

Sakura no Seibo High School English Department Newsletter

Editor: Thomas R. Nissen

GREETINGS FROM GERMANY

We recently caught up with first-year English Department student, Ms. Ayana Ujiie. Ms. Ujiie has been living in Hamburg Germany for nearly a year, taking part in an international student exchange program with Rotary International. She was kind enough to share her thoughts. Here is what she wrote:

The day begins early in Germany. Most people get up well before seven o'clock. Many arrive at school or work by seven.

My school is far from my home. It takes me about half an hour to get there. This is the first time for me to go to school by train, and it's awesome.

The main meal in Germany is lunch. Most people just eat bread. I love francebrötchen, which is a traditional type of German bread. In fact, we can get it only in my town.

German people tend to go to bed early. Most people are asleep by 9:30 or 10:00.

As far as school, I really respect the education system here. It's very different from

education back in Japan. They basically don't use desks. What I mean is they mainly learn from speaking. They have a lot of class discussions and do presentations. This has been a great pleasure for me and it's good for me to learn in a different way. They use language to share opinions with each other. Almost all of the students can speak a language other than German and English. They all seem to be able to speak English perfectly. I actually met one student who could speak Japanese. She could also speak Spanish, German, and Italian. I think we must change the direction of education in Japan.



This has been a wonderful experience, but I also experienced many kinds of culture shock. On the other hand, I was able to gain confidence thanks to the many loving German people in Germany. If I had a hard time and was crying alone, they said to me "We are always here next to you. Take it easy." I was helped by these words from them.

Of course I was also helped by the best people in Japan. I especially want to thank my classmates and teachers and all of the people from Rotary International. Thanks to all of them, I could make new friends all over the world. I hope to see them again someday after we become adults.



Messages from Our Seniors

The 3-1 students are soon to graduate. They have worked hard for three years and now they wish to share some words of advice and encouragement with the first and second year students. Here is what they had to say:

I've been studying in the English Department for three years. Of course, I like English very much. From my experience, it is important to know about other cultures. For example, it's helpful to watch a lot of movies from different countries, listen to foreign music, and experience the culture of as many countries as possible. And don't be afraid of making mistakes!

Good luck!

R.S.



Please don't waste your precious time. I want you to try what you should "now" and to enjoy school life. We cannot change the past. As the proverb says "It's no use crying over spilt milk." I wish you all success.

N.A.

I've spent my days in Sakura no Seibo High School for three years. I think that's a very long time, but now it feels very short. Anyway, I think I've had a very great school life! I hope you can have a fulfilling school life here too.

S.S.

I was able to learn a lot of things in the English Department, but I think "having an interest in the world news and expressing our own ideas" is the most important thing. If we know about what happens around the world and how to discuss it, we will be able to do well all over the world.

A.T.

In English classes you will have to give speeches or presentations in English. Please don't be shy. It's OK to make mistakes.

R.A.

I'm not good at giving advice, but I think time flies at the speed of light. So you should try to make good use of your time. And if you have time to spare, you have time to read English books.

M.O.

Studying English widens our view of life. A good example of this is when I went abroad (not in the English-speaking world) for one year to study. At first, I was really worried about whether I would be able to communicate with the natives. But English helped me in many situations. At that time, I really, really appreciated that I knew English. So, please don't give up studying English. All you have to do is keep making efforts and doing your best.

M.O.

As far as my high school life goes, I can say that I found Sakura no Seibo to be very fun! I will never forget my school life with my friends. You must learn more English and you should always try to communicate in English. Good luck!

K.W.

Don't be afraid to challenge yourself to do many new things. When you try something, it'll make you better, whether you fail or succeed. I think having a lot of experiences will make you grow. Enjoy your school life!

M.W.

I was overjoyed to study in 3-1 with my marvelous friends. I suggest that you try to reach a higher level of proficiency on tests such as EIKEN. Try to get second grade, because this will prove to be very useful when you take an entrance examination for college. Please enjoy your remaining school life!

A.K.

I am certain your English skill has become better since you have entered this school. I think this school has many good English teachers.

K.T.

My school life was very happy. Now I think time flies. Your high school life is a once in a lifetime chance. So let's all enjoy our school lives.

H.K.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ENGLISH DEPARTMENT THESPIANS



On February 8th, the Fifth Annual Sakura no Seibo English Skit Contest was held. Students from Seibo Junior and Senior High School performed short English skits they had written. Second year English Department students Shion Anzai, Shiori Momoi, Mayu Sawazono, and Utako Ouchi were awarded 3rd Prize in the High School Division. Their skit, entitled THE BEAT, told the story of a young rock band as they prepare for a concert. They had the audience laughing from beginning to end! And thank you also to second year English Department students Kotone Takano and Akari Mizoi who did a fantastic job as contest chairpersons.

