

In 1998, MeySen established an alumni association for its Friends Club graduates and holds alumni reunions annually, in May. In addition to the reunions, many alumni also volunteer their time to help support some of our school's main events, throughout the year. More recently, graduates of the Premier Elementary School have begun joining our Alumni Association, and now many alumni from both programs participate in its activities, using the opportunity to stay connected with their former classmates and teachers, even long after graduation.



▲ About 500 people gathered for the reunion held last year after a three-year absence, due to the COVID pandemic.

**To all alumni whose children are currently enrolled in MeySen**

The alumni members who are now parents with children of their own and have resumed their connection with MeySen as their children enter kindergarten, are a very welcome addition to the Alumni Association. We invite you to join us in these alumni activities while your children are in kindergarten. Supporting events such as Friends Day, not only makes the children happy, but is also a fun way to experience nostalgic events again as an adult. We are looking forward to seeing you!

**Dear junior high and high school students and their parents**

The Alumni Association plans to make the school's events more than just a volunteer activity for junior high and high school students and is hoping to make it a learning opportunity for them as well. We feel that these volunteer opportunities will help our students to increase their sense of responsibility within the community, build teamwork and leadership traits, and hone their communication skills. They can even converse and interact in English while running events with the teachers!

※Children who leave MeySen after graduating from Kindergarten or Premier K5 will become alumni members upon entering junior high school. All alumni members receive the alumni newsletter and information about the May reunion at the end of March every year.



**Calendar of Alumni Association Activities**

May/June	Alumni Association Support for the "Friends Day" Events
August	Summer Camp & BBQ
September	Support for the "MeySen Day" Events
October	"Imonikai" - Japanese potato stew party Support for the "Jamboree Party" Events
March	Sending out the alumni bulletin "Alumni"



**VEGALTA Cheerleaders Ayaka**  
(Robin, 37th Maruyama Friends Club)

Robin riding a pony as a Friends Club student



▲ Handing out pom-poms for kids to use in cheerleading class

My name is Ayaka, and I am a member of the VEGALTA Cheerleaders. When I was a student at MeySen, I loved the playground equipment, especially the slide, and I remember playing on it frequently with my friends. Surrounded by all kinds of playground equipment, lots of nature, and animals; we played outside a lot! My fondest memory of summer camp was dressing up as my favorite character, Jasmine, when we had an Aladdin themed camp, and having a great time with my friends.

At MeySen Kindergarten, English was a part of my life from an early age. I studied abroad in England when I was in high school, which sparked my interest in English and American literature, and I went to college at a school where I could study foreign languages. In high school, I was a member of the cheerleading club, where I was able to experience the joy of cheering for the team, the pleasure of winning, and the excitement of sharing it with my friends. From that exciting experience, I decided to join VEGALTA Cheerleaders last year because I wanted to cheer for my hometown

- soccer team VEGALTA Sendai. My work with VEGALTA Sendai not only allows me to cheer for the games, but it also provides me the opportunity to be involved in various other activities within the community.
- At the "Kindergarten Kids Soccer Caravan" last May, I was very happy to be able to cheerlead with the children of MeySen at the kindergarten from which I graduated. Seeing everyone enjoying cheerleading, I hoped that they would continue to enjoy everything at MeySen and have an endeavoring spirit.
- The teachers of MeySen Kindergarten are always on our side. Please cherish the experiences you can only have now and the friends you can spend time with and enjoy your kindergarten life at MeySen!

Ayaka with a VEGALTA eagle mascot doll, "Vegatta-kun".

**Official LINE Account Please sign up!**

The MeySen Alumni encourage you to sign up for the MeySen Academy Alumni Association LINE account! We use it to send out information about volunteer opportunities and alumni association events.



**How to register:**

Tap the QR code icon from the "Add Friends" menu of the LINE app, scan the QR code in this newsletter, and then tap "Add". Stamps of the MeySen Bus characters are also available!

**Bible verse**

But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5-6

About 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, a prophet named Isaiah spoke about the coming Savior.

