

NEWSLETTER

3rd Term of the Year
January/February 2026



INTRODUCTION

An engaged community, a school in motion

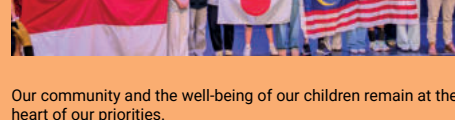
The beginning of the year marks a new stage for the LFIK community. Through shared moments of conviviality, key structural developments and future-oriented projects, school life continues with energy, commitment and a strong sense of responsibility. More than ever, the well-being of our children and the quality of the educational environment provided to them guide our collective actions. The purpose of this newsletter is to offer a clear overview of the latest news from the school, highlight areas that require particular attention through the end of the school year, and share the longer-term perspectives taking shape - notably through the attainment of Gakkō Hōjin status. Behind each of these topics lies the same driving force: a committed community, attentive to the school's balance and fully invested in its ongoing development.

Thank you all for your presence, your support and your continued commitment to the LFIK and its students.

Ongoing Projects



School life: highlights and developments



Our community and the well-being of our children remain at the heart of our priorities.

We last came together around a wonderful moment of conviviality during the Christmas celebration, featuring the children's performance and a generous festive buffet made possible thanks to the exceptional commitment of parent volunteers: 180 crêpes, 20 kg of onions, 20 kg of chicken, 10 large trays of mushrooms, 170 chocolates, 200 cakes, 50 servings of savory cakes, 15 liters of spiced apple juice and 40 liters of mulled wine. Some of you also had the opportunity to purchase a galette des rois at the start of term, and our teaching teams are already preparing a memorable Carnival celebration.

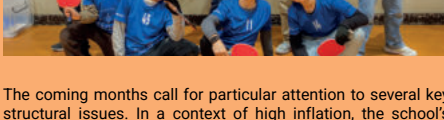
In terms of the school's daily life, we are pleased to announce the arrival of a school nurse, Ms. Romane Avignon. Your children can now see her at the Student Life office whenever needed, she can also be reached at the following address: infirmierie@lfiykoto.org.

This school year also marks significant developments in the organization of the school. It corresponds to the final year of our current Principal's term, Mr. Boris Colin, and we will learn the identity of his successor by next month. This transition will soon be accompanied by greater visibility regarding staff movements for the upcoming school year, with a constant focus on ensuring continuity and quality in teaching and learning.

These key moments and recent developments reflect the vitality of our educational community and the collective commitment to the well-being of our students.



By the end of the school year: vigilance and collective mobilization



The coming months call for particular attention to several key structural issues. In a context of high inflation, the school's budget remains finely balanced and is subject to close monitoring.

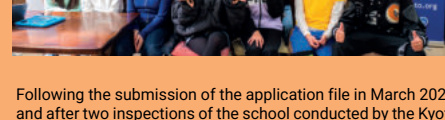
We have observed a decline in enrollment for both the bento service and the holiday day care service, the latter currently facing a situation of financial fragility. In order to better understand the reasons behind these withdrawals and to adapt the services as closely as possible to families' expectations, we kindly ask you to complete the dedicated surveys regarding the bento service and the holiday day care service (see the section "Call to the community, we need you").

In this context, the solidarity of our community is a valuable asset. We warmly thank the parent volunteers who are putting their professional skills at the service of the school. One parent is currently supporting the school with the SEO optimization of the LFIK website to improve its visibility and attractiveness, while another has offered expertise to redesign outdated graphic materials. These contributions are particularly welcome, both on a human and financial level, as they help generate meaningful savings.

Finally, we would like to reassure you regarding the Osaka project. It remains under consideration, with ongoing site visits and regular exchanges with institutional stakeholders (Embassy, Consulate, AEFÉ). It will only be pursued with all necessary guarantees in place and on the basis of funding strictly independent from the LFIK's operating budget.



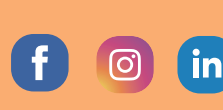
Looking ahead to 2026: Gakkō Hōjin status, a key milestone for LFIK



Following the submission of the application file in March 2025, and after two inspections of the school conducted by the Kyoto Prefectural authorities, the Private Schools Commission issued a favorable opinion in December regarding the granting of accreditation. The official certificate of authorization is expected to be issued by the Kyoto Prefecture by the end of February. In this context, preparations are currently underway for the official launch of the school foundation on April 1, 2026.

