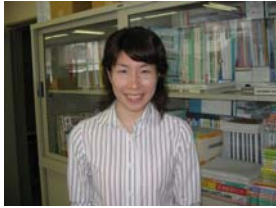


Sakura no Seibo High School English Department Newsletter

Editor: Marijke Gerretsen



Introducing New English Dept. Teacher

Hi. I'm **Megumi Itakura**. I've enjoyed teaching the English Dept. students since this April. I'm a graduate of the English Dept. of Sakura no Seibo High School, so I am very glad to come back as a teacher and spend time with my juniors.

What I remember most in my high school days is that I took pains to study the textbook "Progress" everyday like the present English Dept. students. After I graduated from Seibo, I entered Nanzan University in Nagoya with a dream to study abroad. Nanzan was a wonderful university for me because there were foreign students everywhere on campus and I made a lot of friends regardless of nationality. When I was a third year student, my dream came true. I studied at the University of Massachusetts for a year. I also enjoy learning Intercultural Communication and Chinese. It was a very interesting experience to study Chinese in English. And I can't forget that I had huge portions of ice cream almost everyday there.

Now I am very excited to teach English at Seibo because I am sure English helps you have actual communication with people all over the world. Finally, I have a message for all of you, "Please study English hard, travel a lot, and communicate with as many people as you can by using English!! If you do so, your life will be much more fun!!"

First Year Voices

A Relationship with English

I think that the first year English Course (1-1) is a very nice class. The class atmosphere is very good and everyone is very positive. If you want to learn English fully, and have a relationship with English, the English Course is the best!

Sakiko Fujita 1 - 1

Always Busy

I've been busy since I came to the English Course, but I have been able to make many friends. I want to study English hard every day, play basketball, and enjoy being with my friends. I also want to make many good memories in these three years.

Satomi Kanno 1 - 1

Like Paradise

We are going to Canada next year, so we are studying English very hard. Each student has a goal, so even though studying is sometimes painful, we are O.K. The English Course is like a paradise for me. You can hear laughter from our classroom every day. Please come and visit our class!

Ayana Baba 1 - 1

Dreams of the Future

The English Course classes are difficult. I think preparing for each day's lessons is especially hard. But I have dreams for my future, so I must hold out. All the students here are very clever. I want to become a clever person, too.

Fuyumi Konno 1 - 1

More than Others

I am glad to have joined the English Course because everyone is very interesting and kind. We can study English much more than students at other schools. English is useful for me as I seek my dreams. It's difficult, but I'll never give up. I will really study hard.

Shiori Kojo 1 - 1



Student Teacher Ms. Kyoko Ando

Recently two 1-1 students, **Azusa Owada** and **Sayaka Suzuki**, interviewed the student teacher for their class, Ms. Kyoko Ando, herself a graduate from our English Course. Here is the interview.

First, please tell us where you come from.

Well, I came from Shirayuri College in Tokyo.

Do you have any hobbies?

Yes. My hobby is kendo. I have a third level certificate in kendo. Of course, I was in the kendo club when I was in high school.

Tell us about your high school life.

I studied hard every day, especially English. My home-room teacher was very strict. I was always busy because I was in the kendo club, too.

How do you feel about the English Course?

I think it is very good because we can learn not only English grammar, but we can also get a lot of global knowledge. You have many chances everyday to communicate with native speakers of English in small classes.

What is your college like?

It's an all-women's school, so it's like Seibo. There are about 2000 students in the school, but in my department the classes are small, so we have a chance to get to know each other very well.

What advice do you have for us?

Well, you should study hard. Speak to your teachers in English. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Go to zero koji. Don't be absent. When you have the English play in the school festival, have courage and don't be shy. It will make great memories in your life. And finally, I encourage all of

Exchange Students News



The telephone rang..... it was my counselor, asking me if I wanted to go abroad for a year. When I said "Yes" I was thinking "What am I doing? Well, the yes was said, no more exit... I started my preparations, but...where do I begin? What do I need? My first time in the airplane, my first time abroad, alone!.... I was happy, excited, interested...but, confused! OK! Let's go.... with my poor English, my 3 or 4 Japanese words and just my Portuguese in mind, I came. I had arrived ...I got homesick, school began, no Japanese, no English, nobody knows me... WHERE AM I?

