

The Kosei Grapevine

Volume 7

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Issue 3

Speech Contest Results

As many of you know, three Junior High School speech contests are held every year at the end of the first term. To prepare for their contest, first year students spend several lessons composing and memorizing a self-introduction speech that includes information on family members, club activities, and hobbies. Second year students are required to learn a short story called Country mouse and Town mouse, which involves a difficult task of understanding how to convey emotions that lie behind this tale. Third year students are faced with the challenge of performing library research on some aspect of Japanese culture, writing a speech, and creating a poster to illustrate their points. Following preliminary in-class competitions, winners go on to compete in the final, between-class tournaments.

As one of the judges in all three competitions this year, I was impressed by the number of students that made the time to come in and work on their speeches with us prior to their final performances. All this practice definitely bore fruit. I can honestly say that it was a close match between numerous very good speeches. My personal favorites were speeches that incorporated emotional expressiveness and humor, although memorization and good content were both essential factors in good performances. First year winners were Miku Ueda (1st place), Lisa Yamagata (2nd), Narumi Shiono (3rd), Yukie Omae and Momoha Naito (shared 4th), Suzuka Inada and Sao Yoneyama (shared 5th). Second year winners were Aika Tokuhisa (1st place), Yui Nagashima (2nd), and Sayaka Muramatsu (3rd). Third year winners were Nene Takeuchi (1st place), Akane Sekiguchi (2nd), Mako Yamauchi and Chinatsu Murata (shared 3rd), and the Reina Ishiwata /Yuka Yamashita pair (B group award). Great job everybody!!!



The 9th Grade Winners



The 8th Grade Winners



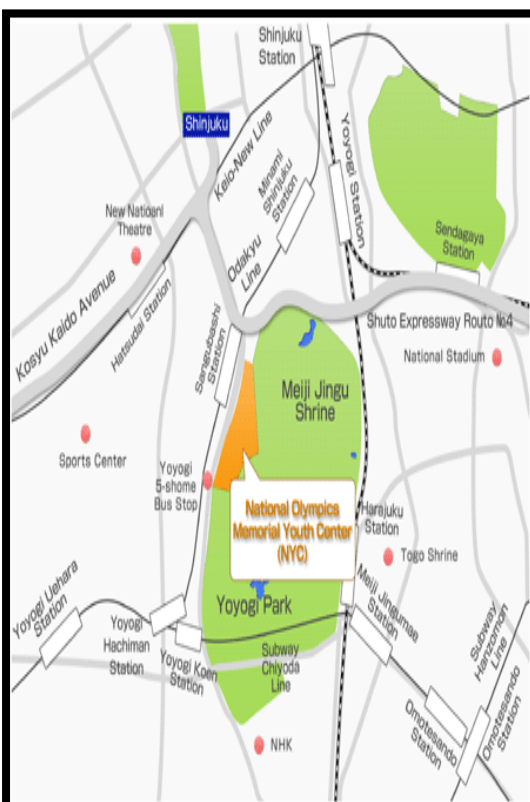
The 7th Grade Winners

今年度も期末試験約1週間前に、本校中学生による英語スピーチコンテストが開催されました。昨年と同様、今年も学年によって発表するテーマが異なり、中1は自己紹介、中2は物語の暗唱、中3は日本の文化についてのプレゼンテーションを行いました。
※受賞者の名前は、上の英文に記載しています。

Typhoon Fails to Dampen the Fun at English Summer Camp

This year 32 students from our junior high school, 5 native teachers and 3 Japanese teachers of English braved the elements to take part in our annual “English Summer Camp” at National Olympics Memorial Youth Centre. The camp took place on the 10th and 11th of July, and while there were initially fears that typhoon number 8 would interrupt the camp, in the end the typhoon passed over during the night and everything went according to plan. On the first day the students enjoyed playing games in English and taking part in an “English Scavenger Hunt” around the center. After dinner they got down to the business of practicing for the English skit contest. The skits were performed on the morning of the second day and all of the groups did a great job!