The institution will thereby acquire legal status as a non-profit organization carrying out educational activities. As such, LFIK students will be able, like other students enrolled in Japan, to benefit from reduced-rate student commuter passes on public transportation, starting in the second half of the year or from the next academic year.

As is the case for the French School of Tokyo, the combined recognition of all classes by the French Ministry of National Education and accreditation as an educational institution by the Japanese Ministry of Education (MEXT) is expected to strengthen the school's visibility and recognition across many fields, both in Japan and in France.



A Look at the School: A Testimonial from Mrs. Perrin, Parent and Active Member of the Events Committee



We arrived at LFIK in 2019 as expatriates, with our two children, who were then in CM2 and 4e. At the time, the school had around 170 students. We were coming from a very large school in Dubai, with nearly 2,000 students, so the contrast was striking. From the very first days, we were remarkably well welcomed by the school leadership. The children quickly found their place and made friends. Then, almost immediately, borders closed due to Covid. Despite this very particular context, the school remained a solid and reassuring anchor.

Very quickly, I became involved in school life. I first joined the Management Committee, and then mainly the Events Committee, alongside Barbara Lemaire, who led it with great energy. I was actively involved for two years and have continued to stay engaged ever since, always in connection with the Management Committee for budgetary or organizational matters: the Christmas and end-of-year celebrations, of course, but also Taste Week cooking activities with students, Carnival buns, the French Institute market, and more recently a cooking workshop with the local neighborhood...

One memory in particular left a strong impression on me during a Taste Week organized with Ms. Benferhat, an elementary school teacher. The theme was Switzerland. My in-laws had sent Swiss cheese, and we cooked puff pastries and a traditional papet vaudois. The children ate everything, with incredible enthusiasm. Ms. Benferhat had prepared a very thorough presentation, and the students were 400% engaged. It was a truly beautiful moment of sharing.

Another initiative led by Mr. Gachignard also left a strong impression on me, and I would like to thank him warmly for it. His desire to raise students' awareness of the environment: gardening, meeting a professional in organic farming, planting potatoes, harvesting them later, cooking them and eating them together... I find this extraordinary. For me, this is the school of tomorrow.

I truly loved taking part in all these celebrations and shared moments. Seeing the children happy, discovering new things, working with parent volunteers in a simple and friendly atmosphere, and knowing that in the end everything is done for the children—that is what motivated me the most. These moments also allowed me to build strong connections with parents, teachers, school staff, as well as with the Japanese and French communities. We will soon be leaving, but I hope to stay in touch with some of the people I met here.

Over the years, I have seen the circle of parent volunteers grow, thanks in particular to the commitment of Barbara, of Anna—who works a great deal to include Japanese mothers—and of Agnès on the Management Committee. I hope more parents will dare to get involved. Everyone is welcome, and even a small contribution matters. It is essential for the children and for the life of the school.

If I have one small regret, it is that some festive moments in the past involved parents more closely: kart races built by students in the schoolyard, Halloween when all teachers, including those from middle and high school, dressed up. I hope that in the future these moments of sharing will regain their full place, as they are an integral part of the school's spirit.

The school has evolved greatly over the years. When we arrived, there were few expatriate families, then after Covid, parents of many nationalities joined. This brought a great deal to the school, particularly on an international level. The school has grown, new teachers have arrived with new ideas, while remaining a human-sized school, with a reassuring environment and approachable teachers. I hope this identity will remain, even as the school continues to develop.

In the end, we do all this for the children. That's the point.



Recipes

Spiced Hot Apple Juice Recipe

Serves: 5 to 6 glasses
Total time: 25 minutes
Preparation time: 5 minutes
Cooking time: 20 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 liter apple juice
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 2 star anise
- 3 cloves
- 2 oranges
- 1 lemon



Easy recipe

- Prepare the fruit: Wash and dry the oranges and the lemon, then cut them into quarters, keeping the peel on.
- Combine the ingredients: Pour the apple juice into a saucepan and add the orange and lemon quarters along with the spices.
- Heat: Bring to a boil, then cover and let it gently infuse over low heat for about 15 minutes.
- Ready to serve: Pour into glasses and enjoy hot!

