

# CIS - PTSA



Summer 2010



## Newsletter Contents

- Page 1    Introductory Message
- Page 2    Summer Party
- Page 3    James and the Giant Peach
- Page 4-5    Canada Day
- Page 6    Messages from CIS Principal and PTSA Chair



## Canada Day Edition!

Welcome to summer, everyone!

We're excited to share this edition of the CIS PTSA newsletter with you. In it, you'll find photos and comments from this year's Summer Party and from the CIS Drama Club production of "James and the Giant Peach". We're also happy to be able to share some Canada Day thoughts & information.

The PTSA is excited to let you know that Omar Guaindefall, a West African drummer, will be sharing his beat percussion with us all on Canada Day (July 1) from 12:20-1:50 in the new gym. Also, people who are interested are welcome to participate in the Seibu Lions game against Nippon Hams on July 1st in Tokorozawa!

By the way, some glasses, a bracelet and 2 face towels were left at the Summer Party. If they belong to you, please claim them at the main office.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or contributions please send them to the PR committee at [nmorrison@knet.ca](mailto:nmorrison@knet.ca), [masako\\_shigeta@tulip.sannet.ne.jp](mailto:masako_shigeta@tulip.sannet.ne.jp), [ellenmoto@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenmoto@yahoo.com) or [kabochadon@ezweb.ne.jp](mailto:kabochadon@ezweb.ne.jp).

Take care over the summer and see you in September!

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## The 2010 PTSA Summer Party

~ Students, Families, Teachers and Staff Spice it up at Zest in Ebisu ~

On June 6, the PTSA held its annual Summer Party. This year the theme was “Spice it up!” Many students, families, teachers and staff took part.

Mr. Mamoru Ito, Acting Executive Director, expressed his appreciation to the PTSA, “Thanks to all of you, I was able to enjoy the nice dishes, drinks and delightful conversation with many parents and students. As for me, I moved all over the room because I wanted to talk with as many people as possible”.

Principal McCliggott commented: Zest lived up to its name as a fun and exciting place to be as the Columbia International School community came together for some wonderful food, conversation and salsa dancing. I must admit it has been a long time since I was on a dance floor and I am sure it showed. Salsa dancing is a lot harder than it looks but it was a lot of fun. I would like to thank Mrs. Ito and the PTSA executive not only for arranging such a wonderful party but also for their continuous hard work and support”.

Rob Skinner, Head Teacher, said “It was so good to see so many parents and students come out and enjoy an afternoon of great food, conversation, drinks and even a hot salsa lesson and performance. When we all get together like this it shows a strong school-community bond which helps us to communicate with each other more freely and get to know each other on a more personal level than otherwise possible during the busy school year. This kind of event really shows there are no barriers at Columbia and that indeed we are very much like a big family.”

Ayako Hama, member of the office staff, summed it up saying “Sometimes I take part in the PTSA meetings which are held once a month. I can't help but have a deep admiration for the moms in the PTSA every time I see them working so hard for the school and all of the students and to see them having so much fun while having the responsibility of many tasks. I thank the PTSA for giving me a chance to talk to parents to whom I've never spoken before and for my first ever Salsa dancing experience as well as for the spectacular live dance performance! I'm truly thankful for the PTSA members and parents for spicing up my school life with their continued commitment to the school! I hope that many parents will visit the school more often so that not only students but also parents will enjoy the international school life here at CIS!”



# James & the Giant Peach



On June 11, the CIS Drama Club presented 2 shows of James and the Giant Peach. Over 30 students and staff worked on the production for 4 months - learning lines; working on the set, lighting and stage design; rehearsing and designing costumes.



The story is about an orphan boy named James who lives with his two cruel aunts. One day, he is given some magic crocodile tongues. The tongues escape and make a peach in his yard grow to a giant size. At the same time, the insects around the peach grow to the size of humans! Together, they all escape his awful aunt and go on an adventure to find happiness.



