



"Japan ASCD serves a diverse educational community enriching teaching, learning and cross-cultural communication."

-Japan ASCD Mission Statement

April 2008

Japan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Just-In-Time-Technology TIOM - A Smashing Success

Meagan Pavey, Japan ASCD International School Site Representative Liaison

The Japan ASCD community spirit was alive and well during the Just-In-Time-Technology workshop at the American School in Japan on April 26th. What started out as a small Try-It-On-Monday (TIOM) weekend workshop grew to become a cornucopia of professional development offerings, all centered on the theme of using technology to enhance teaching and learning.

Technology TIOM continued on page 2.



Participants mingle in the lobby of ASIJ prior to the Just-in-Time Technology TIOM.



President's Message

Susan Hagenson, Japan ASCD President

In my last letter as President, I'd like to reflect on my involvement with Japan ASCD in hopes it will similarly inspire some of you to take that first big step. My association with Japan ASCD began eight years ago, when a colleague asked if I would take over the site rep duties at our school. I agreed, not really knowing what to expect since I had not previously attended any Japan ASCD events. I soon realized that might be a pre-requisite of the position! Thereafter, I became a 'regular' at the Try-It-On-Monday workshops, Special Events and Spring President's Message continued on page 3.

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Mark Your Calendars!!

Dr. Carol Ann Tomlinson Special Event
Assessment to Support Student Growth
September 20, 2008
The New Sanno Hotel, Tokyo
Visit www.jascd.org for more information

Japan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Technology TIOM continued from page 1.

Nobody anticipated that so many members of our community would generously offer their experience and expertise via one hour workshops. In the end we were able to offer a menu of 25 sessions geared to a wide range of interests, subject areas and skill levels. And of course, as the saying goes, "if you build it, they will come". One-hundred ten participants, in addition to our 26 presenters, signed up for the event, coming from as far away as Kobe and Sendai. The ASIJ middle school was packed with people, everyone enjoying the refreshments sponsored by Apple Japan, playing with the Macs and iPods that Apple sent along, picking up as many Logitech freebies that they could carry and connecting with colleagues in the three sessions they attended and over lunch. The technology directors ended the day with a round table discussion, in which they were able to discuss the challenges and successes in each other's schools as well as develop a network of support. (It is amusing to think that that was the only session that did not have a gadget, machine, laptop, website or piece of software as the focus.) Even at a tech conference, face to face talking was still a central part. It was said in the welcome at the beginning, that in the world of international teaching, which can feel very isolated at times, it is wonderful to have opportunities such as these events that bring educators together to teach each other, network, see how others are tackling similar challenges, and celebrate each other's successes. To all of the presenters and participants, Japan ASCD sends you its sincere gratitude for taking your time and energy to be a part of this wonderful event. To the technology staff at ASIJ, thank you for the tremendous amount of time you put into supporting this event. To see the array of sessions that were offered and the resources shared by some presenters please visit the Japan ASCD web page www.jascd.org . If you missed the event this year, rest assured that there will be more in the future. The feedback on that was loud and clear. ☺

Snapshots from Just-In-Time Technology TIOM April 26, 2008



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President's Message continued from page 1.

Conferences, and after several years was asked to consider serving on the board.

I agreed, again not really knowing what to expect. After sitting in on a board meeting, my head was spinning, due to the enthusiasm, passion and commitment that emanated from the board and I knew I wanted to experience more. As International Site Representative Liaison, I was in contact with over 50 site reps and enjoyed the interaction with so many members especially when I was able to put faces with names at our events.

Shortly after that, I was asked to run for president. Again, I agreed (and as you may have figured out by now) didn't really know what to expect! After a year in the president-elect position, I spent the next year as president. I then agreed to

train to move into the treasurer's position, but that dream was somewhat thwarted when the next president took a job outside Japan in mid-August!

ASCD is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year, and Japan ASCD is proud to be an affiliate. I, in turn, am proud to be affiliated with Japan ASCD. Although our board is small in number, due to everyone's willingness to roll up their sleeves and pitch in with whatever needs to be done, our accomplishments rival those of much larger affiliates. I have grown a great deal from my involvement with the organization and highly urge everyone to consider getting more involved with Japan ASCD. Who knows, site rep today, president tomorrow...it could happen to you, too!



Spring Conference 2008

Building our Future: Thoughtful Classrooms Creating Thoughtful Learners.

By Michael Bird, 2008 Spring Conference Chair

Japan ASCD's Spring Conference 2008 has come and gone and we would like to thank all participants for the continued support and interest in this fabulous annual event.

This year's conference featured Dr. Giselle Martin-Kniep enlightening and motivating us to develop professional learning communities. Dr. Rheta DeVries had participants playing with marbles and bubbles whilst developing a constructivist approach to the early childhood classroom. Professor Yasuhiko Tohsaku and Noriko Vergel combined to give motivating and informative experiences for Japanese language educators. And, Patty Butz saved the day filling in at the last minute to offer our participants the chance to engage in the Socratic Method. We have had tremendous feedback from participants of each group and are proud to have been able to connect educators here in Japan with such quality and diverse professional development opportunities.

Japan ASCD would also like to thank the numerous volunteers: our site representatives, student performers, and prize donors as their efforts contributed so much to making this year's conference so successful.