**"First Study Tour to Europe in Three Years"**

High School Students Travel to England, France, and Germany

Six MeySen high school students traveled to three countries in Europe, over a three-week period. In England and Germany, the students stayed with families with children of the same age and attended classes at local schools. Interaction with people in Germany, where English is not the native language, is a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the importance of English as a "lingua franca". During a one-day excursion to France, the students visited various places of interest and had the opportunity to experience the unique French culture firsthand.

We hope that these experiences will enrich our students lives and give them a greater variety of options in their future school life, and that they will search for places where they can shine both at home and abroad.



At high school in England



In Paris, France in front of the Arc de Triomphe (with the trip chaperones, Mr. Peter and Ms. Allie)



In Würzburg, Germany visiting a Bavarian palace (the three students on the right are MeySen students)



**Cover Story**

**The Meaning of Christmas Tidings of Joy**

By Daniel Fanger, Principal

The cover of this newsletter showcases some of our Christmas events here at MeySen. Every Christmas season, the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated around the world. But why do we celebrate the birth of a man who lived 2,000 years ago? It's because Jesus solved the problem of sin and death, which we cannot solve by our own efforts, and opened the way to heaven for all mankind.

Sin and death entered this world when our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, sinned against God. Since then, all human beings have been born with a sinful nature and are separated

from God. This world has become a cursed place, even though it retains the face of God's wonderful creation. God is wholly just and cannot allow sin to go unpunished. For this reason, man was condemned to die once and be judged after death.

However, God loved mankind and provided a way to save us from eternal damnation in hell. Jesus, who was God but became man, suffered the penalty of our sins by going to the cross as a substitute for the sins of all mankind. He was resurrected back to life on the third day and appeared before more than

500 people before being raised to heaven.

No matter what sins you have committed, if you humble yourself before God, repent of your sins, and accept Jesus' salvation, you will be transferred from death to life. Like Jesus, when you die, you will be resurrected, receive a new body, and enter heaven as sinless and righteous. In heaven, there will be no death, no sorrow, no suffering, and endless joy. I pray that each of you will receive this wonderful hope and peace of mind as your own.

**Takumi Onuma (Vic), 11th grade, Maruyama High School**

If you asked me which country was the best part of this study tour, I would definitely say Germany. Although there were many times when it was difficult to communicate what we wanted to explain to each other, I enjoyed the time when we all sat around the dinner table with our host families and talked about our home countries, Japan and Germany.

After returning to Japan, I felt that my communication skills had improved overwhelmingly, as a result of this trip. Because we say "nice to meet you" to everyone we meet, everywhere we go, in a sense we're expected to establish a rapport within seconds of meeting someone. I made a conscious effort to smile and speak with a bit of urgency, rather than be intimidated at those times.

**Akira Kanno (Douglas), 11th grade, Maruyama High School**

Sightseeing in France allowed me to experience firsthand the amazing world-class tourist attractions as well as the people and regions of France. The Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe were far more magnificent in person, than I could have ever imagined.

**Fuka Inomata (Susie), 11th grade, Maruyama High School**

This was my second overseas study trip, following the junior high school 7th grade trip to the U.S. Four years ago, on my trip to the U.S., I had a lot of fun, but at the same time I felt frustrated. This time, my sense of accomplishment was huge, and I felt no regret. The one thing I have really focused on since high school started, was to have conversations with my English teachers after class. I am now able to have conversations where I can expand on and even initiate topics of my own. I was able to talk about my family and also my dreams for the future with ease during this trip, thanks to the many conversations I've had with the teachers at MeySen.

What I feel more strongly about now that the trip is over, is that I really have a desire to go out into the world. I now know that I will need to work harder than ever before, if I want to go out into the world and be successful in the field in which I want to work in the future. I believe that this trip will be a good motivation for me to do so.

聖書



MeySen Newsletter No. 201





# We did our best!

With only two months remaining in the 2022-23 school year.

We asked four of our soon-to-be graduates to share some of their experiences and memories from the past year. Here are some of the things that made an impression on them.