Mr. McBurney directed the play and is extremely proud of each member of the Drama Club as well as all of the support volunteers. Aiko Shigeta was the narrator – her mother was at the play and said “I think drama is very important. It can help Japanese people express themselves.” Aiko and Juri Yamamura, who played James, agreed to be interviewed:

## Q. What was the most important thing you learned while being part of the play?

Juri: The most important thing I learned was “being responsible.” All of us had to take responsibility in memorizing lines, actions, and many other cues. Through this experience, I became more aware of individual responsibility.

Aiko: The most important thing I learned is the importance of teamwork and cooperation. This play made me recognize how crucial it is to work together and help each other out when there is a problem. As a result, there were not many major problems during the play.

## Q. How did you feel when you were doing the play?

Juri: It was actually my first experience in a school play and, at first, I felt both nervous and excited about being a part of the play. On the performance day, just before the play started, I was extremely nervous and worried about forgetting my lines. However, once it started, I could enjoy acting from my heart. It was a wonderful experience.

Aiko: I have performed in many plays in the past, but they were not as exciting as this one. At first everyone, including myself, was panicking when we were told that we would be performing in front of the whole school. On the day of the performance, to be honest, I was very nervous and a little scared as I was the first to perform but, as soon as I stepped out, my nervousness completely disappeared. In fact, I was a little sad when the play ended. However, I hope we will do another play again soon. Thank you very much Mr. McBurney!

# Canada Day!



**Eric Morrison, what do you think of when you think of Canada Day?**

*I think of getting our faces painted down at the town beach where there was a big festival every July 1. One year, the Navy had a booth and took people on a super fast boat ride on the lake. That was cool. At night, we'd go to a friend's place with a bunch of other people and have a BBQ. They lived right by the lake so when it got dark we'd use flashlights to go down the stairs to the lake and watch the fireworks over the water. That was fun!*

**The current Canadian flag was first used in 1965:**

*"The flag is the symbol of the nation's unity, for it, beyond any doubt, represents all the citizens of Canada without distinction of race, language, belief or opinion."* The Honourable Maurice Bourget, Speaker of the Senate (February 15, 1965)



## Easy & Delicious Canadian Crackle-Top Blueberry Cake (adapted from: Harrowsmith Cookbook)

### STEP 1

2 cups blueberries  
1/4 cup lemon juice

- Put in the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan.

### STEP 2

2/3 cup sugar  
1/4 cup butter  
1 cup flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1/4 tsp salt  
1/2 cup milk

- Make a batter (cream the butter and sugar and then gently mix in the dry ingredients alternately with milk – do not overmix). Spread the batter over the blueberries (try not to mix it into blueberries).

### STEP 3

3/4 cup sugar  
1 Tbsp cornstarch

- Mix these together and sprinkle it evenly over batter (don't mix the sugar/cornstarch into the

### STEP 4

1 cup boiling water

- Pour over the ingredients in the pan making sure all of the sugar/cornstarch mix is wet.
- Bake at 375F for about 40 minutes. Let cool.



*100 years after it was first sung, "O Canada!" became the country's national anthem in 1980:*

### O Canada!

O Canada! Our home  
and native land!

True patriot love in all  
thy sons command.

With glowing hearts we  
see thee rise,

The True North strong  
and free!

From far and wide, O  
Canada,

We stand on guard for  
thee.

God keep our land  
glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on  
guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on  
guard for thee.

### Continued

**Canada Day** celebrates Canada's "birthday". In 2010, Canada will be 143 years old. Queen Elizabeth II plans to be there to help Canadians celebrate this year. Compared with Japan, Canada **as a country** is just a baby!

On July 1, 1867, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the "Province of Canada" (later known as Quebec and Ontario) joined together to form the "Dominion" of Canada. This Dominion was a country with strong ties to Britain. Until 1982, Canada Day was called "Dominion Day". Canada truly became an independent country in 1982 when its "constitution came home" from Britain. In other words, when the British government no longer had to "rubber stamp" (symbolically approve) Canadian laws.

