

# Sakura no Seibo High School English Department Newsletter

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## Messages from the North: My ESTA Experience

### I Love Canada

This trip to Canada for seventeen days gave me important memories that will always remain in my heart. I learned two things through ESTA. First, I learned about my English ability. I did not know how I could use my English with the local people. I found I could almost always understand what people were talking about. In the hotel I could explain my opinion to the bellboy by myself. When I could make myself understood by them I was very delighted. But I could not talk well on the telephone. I became uneasy because I couldn't catch the very fast English and I could not see the face of the person I was speaking to.



Second, I saw that Canadians have the same idea as the Japanese. That is the importance of recycling. I realized that the problems of the environment occur all over the world.

Shiori Kojo 2-1

### ESTA is My Treasure

I found a great thing in this trip. It is that I can have a great meeting and I can broaden my world by talking only in English. In this trip I could make a lot of friends who are not only Canadian but also Chinese, Korean, and Taiwanese. I thought it is wonderful to get to speak and understand English.

Also, I found the good points of people who live in Canada. First, they respect the personality of each other. Second, they decide everything they want to do by themselves. Third, they are



kind to other people. I got the impression that people who live in Canada have warm hearts. I could get to know their sense of values and their culture. For example, it is their custom to send a card to each other at every

opportunity. I think I want to know more of Canadian culture. I missed this when I left Canada.

Before I went to Canada I saw a very narrow world in Japan. But during my time in Canada I could see a wide world. This trip was a good chance for me. I'm happy that I went to Canada. I'll never forget it.

Wako Hanzawa 2-1

### School Life and More

It was important for me to spend five days experiencing school life in Canada. At first I was confused by the difference from Japanese schools. However, I was very much interested in Canadian schools. My buddy, Irene, takes Religion, Art, Math, and Physics. I have religion class, too. We learn about Christianity, but they learn about religions all over the world. (They were just studying about Taoism in China.) Canadian students took part in classes actively. So I want to imitate them from now on.

I was also glad to be able to visit a home for the elderly. So far, I've had no good memories from old people's homes in Japan.



However, I felt comfortable there for the first time. I wanted to thank the old woman who did origami with me and listened to my story.

And it was an essential experience for me that I was able to visit a lot of museums. I

saw many rare things that I'd never seen in Japan. Sad to say, we were not able to stay longer.

Azusa Owada 2-1

### Happy Home Stay

Last but not least, my home stay was a full and memorable experience. I stayed with Henry and Lois Yamamoto and my friend Asami. They were kind to us and their pet "Babe" was always our friend. Henry, who was my host father, is a teacher at Holy Cross High School. Lois, who was my host mother, is still a teacher there. They were interested in our culture and asked us many questions. Henry is Japanese but he was brought up in Canada. He told us, "Now I can speak a little Japanese, thanks to your help." I was so happy to hear that. I think it was part of international understanding.



Erika Terashima 2-1

## School Festival Stage Performance: "Flashback to the Sixties!"



This year the English Department students performed their version of a classic 1960's television program: "The 60's Show". The performance featured cheerleaders, dancers, a groovy fashion show, and special appearances by Martin Luther King Jr. and the Beatles. It was so far out, it was out of sight! In the exhibit room below the auditorium there were displays of various 1960's events.



The Beatles' pictures and display was very popular, as was the "Hula Hoop" corner. There was active participation when visitors tried their Hula Hoop skills. Martin Luther King's dream was for freedom, justice and peace for all people. We invited visitors to share their dreams on the "Dream Tree". There was also a Flea Market to raise money for the "O.K. Clean Water Project" in Africa.

Hope you'll join us for our annual school festival next year too!



**Congratulations Yuko!** During the month of October hundreds of students across all the grades participated in the RND Math Challenge. This Math contest started with a written component and culminated in the final week of October with its final Countdown round. Congratulations and honours go to the following student in her outstanding performance:

**Grade 10 : Yuko Hanzawa**



*Hi !! How are you, everyone??*

*I'm enjoying life in Canada. I have a lot of Canadian, Chinese and Korean friends. They are really good friends.*

*Everyday I have a lot of homework and tests. So it's pretty hard for me, but the knowledge that I learned in Seibo is very useful, especially in Religion class.*

*I have big news for you. I got a first prize in the Math Challenge!! I'm really proud of it. When I was doing the test in that competition, I was nervous and really uneasy, but my classmate cheered me. I was very happy.*

*I'm in the band in RND. I'm playing the French horn! I will play it in "Beauty and The Beast." This musical takes place in RND in December. I'm really excited about it.*

*My host family is very kind to me and I'm glad to stay here. And Kingston is a very nice town! Christmas will come soon, so the houses will be very beautiful. I'm looking forward to see it.*

*See you later! Yuko Hanzawa*

## Muchas gracias, Andrea!



Our reporter recently spoke to Andrea, our exchange student from Mexico. Here is their interview.

**First, can you tell us your full name?**

*-Yes, it's Andrea Diaz Ledesma.*

**Where and when were you born?**

*-I was born in Zacatecos, Mexico. My birthday is April 6<sup>th</sup>. I'm sixteen.*

**Do you have any hobbies or special interests?**

*-In Mexico I enjoyed painting with pastels. I like painting landscapes best. In Japan I really like to go out with friends and make "print club" (puri-kura) stickers.*

**Why did you want to come to Japan?**

*-Well, my older sister was in Tokyo for one year and my family visited her. I became very interested in the culture and wanted to learn the language. I find the Japanese people and culture really interesting.*

**And what do think of Japanese food?**

*-I like it! I especially like shabu-shabu, udon, ramen, and sushi. I also really like the fruit you call "kaki". We don't have it in Mexico. It's great!*

**So what are your goals and dreams for your future?**

*-Well, I haven't decided yet. There are so many things I'd like to do. I've thought I'd like to become a doctor, or a chef, or maybe a kindergarten teacher. I really like children.*

**And do you have any message for our readers?**

*-Yes. I'd really like to stay here. It's been really good for me. All of my friends and teachers have helped me so much. Thank you, everyone.i*