## Maruyama Premier G6 Mako Hideshima (Tina)

Hello! My name is Tina. I'm from the Maruyama G6 Grizzlies class. It was hard for me to choose what memories I will talk about. COVID started and many exciting events were canceled... My father told me, "Every year Tina is saying this year is the best! This year was the most fun!". That's right! Every day of MeySen was fun! I have a favorite place called "MeySen". I am excited coming to MeySen and learning English and talking with teachers and my friends. One memory from last year was the G5 speech showcase. I did a presentation in front of my parents and everyone on how much I wanted to buy a Spotted Green puffer fish. The presentation was a great success! My birthday was a few days after this and my present was a fish tank and the puffer fish. I want to say thank you to everyone! If I weren't coming to MeySen, I wouldn't be able to have that idea. In the spring I will be a Junior High School student. Even though I will be a Junior High School student, I want to be the same as I am right now. I want to come to my favorite place "MeySen". Do you know "Kiki's Delivery Service"? 13 year old Kiki went to a new city and had many experiences. This year I will be 13 years old too! I want to be like Kiki and I hope the day will come when I can go to a new city.



## We did our best at the Prince Takamado Trophy All-Japan English Oratorical Contest!

Shion Saito of Maruyama Premier High School G9 and Itsuki Sato of Takamori Premier High School G9 participated in the final round of the 74th annual "H.I.H. Prince Takamado Trophy All Japan Inter-Middle School English Oratorical Contest" held in Tokyo last November 18. This prestigious event is the highest level English speech contest in all of Japan, and it was a great honor for MeySen to have two students qualify for the finals after passing the prefectural and final qualifying rounds. Although they did not win the grand prize, such successes by students who are studying English with us will become a familiar goal in learning English, and by studying with a goal like this in mind, we can see concrete results from our students' efforts. If you are interested in oratory or recitation, we encourage you to try your hand at any of the various English competitions throughout Japan.

Takamori Premier G9 Itsuki Sato (Ameri) Maruyama Premier G9 Shion Saito (Ariel)



## Takamori Friends Club Kota Suzuki (Randy)

In my six years attending Friends Club, I had a lot of new experiences and made a lot of friends. When I look back on my memories of Friends Club, all I can recall are the smiling faces of my teachers and friends. I especially enjoyed the 4-day trip to Kansai. None of my good friends went, but I was able to make some great new friends with students I don't normally have the opportunity to talk to. Before the trip, I was worried that I wouldn't be able to enjoy it, but I was able to make great memories with my teachers and my new friends. In addition to the Kansai trip, I was able to have many other experiences that I could only have in Friends Club. I treasure all of the memories I made at Friends Club in my six years. I had such a great time with my friends and teachers!



## Takamori Premier K5 Satoaki Shiga (Toby)

Now that I am in K5, I can understand everything my teacher, Ms. Shenika says in English. Today too, when the teacher asked me to call one of my classmates, I immediately understood and went to call her. On Field Day, I practiced hard for the maypole event and was able to weave it beautifully with a blue ribbon. In the Japanese play at our Christmas party, I played the role of an angel and a wiseman. The stage was high off the ground, but I wasn't scared. This year, K5 practiced a lot of singing parts for the Christmas party. I want to do my best in English and also play soccer when I become a first grader in elementary school.

\* The Premier K5 students perform in both Japanese and English at their Christmas party. The Japanese performance is a musical rendition of the "Nativity Play" and the English presentation is a "Singing Christmas Tree" with all of the K4 and K5 students singing 4 songs including "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "O Holy Night".



# Sledding



## Maruyama Kindergarten Ayara Yanagimoto (Ruth)

The Nemunoki class performed the musical "The Adventures of Pinocchio" for our school play. I played the role of a fish. I wore a red costume and was the narrator. Together with the other fish actors in yellow, light blue, pink, and purple costumes, we had fun and did our best. Even though there were many people watching us, we didn't get nervous! I love Mr. Johnny's English class because it is very interesting.



