Health Update 4/1

Dear OCSI Parents and Guardians,

We hope your family is enjoying a safe and healthy spring break. The Leadership Team continues to monitor the evolving situation and will make a decision regarding returning to school next week. Our goal is to communicate to parents about this on Thursday 4/9. The OCSI Business Office is closed until 4/13; please contact the office email (info@ocsi.org) if you need anything before then.

Sincerely,
Megan Roe
Head of School
March 27, 2020

Dear OCSI Parents and Guardians,

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation carefully and we are considering the following: the confirmation of new cases in Okinawa this week, the potential for community spread, escalation of confirmed cases in Japan as a whole, and increasing US military restrictions in Okinawa. Considering OCSI as a unique international community, we have made the difficult decision to close our campus next week from Tuesday (3/31) through Friday (4/3). This campus closure is precautionary, as there are no confirmed or suspected cases within or connected to the OCSI community.

This will add an additional four days to the students’ spring break. Students will have no school 3/31-4/10. We strongly encourage all OCSI families to practice social distancing during this time so we can do our part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Okinawa. Please join us in praying for the safety and health of our community and this island we call home.

The OCSI board requires 175 instructional days each year, however the OCSI calendar reflects 180 days. The additional five days are built in as a reserve for emergency school closures due to typhoons, earthquakes, or health emergencies. This school year, one (1) of these reserve days was used on the Monday prior to the start of online school (3/2). We will now need to utilize the four (4) additional reserve days to accommodate the spring break extension. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work together to navigate a very difficult set of circumstances. We fully anticipate being able to return to regular school on April 13, however, in the case that this is not possible we will begin online school on that date.

Monday (3/30) will be used to help students finish 3rd quarter well, however, no new material will be presented. If your family should choose not to send your children to school on Monday, please complete the Notification form on the OCSI website and contact your child's teachers.

OCSI 理事会規則では年間授業日数は180日となっていますが、台風や地震、その他の事由で休校になる場合に備え、実際には180日で組まれています。今学年度はその予備5日間を、オンライン授業準備に1日あて(3/2)、残りの4日間をこの春休みの延長(3/31 - 4/3)に充てます。この授業の日を共に乗り越えて行きましょう。春休みが明ける4月13日には予定通り授業再開できることを期待していますが、もし不可能な場合はこの日からオンラインスクールを開始します。

Sincerely,
Megan Roe
Head of School
March 25, 2020

Dear OCSI Parents and Guardians,

We continue to monitor the situation in Okinawa carefully, and in response to recommendations from the Japanese Ministry of Education (MEXT) we will implement the following guidelines immediately to ensure the health and safety of our community as a whole. Thank you for taking the time to understand these guidelines, we truly appreciate your understanding, help, and support.

1. All parents will be required to take their child’s temperature before sending them to school. If they have a fever of 37.5 (99.5) or higher, they must stay home from school. Pre-K & K teachers will check temperatures again in the classroom and grades 1-5 will be checked during lunch. All staff will take their temperature prior to coming to school. Staff with a temperature of 37.5 (99.5) or higher will be asked to return home.
2. All homeroom teachers will provide instruction on handwashing and cough etiquette.
3. OCSI maintains a working relationship with a local physician who advises OCSI on their health and safety policies and decisions, as needed.
4. OCSI’s contracted cleaning company will continue to provide increased disinfection and cleaning of commonly touched areas (doorknobs, railings, light switches, etc.). Teachers will regularly disinfect their classrooms. Staff will regularly disinfect their work area and the buses are being cleaned/disinfected daily.
5. All homeroom teachers will provide instruction on healthy habits to avoid infection.
6. Classrooms and buses will ensure proper ventilation by opening the windows: cafeteria windows will be opened during lunch. Students will be encouraged to have ample space around them for working by separating desks or spreading students out as much as possible. Chapel services for grades 1-12 will be canceled until further notice. Elementary students will not line up in the breezeway in the morning or after recess.
7. In the case that school closure becomes necessary, online schooling will resume until further notice. Teachers will be ready to implement online schooling immediately, if necessary.
8. Ceremonies and large school events will be adjusted to allow for increased space between people and will not allow for guests from outside of the OCSI community. Hand sanitizer and masks will be available at the entrance of all large events.
9. After school clubs and sports that are outside will continue as planned until further notice: those that are inside will be conducted in rooms with good ventilation and enough space to spread out. Any materials used will be regularly disinfected. After school care will continue as planned, however, students will be reminded to wash hands regularly and the after school teacher will check the temperatures of students directly after school.
10. School lunch seating has been adjusted so there is more space between students and they are not facing each other. Cezars staff will continue to disinfect regularly and wear masks while preparing and serving food: cafeteria windows are opened for increased ventilation.

