

After completing their yearlong study abroad experience in the U.S.,

Three of the five students have written about their experiences and memories of their time in the U.S. The five students for the new class of 2023 will leave at the end of July. We hope that the coming year will be filled with wonderful experiences and encounters.

Nodoka Saito (Sherry) Takamori High School

I spent my study abroad experience in Virginia and learned and experienced much more than I could have ever imagined.

For example, learning English. Not only was it difficult to express my opinions in English, but I was also not good at memorizing vocabulary, and it took me twice as long as others to read English sentences, which I was not very good at. However, after being taught the concept of breaking down words into prefixes, roots, and suffixes to infer meaning in English class, I feel less intimidated by long sentences than before, and now when I see an unfamiliar word, it's like a puzzle that I enjoy solving.

The time spent with my host family was another valuable experience. It was not just a mere cross-cultural exchange, but through spending everyday life together, such as eating meals and watching movies, I was able to expand my "likes" beyond what I had when I was in Japan.

Even after my study abroad experience, I feel that my English skills are still not good enough. My goal for my future English study is to be able to speak more than I did when I studied abroad, when I meet my beloved host family again.



With my friends from the track and field team

Yutaro Suzuki (Billy) Takamori Premier High School

The most memorable part of my one-year stay in the U.S. was school life. I had to move from one classroom to another for each class, which was difficult to get used to in the beginning. However, the teachers and friends around me were very attentive, and I was able to fit in.

I was also a cross country and long-distance track and field runner, so I was able to make friends through sports. The track and field season started in March, and I joined the school's intramural team, which had over 100 members. We had meets and competitions twice a week, so I was busy during the season, but it was so fun and fulfilling. We practiced together and went out for dinner at night after competitions, which left me with many enjoyable memories.

In the future, I would like to live outside of Japan, and possibly even meet the people I met while studying abroad.

SCHEDULE FOR LONG-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN THE U.S.

- April: Application
- May: Application screening
- June: Interview
- July: Announcement of acceptance or rejection
- September - June of the following year: Orientation
- July: Departure for study abroad

Sakura Ito (Sue) Maruyama High School

The school I attended in Ohio was like a vocational school, where I could learn more about the job I am interested in. I belonged to the horticulture course, and my friends and I engaged in friendly competitions every day, while challenging ourselves to try new things. I remember being truly moved by the sense of unity that was created when hundreds of students in the same uniform worked together on an event with the same goal in mind at the FFA event, an organization for students who want to become farmers in the United States.

I also spent time laughing and crying with a Brazilian student who was also in homestay with me for a year, which became a precious memory for both of us.

This study abroad experience was not always easy, and there were many times when I wanted to run away, but thanks to the people who treated me with love and affection, I was able to overcome those difficulties. I am truly grateful for their support.

* Future Farmers of America



At the FFA event site

Bible verse

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation Chapter 21, verses 1,3-4

聖書

In Loving Memory of Ms. Katie

Ms. Katie, who had been serving as the head teacher of MeySen's Premier School, had a myocardial infarction on May 2, and was rushed to the hospital for emergency treatment. She passed away shortly after on May 10.

Ms. Katie joined MeySen Academy right after graduating from college, and worked as a teacher, a trainer, and a head teacher, for Premier School for 16 years and for the last 7 years, as the Program Director of Premier School at the Maruyama campus.

She had a very warm and kind heart and was loved by her colleagues and the students. While we deeply mourn the loss of this important staff member, we believe that the love she poured into the lives of so many children will continue to bear much fruit in the future.



Click here to watch a video of the farewell gathering, including speeches by the four students.

On Saturday, May 13, a "Farewell Gathering" was held in the ceremony hall of MeySen with about 500 people in attendance. Many students offered to speak at the gathering to give their farewells, and four students paid their respects by giving moving messages about Ms. Katie, in English. After the gathering, many of the attendees lined up to say a final goodbye at Ms. Katie's casket at the front of the hall. Many of those who were unable to attend the gathering continued to line up afterwards, and the line continued for an hour and a half after the gathering had ended.

is free from the troubles, suffering, and sorrows of this earthly life and that their soul is filled with overflowing joy, as they are now in the presence of Jesus. We are also promised that at Jesus' second coming, as prophesied in the Bible, we will receive a wonderful, new body that will never break down or grow old. There is joy and hope in the thought that we, too, through the same faith, will have a joyous reunion in heaven, and that together we will inherit the new heaven and the new earth that God will create and be partakers of eternal life. Some may wonder, "Why did God call Ms. Katie to heaven at this point in her life when she is still so young?" There are many things that God does and allows that we do not know the reason for. There are many things that we will not understand until we ourselves are in God's presence in a new and glorious body. Jesus said the following.