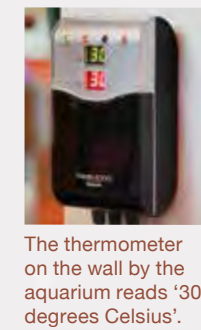
## Valentine's Day

## Warm water in a fish tank?

The tropical discus fish (Maruyama Spring Building) Discus fish live in freshwater with high temperatures, such as the Amazon River in South America, so room temperature water in winter is too cold for them. Our animal care team add water of 30 degrees Celsius when changing the water in the aquarium, and they have an alarm that sounds if the temperature of the water heater drops. Come by and see the discus fish enjoying their spa-like atmosphere!



The name "discus" comes from its almost circular or disk-shaped body, when viewed from the side. There are four of them located in the Spring Building at the Maruyama campus.



The thermometer on the wall by the aquarium reads "30 degrees Celsius".

## Q: Can you guess which campus this play equipment belongs to, Maruyama or Takamori?

Some of our playground equipment is easily recognizable, but some equipment is difficult to recognize without seeing the whole structure. Please check them out!



Do these faces ring a bell?

Are these part of our jumbo slides?

This snail is in an inconspicuous place.

## Musical Concert 2022

Enjoying four wonderful singing voices

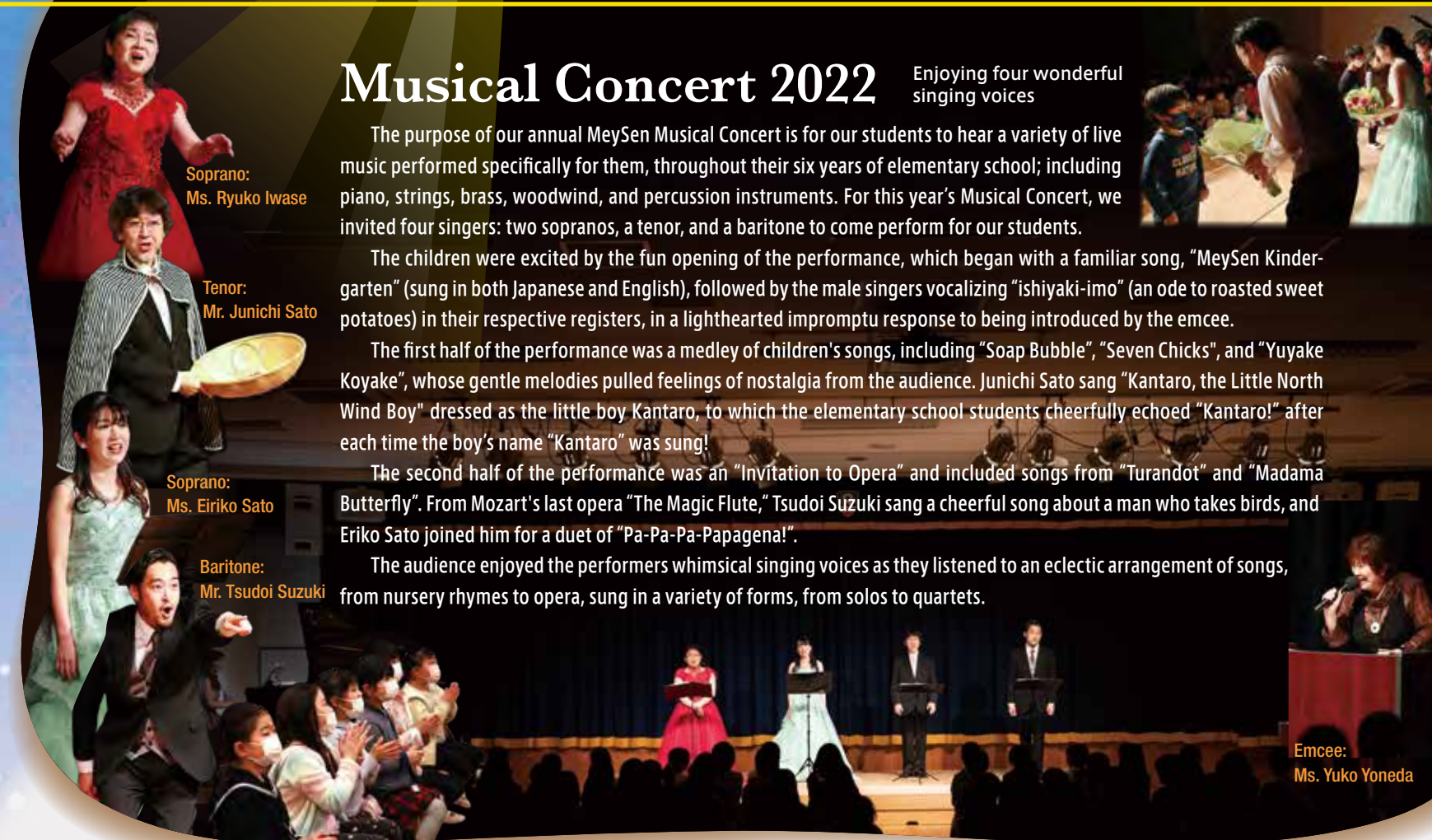
The purpose of our annual MeySen Musical Concert is for our students to hear a variety of live music performed specifically for them, throughout their six years of elementary school; including piano, strings, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. For this year's Musical Concert, we invited four singers: two sopranos, a tenor, and a baritone to come perform for our students.

