Sakura no Seibo High School English Department Newsletter

Editor: Thomas R. Nissen

Our Own Kiwi!

Mikako Endo of 3-1 recently returned from a year abroad in New Zealand. Here is an interview with her.

Reporter: Tell us a bit about your host family.

Mikako: Well, my host father is from India and my host mother is from Fiji. They have three children, two boys and a girl. The boys were 9 and 6 years old, and the girl was 7. I played with my host sister every day after I came home from school.

Reporter: And tell us about your school.

Mikako: My school was called Rutherford College. It is a big school with about 1200 students. I took many classes, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), P.E., math, and Japanese. There were many international students from all over the world, so it was a good place to learn about other cultures.

Reporter: What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Mikako: My best memory was being awarded a prize for being the top student in my ESOL class. This was the first time a Japanese student had won this award. I was given the prize at an assembly of all the students at the school, though I don't remember the assembly well, because I was so nervous!

Reporter: Any final words?

Mikako: I had a very good time in New Zealand. My way of thinking has changed since I stayed there and my view of the world has become wider. I made many friends who are so important to me. I want to thank my parents very much for allowing me to study abroad in New Zealand and experience many things. I'll never forget the time I stayed in New Zealand with my host family and friends.

From the Corn Capital of Canada

Yu Takagi of 3-1 also returned from a 10-month stay abroad. She stayed in Alberta, Canada.



Reporter: What was your high school like?

Yu: There were about 400 students in the school. All the teachers and all my friends were just awesome! They helped me a lot. I love them!! I took English, Math, Social Studies, Art, P.E., Photography, Video, Media, and Drama Class.

Reporter: What was your best memory of your time abroad?

Yu: I took part in a musical. We had an audition in January and we performed the play for three days in May. We practiced for a long time and I had the time of my life with all my friends.

Reporter: Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Yu: When the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan I thought about what I could do as an exchange student to help Japan. I collected donations and I raised about \$1000 in just two days. I'm really glad I went to Taber and met such amazing friends. I can't describe how much studying abroad has changed my life. Every single moment was a great experience. I really appreciate all the people who helped me and I want to tell them thank you.

Fukushima Prefecture English Speech Contest Announcement

This year the 63rd Annual Fukushima Senior High School English Speech Contest will be held at Sakura no Seibo High School. The date is Thursday September 22nd. Students from throughout Fukushima Prefecture will compete. Of course, we are expecting strong performances from our students in the English Department. Let's cheer them on!

Back from the U.S.A.



Wakana Yoshida of 2-1 recently returned from an 11-month stay abroad in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the United States.

Reporter: Please tell us about your host family.

Wakana: I actually had three different host families while I was there. My first family was very sweet and gentle. I was really nervous when I met them, but they made me feel better. My second family was totally like my Japanese family. They were my favorite family ever. My third family had two little kids who were in elementary school, so it was really fun. I love all my host families.

Reporter: And what was your school like?

Wakana: My school was so different from Seibo. It was a coeducational school and it was huge. There were over 1000 students in the senior class alone. There were some very funny people there, too. I really had a fun time at that school. The school's name is North Mecklenburg High School. I liked that school a lot.

Reporter: And what was your best memory of your time abroad?

Wakana: I can't decide! I really enjoyed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas. They were so much fun. I also enjoyed going to the beach with my family. I also have great memories of my trip to the East Coast and to the West Coast. I went with a lot of exchange students from countries all over the world. It was really fun and we saw a lot of famous places. I really learned a lot about American culture.

Viva la France!

Maho Obara of 1-1 will be going to France in August to study abroad there for a year.

Reporter: Please tell us where you will be going.

Maho: I'm going to France. I'll stay in the city of Lille.

Reporter: Tell us about your school.

Maho: The school is called the Lycee Louis Blarington.

Reporter: What goals do you hope to achieve during your year abroad?

Maho: I'd like to master French, and make a lot of friends. And I really want to learn about French

culture. I hope that when I return my classmates can make some French friends through me, too.

Reporter: And what are you doing now to prepare for your trip?

Ms. Obara: Well, I have French lessons two or three times a week. In addition, I use my personal computer to study French.

Reporter: Do you have any final comments?

Ms. Obara: I'd just like to say that there were many people hit by the big earthquake and tsunami in March. Many countries, including France, came to Japan's aid. When I go there, I really want to convey my appreciation to the French people. I know I'll face some hard times in my new life there. But I'll never forget to thank everyone and I'll try hard to do my best.

First-Year Voices

Here are some impressions of the English Department from our new first-year students.

Studying English is interesting for me. I can't speak English well yet, so I practice and study hard every day.

I love English!!

-- A.T.

I think the English class (Eigoka) is the best of all the other classes because there are nice classmates and kind teachers. I like them very, very much. But the things we are learning are difficult, so we have to study hard. However, we never give up, because we have many happy friends. -- A.K.

English class is really interesting, but also a little difficult. Everyone speaks English very well. I study hard every day because I want to speak English well, too. -- M.Y.

The Global English Course (Eigoka) is very, very interesting. Every day I learn many new things from my teachers and their classes. It makes me want to improve my English skills even more! -- M.W.

