

The Kosei Grapevine

Volume 8

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Issue 5

Chorus Contest 2016!

This year's chorus contest was held on January 30th. It was the 10th edition and the standard was higher than ever before. All classes – both junior and senior – really outdid themselves and impressed the audience with powerful renditions of the songs they had chosen. All junior high classes sang the Disney classic “Part of Your World” in a special arrangement that featured solo-parts, a speaking part and quite a challenging accompaniment, as well. They also sang a Japanese song of their choice. The 7th graders had chosen Arashi's “Furusato” for their chorus contest debut. The 8th grade classes are pretty wild classes, so energy is not a problem, but singing the quiet bits beautifully was. They practiced hard and wowed everyone with their powerful yet sensitive performances on the day of the contest. The 9th graders pulled out all the stops for their last chorus contest and chose difficult, challenging songs. Even though there were a few ups and downs during practice, they got their act together for the actual performance and gave it their all. The 2-1 class took first prize, with Lisa Yamagata taking the best pianist award and Sawako Kojima taking the best conductor award (for the second time in a row!). Second and third prize went to 3-1 and 2-2 respectively. Well done! The senior high competition was equally thrilling. The 2F class took top prize with their stunning rendition of “Niji”. This was all the more amazing because the girls had just come back from a year in New Zealand a few weeks before the contest. Second prize went to the 2E girls, whose conductor (Etsuko Hashimoto) got the top award in that category; and third prize went to the 2D class. Mai Miyazaki of 1C got a well-deserved best pianist award – for the second year in a row – for playing a difficult accompaniment seemingly effortlessly. Congratulations!



Memories of Junior High School

By Haruka Asayama

Hello everyone.

My name is Haruka. I am a Junior High School student. In my three years at Kosei School I have made many memories. Some memories are good and some memories are bad.

In the first grade, I remember Ohme. This was a bad memory because I had to memorize the greeting sentences before eating. It was difficult. Also, I remember the school trip to Kidzania. This was a good memory because I could do some work experience for many jobs, for example, a nail artist.

In the second grade, I remember the school trip to Kamakura. This was a good memory because I could go to many shrines with my group. Also, I remember the Chorus Contest. This was a good memory because everyone in the class gathered together to encourage each other.

In the third grade, I remember the school trip to New Zealand. This was a bad memory because I was sick. But I bought many souvenirs in New Zealand. I was very happy. Also, I remember the Sports Festival. This was a good memory because my class won the victory.

My best memory was the school trip to Kamakura because we went as a group. It was very fun. I will always remember the school trip to Kamakura.

Junior High School Speech Contests

The junior high school speech contests for the third term have come to a close. Everyone worked hard to write and present their speeches.

The 7th graders gave a Show and Tell speech. Each student chose a special item that they treasure. They showed their item and talked about why it is important to them. There were many interesting items that the students talked about. In this contest, there were 5 winners. In 5th place was Ayano, who talked about her Olaf keychain. In 4th place was Chikako, who showed her collection of letters she has received. In 3rd place was Saki with her tennis racket. In 2nd place was Yukina with her photo album. Finally, in 1st place was Sena, who talked about her tea bowl.

The 8th graders wrote and presented a book report for their speech contest. All of the students read a book called 'Good Day, Bad Day' by Paul Shipton. In the story, a young man named Mike and his sister Kerry visit a fortune teller. Students summarized the story and talked about what they liked about the book. There were 5 students who won awards in this contest. A special award was given to Emi, Yuki and Sayako both won 3rd prize, Miku was awarded 2nd prize, and in 1st place was Lisa.

The 9th graders, who will soon be graduating, wrote about their memories of the past three years in junior high school. There were 4 awards given to the B class. In 3rd place was Yuna and Chinatsu, in 2nd place was Nagi, and in 1st place was Haruka. The B class gave speeches about their good and bad memories from all three years of junior high school. The SA and A classes performed skits about their memories. The winners from the A class were Haruka and Yui, and the SA class winners were Honoka and Aika. While writing their speeches, the 9th grade students were able to feel nostalgic while thinking about things that happened in their first, second, and final years of junior high school. Now, everyone is looking forward to making new memories in high school.



Welcome Home 2F!

On the 6th of December many excited parents and teachers gathered at Haneda Airport to welcome home the girls of 2F!

This year, for the first time, the girls spend time at the University of Sydney in Australia before returning home to Japan. During this time, the girls participated not only in English language classes, but also university style lectures. At the University of Sydney they had the opportunity to carry out further research on our school's research theme of creating peaceful multi-ethnic societies.

Upon return to Japan, the girls got straight to work practicing to make presentations about their life in New Zealand, the KGGs course and the history of both New Zealand and Australia as multi-ethnic societies. On the 19th of December they made these presentations in front of their very proud parents, teachers and current KGGs students at the "Welcome Home Assembly." Everyone present thoroughly enjoyed hearing all about what the girls discovered during their time abroad. We are all looking forward to seeing what they achieve in the future!



Farewell 1G!

Just over a month after the return of 2F, the girls of 1G set off for New Zealand via Sydney. These 19 girls will spend the next year at schools in the Waikato and Hawkes Bay, two very beautiful areas of New Zealand's North Island.

While the girls were a little nervous at the thought of not seeing their parents for almost a year, they were also extremely excited that it was finally time to head to New Zealand. These girls have worked very hard over the last year to prepare for their time abroad. Now, they will finally be able to put this knowledge to use out in the world!

The group spend several days in Auckland city adjusting to life in New Zealand as a group. During this time they were able to visit important sites around Auckland and sample some delicious New Zealand cuisine!

We can't wait to see them again in December and to speak with them in English! Kia kaha!

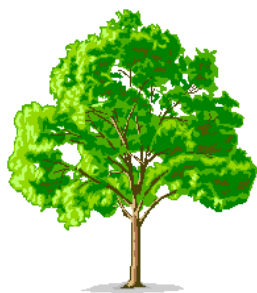
NZ 留学：11期生が帰国し、12期生が出発しました！

昨年12月6日、2Fの生徒がシドニーを経由し羽田空港に無事到着しました。今回から帰国前にオーストラリアのシドニー大学で講義を受けるだけでなく、文科省に認定されたSG校生徒として「他民族社会における平和的発展」の研究をするためです。12期生もシドニー経由でNZのオークランドへ移動し準備期間を経て、ハミルトン地区とネイピア地区で留学生活開始です。1,2学期の苦勞が開花し始めます。

8th District Speech Contests

This year two students from our junior high school and two students from our senior high school took part in the annual 8th district speech contest. Honoka Tsuchiya and Haruka Kozuma, both 9th grade students, made recitations. They were joined by 10th grader Kurumi Baba, who recited Emma Watson's speech on gender equality. 12th grader Marina Nishio made a speech on the importance of language to culture. She participated in the returnee section, having just returned from a year abroad in New Zealand.

As always, competition was fierce. However, the girls did the school proud with their excellent performances. We look forward to attending again next year!



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Important Dates

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| March 12 | High School Graduation |
| March 19 | Junior High School Graduation |
| March 24 | Closing Ceremony |

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

