

# The Kosei Grapevine

Volume 5

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Issue 1

## Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was held on April 9th this year. Last year we could not hold a full ceremony due to safety concerns relating to the Tohoku earthquake. Everyone was pleased that a full ceremony could be held this year to welcome our new students. That said, our thoughts were with the people of Tohoku hoping that they too have been able to celebrate the many new beginnings that this season brings.

A total of 48 new students entered Kosei Junior High School and 191 students entered the senior high school. We welcome these new students to our school and know that their lives as students here will be full of wonderful memories.



### 新学期

4月9日に本校講堂にて、佼成学園女子中学高等学校の入学式が行われました。今年度は、中学では48人、高校では191人の生徒が入学を許可されました。これから素晴らしい学園生活を送ることを心から期待します。

## Kosei Junior High School English Immersion Program

### イマージョンプログラム

Students of this program will learn communicative problem-solving skills in an English-rich environment while studying various subjects in addition to English and learning to cooperate and learn together.

このプログラムは英語で様々な学習活動を通して他教科を学びながら同時に英会話能力を高める学習方法です。

Junior high school students at Kosei Gakuen experience English in unique ways. One way is specialized English language classes. Another way is English immersion classes. Together, these courses make a program which gives students lots of time listening to English, many chances to use it themselves, useful skills involving music, art and a growing experience they can share together.

英語の授業以外に音楽や美術等の授業が英語で行われ、英語を長時間大量に聞いて会話をするさまざまな機会に恵まれています。

### Specialized English Classes

In one kind of English class, students learn about and practice the nuts and bolts of the English language with Japanese teachers of

English. These classes give students the explanations and support they need in Japanese and build their confidence to try to use English.

英語の必要な知識を日本人教師と学び英語の基礎を固めます。

The other kind of English language class is led by native English-speaking English teachers. Here students practice English as a tool for communication with native speakers and each other. This way they can feel confident and satisfied that their skills are growing and can reach for the next level.

日本人教師による学習と並行して、外人教師と英会話の練習を重ね、実際に使える英語にしていきます。

### Immersion Classes

There are three immersion subjects: Visual Art, Music and Integrated Study. In these classes, the targets are the content and skills of *the subject*, not the English language itself. However, students receive all instruction in English, which is why it is

is carefully designed so that students can use both what they are learning in English classes and their own problem-solving skills to understand their teachers and successfully carry out the tasks.

### イマージョン教科

美術・音楽・総合がイマージョン教科で、全て英語で授業が展開されます。英語の説明は生徒たちが理解して学習できるように周到に準備され、英語能力を高めるためにも役立ちます。

### Challenges and Difficulties

These classes are challenging, but students can succeed if they are patient, listen carefully, trust their teachers and always do their best. Students who do their best and never give up will gradually become more and more comfortable with listening to and using English to communicate and accomplish many different things.

授業が全て英語で展開されるため、しっかりと聞き粘り強く学習することが必要です。努力する生徒のみが徐々に慣れて会話力や英語を使いこなす力を身につけていきます。





# Junior High Immersion

## Music

The year is already in full swing, and it seems like there's an abundance of genuine musical talent among the new first graders! In one of the classes, more than 75% of the students play the piano, not to mention those who play other instruments! They will be focusing on welcome songs, singing in English and will start grappling with that huge (for their fingers!) beast called the "alto recorder". The second grade of junior high will attempt to perform some J-pop songs (AKB48 for starters) on the recorder. They will also continue to develop their singing skills with the American folk song "Across the fields" before moving on to the Beatles' "Yesterday". The third graders will start by playing classical music from different periods on the recorder. Their first song of the year will be the Disney classic "Go the distance" (from the movie "Hercules") written by Alan Menken, who most students know as the composer of last year's chorus contest piece "A Whole New World". We will also continue to sharpen our ears with music from all over the world. It promises to be another exciting year in the music room!



## 音楽

今年は、音楽の才能に溢れている一年生が多いようです。あるクラスでは、生徒の75%がピアノを演奏します。一年生は、英語の歌から音楽の授業を始めます。二年生は、AKB48の曲を始めとしたJ-popの曲をリコーダーで演奏します。三年生はクラシック音楽の曲からリコーダーの練習を始めます。

## New Teachers

This year three new Japanese English teachers have joined Kosei's team!

## Native Teachers

Stefan, Paul, Robert and Sara will all continue to work at Kosei this year. Please read their messages below:

### Robert

Hello, I'm Robert. I'm from Chicago, in the U.S.A. I have lived in Japan for seven years and like it here very much. Before I came to Tokyo, I lived in Ehime-ken and Aichi-ken. I enjoy cycling, writing, travel, and photography. In my free time, I like exploring different parts of Tokyo. I especially like the *shitamachi* area. I really enjoyed teaching everyone at Kosei last year and I'm looking forward to my second year here. Please come to the English room and say hi sometime!

### Paul

Hi everyone! My name is Paul and I'm from London in the U.K. Have you ever been to London? I came to Japan nearly six years ago and I have been teaching at Kosei for six months. I really enjoy it and the students are very fun! My hobbies include playing soccer, watching horror movies and finding cool cafes in Tokyo! Please tell me about interesting places in Tokyo. I am also interested in Japanese language. Let's have fun with English and feel free to talk to me anytime. You can find me in the English Room! See you soon!

### Sara

Welcome back! My name is Sara. I am from Auckland, New Zealand. I have been living in Tokyo and working at Kosei for the last year. I have been studying Japanese since I was 13 years old. I am very interested in Japan and Japanese culture. I especially like going to *onsen*. I am looking forward to teaching the study-abroad course again this year! I am also looking forward to enjoying another year with my junior high school classes!

### Stefan

Hello, my name is Stefan and I teach English as well as music at Kosei. This is my third year here so most of you will know me. I grew up in Brussels (Belgium) and Edinburgh (Scotland) but have lived in Japan for more than 12 years. What I really love about Japan is the diversity of its music scene. I studied music and am active as a composer. I am a whisky enthusiast and spend much of my free time tasting, collecting, studying, hunting down and writing about rare whiskies (both Scotch and Japanese!) I also love old Japanese movies (of the 1930s in particular), but the centre of my world is my son, Rafa. He's the most amazing person I've ever met, so I feel incredibly lucky to be his dad.



Robert, Paul, Sara and Stefan.

## Important Dates

- May 8 Sports Festa Rehearsal
- May 12 Sports Festa
- May 23-26 High school Midterm Exam
- May 25-26 Junior High Midterm Exam

Thank you for reading our newspaper. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments. [akiyoshi\\_m@girls.kosei.ac.jp](mailto:akiyoshi_m@girls.kosei.ac.jp)

