

The Kosē Grapevine

Volume 9

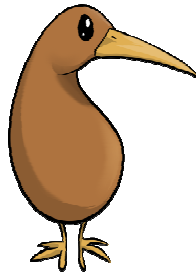
Friday, September 23rd 2016

Issue 2

KGGS 13th Intake News: Ome Camp

The KGGS 13th intake Ome camp is an annual event held at the end of August. Visiting Ome gives the students the chance to enjoy being surrounded by nature, while also focusing on what they need to do in order to make their time abroad a success.

During this year's camp the students focused on preparing for New Zealand. The program included talks by graduates of the KGGS program, who were able to offer valuable first hand advice. There was also a chance for the students to think about what aspects of Japanese culture and society they would like to investigate before going abroad. There were plenty of chances to use English, too. These included a workshop by the native teachers where the students practiced putting on yukata, and explaining the process in English!



KGGS 12th Intake News: Rotorua Camp

Schools in New Zealand have a two week long winter break in July. This gives us the perfect chance to meet up with our KGGS students for a short study camp in New Zealand's hot-spring capital, Rotorua. This year the 19 girls of KGGS' 12th intake travelled by bus from the Hamilton and Napier areas to meet with their teachers Sara and Ms. Hashitani. It was a very emotional reunion, and all of the students were amazed by how well their classmates had become able to speak English!

During the camp, the students had the chance to sit mock exams, discuss how they wish to spend the rest of their time in New Zealand, and of course, check out Rotorua's spectacular scenery. From now until November, the girls will be working hard on their fieldwork assignments. We are looking forward to seeing the results at the welcome home assembly in December!

English Summer Camp!

Our annual English Summer Camp is held in Yoyogi, and is always a highlight of the school year for our junior high school students! This year, 35 students joined the camp on the 14th and 15th of July. They were accompanied by the school's native English speaking staff members and several Japanese teachers.

Throughout the camp, students are surrounded by English and are encouraged to speak English as much as possible. This year the students enjoyed playing English games, doing a scavenger hunt in English and performing a skit in English.

Despite the wild weather, the camp was enjoyed by all! The younger students are looking forward to participating again next year, while many of our 9th graders are looking forward to putting their English skills to use in New Zealand!



Junior High School Speech Contests

Every term our junior high school students look forward to the speech contests, however the first term contests are especially exciting! This year the Chu 3 students researched aspects of Japanese culture. They then presented their findings at the speech contest! Topics included Japanese food, names and hot-spring culture. The winners were:

- 1) Noa Ito and Suzuka Inada
- 2) Sayako Hirata and Momoha Naito
- 3) Jun Yamada and Sawako Kojima

The Chu 2 students presented a recitation of "Town Mouse, Country Mouse" from Aesop's fables. All of the students memorized the script perfectly, and everyone had excellent pronunciation. It was a difficult decision, but the winners were:

- 1) Sena Tokuhisa
- 2) Chikako Sato
- 3) Ayano Kurihara 4) Chiharu Ninomiya Airi Inoue

Lastly, it was the first speech contest for the Chu 1 students. Everyone was very nervous and excited about making self-introductions in front of their friends. All the students made excellent speeches! The winners were:

- 1) Asa Sakurai
- 2) Hinata Takehana Yurika Hori
- 3) Akari Ishii Aino Soejima

Congratulations to all who participated!

International Adventures!

In Sri Lanka!



Sri Lanka Cultural Exchange

Every year a group of students travel to Sri Lanka to engage in a cultural and religious exchange program. This year 16 students participated, accompanied by Rev. Sakai, Ms. Suga and Mr. Sato.

The students stayed in homestay accommodation for two nights, and were able to enjoy Sri Lankan food and family life. The students stayed with families from various religious backgrounds, including Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Roman Catholic. They also learned a lot about how the local people live through visiting a school and various religious facilities. They were able to share aspects of Japan's culture with their new friends, including Japanese origami, the music of Arashi and a traditional Japanese dance. There were of course plenty of chances for the group to explore Sri Lanka's sights. Highlights included visiting famous temples and some local markets. The students look forward to sharing their memories of the trip with everyone at this year's Otomesai festival.

England Trip and Short-term Study Abroad Program

The annual school trip to England is a highlight of high school life, and something that our Ko 2 students look forward to each year. This year, 30 students decided to join our short-term study abroad program and study at a language school in Brighton until August 5th after saying goodbye to their classmates on July 10th. Before that, the entire group spent time in London and Cheltenham and made many special memories together as a year group.

The short-term study abroad course students worked hard to improve their English skills through studying at a language school during the day and engaging with their homestay family in the evenings and on the weekends. Students had many opportunities to experience different aspects of English culture. Brighton is a famous seaside town that really comes alive during the summer meaning that the students could enjoy summer to the fullest by eating fish and chips on the beach and enjoying shopping along Brighton's famous lanes! They also enjoyed day trips to destinations such as historic Winchester. All of the girls discovered a lot about England and improved their communication skills dramatically!

Super Global Class News: Thailand Fieldwork Trip

This summer, the students of the Super Global class (1st intake) travelled to Thailand to carry out fieldwork and learn more about the creation of peaceful multi-ethnic societies. They were accompanied by their homeroom teacher, Mr. Sakiyama as well as Ms. Idei from the Department of International Studies. Deputy Principal Shishido and Ms. Miyakawa, the head of the Department of International Studies joined part-way through the trip.

Highlights of the trip included visiting a local school and doing a homestay as well as spending time in a Karen village. The Karen people are a group who live in the mountains of Northern Thailand, and are one of Thailand's many ethnic minorities. The students also had the chance to visit a university and several NGOs. Such experiences allowed the students to better understand the problems facing Thai society and how people are working to create a more peaceful world.

The trip gave the students insight into how different groups of people live alongside each other in Thailand. They are now highly motivated and excited about their next challenge: carrying out research in London!

In Thailand!



Kosei Gakuen Girls' Junior & Senior High School

Kyuden 2-1-1 Setagaya-ku Tokyo Japan 157-0064

Tel: (03) 3300 2351 Fax: (03) 3309 0617

Important Dates

September 24/25	Otomesai Festival!
October 1	Tokyo People's Day Holiday
October 10	Physical Education Day Holiday

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