



POPPINS EDU-CARE NEWS

Issue 2 | July 2010



Founder / President
Poppins Corporation, Japan

MISSION STATEMENT

Poppins Corporation is now in its 24th year!

This spring Poppins Corporation grew to employ over 1400 staff and our Nursery Schools grew to 80 in number. In June Poppins organised its 1st International Symposium and in July, to mark 24 years of service to children and efforts to provide a **quality, fresh approach** to edu-care, Poppins opened Active Learning School in Tokyo Midtown. In July it was a great honour for me to introduce the work of Poppins Corporation to Prime Minister Naoto Kan, when he visited *Kuukids*, ALBION's on site nursery school operated by Poppins Corporation.

Poppins Plans Perfection.

中村 紀子 *Noriko Nakamura*

Noriko Nakamura BA (Honours)

New Japanese Prime Minister visits Nursery School operated by Poppins



The Prime Minister with
Mrs Nakamura and Kuukids staff

Prime Minister Naoto Kan visited ALBION's (ALBION Co., Ltd.) on site nursery school, *Kuukids* operated by Poppins in July to see the support given to employees with young children; supporting child-raising is one of the new Government's 5 pledges.

Poppins Corporation has an extensive programme of Nurseries in Industry and one of these is *Kuukids*, visited by the Prime Minister.

Mrs Nakamura was pleased to explain to Prime Minister Kan Poppins edu-care philosophy and show him the facilities at *Kuukids*. Prime Minister Kan enjoyed meeting the children and showed skills in caring for babies!



The Prime Minister with a baby

NEWS HEADLINES

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FROM THE EDITOR



Issue 2 introduces recent, exciting developments during the last 6 months as Poppins Corporation continues to grow.

If your organisation or you personally would like to be added to our regular mailing list, please send mailing details to edu-carenews@poppins.co.jp

新 藤 麻子 *Maiko Todoroki*

Maiko Todoroki MBA (Insead)
Director International Division

POPPINS CORPORATION NEWS

1. Poppins 1st International Symposium

In June PIICS (Poppins International Institute for Child Sciences) arranged an International Symposium at the Fukutake Hall on The University of Tokyo Campus inviting over 300 Doctors, Professors of Early Education and Nursery School Directors, Owners and Teachers to attend. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Ben Mardell of Harvard Graduate School of Education Project Zero Research Group.



Keynote Speech by Dr. Ben Mardell

The Symposium was divided into 3 sections

Section 1 Keynote Speech *The Power of Documentation and Group Learning: Visible Learning, Visible Learner* by Dr. Ben Mardell.

Section 2 Research Report by PIICS supported by Dr. Ben Mardell presented by Dr. Kiyomi Akita of The University of Tokyo.

Section 3 Panel Discussion led by Dr. Kiyomi Akita.



Discussing documentation at a Nursery School



At Poppins Head Quarters

During his stay in Tokyo Dr. Mardell visited three Poppins Nursery Schools to discuss methods of documentation with their Directors and staff. On his final day in Tokyo Dr. Mardell attended a meeting at Poppins Corporation Head Quarters to discuss future plans for research. <http://www.poppins.co.jp/english/training>



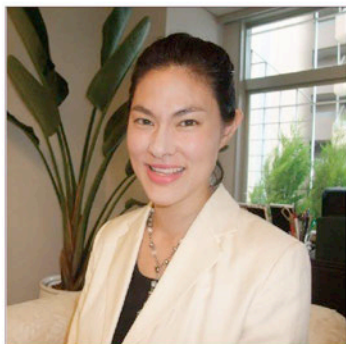
Mrs. Nakamura with Dr. Ben Mardell

Comment from Dr. Ben Mardell

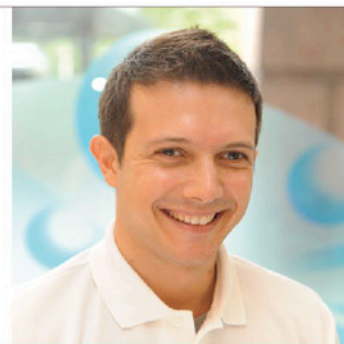
During my trip I was able to visit three Poppins Schools and was very pleased to see how engaged the teachers were and how happy the children are. I want to share one memory that embodies the high degree of professionalism among the staff that I observed. In one school I watched in the five-year-old classroom as the children worked in small groups mixing paint to produce different colors. I focused my attention on a group of three girls and a boy who was clearly enjoyed this activity, talking happily to each other and sustaining their attention on the task at hand.