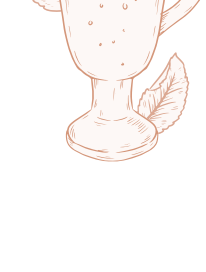
Bonne dégustation!

Mulled Wine Recipe

Serves: 5 to 6 glasses
Total time: 25 minutes
Preparation time: 5 minutes
Cooking time: 20 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 liter red wine
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 2 star anise
- 3 cloves
- 2 oranges
- 1 lemon
- 100 g granulated sugar



Easy recipe

- Prepare the fruit: Wash and dry the oranges and the lemon, then cut them into quarters, keeping the peel on.
- Combine the ingredients: Pour the wine into a saucepan and add the orange and lemon quarters, the sugar, and the spices.
- Heat: Bring to a boil, then cover and let it gently infuse over low heat for about 15 minutes.
- Ready to serve: Pour into glasses and enjoy hot!

Bonne dégustation!

Save the Date!

THIS THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 12th

Let's meet! Join us at LFIK between 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM for a friendly coffee

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19th

LFIK Carnival party

EARLY MARCH

Registration of the Gakkō Hōjin

MARCH

Announcement of the new Principal appointed by AEFÉ



Call to the community, we need you!

Bento service survey: your feedback is essential
Access the Bento service survey [here](#)

Holiday day care service survey: your feedback is essential
Access the Holiday day care service survey [here](#)

Carnival on February 19th: call for volunteers
The Carnival will take place on February, 19th for our preschool and primary school students. The educational teams will need parent volunteers to help supervise the parade and ensure the success of this event. We count on your support to answer their call.

Work experience placement for students in "3e"
Each year, students in "3e" are required to complete a three-day work experience placement in February or March. Despite the support and guidance provided by the educational teams, some students still face difficulties in securing a host organization. We would therefore like to warmly thank parents who may be willing to host a student during the next session and invite them to come forward. For any offers, please contact Julien Teillon, Deputy Head, who will coordinate the placements: teillon@lfiykoto.org.

Kyoto city survey: your feedback is essential
The city of Kyoto places great importance on its foreign communities and wishes to strengthen cooperation, particularly with you, the LFIK community. To this end, a survey project is currently underway, and you will soon receive a link to take part. Stay tuned, we are counting on your participation. It is a great opportunity to help showcase LFIK!

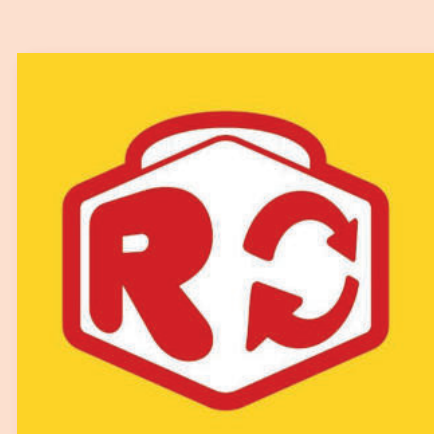
NEW: Discover our Kyoto tips and recommendations

Have you heard of RentaBrick?

RentaBrick is a LEGO® rental service founded in 2025 by a French entrepreneur based in Kyoto. It simply addresses two issues well known to LEGO® fans: the cost of sets and their accumulation at home. With a monthly subscription, families choose a LEGO® set, receive it at home, let their child build, play, and explore... Once the experience is over, the set is taken apart and returned, making it possible to discover another one. The result: no clutter, a controlled budget, and a constantly renewed selection of sets to build.

For families of the Lycée Français International de Kyoto, RentaBrick is currently offering a special 50% discount on the first month of the Adventure Plan.

This means only ¥1,990, with no commitment, using the code LFIK50OFF. More information [here](#).



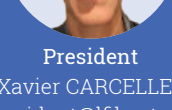
And you? Do you have a tip or recommendation to share with the LFIK community?

Whether it's related to your work, or a restaurant or café you'd like to highlight, feel free to share it with us. Send us an email at acattelan@lfiykoto.org!

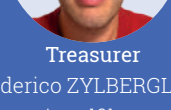
Thank you all for your commitment and continued support for APEK and LFIK. Your attention and commitment are what bring our community to life. Thank you for staying informed, taking part in our projects, and contributing - each in your own way - to making LFIK a place where it feels good to learn and grow together.

The Management Committee

The Management Committee of A.P.E.K. is at your service all year round.



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