Sincerely,

Megan Roe,
Head of School
March 23, 2020

Dear OCSI Parents and Guardians,

We continue to monitor the situation in Okinawa carefully, especially in light of the news from this past weekend. Currently there are no recommendations from local government authorities for us to make further adjustments to our program here at OCSI. We know the situation can change quickly and we are ready to respond to any or all recommendations to ensure the health and safety of our community.

Each OCSI family is unique and if your family decides not to send your child to school this week, please notify the school. If you have concerns about absences or makeup work, please contact your principal and we will do our best to accommodate your situation.

If there are further confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Okinawa or we receive additional recommendations from relevant authorities, we are considering a two-week spring break. This has not been decided and will only be implemented if necessary for the safety and well-being of the OCSI community.

As a continued reminder...

- Keep your child home from school if they have any cold or flu symptoms and for at least 24 hours after the fever has gone down.
- Notify the school and seek medical care if you have concerns regarding exposure to COVID-19 (coronavirus) by any member of your family.
- If anyone in your family has been asked to self-quarantine (due to travel or potential exposure), please notify the school and do not send your child to school until everyone has completed the recommended quarantine.

私どもは先週末のニュースもあり、続けて沖縄の状況を気をつけて観察しています。現在、県から新しく指示はありませんが、急に状況が変わる可能性があることを認識しています。コミュニティの健康と安全を守る為に、どのような指示にも対応できるように備えています。

もし、ご家族が今週は登校を控えた方が良いと判断された場合、その旨を学校へ報告してください。欠席日数や提出物等については各校長へご連絡ください。できる限り調整します。沖縄で感染者が発見されたり、県からの指示がある場合には春休みを2週間にすることを検討していますが、まだ決定しておらず、OCSIコミュニティの健康と安全の為に必要と判断された場合には実施されます。

これからも忘れずに:

- 風邪やインフルエンザの症状がある場合自宅で安静にしてください。熱が下がり24時間たってから登校してください。
- ご家族の方にCOVID-19(コロナウイルス)感染疑いがある場合、学校に報告し医療機関を受診してください。
- ご家族の方が自宅待機(旅行または感染の可能性がある人に接触したかもしれない為)の指示を受けた場合、学校へ連絡し、自宅待機日程完了までお子さんの登校は控えてください。

Sincerely,
Megan Roe
Head of School
March 11, 2020

Dear OCSI Parents and Guardians,

Our students have done an amazing job of adjusting to the OCSI Online School format over the past week and a half. Thank you OCSI families for supporting them and encouraging them at home!

We continue to be in contact with the appropriate government and health resources, and at this point there have been no further reported instances of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Okinawa. Based on the recommendations of the prefectoral government and the current health threat to Okinawa, we plan to return to regular school from Monday, March 16th. How can we all help our school community stay safe when we return to regular school?

- Keep your child home from school if they have any cold or flu symptoms and for at least 24 hours after the fever has gone down. Teachers will be flexible with absences and will send work home for students who request it.
- Notify the school and seek medical care if you have concerns regarding exposure to COVID-19 (coronavirus) by any member of your family.
- Follow health department recommendations regarding hygiene: wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- OCSI staff will be checking the temperatures of students regularly and will contact parents immediately if any student has a fever of higher than 37.5 ℃ (99.5 ℉).
- Parents of bus riders should check their child's temperature before riding the bus each morning and we recommend having them wear a face mask.
- OCSI campus has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected this week and is ready for students to return next week.

