

Sakura no Seibo High School English Department Newsletter

Editor: Marijke Gerretsen

OUR NEW EXCHANGE STUDENT

On February 1st, Corrina Schneider from Belgium came to Sakura no Seibo as our second international exchange student. Corinna is 16 years old and, although she lives in Belgium, goes to school in Germany. She has come to study Japanese, which will be her fourth language as she is also able to speak German, English and French. Corinna will be joining 1-1 until the 30th of June when she will return to Belgium. Corinna says, *"Thank you for always being so friendly to me. I'm very interested in Japanese culture. Please tell me about Japanese culture and help me to speak more Japanese."*




ASAMI WINS FUKUSHIMA SPEECH CONTEST

Asami Terashima (2-1) will represent Fukushima Prefecture at the Tohoku section of the All-Japan International Understanding Speech Contest. Wako Hanzawa (2-1) and Marina Minakawa (1-1) were also chosen in the top six. Here is an excerpt from Asami's speech:

"Where are you from? Are you Chinese or Korean?" A Canadian high school student asked me this when I was abroad studying English last fall. There was no appropriate answer for this question because I am Japanese! When I answered that I was Japanese he looked very surprised. Perhaps many Japanese can't distinguish Americans from Canadians by appearance, and he couldn't distinguish Japanese from Chinese or Korean people. Yet I felt somewhat shocked by his question. This is because I felt confident that I could never be taken for anything other than Japanese. And above all, I realized that I held some prejudice against the Chinese.

RECENT RESULTS

Here are the latest results from STEP and GTEC. Congratulations to those who were able to achieve the Sakura no Seibo High School goal of passing Level 2 in the STEP test. Keep studying so you'll go even further! Well done to Yoko Inada (3-1), who was able to pass the Pre-1 level. Several first and second year students have also been able to pass high levels as well. After studying French for only eight months, Miku Mizoguchi (3-1) was able to pass the level 4 French Achievement Test. The results of GTEC have been very positive. The listening in third year and writing in all grade levels were especially good. However, the scores in reading in all grade levels were still too low. We need to work on reading more and increasing our vocabulary. The scores in brackets below the third year scores are the all-Japan averages for third year. We hope the first and second year students will continue to study hard to get even better results than the current third year students.

	STEP (English)			FAT (French)		GTEC			
	Pre-1	2	Pre-2	4	5	Reading	Listening	Writing	Average
3 rd Year (25)	1 (4%)	19 (76%)	23 (92%)	1 (11%)	9 (100%)	228 (190)	263 (210)	140 (100)	631 (442)
2 nd Year (34)		15 (44%)	34 (100%)			192	222	124	539
1 st Year (23)		4 (17%)	21 (91%)			166	188	116	470

MEMORIES OF THE ENGLISH COURSE

Now when I look back on the time since I entered the English Course, it has really flashed by. But these three years have been full of great experiences. I have had many special experiences that I would not have been able to have if I hadn't joined the English Course. Above all, ESTA is the best memory for me. Not only learning English and about Canadian culture, but I could realize the importance of relating with other people. I was very happy because I could share this wonderful time with all of the members of my class.

Ayano Endo



I learned many important things during these three years. One thing was my English ability. I believe the reading, speaking, listening and writing skills I have attained will help me in my life. The second thing is the memories I have of so many events. They are not all good memories, but they all helped me to lead a full student life. The third thing is the friendships I have made. I am glad to have spent these three years with the members of this class. I think we all have our own personality. When I graduate from this school, I will remember my classmates. I am proud of the friends I made during these three years.

Eri Kawahara

I can identify many people who have supported me in high school. I will always feel happy for what I learned from them and appreciate everything they have done for me. Soon, will go our separate ways, but I will never forget the memories I have from the English Course. I will study hard in university, and in the future I want to become a person who can support not only the people who took care of me, but other people in the world, even in a small way. I believe this is the best way I can repay those who have helped me in the past. I appreciate everyone who supported me. I was glad to meet all of you. Thank you very much.

Hitomi Haneda

When I first entered this school, I was surprised at Seibo's high level English. It looked very attractive with there being 4 native speaking teachers. But, I was also worried about my English ability. This motivated me to do my best everyday. I entered the English speech contest 3 times. It was very hard, but I could see my English improve. All the teachers taught me kindly and in a way that was very easy to understand. English classes were interesting for me. Not only did we study by books, but we also studied through games, watching DVDs, debating and doing presentations. I will never forget the wonderful days I had in the English Course.

Masaka Mashiba

Good luck in the future!

3年生英語科の進路状況 (25名)				主な合格先		(3月12日 現在)	
上智大学	2	聖心女子大学	1	宮城学院女子大学	2	福島看護専門学校	1
中央大学	1	白百合女子大学	2	フェリス女学院大学	1	大原看護専門学校	1
立教大学	1	亜細亜大学	1	仙台白百合女子大学	1	太田看護専門学校	1
南山大学	1	神田外語大学	1	桜の聖母短期大学	7	東北外語専門学校	1
東京聖栄大学	1	東北学院大学	1	福島学院短期大学	1	東日本航空専門学校	1
						未定	2

2007 INTERNATIONAL WEEK

The first week of February was International Week. This year's theme was Asia, concentrating on China. Two guests from JICA came on Wednesday to talk to us about their experience living in Laos and Thailand. On Saturday, we had three speakers from China come and speak to us. We also had the "China Essay" finals. The English Course was represented by Erika Terashima (2-1) and Saori Kanno (1-1) in the English Essay finals. We were represented in the Japanese essay finals by Tomomi Kushida (2-1) and Sayuri Imaizumi (1-1). Congratulations to Tomomi (second from the right) for being placed first in her section.



桜の聖母学院高等学校 〒960-8055 福島市野田町7-11-1 TEL.024-535-3141 <http://www.ssg.ac.jp>

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