



### **Sakhalin International School**

Sakhalin International School links around 170 children from the ages of 3 to 14 to bigger and better learning in an international environment. We share learning across over 30 nationalities, developing key personal qualities and international mindedness to support the kinds of children we are helping to develop as we do so. In June 2012 we achieved 'Accreditation at Mastering' in the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and are one of a handful of schools worldwide to have achieved this. The curriculum, along with Literacy and Maths from the English curriculum, guides learning to the age of 11 at our school where we integrate themed learning across subjects as much as possible whilst keeping subjects separate.

For further information please visit: [www.greatlearning.com/ipc](http://www.greatlearning.com/ipc)

The Middle Years section of our school (ages 11-14) started in 2013-14 and was completed this year. Students in this age group are guided by the International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC) and Literacy and Maths from the English Curriculum. Two teachers lead learning for this age group.

For further information please visit: [www.greatlearning.com/imyc](http://www.greatlearning.com/imyc)

Following accreditation the school identified 5 key areas that could link its learning community to even bigger and better learning in future: Technology, Learning About Learning, Wider Community, Culture, Integrated Yet Separate. Groups of teachers lead these areas, using research and the community around them to be innovative.

As we support children and students in developing personal qualities and international mindedness, the Wider Community group supports links to more learning within our locality. We now collaborate in learning with 3 local schools through various events from team building, learning about a famous Russian poet called Pushkin to 'Winter Sports'. Links with local coaches now offer a wide range of after school activities including Aikido (photo) and Cheerleading, Piano and Violin, and we facilitate more real learning within the Yuzhno Sakhalinsk area and beyond.

Each classroom uses technology to support learning, including iPads and laptops (each child in the Middle Years brings their own). A budget allocated annually and spent by the Technology team supports the development of ICT to support learning across the school as we integrate ICT across all subjects to support our long term vision.

To support improved learning opportunities for children our staff 'Collaborate, Cooperate and Negotiate' to maintain a shared, team approach to learning professionally. The Learning About Learning group reviews research and guides the team on new learning journeys that support our vision long term. At present we are focusing on cooperative learning structures to link children to bigger and better learning.

Parents are very much encouraged to be partners in their children's learning and termly information evenings, open afternoons and newsletters share the school's philosophy, ethos and culture, providing parents with new learning to support their child (ren).

### **Location**

Sakhalin International School is located on the Zima Highlands camp in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, an island off the east coast of Russia, near to Japan. Flights are daily into Sakhalin from Moscow (and other Russian cities) and Seoul. Commercial flights are also scheduled between Japan and Sakhalin.

Zima Highlands hosts the school, Swimming Pool, Sports Centre, The Hub (bar, restaurant, dvd and book library), playgrounds and residences. Outside of Zima is the city of Yuzhno Sakhalinsk, a growing city with many amenities including shopping malls, theatres, ice rinks, restaurants (great variety), bars and markets. Occasionally overseas bands, theatre or dance groups come and play in the venues of Sakhalin. All these are accessible on company bus (free) or by taxi.

The climate varies from summer to winter and provides different opportunities to explore and experience the beauty of the island in different ways. In the summer, when temperatures can reach mid to late twenties (centigrade), people explore the islands beaches and forests to swim, walk, fish or barbecue. Residents of Zima often coordinate road trips, hikes, weekly mountain bike rides and beach barbecues (photo: teacher barbecue at Korsakov). The different seasons bring different events, such as watching salmon swimming upstream in September.

In the winter, temperatures can drop to minus thirty (centigrade) but with blue skies, bright sunshine and good clothing there is much to explore also. Within 10 minutes' drive of camp is a ski slope with several runs to challenge snowboarders and skiers. Some people venture of piste, hiking to different hills and making their own tracks, or cross country skiing from one location to the other. Around Yuzhno are several ice skating venues (all year) including outdoor ones in the winter months. With the changing temperature so the scenery changes new opportunities arise eg. a walk on the frozen sea or barbecues in the snow (photo: teacher barbecue on Zima Highlands)

For further details, please visit the school website: [www.sakhalinschool.net](http://www.sakhalinschool.net)