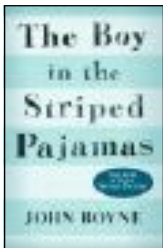
Dr. Carl Ann Tomlinson Special Event Coming in September!

World renowned-leader on Differentiated Instruction, Dr. Carol Ann Tomlinson will present on Assessment to Support Student Growth: The Link Between Assessment and Instruction on Saturday, **September 20, 2008** at The New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo. Dr. Tomlinson's career as an educator includes 21 years as a public school teacher, including 12 years as a program administrator of special services for struggling and advanced learners. She was Virginia's Teacher of the Year in 1974. More recently, she has been a faculty member at the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education, where she is currently Professor of Educational Leadership, Foundations and Policy. Also at U.Va., she is Co-Director of the University's Institutes on Academic Diversity. Carol was named Outstanding Professor at Curry School of Education in 2004. Special interests throughout her career have included curriculum and instruction for struggling learners and advanced learners, effective instruction in heterogeneous settings, and encouraging creative and critical thinking in the classroom. More information and registration details for Dr. Tomlinson's presentation will be found at www.jascd.org in the month of May.

Katie's Corner

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

By John Boyne



The Boy in the Striped Pajamas is a Holocaust tale that will linger in your mind. The story is written from the point of view of a very naïve nine year old boy,

Bruno. He lives in a beautiful home in Berlin with strict parents. Bruno isn't sure what his father does, but it is a very special job that needs doing. His father wears a fantastic uniform and men and women in uniform were often coming to their house. As a matter of fact his father's employer, the Fury, and a blond woman had come to dinner recently. The Fury had a very important job for Bruno's father. Now Bruno must leave his wonderful home in Berlin and move to "Out-With". He moves to a not so nice house where within fifty feet of

the house is a huge fence. The people inside the fence wear striped pajamas and caps. Bruno doesn't understand this. He is vaguely and uneasily aware of something being wrong. He decides to find out more about the people in the striped pajamas. He secretly goes on an exploration of the fence and meets Shmeul who amazingly has his same birth date. Bruno shares his thoughts and feelings with Shmuel and some of his food. Bruno knows instinctively that he must keep this friendship a secret from his father. I'll stop there, because to tell you more would spoil the story.

This book is written for 9th grade and up, however I think it could easily be used in middle school to begin addressing the Holocaust. The young reader is able to explore the Holocaust through Bruno's innocent eyes and simple language. At some point while I was reading this book, I thought, how could any child be that innocent and then I think about the nine year olds I teach and see the truth.

Japan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Recalling the Future

Thomas Amend, DoDDS Site Representative Liaison

Many years ago, I was present at a monthly department meeting of the faculty of a major American state university. These meetings had grown so contentious and hostile that an outside review board was eventually brought in to mediate the conflicts. At the meeting for which I was present, one of the most senior and well-respected professors in the department arrived late. Excusing himself he said, "Forgive me, Gentlemen, please, for being late, but these meetings are far more memorable in hind sight than they are in foresight." Some in the room laughed a little at this pay-off line, and it did serve to lower the temperature a bit.

I thought of this witty remark recently while I was in the middle of a Japan ASCD board meeting, but for a very positive reason. I suddenly realized that the Japan ASCD board meetings are the very opposite of the inferno of strife and tension that those university meetings were years ago. And, as a result, remembering the next meeting of Japan ASCD Board has always been easier than remembering the previous one. Foresight, in this case, is easier to recall than hindsight.

Even as I write this article, I can easily remember when our next meeting is and what we will be doing and deciding. But, I have to scratch my head and think a little to recall these things about the previous meetings. That is the way it should be! I have trouble recalling the last Japan ASCD board meeting because we met and smoothly conducted the business at hand in an orderly and efficient manner. Unlike those old university department meetings, at Japan ASCD meetings there is no yelling, no strife, and nobody with knots in their stomach. I can easily recall, however, the next Japan ASCD board meeting and its order of business. Why? Because I'm looking forward to it not dreading it; and its purpose is so easy to support and enjoy. As a returning board member of Japan ASCD, I can attest to how enjoyable it is to be productive when the easiest meeting to remember is the next one!

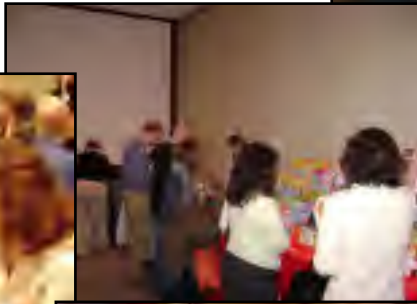


The 2007 Japan ASCD board debriefs with the 2008 Spring conference Presenters

2007-2008 Japan ASCD Board

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President Elect, Cris Lozon
Secretary, Mary Beth Luttrell
Treasurer, Chris Smith/Susan Hagenson
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TIOM Coordinator, Jamie Green
Membership, Katherine Straub
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Int'l Site Rep Liaison, Meagan Pavey
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PR and Outreach, Marion Yanase
Webmaster, Chris Smith
Professional Resources, Mike Adair
Newsletter, Patti J. Fitts

Spring Conference
Memories 2008



See You at Next Year's Spring Conference March 6th & 7th 2009!!!