

# The Kosei Grapevine

Volume 2

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Issue 11

## Welcome!!

Hello everyone!! Recently it has become rather cold in Japan. We've even had heavy snow twice. We hope you are all taking care of yourselves and staying warm in the cooler weather.

But don't worry, the cold weather will not last. Spring is coming. There have already been some cherry blossom trees in bloom so flower-viewing season will be coming up soon.

このところ寒い日が続いています。すでに2度積雪がありました。でも春はそこまで来ています。もう桜が咲いた所もあります。花見の季節は間もなくです。

## Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day in Japan is different to that in western countries. For example in New Zealand, Australia,



America, Canada and England, men give chocolates, flowers and jewelry. Sometimes if a woman is lucky she'll get a romantic poem from her special man. In Japan it's the other way around. Women give men lots of chocolates. Also in western countries we only receive those gifts from a girlfriend or boyfriend or someone we love. But in Japan they give chocolates to friends as well. In March there is White Day in Japan, which other countries do not celebrate. On that day men give chocolates to women. So wherever you are in the world, Valentine's Day is wonderful and everyone can enjoy eating lots of chocolates.

### バレンタインデー

日本は西洋の国々とは様相が違っているようです。外国では男性が好きな女性にチョコや花・宝石を、時には愛を込めた詩なども贈るようですが、日本では女性からですよ。意中の男性でなくともチョコが送られます。それに友達間でも交わされます。3月のホワイトデーは今度は男性から女性に贈る日ですが、他の国ではそんな習慣はありません。いずれにしてもバレンタインデーは楽しくチョコがあちこちでたくさん食べられます。



## Chorus Contest

January 30<sup>th</sup> was the day of the biggest school-wide event of the Winter Term, the Chorus Contest. All of the students from the junior and senior high school participated and put on a fantastic show.

First, the junior high school students performed. Each class sang "Yesterday Once More" in English, and then they each sang a Japanese popular song of their own choosing. Third place went to Class 1-1, who sang "Cosmos", second place went to Class 3-1, who sang "My Ballad", and first place went to Class 3-2, who sang "Yell". The best conductor in the junior high was Ai Taguchi, and the best pianist was Mayu Nishizaki.

In the high school, each class sang one Japanese popular song of their own choosing. Third place went to Class 1-A, who sang "Chance Meeting", second place went to Class 2-A, who sang "Bluebird", and first place went to Class 2-B, who sang "The Name of Life". The best conductor was Tomoko Tatsuta, and the best pianist was Hikari Makino.

All of the students did a great job this year and it was a very entertaining, touching show. The first year junior high school students were very powerful and had beautiful piano work. The second year students really improved their English pronunciation and teamwork in the weeks approaching the contest. The third year students chose songs with particularly challenging rhythms and multiple harmonies. They had little time to prepare after their trip to New Zealand, so their dynamic, expressive performances were very impressive.



The senior high students provided great models of teamwork and musical interpretation for the junior high school students. Their performances were exciting, expressive and made some of the male teachers cry. Well done, everyone!

### 合唱コンクール

3学期最大のイベント合唱コンが1月30日に中高全生徒が参加して盛大に開かれました。まず中学生が課題曲の「Yesterday Once More」と自由曲を競いました。3位は1年1組、2位は3年1組優勝は3年2組でした。最優秀指揮者に田口愛さん伴奏者に西崎真由さんが選ばれました。高校生は自分たちで選んだ曲を歌って競いました。3位は高1-A組 2位は高2-A組 優勝は高2-B組最優秀指揮者に立田智子さん 伴奏者に牧野光里さんが選ばれました。皆よく頑張り素晴らしい心に響く大会になりました。中1もしっかり大きな声で歌いピアノも上出来でした。中2は英語の発音が上達し力を合わせて練習ができました。中3はNZ修学旅行で時間が少ないにもかかわらず難しい曲を歌い素晴らしい発表になりました！高校生も先輩としてよい見本を示し頑張りました。中には感動に涙があふれた先生も見受けられました。みんな上出来でした！！



# Karasuyama Children's Festival

This year's Karasuyama Children's Festival was held on February 11<sup>th</sup>. It was rather cold and rainy but people in the neighborhood got together and enjoyed the festival. Some Kosei students took part in the festival. Here are two short reports from Karin Takano and Marika Miyasako.

## 千歳烏山子供祭り

今年も2月11日に開催され、校成からも生徒が参加しました。生徒の感想を載せます。I danced on the stage at Karasuyama Children's Festival on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. This was my last performance as a junior high school student. When I stood on the stage, there were many spectators, so I was very tense. But our performance succeeded thanks to their cheering. I enjoyed dancing from my heart. I would like to continue dancing because I love it very much. *Karin Takano*

I played the trumpet as the brass band club was playing in the festival. We played a march and two pop songs. But I couldn't play the march song better than in practice. Next year, I want to enjoy the festival and want to give a good performance for the spectators. *Marika Miyasako*



## Eiken Stuff

On Sunday, the Eiken interview test will be held. For students who have already passed the written test, this is their opportunity to pass the final part of the test. Many students have come to see the native teachers to practice for the interview.

We wish all the students who will be taking the test on Sunday the best of luck.

英検2次が日曜にあります。多くの生徒がテストに向けて外人の先生方と練習に励んでいます。みんな頑張れ!

## Hina-Matsuri

Hina-Matsuri is held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to pray for girls' healthy growth and happiness. We have seen a set of Kosei dolls in the entrance hall.

On this day, families with daughters display a set of dolls on several tiers. They represent the Emperor, Empress, attendants and musicians in court dress from the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Children are allowed to drink the sweet white sake and they eat the rice cakes and have a good time.

According to superstition, a girl whose parents are slow to put away the set of dolls will be slow in finding her husband.

## ひな祭り

3月3日は女の子の健康な成長と幸せを祈るひな祭りです。校成にも玄関におひなさまが飾られています。平安時代の衣装をまとったお雛様の前で白酒や菱餅を楽しみましょう。

## Community Class

Native teachers have been providing English classes for both children and adults from the Karasuyama community every Saturday morning since 2001. Over the years, Japanese education reform has been gradually introducing English classes to elementary schools. So, the Saturday English classes for kids will no longer be held from next year. However, the adult classes will continue, and we cordially invite all the parents of Kosei students to join us for English study in a relaxed, friendly environment.

### 英会話教室

2001年より毎週土曜日に外人の先生方による地域の方々のための英会話教室が開かれていましたが、近年小学校での英語教育が浸透してきましたので、来年度は子供の教室は中止になります。大向けの教室は引き続き開催いたしますので、ご父兄の皆さんぜひご参加ください。和やかで、楽しいですよ!



## The Grapevine Staff



## Important Upcoming Dates

- Feb 21 Eiken Interview Test
- Mar 2 No class – High School Graduation Ceremony
- Mar 4 High School exams start
- Mar 5 Junior High exams start
- Mar 20 Junior High Graduation Ceremony
- Mar 21 National Holiday

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