生徒達は先週から始まったOCSI オンラインスクールに柔軟に対応し、しっかりと学習を続けています。家庭で学習をサポートし応援してくださるご家族の皆様に感謝します。私共は県や医療機関との連絡を取り、現在、沖縄でのコロナ感染者の報告がない事などを受け３月１６日（月曜日）から通常授業に戻ることを予定しています。

通常授業に戻った後もコミュニティの安全を守る為に私たちができることは；

- 風邪やインフルエンザの症状がでた時は自宅で安静にしてください。熱が下がり24時間たってから登校させてください。欠席日数は教師が柔軟に対応し、リクエストがあれば宿題を準備します。
- 家族にCOVID-19（コロナウイルス）の疑いがある場合、学校に報告し医療機関を受診してください。
- 手洗いは石鹸を使って20秒以上行い、むやみに顔を触らないようにしましょう。
- スタッフが定期的に生徒の体温を測ります。生徒が37.5 ℃ (99.5 ℉) 以上の熱がある場合、すぐに保護者へ連絡します。
- スクールバスを利用する生徒は毎朝体温を測り、マスクを着用してください。
- OCSI キャンパスは来週からの授業に備え、施設の清掃、消毒を行ないました。

Sincerely,

Megan Roe
Head of School
March 5, 2020

Dear OCSI Parents and Guardians,

Thank you all for your flexibility and understanding as we launched OCSI Online School this week! We hope that it has been a positive experience for your family and we are working to improve each and every day so we can keep our students learning and safe. If there's anything we can do to improve the learning experience for your family, please share with us (Feedback Form).

We continue to monitor the situation closely and are in contact with appropriate government and health resources. If it becomes necessary to extend the closure, we will let you know as soon as possible. For now, we still plan to return to regular school on Monday, March 16th. Thank you for continuing to pray for our community!

Sincerely,

Megan Roe Head of School
March 1, 2020

Dear OCSI Parents and Guardians,

Over the weekend OCSI received updated recommendations from the Okinawa Prefectural government. As a result, we have been able to shorten the campus closure from Friday, 3/27 to Friday, 3/13. Regular school should resume on Monday, 3/16. We want you to know that we are in continued communication with government and health resources and continue to monitor the situation closely. If it becomes necessary to extend the closure again, we will let you know. OCSI Billing will be adjusted accordingly.

We are thankful for the support and understanding of the OCSI community during this challenging season. We know many families have had to adjust quickly to the news of schools closing across Japan and to our shift to an Online School program. We want you to know we are here to support you in any way we can. We would appreciate your feedback along the way so we can continue to improve our communication and online learning experience. (Feedback)

Our teachers will be working hard preparing lessons tomorrow and will be in communication with you soon and often regarding your child's continued learning online, which will begin Tuesday (3/3).

Thank you for continuing to pray for our community!

Sincerely,

Megan Roe Head of School
February 28, 2020

Dear OCSI Parents and Guardians,

The OCSI Leadership team has been following the corona virus concerns carefully and has made the difficult decision to close the OCSI campus from March 2 to March 27. We want to make sure that learning continues for our students and will be activating the OCSI Online School program.

Monday, March 2 will be a NO SCHOOL day; teachers will begin preparing their online lessons. OCSI Online School will begin on Tuesday, March 3 and continue through Friday, March 27. Our hope is that the situation will improve and we can return to school the week of March 30. Information about OCSI Online School and a note from the OCSI Business office will be sent home shortly.

We hope that throughout this challenging time, there will be opportunity for our students to learn and grow in new ways. We are thankful for families who will partner with us this month to ensure our children and community stay safe and continue learning.

Please join us in prayer for continued protection and the safety and health of our community!

Sincerely,

Megan Roe
Head of School
February 27, 2020

Dear OCSI Parents and Guardians,

We know that many of you may have already seen the news this evening and know that the Japanese government has requested all elementary, middle, and high schools close as a precaution to the escalating corona virus concerns in Japan. https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/02/27/national/hokkaido-coronavirus-school/#.XleYqBMzbOQ

The OCSI Leadership team will be making a decision regarding closure tomorrow and will communicate with you as soon as possible. There is a possibility that we may need to shift to online schooling from next week.

