

Sakura no Seibo High School English Department Newsletter



“ESTA - English School Trip Abroad” October 8 - 25, 2004

On October 8th, 26 second year English Department students left on the first ESTA Program. For 18 days they spent time in three Sister Schools in the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. Besides going to classes at Regi - Notre Dame High School, Holy Cross High School and Nicholson College, they also visited several elementary schools and a senior citizens home where they performed a Japanese dance and shared about their own Japanese culture and customs. Attending school with their “buddy” and experiencing Canadian family life during their homestay was definitely the highlight of the trip for most of the students.

School Life in Canada and Japan

When I went to school in Canada on the first day, I doubted whether it was a school or not, because all of the students looked lively, bright, and happy. My image of school is a place, which makes student's study, where students are bound by rules, and there are many strict teachers. I did not have such a good image of school. But Canadian students are all enjoying school. Why is there such a difference between school life in Canada and Japan? I had thought that the reason might be to have freedom or not. In Canada there is more freedom, for example, hair coloring, accessories, so on. I really felt jealous of that. Perhaps such freedoms make their life happy, I thought. ...But is that the real reason? When I talked with my Canadian friends, and my view changed gradually. The thing, which makes their life happy, I found, is “themselves”. They never complained about their school life or about anyone else. On the contrary they are proud of their school life, their friends, and themselves. And they have good judgment. When the recess is over, they, talking noisily until then, stop talking at once and get down to studying in earnest. Everyone can raise their hand and express their own opinion clearly. And although they are permitted to wear accessories etc., or the relationship between teachers and students is so friendly, they can make the distinction between school life and private life, or the relationship between teachers and students. I think Japanese students sometimes lose the boundary between school life and private life. If we, who cannot obey the rules now are given more freedom, I doubt we can live a happy life without having good judgment. So I found I need to live a Japanese life while having good judgment like Canadian students. Saori Kanno 2-1

The Treasures of My Life

I'll never forget the experiences of my home stay and high school life in Canada. These experiences are the treasures of my life. Chiemi and I stayed at Mr. Candido's family's house. My host father, Rommy, who teaches religion at R.N.D. is a very kind and funny man. Mr. Candido's family came from the Philipinnes. They moved to Canada 33 years ago. We did special things while we stayed with them. I think if I stayed with another family, I wouldn't have had these experiences. They were karaoke and staying at the farm. Rommy loves music, so we sang songs with karaoke every night. By practicing, I could sing “Let It Be”, “The Rose” and so on. I had heard these songs in Japan, but I couldn't understand the English words. So I think I made progressed in English. Rommy also took us to the farm. It is his nephew's farm. A very big farm surrounded by nature. We really experienced precious things. I'd like to thank all the people around me.

I was blessed with my host family. I could really do a lot of things that I can't do in Japan. I want to thank my host and I'll continue to communicate from now on. And I want to visit Canada again. Kahori Inomata 2-1

Valuable days

“It was a lot of fun.” “I want to live in Canada.” I have done nothing but say such words since I returned to Japan. I learned a lot of things from a short stay with my host family. First I was nervous but they welcomed me warmly. Around my house there were many trees, there was nothing but corn as far as the eye could see, a lot of ranches, cattle, horses, ducks, sheep and so on. The sight was nature itself. There were beautiful trees aflame with red and yellow leaves.

My family taught me many things: about vegetation, climate, animals and so on. I saw a nest of a beaver and a tree gnawed by a beaver. I saw them all for the first time. We talked with each other at dinner about Canada or Japan or about other countries. One night I explained about the Japanese language to family. They said, “Japanese is very difficult. You are very smart girls.”

We visited some elementary schools and talked about Japan. The children in Canada looked more mature, because I think Canadian children are more positive. Students greet teachers wherever they meet them. They are eager to study in classes. The school's atmosphere was cheerful. The teachers respect the personality of the students. School in Canada is freer than our school. But freedom means we have to think for ourselves. What shall we do to make our school more fun? First of all, it is important for us to become more actively involved, for example, to greet teachers and friends. Also we must give our opinion more. Then I think we will become more active. I realized I couldn't use English as I wanted. I want to master basic conversation by recalling my days in Canada. I got confidence from all my experiences in Canada. Sister Marijke told us that to experience something yourself is something you can not buy. For my future, I want to gain a lot of experiences from now on. Mihoko Ishikawa 2-1

A Postcard from Canada

December 1, 2004



*Dear Everyone at Seibo,
How are you? I'm sorry to keep you waiting. I was working on studying for civics test. That class is about Canadian government and now we're learning the history. I thought that Canada is more like Britain or a little bit all-*

American but now I am finding out that Canadians are neither British nor all-American. They have their own spirit.

In drama class, we're practicing "Romeo and Juliet." We have to read meaning into the words. I'm glad to learn such a beautiful play! I'm so excited about that!

This Thursday, I had a math test. I'm taking business math so we have to write financial planning in English. (of course)*

This is a kind of thinking class. We use formula and we can have our own opinions in math class!! This was fresh to me. Regi has a lot of amusing programs and self-assertion is an important thing to join them.

Anyway, I'm having so much fun! This is my daily life...

Until next time, Manami Ogata

"The Sound of Music" A Big Success!

Every year that the school Cultural Festival is held, the students in the English Department perform an English play. This year they staged the classic musical "The Sound of Music." All of the students were involved in some capacity, from working backstage to performing. It was the first time we had attempted this musical and it was indeed a challenge. However, judging from the audience reaction, it was a ringing success! I think every student should feel proud of this achievement!

Thomas Nissen



A word from "Maria"

In the play, I played the role of Maria. It was the first time for me to perform in such a musical, but I really enjoyed it. Practice was often difficult and we really struggled many times. But finally, when I was

singing on the stage, it was a very wonderful feeling. I want to perform in a drama like this again someday!

Shoko Honda 3-1

A Word from a staff member

I worked on the sets of the play. At first we couldn't imagine what we had to do. I was confused many times. But with the help of Mr. Reis and Sister Marijke and Mrs. Fukui, we were able to complete all the sets. When we saw the finished sets, I was very glad. I learned about the importance of helping each other from this play. This was a good experience because all the English Department students became more friendly through working together to make "The Sound of Music".

Mihoko Ishikawa 2-1



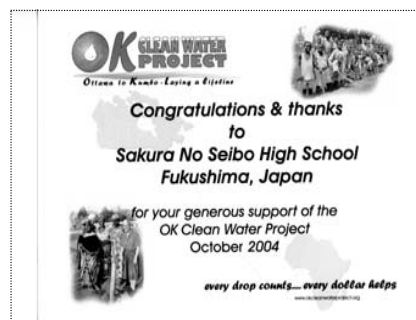
A Word from the Music Group

I was one of the pianists for the play "The Sound of Music". Practicing was tiring but I tried my best. I also took part as one of the children in the "Favorite Things" scene.

I was very happy that so many people came to see our play! The English play was a big success. When we have the next production I shall be in third year, so this year was a good preparation for the next time.

Ayumi Honda 1- 1

OK Clean Water Project



During Sakura no Seibo's School Festival, the English Department students held an "African Safari" to raise money for the "OK Clean Water Project" in Africa. We had African music and dancing and prepared African food to sell. There was a flea market. Mr. Mukuna, an African musician who lives in Tokyo, came to help us on the day. We raised more than ¥80,000 for this project. All the students enjoyed the experience of supporting such a great cause.

The second year students took the money to Canada on their school trip and donated it to the people from the "OK Clean Water Project" in Ottawa.