

The Kosei Grapevine

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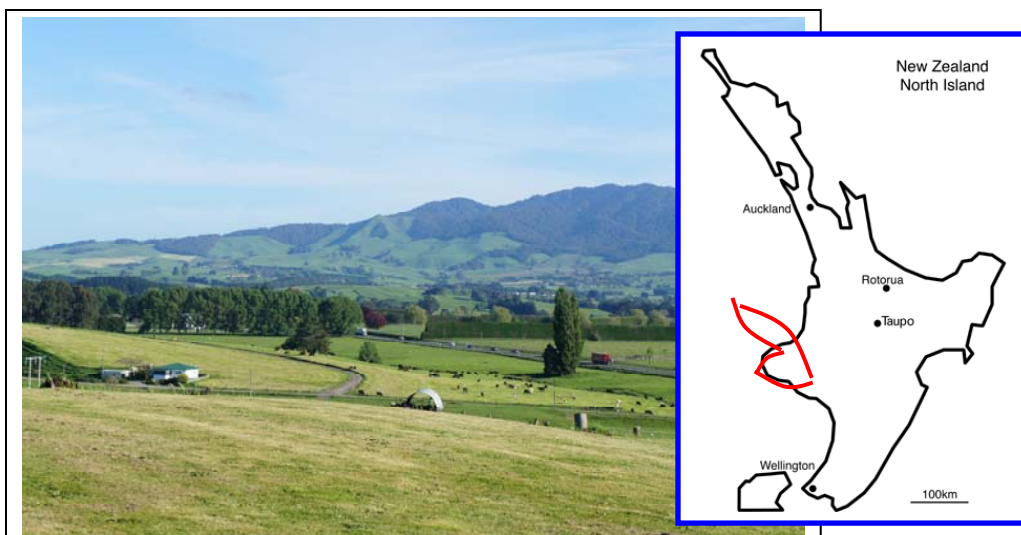
Junior High School New Zealand Trip, 2013

On the 19th of October our third year junior high school students took off for a week of fun and new experiences in New Zealand. Upon arrival they headed straight to from Auckland airport to Rotorua in the central north island. Rotorua is famous for being a geothermal wonderland, similar to Beppu in Japan. Like Beppu, it is known for its interesting smell! This town is the best place in New Zealand to experience traditional Maori culture, and the girls were able to find out more about this important aspect of New Zealand life. Of course, no visit to New Zealand would be complete without visiting a sheep show which they had the chance to do before leaving Rotorua. Having a chance to see sheep up close at the show and on their farms was a highlight for many of the girls.

The next stop was Waitomo where the group visited the world famous glow worm caves. After this, the girls finally met their farm-stay families and went their separate ways for the night. The farm-stay experience gave our students the challenge of using English in a relaxed environment with native speakers. Many girls were surprised by how well they were able to communicate and left New Zealand feeling like they had become a part of a new family.

After visiting a school in Hamilton and chatting with local students, it was on to the last stop of the tour – Auckland. In Auckland the students split in to groups and had a day of free time during which they visited many of Auckland's top attractions including the Auckland Zoo, Kelly Tarlton's aquarium and Mission Bay.

On the day before the group was due to fly back a typhoon was approaching the Kanto area causing some concern as to whether or not Narita would be open for business. All was well in the end however, with the plane landing safely on the day full of students who were tired but happy after their big adventure!



SOAS Guest Lecture a Memorable Event for Students

Kosei was lucky enough to receive a very important guest in November. A visiting professor from SOAS (The School of Oriental and African Studies), which is part of the University of London, came to speak to the girls from the Study Abroad Course.

In his short lecture, he told them about the education system of the University of London and about how the girls from Kosei can study there in the future. He also gave the girls advice on living abroad – something they found very useful because they will soon be off on their big adventure to New Zealand.

It was a big challenge to listen to the lecture because it was all in English but the girls could get a lot of useful information and thought it was very interesting. It was a pleasure to have such a distinguished guest at Kosei.



HALLOWEEN PARTY!



This year "Chu" 1 got to enjoy another Halloween party at Kosei, both teachers and students got involved in this fun activity and everyone had a great time. Stefan and Paul were in charge of educational Halloween games that helped the girls to widen their Halloween vocabulary in a fun and energetic way. After that they all got to make some cute and jazzy pumpkin masks that they used to scare one another with afterwards. Finally, the girls got to go trick or treating around the school and pick up some delicious treats - with a few scares on the way!



International Speech Competition

Yuiko Osada (2E)

I participated in an International Speech competition. There were nice participants in the competition who were chosen from our year 12 and 13 English classes. Everyone talked about different topics and my topic was "whale hunting". The reason why I chose this topic was that I studied it in Japan and I wanted to talk about it as an important part of Japanese culture. When I practiced my speech in front of the other students, everyone said that my opinion, which was for whaling, was wrong. This made me very anxious that the people watching might boo me. When I was speaking on the stage, I was extremely nervous and made some mistakes, but I tried to look in people's eyes. After my speech, everyone looked at me and smiled and gave me applause. I had anticipated the opposite reaction as they were against whaling, so I was really surprised. In addition, I came first in the competition! After the competition, one of the judges said to me "I think it was really hard to make that speech in front of us as we all disagree with whaling, but your speech was extremely great." I was very pleased by these words. This competition became one of my most unforgettable memories.

The girls of 2E will be back in Japan in under a month! Here Chikae and Yuriko talk about some of the precious memories that they have made while in New Zealand!

Athletics Day Heats

Chikae Sato (2E)

At Woodford House we had athletics day heats on the 18th and 19th of October. There were a lot of events such as the 100m sprint, long jump, high jump and shot put. I did the 100m sprint, long jump, high jump, shot put, discus, javelin and house race. I'm going to write about the high jump which is a good story.

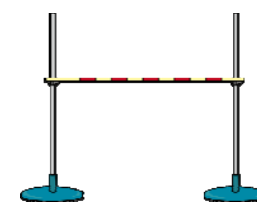
The hardest event for me was the high jump. The reason why I chose it is that I don't have long enough legs to jump over the bar. Also, there were so many people watching the person doing it so it made me nervous. Luckily, I cleared the first level, but I didn't clear the second level. However, I didn't care that I couldn't clear the second level because there were so many things which made me so happy.

The first thing that happened was when I was about to run to the bar. At that time many people were saying "Go Chikae!!!", "You can do it!!!" and those sort of things. I couldn't believe that many people were cheering me on. After I cleared the first level they said "Well done, Chikae!!!" and "Good work, Chikae!!!" They are all such kind people!!!

I realized that the Woodford girls are so nice, kind and awesome. I'm pretty sure that I'll never forget about this event!!!

Important Dates in December

- December 8th - Study Abroad Course, 9th intake students return
- December 14th - Welcome Home Presentation, 9th intake
- December 23rd - Emperor's Birthday
- December 24th - Closing Ceremony



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