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

(John 12:24)



One of the parents said, "I have been to many funerals in my life, but this is the first time that I have felt not only sadness but also hope." This is because for those who believe in Jesus and have received forgiveness for their sins, physical death does not mean that it's "the end" of your existence. Even though there is loneliness and sadness from separation, it is comforting to know that the person



Daniel Fanger, Principal

Friends フレンズ

「読む」とつながる。「読む」とひろがる。 Summer 2023



MeySen Newsletter No. 203

MEMORIES of SUMMER at MeySen! FAMILY MEMORIES of SUMMER at MeySen!



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Message from an Alumna



Fulfilling my dream to become a teacher at MeySen!

Mei Akama (Julia) Maruyama 40th Graduating Class

My name is Julia, and I have been working as an assistant for the Maruyama Friends Club since this April. I am actually a Maruyama MeySen alumna, from the 40th graduating class, and it has been my dream to work at MeySen since I was a little girl. I am very honored to be able to come back to MeySen, a place that has taken such good care of me over the years.

I attended MeySen from Kangaroo Club until my sophomore year of high school. I have many memories of MeySen. The most memorable one was the study trip to the United States when I was in 7th grade. It was my first time to go abroad, and I was both anxious and hopeful. When I actually got there, I was more excited than anxious, and by the end of the trip, I didn't want to go back to Japan. This trip made me think, "I want to speak English better! I want to speak English even more!"

The reason I decided to work here is because I genuinely like MeySen. I have been exposed to English since I was a child, and as I got older, I grew to love English more and more. Because of that love, I decided to study English and the culture and literature of English-speaking countries in university. I would like to contribute to MeySen by using the knowledge that I have learned, over the years.

Working at MeySen, I can sense that all the teachers put the children first. That is why I realized that I fell in love with MeySen. From now on, I will try my best every day to "give back" to MeySen. Please feel free to call on me when you see me!



In the classroom with a local teacher

Friends フレンズ

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Friends is the MeySen Academy newsletter and publishes the latest news on everything that is happening at MeySen Academy, from Kangaroo Club to High School and MeySen Alumni. You can read it on our website too.

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Join us for a sizzling summer event!



FC1 Summer Camp

The teachers are looking forward to the upcoming summer events, where they can provide lots of exciting activities to talk and laugh with their students. For our Friends Club and Premier Elementary students, we hope you will have lots of fun speaking English with your teachers and classmates at the camps and trips. The K5 students and elementary students are looking forward to having an overnight camp!



Premier G5 Inawashiro Camp



Kindergarten Nencho Summer Camp



FC4 Bandai Camp



HS7 Study Trip to America

As the COVID pandemic has abated, the junior high school 7th grade students' study tour to the U.S. and the short-term study abroad program in Australia for High School and Premier High School students have started up again. The students will soon embark on an overseas experience they will remember for the rest of their lives!



Short-term Study Abroad Trip to Australia Premier G8 and G9



FC5 Aichi / Kansai Study Trip



Family Day for our 3-Year-Old Kindergarteners

We held Family Day for the Kindergarten Nensho students on May 13 at the Takamori Campus and on May 20 at the Maruyama Campus. This event was held to encourage the students, who are still getting used to kindergarten after attending for only one month, to come to school with their families and spend an exciting day together, hopefully helping them become even more comfortable as kindergarten students.

They played together with their families in various events such as riding on push-wagons, playing on the playgrounds, and participating in a P.E. activity. For lunch, all of the families came together on the field, where everyone enjoyed yakisoba, hotdogs, and hamburgers, with patties grilled by the teachers. There was even a delicious fruit punch.



Message from Jon, Coordinator

The Sendai and Tokyo visits were wonderful, both for the scenery and the food, but most impressive of all were the visits to the beautiful MeySen campuses. Soon it will be the 7th graders turn to visit us in the United States! Seattle's summer weather is pleasant, and the scenery is beautiful. We will be waiting for you with fun activities and good food!

