

The Kosei Grapevine

Volume 3

Friday July 8th 2011

Issue 4

Spring term has finished and it's time for summer vacation. It has been a great year so far, with several big events and lots of great memories. We would like to thank everyone for all of their hard work, and we hope you have a great and safe summer vacation. See you in September!

Speech Contests

We all really enjoyed this term's speech and recitation contests from our JHS year 1, 2 and 3 classes. Everyone worked so hard to prepare interesting speeches and presentations. Well done to you all. We the teachers were impressed with your work.

Here are the winners from each grade. First let's start with the 7th graders

First Prize: Misa Kim

Second Equal: Asuka Sugiyama and Reyna Ozawa

Third Prize: Marina Nishio

Special prizes: Yukino Ikegami, Moe Shida, Chihiro Watanabe, Momoka Uekuri and Sumika Koujima.

All the 7th grade students gave a self-introduction speech, talking about their families, school, where they are from and hobbies etc. There were some very interesting introductions with a lot of variety. All of the teachers were very impressed by the high level of English used by these first year students. We were also very impressed by the high level of enthusiasm.

Lastly, the 9th graders prepared presentations on an aspect of Japanese culture. The students worked in groups of two or three students and came up with their own original ideas for the themes of their presentations. There were some very interesting themes. Everyone in the audience had the chance to learn more about a wide range of topics including the tea ceremony, kyushoku, tourism in Japan and historic figures. Even the teachers were able to learn something about Japanese culture from these presentations!

The presentations were the result of weeks of hard work in class and of many hours spent in the library. We are very proud of the girls for their hard work. The 9th grade girls will be visiting New Zealand later in the year. It is very important to learn about your own culture before you travel overseas. Hopefully, our students will have a chance to share what they have found out about Japanese culture with their new friends in New Zealand!

Prizes were awarded to the following students:

First Prize: Aki Sakuramoto and Yuuki Bessho

Second Prize: Maya Banno and Marika Miyasako

Third Prize: Rima Ishizaka and Saori Takechi

Fourth Prize: Reimi Hirashima, Tomoyo Takeda and Yukari Ikeda

Well done everyone!



7th Grade Speech Contest Winners



8th Grade Recitation Contest Winners



9th Grade Presentation Contest Winners

The 8th grade students had the task of preparing a recitation of a text. This year's text was entitled "Don't Touch It!". It is an interesting tale of three boys in China which many of the students found very entertaining. Once again, the level was very high and all of the girls did very well. The teachers were very impressed by the confidence and fluency shown by many of the entrants.

The results were:

First Prize: Karen Shiose

Second Prize: Kozue Nakajima

Third Prize: Kanae Aiba

Fourth Prize: Mayu Sasagawa and Eriko Noguchi

Special Prizes: Madoka Sugimoto and Mai Ishida

Junior High School English Summer Camp 2011

The Kosei JHS Summer English Camp will be held this year on July 12th and 13th at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, Yoyogi. During the camp our students will have many opportunities to speak with people from all over the world. The focus of the camp will be on building vocabulary and confidence in speaking English. You will see more on the camp in the next issue.

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Immersion Classes Spring Term 2010

Art

Grade one

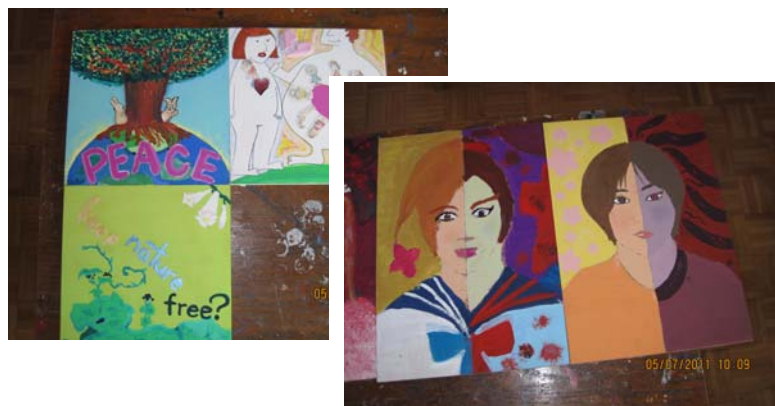
This term's grade one have been developing basic art skills such as color awareness/mixing and painting techniques. They studied the color wheel and developed an awareness of warm and cool colors. The Abstract Painting project has helped them to respond visually to music and develop a final painting based on feelings. They looked at the work of 20th century abstract painters such as Kandinsky. This is a challenging project for Japanese students because it focuses on the process rather than just the final outcome. The students have worked very hard and I am happy with their progress.

Grade two

Grade two have studied facial proportion, color balance and self expression and are developing the painting skills learned in the first year,. The project was to design a self portrait with a twist – using two contrasting sides - one 'angel' and one `devil`, they could also choose to use a different idea, for example spring/winter as long as the two sides of the painting were different. They gradually built up the image from an initial drawing, to an outline, painted base colors then finally layers abd details to give a colorful contemporary effect. Students took a long time to complete the basic painting which left not so much time to do the details, however I am extremely impressed with their attitude and their work, a great term for grade two.

Grade three

As the older students I feel it is appropriate to challenge and stretch their design skills and expose to "foreign" concepts and encourage the use of English within their work. We have been using the peace tile project for the last three years. Students design a tile with the theme of "Peace". This is a challenge because a lot of emphasis is put on developing an idea - initially through making mind maps and design sheets. Students then use painting and collage to construct a colorful and meaningful message. Through this project they learn design layout skills which are relevant to graphic design.



Thank you for reading our newspaper. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

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Music

The 7th graders' introduction to immersion music has been a combination of singing in a foreign language, getting used to that big monster known as the alto recorder, and learning a bit of basic music theory. We started with the Congolese song "Si si si" and moved on to the Beatles' classic "Hello Goodbye", a perky little tune which they particularly seemed to enjoy. They also did a lot of listening, games and activities to practice recognizing musical instruments. All of this came together at the end of term with Prokofiev's story-in-music "Peter and the Wolf".

The 8th graders started the year by learning the John Lennon song "Love". and continued with the Beatles' "Yesterday" – a song full of tricky little challenges that they overcame marvelously. The song is so etched in their minds that the mere mention of the words "yesterday" and "suddenly" makes them burst out in song! Although it's a sad and dark song, they managed to make it glow ever so slightly! Recorder skills were taken up a level and put to the test with two popular AKB48 tunes: "Heavy Rotation" and "Iiwake Maybe", with more emphasis this year on playing with accompaniment.

The 9th graders also played popular Japanese music on the recorder. The singing part of the classes was centered around Diana Ross' "If We Hold On Together", but as they are going to New Zealand in November, we also worked on a beautiful Maori lullaby, "Hine e hine". We are looking forward to continuing our explorations of the musical landscape of New Zealand next term.



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