Later, I shared my impressions with the school director who commented how this was an important breakthrough for the boy at the table, who previously had not participated in painting activities. I was struck by this comment. The school has over 200 students, so to know this detail about one of the students is very impressive. Knowing who the children are—their interests, strengths and relationships—is fundamental for creating a school that supports children's learning and development. That the staff is aware of this level of detail about an individual child speaks of a school where the children are known, thought about and well cared for.

2. Poppins Active Learning School opened in Tokyo Midtown



Mia Ichiki
Principal



Dario Bergamini
Vice-Principal

Poppins Active Learning School opened in July. The culmination of 24 years of Poppins' edu-care philosophy, Poppins Active Learning School is inspired by educational methods from Reggio Emilio in Italy and Dr. Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences Theory from Harvard Graduate School of Education. The curriculum is developed to promote children's "active learning" by offering the most suitable and stimulating environment for young learners.

Poppins Active Learning School is led by an international team headed by Mia Ichiki as Principal. Mia has a BA in Cognitive Science (Brown University, USA) and Knowledge Creation (Hitotsubashi University, Japan), and has experience teaching children in both the US and Japan.



School opening event : Recital by Yukio Yokoyama

With a total capacity of 50 students, Poppins Active Learning School provides 4 classes based on age: Infant (0 – 8 months), Toddler (9 – 24 months), Preschool Junior (25 – 36 months), and Preschool Senior (over 36 months). Each class is led by a Mentor, responsible for documentation of each child's learning, and assistant teachers. In addition, all programmes are led by experts in their respective fields.



The special Life Saving Programme



The Maths Programme



The Art and Sensory Programme

A main feature of the curriculum is the Kid's Life Saving programme developed by Poppins and the NPO Japan Life Saving Association especially for this school. The programme teaches young children a respect for life and the skills necessary to protect themselves, and others around them, from accident and injury. The curriculum also includes Active Music, Active Art and Sensory Experiences, Active Japanese Language and Active Maths.



Children in the Midtown garden with the Vice Principal

Located in the centre of Tokyo Midtown in Roppongi, Poppins Active Learning School has six main classrooms overlooking an urban park. Special features of the facility include a "Smart Board", an interactive white board, a "Discovery Board" where children display and share their work, a "Sensory Room" in which the five senses are stimulated, a Steinway & Son's grand piano, and an "Observation Room" from which teachers and parents can observe the children without interfering in their activities.

Poppins Edu-School also moved to these classrooms from July. In order to make the most of the facilities, in addition to the standard school programmes, Poppins offers additional evening and weekend programmes and events headed by Dario Bergamini.

For further details, email activelearning@poppins.co.jp
<http://www.poppins.co.jp/english/activelearning>

3. Poppins Corporation employs 200 new staff

In April, Poppins Corporation President and Board Members held an official Ceremony to welcome new employees at one of the biggest Hotels in Tokyo. After congratulating them on their appointment, President Nakamura explained Poppins Corporation's philosophy, code of behaviour and responsibilities to society. Poppins new staff were then given the opportunity to ask questions to the President, which was uncommon in such ceremonies in Japan. The Ceremony closed with high expectations for the future of Poppins Corporation.



New Poppins staff

4. Additional New Openings

- Poppins Nursery School Centre Minami, Yokohama
- Poppins Nursery School Sakura Shinmachi and Play Group for families, Tokyo
- Poppins Nursery School Musashino Towers, Tokyo
- Poppins Nursery School Shirokanedai, Tokyo
- Poppins Nursery School Marunouchi, Tokyo
- The Sakura Nursery (Japan Women's University), Tokyo
- Fujimi Wanpaku Hiroba (children's recreational club for up to 18yrs), Tokyo



Poppins Nursery School Marunouchi

5. Summer Fun at Poppins Keiki Hawaii

Poppins Corporation aims to create a quality, fresh approach in early edu-care and this can be seen in the fun approach at Poppins Keiki Hawaii in Honolulu. This Summer Programme includes 2 special events Bruce Shimabukuro's Ukulele Mini-Concert and Eggs'n Thing Experience (a popular pancake house in both Hawaii and Japan). For further details or reservations, email Hawaii@poppins.co.jp <http://www.poppins.co.jp/english/hawaii>



Cooking programme



Enjoying the beach

6. Poppins International Pre-School (PIPS) 1 – 3 years



After another successful year at PIPS, the older children (3year olds) have now moved on to International Schools in Tokyo or in cities in their new postings with confidence, feeling 'I can'. Staff at PIPS aim to prepare children for their move to bigger Nursery Schools making sure that they will have confidence to enjoy their new school environment and the new challenges. The new academic year at PIPS opens on September 6th. For further details, email pips@poppins.co.jp <http://www.poppins.co.jp/pips>