This is an evolving situation and the safety of our students and community is our top priority. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this challenging season and for your partnership as we work together to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

Megan Roe
Head of School

OCSI保護者の皆様へ

多くの皆様がすでに今晚のニュースをご覧になったかと思われます。日本政府は、エスカレートしているコロナウイルスの懸念に対する予防措置として、すべての小中高校を閉鎖するように要請しました。

OCSIリーダーシップチームは明日、閉鎖に関し協議し、できるだけ早くご連絡致します。来週からオンライン授業に移行する必要があるかもしれません。

この難しい状況下において、皆様のご理解ご協力に感謝致します。そして皆様のご支援と共に学校生活の安全を守って参りたいと思います。
February 25, 2020

Dear OCSI Community,

We continue to monitor the health situation in Okinawa carefully and are in consistent communication with appropriate resources. OCSI students are doing a great job of practicing healthy habits at school and we continue to clean and sanitize classrooms daily and have requested additional surface cleaning from our contracted cleaning company. Thank you to all of the parents who have donated hand soap, sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes; we are truly grateful for your support and care!

If further changes to our program become necessary, we will inform you and make any and all necessary adjustments to ensure the safety of our community. Please continue to keep the following guidelines in mind before sending your child to school:

● If your child has any flu or cold symptoms, please keep them home from school and notify the school as soon as possible.
● If your child has a fever of higher than 37.5℃ (99.5℉), please keep them home from school and notify the school as soon as possible. Students may not return to school until they have been fever free for at least 24 hours.

This is an evolving situation and the safety of our students and community is our top priority. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this challenging season and for your partnership as we work together to keep our community safe.

Blessings,

Megan Roe
Head of School
February 15, 2020

Dear OCSI Community,

I hope you and your family are staying healthy this season. The news yesterday of the Coronavirus arriving in Okinawa certainly prompts us to appreciate good health and to continue taking appropriate precautions.

I wanted you to be aware that we continue to be in communication with appropriate resources to be sure that we are responding to any health threats appropriately. We are in communication with the other international schools in Japan about their responses and we are in contact with the Okinawa Prefectural Department of General Affairs, to be sure that all we are doing is according to their recommendations.

We want to assure you that this is on our radar, that our community’s health is our primary consideration, and that we prayerfully and cautiously follow appropriate practices in addressing any spread of disease. For now, we will be postponing or cancelling all non-essential visits by people who are not members of the OCSI community.

A few additional reminders and guidelines to keep in mind:

- If your child has any flu or cold symptoms or a fever, please keep them home from school and notify the school as soon as possible.
- Please help your child learn the importance of proper handwashing; this resource from the CDC may be helpful- https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html
- The Okinawa Prefectural government has asked that we inform our community of the following: students or family members who have a fever or cold symptoms and have recently traveled to China or have been in contact with people from the infected areas, should contact the local hokenjo (health center) or hospital and should refrain from coming to school until they receive a doctor’s clearance.
- For more information on Coronavirus, you may find the World Health Organization website helpful- https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this challenging season and for your partnership as we work together to keep our community safe. Please join us in praying for the health and safety of the OCSI community and this region as a whole.

Blessings,

Megan Roe
Head of School
2020年2月15日

OSCI コミュニティの皆様、

皆様、健康でお変わりなくお過ごしでしょうか。沖縄でコロナウイルス患者が確認されたという昨日のニュースに、益々健康管理の大切さと、日々の予防の必要を実感しております。

私共はこれからも関係機関と連携をとり、正しく対応していくようにしてください。国内のインターナショナルスクールとも連絡をとり対応方法の助言を受け、又県総務私学課からの指導を仰いでいます。コミュニティの健康を最優先とし、常に状況を確認しています。祈祷つつ、いかなる病気についても慎重に適切な対処ができるように心がけています。その為、今現在OSCI コミュニティメンバー以外の学校訪問を延期又はお断りしています。

留意点:

● お子さんに風邪やインフルエンザの症状がある時は、自宅で安静にし学校へ連絡してください。

● お子さんが手洗いの重要性を理解するお手伝いをしてください。参考サイト
https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html

● 沖縄県から周知報告：生徒及びご家族が発熱や風邪の症状があり最近中国へ渡航された方又は感染の多い地域からきた方と接触した方は地域の保健所又は病院に問い合わせて登校は控えてください。

● コロナウィルスに関するWHO（世界保健機関）のウェブサイトをご覧ください。
https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

皆様のご理解ご協力に感謝します。これからも皆様とパートナーシップを組みコミュニティの安全を第一としていきます。OSCI コミュニティをはじめ、地域一帯の健康と安全を共にお祈りください。

学校長 メーガン ロー