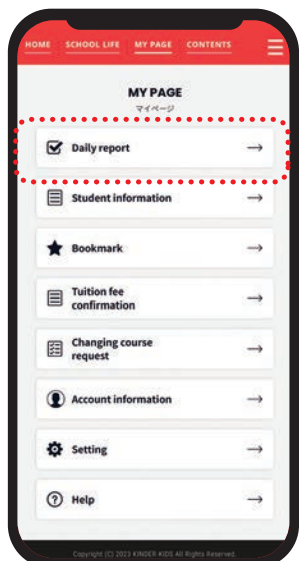


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【Picture Diary Section - First Place】  
Y.K.(Yokohama School・K2)

from April 2023

# New features will be added to Kinder+



\* If your family has enrolled only one child, the “言語 / Preferred Language” instead of the “設定 / Setting” appears.

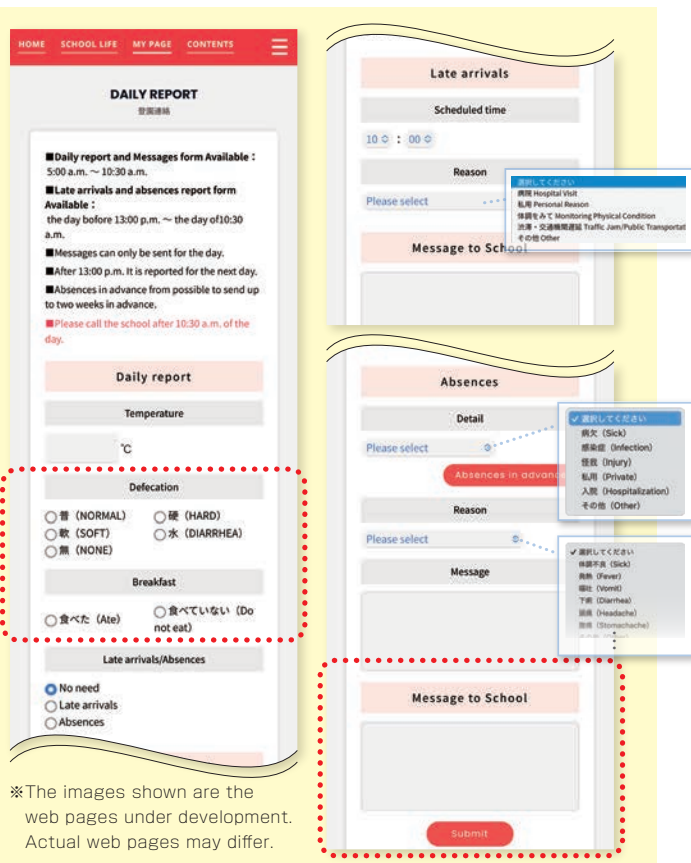


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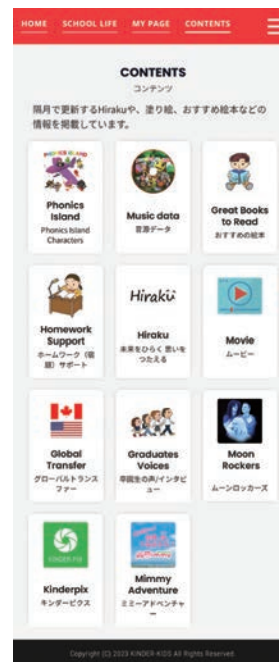
You can contact and share more information on



- ① In addition to the temperature report, the "bowel movement" and "breakfast" reports will also be posted.
- ② The new system makes your submission easier by not only inputting the message but also allowing you to choose the answer for the reason for being late.
- ③ A "Comments" section will be added. Instead of using the paper communication book, you can send your messages here.



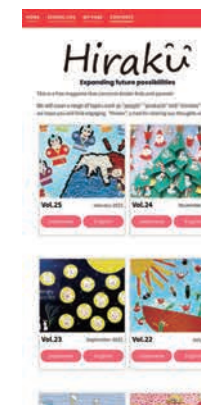
※The images shown are the web pages under development. Actual web pages may differ.



※The information on the contents page varies depending on the school or the grade level.

## Kinder+ Contents page is also available

The contents page on Kinder+ provides a lot of useful information, such as learning support videos, recommended picture books, and interviews with Kinder Kids graduates.



Free magazine for connecting parents and KINDER KIDS.  
Hiraku




Interviews with graduates about their post-graduation experiences  
Interview with Graduates



Online LIVE communication service that expands children's interests to the world and stimulates their curiosity.  
Mimmy Adventure (external website)

New content will be uploaded. Please visit and take a look!

## Starting April 2023 School's Email Delivery Tool will change

From April, the schools will stop sending emails through “cif” and start sending messages through “グループメール group mail”, a school-specific e-mail service that allows you to receive messages not only by e-mail but also through an easy-to-use application.

For more information on how to install the application and sign up to create an account, please visit Kinder+ after April.



Kinder+

※The images shown are the web pages under development. Actual web pages may differ.