

# The Kosei Grapevine

Volume 7

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Issue 7

## Students Shine in Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Chorus Contest

This year's chorus contest was held on January 24th. In the first half, each of the junior high classes sang two songs: one in English ('Go the Distance' from the Disney movie 'Hercules') and a song of their own choice in Japanese. The week leading up to the contest many girls came down with a cold or the flu, but on the day itself, most students made it to the stage and sang their hearts out.

The 7th graders were the most keen to start practicing for the contest (they started in September!) and they made a very strong debut. The 8th graders kept wavering in their choice of free song, pianist and conductor, but the weeks leading up to the contest, they managed to find their feet and practiced with renewed determination. The 9th graders are always very busy with various other activities (their school trip, studying for the high school entrance exams) but it was clear they too wanted to do their best for this, the last event of their junior high life.

First prize went to 3-2, with 2-1 and 1-1 taking second and third respectively. Mai Miyazaki (3-2) took the best pianist award and, in somewhat of a coup, a 7th grader (Sawako Kojima from 1-2) took the best conductor award.

The second half of the contest was reserved, as always, for the high school students. The judges all felt the overall level was higher than ever before. Special mention must go to 1D who suddenly found themselves without a pianist last-minute. They decided to perform their song a cappella and the result was quite emotional.

For the first time in the history of the chorus contest at our school, two classes came out on top with exactly the same score: 2A ('Haru yo, koi') and 2B ('Akashi'). The second prize went to 2C ('Hajimari') and the third prize to 1A ('Anata e'). Ayaka Mamada got the best pianist award for her elegant, crystal-clear accompaniment to 'Haru yo, koi', and Minani Kamata took the best conductor award for leading her class in 'Hajimari' with unparalleled vision and power. Congratulations, not only to the winners, but to all classes for sharing their extraordinary music with us. It was a real treat!



Performances by two of the winning classes.



合唱コンテストが1月24日に開催されました。午前の部は中学生、午後の部では高校生のコンテストが行われました。中学生は課題曲 "Go the distance" と自由曲の2曲を歌い、高校生は自由曲一曲のみを披露しました。以下、受賞クラス、受賞者です。

● 中学の部

金賞：3-2、銀賞：2-1、銅賞：1-1

最優秀伴奏者賞：宮崎真衣(3-2)、最優秀指揮者賞：小島佐和子(1-2)

● 高校の部

金賞：2-A・2B（同点一位）、銀賞：2C、銅賞：1A

最優秀伴奏者賞：儘田彩香花(2A)、最優秀指揮者賞：蒲田美波(1-2)

### 姉妹校提携

ニュージーランドの高校2校と姉妹校提携の契約が締結されました。ネイピア地区の Girls' High School とハミルトン地区の Waikato Diocesan School は両校とも長年、KGS 留学コースの生徒を受け入れてくださっており、今回の姉妹校提携で本校との絆もより強いものとなりました。

### Two New Sister School Agreements Signed

We are very pleased to announce that we have signed sister school agreements with two wonderful high schools in New Zealand! They are Napier Girls' High School, in Napier and Waikato Diocesan School for Girls, in Hamilton. Both schools have taken exceptional care of our KGS students over the years and we are excited to further strengthen the bond between Kosei Gakuen and these two schools in this way.



# Farewell to the Study Abroad Course 11<sup>th</sup> Intake Girls!



## KGGS11 期生出発

1月18日、KGGS11期生がニュージーランドに向けて出発しました。今回から生徒たちはシドニー大学で語学研修を受けてから帰国することとなり、生徒たちのより一層の英語力向上が期待されます。

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, a farewell party was held for the girls of KGGS' 11<sup>th</sup> intake in the school's cafeteria. This year several student representatives were chosen to stand up and make speeches in English on their determination to succeed while abroad. All of the parents and teachers in attendance were impressed by the students' impeccable pronunciation and wide vocabulary. We are all very excited to see just how fluent they are when they return home in a year!

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January the 40 girls of 1F departed for New Zealand! This year the girls travelled to Auckland via Sydney, Australia. While they could only pass through the airport this time, they are all looking forward to spending time at a language school in Sydney in December! Dean Shishido and the 11<sup>th</sup> intake's homeroom teacher, Ms. Morooka travelled with the group and stayed in New Zealand for their orientation camp. The sun shone for their time in Auckland, surely an auspicious start to what we hope will be a truly memorable year for these students!

## Valentine's Day Crossword

10. Across



1. Down



4. Down



Across

- 3. Have a \_\_\_\_\_ dinner.
- 7. Fall in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. A boyfriend and girlfriend are a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11. The month of Valentine's Day.
- 12. March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 14. Poets write a \_\_\_\_\_.

Down

- 2. Something we wear on our finger.
- 13. Go on a \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Down



6. Down



9. Down



## Valentine's Day in Japan VS

### Valentine's Day in Western Countries

I was very surprised to learn the differences between Valentine's Day here in Japan and other countries. In Japan, there are 2 days; Valentine's Day and White Day. There isn't a White Day in western countries so I was very surprised when I first heard of it. In western countries, Valentine's Day is all about trying to impress the person you like! Sometimes people send flowers or gifts and then go on a special date. Roses are very popular as presents! If people go on a date, they call their partner their 'valentine'. Many people send a card to someone they secretly like and confess to them, asking them to be their 'Valentine'. Do you have someone who you want to be your Valentine?

### Important Dates

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb: National Founding Day  
 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Eiken Day (Interview)

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