

# The Yuuyake Shimbun

Strengthening the Bonds of the Community

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## Consul General Okabe Hosts International School Students and Families



Consul General of Japan, Mr. Takamichi Okabe, recently returned a favor extended him by The International School Students, who had invited him to school's inaugural Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival) in February. The Consul General thoroughly enjoyed the festival and was very impressed with the student's level of fluency in the Japanese language. He invited the students and their parents to his official residence on Sunday May 8.

This invitation to his residence was his way to thank The International School, and to encourage its students to pursue learning the Japanese language and culture. Many fun activities were enjoyed at the event, including Hina Ningyo doll and Yoroi armor displays, an Uchikake Kimono to try on, a slide show about children's life in Japan, and Kid's Karaoke.

The children had great fun singing Karaoke, and the consul general himself manned the laser-disc himself and seemed very pleased with the show as he smiled and hummed along.

One parent of a student at The International School who has attended the school less than one year commented to her husband during the Karaoke, "Did you ever think a year ago you would be watching your son reading hiragana, katakana, kanji from a screen and singing at the Consul general's house?"

The International School provides a multicultural environment in which children are fully immersed in Chinese, Japanese and Spanish language and culture. Children become fluent in another language, at home in other cultures, and engaged in math, science, social studies and arts. The International School was founded in 1990 and today educates nearly 400 students. TIS is now an authorized IB World School, the first school in the Pacific Northwest authorized to offer the Primary Years Programme.