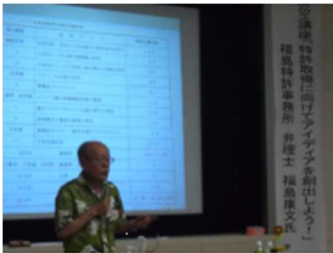


2015.06. SSH Lecture “Let’s create ideas to acquire a patent!”

On Wednesday, June 3rd, Mr. Yasufumi Fukushima, a patent lawyer for the Fukushima Patent Attorney's Office, came to our school and talked about patents in our SSH exploration class. He brought actual products which were developed and patented. He also taught us a lot about patents; such as differences between a patent and a utility model. There were even examples from the SSH program that resulted in a patent application from students' research. This lecture's content was essential and very meaningful for students who are trying to become scientists.



2015.06. SSH Fun at Kyuyo Festival!

On June 13th and 14th, we had scientific experiment classes in the Science Laboratory in collaboration with the SS and Earth Science Clubs as part of the Kyuyo School Festival. These classes included students' presentations, simple scientific experiments and attractions. All the explanations and experiments are conducted by the students, which amused and interested a lot of people. We had 70 visitors on the final day!

We set up several booths for experiments and exhibitions: the experiments on liquidation, Board of Seishonagon's Wisdom, soma cube, the mechanism of a twister, Lego blocks, microscopes, fluorescence of chlorophyll, the color variation of the deep red potato liquid, the air gun, and so on. Visitors enjoyed many experiments and exhibitions ranging from simple to complex. This event was a big success because it gave elementary and junior high school students, as well as their parents, an opportunity to see the results of the SSH program.



Students' Comments

- We were glad that more people were interested in science and math than we had expected. Planning and preparing for the event was hard, but it was a good experience for us!

- I had a very good time. Some children said, "This is the experiment of XX, isn't it?" and enjoyed the experiment. Also, many people were surprised about our experiments and commented on how they liked them.

- I was busy on that day because I had to do things for my homeroom class as well. However, I became more excited about the experiments as I communicated with the visitors.

2015.07. SSH Steering Committee Meeting

On Monday, July 13th, from 13:30-15:30, the first SSH steering committee meeting was held in the SS laboratory room of Kyuyo High School. Members of the committee, including professors from the University of the Ryukyus and OIST, as well as teachers from the Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education and Koyo High School, met to discuss Kyuyo High School's SSH program.

Q: What was discussed at the meeting?

A: We talked about the SSH curriculum and instructional methods, especially for math and science education. We received some advice and evaluations from the college professors. We also discussed what we did last year, our plans for the current year and progress of the program.



2015.07. Science Dialogue

Dr. La Mason, a special researcher from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science gave a lecture to students in the International English Course. Dr. Mason is originally from England and is an expert in international politics, having researched it previously at the University of Tohoku. He has been studying at Ryukyu University for a year from last year to this August. The contents of the lecture including an introduction of his home country, motivation for becoming a researcher, why he came to Okinawa, the need for and meaningfulness of research, and the importance of thinking logically and critically. Specifically, he spoke to us about the importance of Okinawa from various viewpoints such as politics, economy, culture, and environment. Finally, he gave a powerful message to all Kyuyo high school students: "Question Everything!! Doubt is the start of learning. The more questions you ask, the more you will understand what is really happening in Okinawa. The more you understand, the more influence you can have. Believe that you have the power to create a better future."



Students' Comments

- I felt that we need to think more deeply about the new base in Henoko. And I learned that the issue is not well known outside of Okinawa.
- I thought that we must think more about politics since it affects many things, and also more about the future of Japan and Okinawa. I'd like to actively participate in politics.
- Attending today's lecture, I realized that it is important to understand what is happening in Okinawa. From now on, I will think about public opinions more critically.
- I was happy to learn things about Okinawa that I did not know. It was more interesting to listen to it in English than Japanese. I would like hear more opinions from people with different points of view.

2015.07. SSH Physics

The first SSH physics lecture was about how to select experimentation methods. The topic of the experiment was "Scientifically analyzing your own gait." Have you ever timed your exact walking speed? Many of us may have timed our long and short distance runs in PE class, but when it comes to walking speed, few have probably tried to. In this class, we had to think about ways to accurately measure things. We did it individually, in pairs or in groups. We also had to figure out the tools needed for the experiments. Usually, in a regular science class, methods and tools are prepared by the teachers. However, it is important that we be able to prepare all the necessary materials for the experiments we are going to do by ourselves. Through this class, we were able to learn how to prepare for experiments.

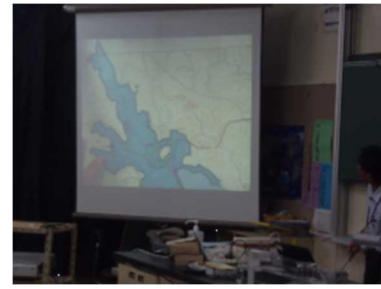


Students' Comments

- We discussed how to find the speed of a person's movements and came up with a variety of ideas.
- It is difficult to think of an experimentation method and present it in public. But thanks to the experience, we thought we would be able to do the experiment more accurately.
- We were surprised that there were many methods to express human walking. We had fun because we could discuss many ways to do it.
- There were many ways. Each person had different ideas and it was surprising.

2015.07. Tsunami Evacuation Simulation

On July 14th and 23rd, staff members from the Okinawa Meteorological Observatory came to our school. Along with Mr. Nagai, they did a tsunami evacuation simulation during earth science class. Students were asked to simulate what they would do if they were near the ocean when a strong earthquake hits and a tsunami warning is announced. The students enjoyed the active discussion and critical thinking.



Students' Comments

- It was good to have gotten away and survived. Also the activity gave us the feeling of being in a real disaster.
- It was a new experience for me because I had never done a simulation activity like this and my house is located in high above sea level.
- Not knowing how to escape, I was confused. I didn't know it how much time was needed to escape. But thanks to this activity, I understand more about tsunamis.

2015.07. Science English Lab

After school on July 24, the Science English Lab was held in the SS Lab room in our school. 30 students did chemical experiments in English with 4 native speakers. There were many experiments, ranging from standard to unusual. There were experiments about alcohol tolerance, making heat packs, making ice cream using liquid nitrogen and so on. It was difficult for us to do the experiments without both English and science skills, but many students enjoyed doing many kinds of experiments.



Students' Comments

- It was very exciting and fun to do experiments in English.
- I could express my opinion and communicate with my friends in English.
- It was so much fun! Thank you for holding such an event.
- I want to join a program like this again. It was very fun for me!
- Today's experiments are familiar to us. I think our lives are connected to science!
- It was difficult for me to speak English, so I want to improve my English!
- It was really good because I could learn science and English at the same time.
- English only activities are very difficult, but I became more and more interested in English!