My name is Mocha. Nice to meet you!



Mocha the Alpaca

A new alpaca has joined us, and lives at the Maruyama campus. She was a little nervous at first, but after two weeks, she has gotten used to all the daily attention from the students. She is a very cute 8-year-old girl, who can be seen romping around the corral and sometimes relaxing on her haunches. Her name is Mocha.

Alpacas are from the cool highlands of South America, so they are wrapped in warm, fuzzy fur. As you can see from her face, she is a member of the camelid family, and her mouth movements when she's eating are very unique. Please be friendly with her!



Friends Day

Friends Club and Premier School Elementary hold Friends Day every year during the first trimester. This year, many families enjoyed an early summer day on the beautiful green campus, spending time with their friends and family, eating popcorn and hotdogs, riding horses and ponies, and participating in a special open house English class.

Friends Day started as a Friends Club event, shortly after the opening of MeySen Academy. Since that time, horse and carriage rides have been held for the children to enjoy throughout the day, but since then, the event has become even more lively and festive with the addition of food, games and performances provided by our "mothers' circle" members, live music performances, and the sale of MeySen merchandise.

We hope that the kindergarten students are looking forward to next year's Friends Day, as they become 1st graders!



1977 / Maruyama Campus



2023 / Takamori Campus

Friends Day throughout the Years



1985 / Maruyama Campus

Leaders In Training Program



Orientation meeting

In 2023, we began a new program called "Leaders In Training", with applicants selected from our alumni members between 8th grade through 11th grade. In the past, the alumni association has been asked to support the school's events as volunteers, but this new program was created to benefit the alumni members themselves, who are at the optimum age for developing a sense of responsibility and leadership skills, while honing their social skills through the managing of events with the teachers. We hope they will work hard with our school's staff, with the same desire of providing a fun and enjoyable environment for our students and their parents.

The "Leaders In Training" will be active throughout the summer, helping both the Friends Club and the Premier School Elementary programs with their Summer Camps!



Receiving their special LIT t-shirts

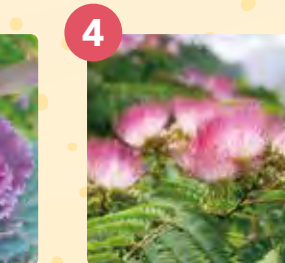
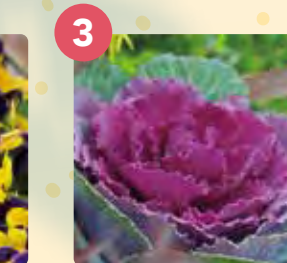
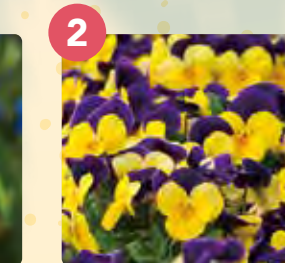
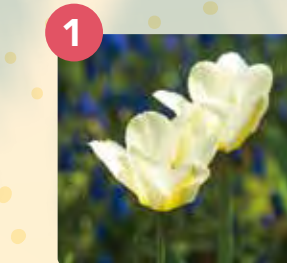


Participating at Friends Day!



Q: On the MeySen Campus grounds, colorful plants and flowers bloom in every season. Can you name the plants in the five photos?

Students can refer to the "MORI TO OHANASHI" picture book!



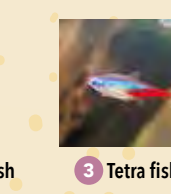
Answers to the previous question



1 Clown fish



2 Silver hatchet fish



3 Tetra fish



4 Blue tang fish



5 Discus fish



6 Banggai cardinalfish

Thank you for the many responses to the quiz in Issue 202. There were 124 participants and 113 correct answers.

MeySen Water Bottle Winners
Maruyama: Mimori Inoue, Kindergarten Nencho
Takamori: Mikoto Kikuchi, Kindergarten Nensho

MeySen Notepad Winners
Maruyama: Yuiha Yuze, Kindergarten Nencho
Kaito Yamagishi, FC2
Takamori: Yuu Suzuki, Kindergarten Nensho,
Miko Ishibashi, Kindergarten Nencho



We are preparing a new activity for the fall issue. Please look forward to it!