Step by step I could win and be stronger; I could make friends and meet people who were in the same situation as me. Things changed for the better and now I can see how big this world is, the differences between our two countries, many ways of life, and many views. I'll be back in BRAZIL in another month, so this year is over and will be forever in my mind... it was a very good experience for me, **and I survived.** You also can do it, find your own way, find something that makes yourself better than yesterday, try a little harder. Good Luck.

Sandra Minei (Exchange student from Brazil)

Congratulations Yoko!

First Place!



Second year English Department student **Yoko Inada**, who is currently in Canada on an exchange program, took **1st place** in Regi-Notre Dame Speech Contest. Here are some parts of Yoko's speech.

My Experience of Coming to Canada

When I took the challenge to come to Canada to study English for a year, I never dreamed that I would ever experience a moment like right now presenting a speech in the language that I came here to learn and in front of so many people!

I arrived in Kingston in August 2004. It was the beginning of new experiences: a new family, different culture, interesting food, as well as attending a Canadian high school.

At first, I was a bit scared because Canadian people freely speak their opinion with confidence. Japanese people don't speak their opinion so much. We are more shy and have a quieter nature. However I'm trying to say my opinion confidently because I'm in Canada to learn Canadian culture.

Schools are also different. I think Canadian schools are more casual and free. Schools' moods are totally different between Canada and Japan. The thing that I find common for students in both countries is that schools are not just for studying. Schools are the places where students widen their circle of friendship, find out what they want to be in the future, and to grow up with every experience of being a student. I've learned lots things here that I wouldn't learn in Japan. I'm proud of myself. What I've learned here will impact my life forever.

Student Teacher Interview



Kaori Hasebe is a graduate from the English Department in Sakura no Seibo.

Yuko Yomogita and Junko Watanabe, students of 3 - 1 interviewed **Kaori**.

Q1. Please tell us when you decided your future?

A. I decided my future after I graduated from "Kanda University" of International Studies. I couldn't find what I wanted to do during my university life.

Q2. Why did you go to "Kanda University"?

A. I wanted to study English more, and I wanted to develop my speaking ability.

Q3. Please tell us how you studied in high school?

A. To tell the truth, I didn't like to study hard. But when I was in high school, I had to. Most of all, I did preparation very hard. And I did a little review. That was my way of studying English.

Q4. Please tell us what you learned in "Sakura no Seibo High School"?

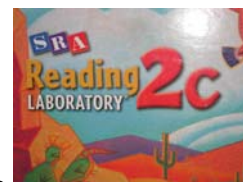
A. I learned about global thinking from the native speakers. They taught me not only English but other ways of thinking.

Q5. What's your future goal?

A. I want to be a teacher now. I'd like to teach many students both who like studying English, and don't like studying English.

SELHi Study

Improve Your Reading



One of our SELHi goals this year is to improve our students' **reading and listening ability**. In the second year, we are using the **SRA Reading Program**. In Wednesday morning 8:00 classes, we work on increasing our reading speed. All students work individually at a level appropriate for their reading ability. Here are some students comments.

I use the Power Cards in class to improve my reading comprehension. At first, I felt that there were too many words and I couldn't understand the stories well. There wasn't enough time to finish the card. Gradually, however, I learned to read quicker and now I am able to finish every card within the time. I know my reading comprehension is getting better. Now, I really enjoy SRA. The stories are interesting and I am motivated to learn more.

Junko Watanabe 2-1

To improve our reading speed, we use Rate Builders on Wednesday mornings. We read short stories and answer questions with a time limit of only three minutes. I can feel my reading speed getting quicker and by the end of the year, we will be able to finish the stories in only 2 minutes. I want to keep trying my best to improve my English Reading ability even more.

Ayumi Watanabe 2-1