Though Canada didn't become an official country until 1867, the stories of the land and the people who lived there go back thousands of years. Before the European explorers arrived in the 1500's and discovered a land rich with resources, Aboriginal people lived in the land which became known as Canada. The word Canada actually comes from the Aboriginal word "Kanata" which means land, settlement or village.

Canadians didn't really celebrate the holiday until Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1967. At that time, parades, concerts and fireworks began to be held in Ottawa. In 1982, Dominion Day officially became Canada Day and the government began to sponsor celebrations all across the country.

Most communities across the country host events such as pancake breakfasts, parades, carnivals, festivals, barbecues, picnics, air shows, fireworks and open-air music concerts as well as ceremonies for new Canadian citizens. There are lots of Canadian flags flying, people singing the national anthem and wearing red and white clothing. Some people paint their faces red and white.

## Message from the Principal, Barrie McCliggott

The 2010/11 PTSA is excited about the many new challenges and opportunities ahead as we start another successful year at Columbia. The PTSA is the catalyst for creating a great school community and I am a great believer in community. In today's world often the neighborhood communities are not the support networks that they once were. I think schools now need to take on this role and function more as community centers. I remember a quote I once heard that I would like to share with you. There may be only one child in a community but it takes the whole community to raise that child. It is through the continued positive support and hard work of the PTSA executive, and all of you parents both inside and outside of the school, along with the hard work and dedication of the teachers and support staff, and your wonderful children that Columbia has become a very positive and supportive school community. The PTSA continues to contribute in so many positive ways to creating a safe, friendly and successful school community such as contributing to the publication of school newsletters, planning and hosting social events, donations towards library books and other resources, scholarships, supporting extra-curricular activities, Christmas parties, "speak English" activities, congratulatory messages, school guidance and safety projects and many other worthwhile activities. One of the best ways to support your child's success is to become involved in the shared partnership of the PTSA. All of us working together will continue to make Columbia a great place to be and study. See you at the next PTSA activity!



## Message from the PTSA Chair, Miki Ito

My name is Miki Ito and it is my honor to continue as Columbia PTSA chairperson this school year (2010-11). It has already been 7 years since my eldest daughter enrolled in Columbia International School (CIS). She entered when she was in grade 1 and is now in grade 7. I have seen the school develop significantly over the past 7 years and it is continuing to grow and evolve. It is a pleasure to continue as the chairperson of the CIS PTSA - an alma mater for the children who have graduated from this school. I am hoping that the PTSA will support CIS and the school community and I will do my best to make this come true.

PTSA stands for "Parent Teacher Staff Association." As indicated by the name, the relationship between the school and the parents is very close. We are able to put plans into action because of the support and enthusiasm of the teachers, office staff and, of course, the members of the PTSA. The PTSA is a member of the CIS family. Therefore, I am hoping to encourage more people to become involved in the activities. My aim is to encourage not only the children but also the parents to enjoy life at CIS.

On April 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), a general meeting took place in the school gymnasium which included new members of the PTSA. More recently, a summer party was held at ZEST in Ebisu where the atmosphere was very calm and friendly and where everybody had an enjoyable time. At this party, the parents, teachers, and staff enjoyed the opportunity to chat about themselves and their children's school life.

The PTSA wants to support the school as well as the children who are walking towards their futures. The members of the PTSA therefore have a very important role to play. As I mentioned earlier, I am hoping that parents will participate in future school activities and will share their insights and skills with the school community. As there is a limit to any one individual's knowledge, I would like to make a motto, "Friendly PTSA", to encourage every member to share their thoughts and experiences with the CIS community. Moreover, from this year, I will be asking for more parents to volunteer to become members of the PTSA. Please help us support both the school in creating a safe school environment as well as the children so that they can experience an exciting school life. Thanks again for your kind support and understanding. We hope to see all of the families at upcoming events!