This year students from all three year levels were able to join the camp making it a great chance for the older students to show their leadership skills and for the younger students to interact with their “senpai” in a relaxed context. It is fair to say that this year’s group leaders were the best ever, and a characteristic of this year’s camp was the strong bonds formed within each group. This in turn led to more chances for the students to speak English, not just with the native teachers but with each other! All of the native teachers are looking forward to next year’s camp!





Brazil 2014



World Cup Fever Hits Japan, and Kosei!

It seems that Japan has been taken over by "football" fever! Football is of course what they call soccer in the UK. In honor of Japan's brave stand in the world cup, our resident soccer fan Paul has become our football reporter.

Even if you are not a fan or football (or of soccer!) you can still enjoy following the world cup. The world cup is a great example of a truly global event that brings people of all nationalities together. It is also a great chance to learn more about other countries.

For the duration of the world cup, each student in 1F is supporting a team from a different country. By following their progress, they can learn more about that country, as well as about football!

Japan Crash out of the World Cup

By Paul Dowling

After four years of waiting in anticipation since the last World Cup, the 2014 tournament has started in Brazil, and what a tournament it has been so far!

Japan was placed in a group with Colombia, Greece and the Ivory Coast. It was a difficult group but not impossible to progress from. Japan's first match was against the Ivory Coast. They were really unlucky to lose 2-1 after Keisuke Honda scored the opening goal. In the next match Japan took on Greece and despite Greece having a player sent off, Japan could only draw 0-0. The final group match was against the strong Colombia team and a game that Japan had to win. Unfortunately they lost 4-1 and crashed out of the World Cup at the group stage.

The Samurai Blue really tried their best but luck was not on their side. Maybe they will do better in Russia in 2018? As for this year's tournament, there are four teams remaining. I think Germany will win. What do you think?

3F Students Studying Hard to Prepare for University Entrance Exams

The girls of 3F have been back in Japan for almost 7 months! They now find themselves at one of the most important points in their high school career, preparation for the university entrance examinations. Even though they all became very fluent speakers of English while they were living in NZ, the challenge now is to maintain this level of fluency while building on their vocabulary and knowledge of important social issues, so that they are ready to take on the English interview test at universities like Waseda and Jochi! This year Oral Communication class is being taught by Siggy. Here is her report.

This semester, I have been enjoying classes with 3F, the returnee girls from New Zealand. We have been able to discuss a variety of subjects that affect not only Japan, but the rest of the world as well. We have discussed environmental problems such as Global Warming and how we can try to reduce our adverse effect on the Earth's natural resources. We have also looked at problems concerning employment, the aging population, the decreasing birthrate and how these issues are affecting the global economy. In order to help the girls continue to build their excellent vocabulary, we have done a variety of activities. These include gap fill activities, where the girls are given an article or essay with vocabulary gaps and the girls choose applicable words from the word box. We have also done word scramble, crosswords and matching activities, where the girls match new vocab to their meanings. The girls have been doing really well and it's been great to discuss their opinions and ideas on all of these subjects. I look forward to continuing to work with them after summer!

Coming up in our next issue, news on...

- The school trip to the UK
- The Young Americans visit...

And more!

"Go the Distance" Selected as This Year's Compulsory Piece for the Chorus Contest

This year, the compulsory piece for the chorus contest will be "Go the Distance", a song from the 1997 Disney movie 'Hercules'. It is composed by Alan Menken, who also wrote "A Whole New World", which was featured in the chorus contest three years ago. All junior high students will be working on a two-part choral version of "Go the Distance". It's gloriously lyrical from start to finish so it gives each class a chance to really shine on stage.

This is nicely timed as this year the students of the Chu 2 A and SA classes have been reading the story of Hercules in their special reading class!



Important Dates

July 19	Closing Ceremony
July 21	Ocean Day
July 22-26	Study Abroad Course Camp
August 7-8	Open School
September 1	Opening Ceremony



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Thank you for reading our newspaper. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments. girls@kosei.ac.jp