The children were excited by the fun opening of the performance, which began with a familiar song, "MeySen Kindergarten" (sung in both Japanese and English), followed by the male singers vocalizing "ishiyaki-imo" (an ode to roasted sweet potatoes) in their respective registers, in a lighthearted impromptu response to being introduced by the emcee.

The first half of the performance was a medley of children's songs, including "Soap Bubble", "Seven Chicks", and "Yuyake Koyake", whose gentle melodies pulled feelings of nostalgia from the audience. Junichi Sato sang "Kantaro, the Little North Wind Boy" dressed as the little boy Kantaro, to which the elementary school students cheerfully echoed "Kantaro!" after each time the boy's name "Kantaro" was sung!

The second half of the performance was an "Invitation to Opera" and included songs from "Turandot" and "Madama Butterfly". From Mozart's last opera "The Magic Flute", Tsudoi Suzuki sang a cheerful song about a man who takes birds, and Eriko Sato joined him for a duet of "Pa-Pa-Pa-Papagenal".

The audience enjoyed the performers whimsical singing voices as they listened to an eclectic arrangement of songs, from nursery rhymes to opera, sung in a variety of forms, from solos to quartets.



Soprano: Ms. Ryuko Iwase

Tenor: Mr. Junichi Sato

Soprano: Ms. Eiriko Sato

Baritone: Mr. Tsudoi Suzuki

Emcee: Ms. Yuko Yoneda

## A New Pony Arrives at Maruyama

Her name is S'more. Her coat is a rich brown with a dab of snow-white hair, and her mane and tail are black. Smaller than our other ponies, she is adorable as she does her best to keep up with the others.

We welcomed a new pony at the Maruyama campus on October 20, after Fancy passed away due to old age. Our new pony is a 3-year-old filly born in Yamagata, with an inquisitive personality; seemingly always curious about what's going on around her. She has a black right eye, a blue left eye, and a chubby belly! We hope you all get along with her.



S'mores are a traditional sweet eaten at campfires in the U.S., with a roasted marshmallow and melted chocolate between two graham crackers.

## Thank you for participating in our quiz in Issue 200.

There were 100 entries and 92 correct answers.

### MeySen t-shirt winners

Maruyama: Toshimi Abe, Kindergarten Nenchu Takamori: Miyu Inomata, Kindergarten Nenchu

### MeySen stationary pad winners

Maruyama: Michiya Nagamoto, Kindergarten Nenchu Misaaki Abe, FC1, Gakuto Aonuma, FC4 Takamori: Sena Fujimura, Kindergarten Nenchu Yuuka Kin, G2, Tatsuaki Yasuda, Kangaroo Club

### [Answers]

- Oreo
- Elena
- Sunshine
- Hana
- Ella

