

The Kosei Grapevine

Volume 9

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Issue 4

2017 Chorus Contest

This year's junior high chorus contest was a little different from previous years. Many of our 9th graders were in New Zealand for a three-month study program. This meant that our two 9th grade classes, being incomplete, couldn't participate in the actual contest. That left us with just three classes.

The two 7th grade classes chose bright songs that require a lot of energy. The students can be quite loud and wild in class, but being loud in class and singing loudly and clearly on a stage are two different things. They worked hard to raise the level of their performance in the weeks leading up to the contest and did a pretty good job on the day of the contest. The winners in the junior high contest were the 8th grade students (2-1), however, who took the top prize with their rendition of the Disney classic "A Dream is a wish your heart makes" from Cinderella. They also took the two other awards. Chikako Sato, who played the accompaniment to the Disney song, got the best pianist award and Chinatsu Noguchi, who led her class with grace and elegance in the English compulsory song, "Believe", got the best conductor award.

After a touching performance by a small group of 9th graders who wanted to be part of the event even though they couldn't actually be in the contest, it was time for the senior high contest. Everyone was very motivated and the overall level of the performances was quite high, so right up until the end, nobody could really guess who would be picking up the trophies. In third place was 2C; the second prize went to the 1B class and the first prize went to 2D, a dark-horse class who had kept the best for the actual day of the performance. The best pianist and conductor award were also surprises, as the winners did not come from the top-three classes. The best conductor award went to Momo Hikichi of 2F, and the best pianist award went to Mai Miyazaki of 2E who – in spite of a last-minute finger injury – managed to pull off the amazing feat of winning best pianist three years in a row. Congratulations!

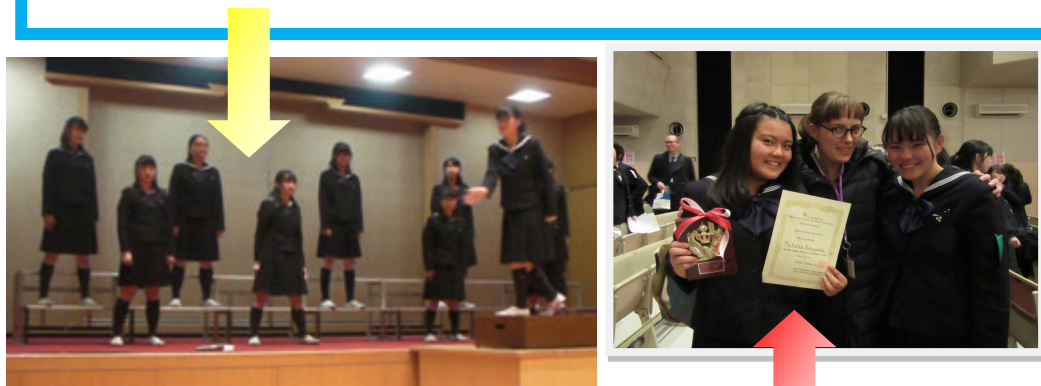


Junior High School Speech Contests

This term's 7th Grade Speech Contest was a "Show and Tell" presentation where the students brought along an item that is special to them and talked about it to the rest of the students. There were many great items. The winner of the "Best Item" award went to Nami Matsumura for her crafty stuffed toys. There was a bear and a rabbit. They were very cute!

The 8th Grade students did a presentation on the book, Good Day, Bad Day. There were many great speeches. It was such a close finish that there were two second place and two third place awards given out. In first place was Sena Tokuhisa, in joint second were Chikako Sato and Ayano Kurihara, and in joint third place were Kotomi Sato and Tona Kakimoto.

Finally, the 9th Grade students gave a Powerpoint presentation about their farm stay in New Zealand. It looked like they all had a great time and they all gave amazing presentations. Momo Urata helped Sara with being MC and she did such a good job that she won an award for it! For the presentations, in first place were Noa Ito and Suzuka Inada, in second place were Momoha Naito and Sawako Kojima, and in third place were Lisa Yamagata, Kana Matsuzawa and Kaho Imuta. I look forward to watching all the presentations again next year.



8th District Speech Contest

On Saturday, 25th February, two of our Ko 2 students took part in the annual 8th district speech contest. The students were Yukana Yokoyama of 2G and Kurumi Baba of 2A. Both students wrote their own speeches on topics closely related to our Super Global High School research theme. Yukana spoke about the creation of peaceful multi-ethnic societies, and Kurumi spoke about what we can do to help street children. The competition was fierce, however, Yukana was able to take away the third prize in the returnee category. Congratulations to both girls for making inspiring speeches! We look forward to seeing you both make speeches on the global stage in the future!

News from New Zealand!

9th Grade School Trip

New Zealand in the Summer!

On January 15th our 9th grade students went to New Zealand for one week. They went to New Zealand's largest city, Auckland. On the second day, the students visited the famous glow worm caves called Waitomo Caves. Then they went to a small rural town, Cambridge. They stayed with a home stay family on a farm for two nights. During the home stay, students had many unique experiences such as going to a beach, having a BBQ and visiting a kiwi house. Many of the students also helped their families care for some farm animals. After the home stay, the students spent their free time in Auckland shopping, eating local foods and visiting New Zealand's tallest building, the Sky Tower. The third grade students returned to Japan on January 21st. The students had an enjoyable time and learnt many things about New Zealand culture.



Junior High School Study Abroad Program

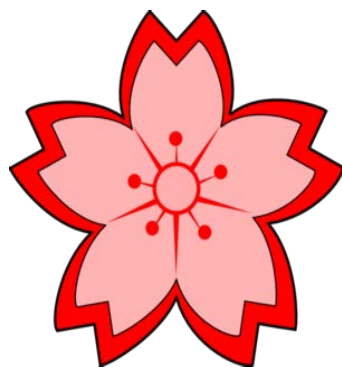
2017 has seen the start of an exciting new program at Kosei Gakuen Junior High School. For the first time ever, 16 of our 9th grade girls will be studying abroad in Auckland for three months. Auckland is the largest city in New Zealand and is home to over one million people. What's more, Auckland is a melting pot of people from all over the world. In fact, it has more people from the Pacific Islands than any other city in the world. Add to this the increasing population of international students from all over Asia and Europe, and you can see that Auckland is truly one of the world's most multi-ethnic cities.

Our students will study at four different schools spread across Auckland's "North Shore." This is a particularly beautiful area of the city, with stunning beaches, mountains and lakes. Mr. Sato from the English department will stay in New Zealand for the entire three months to support our students. We are sure that this experience will become an unforgettable memory for our students, and hopefully inspire them to use English in their everyday lives even after returning to Japan!

Study Abroad Class Students Take Off for a Year of Adventure!

The 26 students of the KGGGS program's 13th intake set off for New Zealand on the 21st of January. As well as English, these students have studied various aspects of New Zealand culture here at Kosei Gakuen for the last nine months. Armed with this knowledge, they excitedly boarded the plane bound for Auckland, via Australia. In New Zealand the students will study at 13 different schools in three different areas, Tauranga, Hamilton and Napier. They will not only be surrounded by English, but by new cultural experiences.

As part of our Super Global High School activities, the girls will carry out fieldwork in New Zealand. Each student will choose her own topic related to our theme of "Furthering Peace in Multi-Ethnic Societies through fieldwork."



Important Dates

March 11th High School Graduation Ceremony

March 18th Junior High School Graduation Ceremony

March 24th End of Term Ceremony

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