

Message from an Alumna

Rie Furukawa (Louise)
Takamori Friends Club
24th Graduating Class



I am currently working for a venture company "Clear Corporation," to promote the appeal of sake, both domestically and internationally. I am able to communicate naturally with people from all over the world, because I was exposed to English from an early age at MeySen, both in Kindergarten and Friends Club, and through MeySen, I was able to make a connection with the United States, a place far away from Japan.

When I was a first-year high school student, I studied abroad in the U.S. for a year on a MeySen scholarship, where I came into contact with international students from all over the world and learned how interesting it is to think about things through a global perspective. I learned that although there are different cultures in the United States, some of which I experienced were Finnish, Mexican, German, Argentinian, and people from other countries scattered across the globe, there are many commonalities between us that we can share with each other. We sang popular songs together, had fun together at Disney World, and played card games all night long. Experiencing the enthusiasm for good things that transcends cultural boundaries, I became interested in doing business on the world stage.

Even though there may be different trends in taste preferences across cultures, good sake can be enjoyed by anyone. I would like to continue to use my platform of promoting delicious sake from Japan, to connect more people from around the world.

I am now in charge of public relations at Clear Corporation, communicating with the media both in Japan and overseas. Last summer, we had a successful business venture overseas, and in October, our sake was used for a toast at a film festival in Hollywood. My dream is to convey the appeal of sake to more and more people around the world, and to have my host families from my study abroad days as well as other friends living around the world say to me, "I drank your sake, and it's delicious."



Clear Corporation, where I work, is developing the Sake brand "SAKE HUNDRED" globally.

Silver Prizes Won at Piano Competition!

Many of our students are involved in other lessons or sports while also attending Friends Club. Two students from Takamori Friends Club won silver prizes at the "European International Piano Concours in Japan Tokyo Contest" held in November.

- ♪ Takamori FC 6th Grade **Ayane Sato (Ellen)**
- ♪ Takamori FC 2nd Grade **Haruki Soji (Marshall)**

"Please continue the excellent work and keep reaching for the stars!"

MeySen students Performed very well in English Competitions!

MeySen students demonstrated the results of their daily English study and won prizes in two competitions. We send our hearty applause to all MeySen students who entered the competition.

The 71st Tohoku Six Prefectures Junior High School English Recitation Contest

- ◆ 1st Prize Maruyama HS 7th Grade **Reina Ueda (Sylvia)**



The 12th St. Ursula Eichi English Contest

- ◆ Assertion [Speech Section] **Grand Prize** Takamori Premier G9, **Kensuke Endo (Sid)**
- ◆ Assertion [Show and Tell Section] **Excellent Prize** Maruyama Premier G3, **Issei Komoribayashi (Daniel)**
- ◆ **Special Supporter Award** (Sendai Mitsukoshi Award) Maruyama FC 1st Grade, **Hiroto Ota (Judah)**

Kensuke Endo

Bible verse

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6 (ESV)

聖書

MeySen's Educational Vision

The ideal image we aim for

At MeySen, we have established a clear vision of education with the primary goals of "independence" and "future happiness" for our children and have summarized specific educational content in the six pillars on the left. In the previous issue, we covered "truth and integrity" as well as "language and expression." In this issue, we will focus on "social development," "initiative and creativity," and "strength and perseverance."



Daniel Fanger, Principal

Vision	
1 誠実さ	Truth & Integrity
2 ことば	Language & Expression
3 社会性	Social Development
4 自発性	Initiative & Creativity
5 精神力	Strength & Perseverance
6 希望と平安	Hope & Peace

Social Development

The third pillar is "Social Development." In a nutshell, this is the ability to get along with others and to live peacefully in society. There are many ways to describe this mindset, but at MeySen we believe it to be as follows.

● **Compassion / Empathy / Forgiving Others**
Having compassion for those around you, making the effort to listen to and do your best to try to understand the thoughts and opinions of others, the ability to sense others' feelings, and a heart that forgives others - these are all things that help you build meaningful and long-lasting relationships.

● **Learn to be self-disciplined/autonomous**
If a person becomes an adult without learning self-discipline or without developing self-control, they will suffer and will struggle with building strong relationships with others. We want our children to learn to control their emotions and behavior and to respond to situations in a calm and level-headed manner.

● **Humility / A desire to serve**
Humility is necessary for healthy relationships and for personal growth as a human being. We want our children to not only have a humble heart, but also to become adults who serve those around them and extend a helping hand to those in need. Humility and servanthood are two traits that are essential for those who wish to be an effective leader.

● **Gratitude (to God, parents, and others)**
I want our children to be thankful to God for keeping them alive and for the many blessings He has given them, as well as being thankful to their parents for raising and nurturing them, and to have a thankful heart in general to those around them, and to be able to express this gratitude both through their words and in their actions.

Initiative & Creativity

The fourth pillar is "Initiative." This is the ability to think for oneself and take action on one's own initiative, without being directed by others, showing diligence and a sense of responsibility. Although slightly different from initiative, "Creativity" is also included in this category.

● **Ability to think and act on one's own initiative**
The ability to recognize the needs and issues around you, to search for solutions on your own, and to take action and move forward. We want our students to have the ability to take the initiative to improve and solve problems, rather than only acting when instructed to do so.

● **Willingness/Diligence/Sense of responsibility**
To be willing to work proactively on goals and tasks, to take action to achieve them, and to willingly try to accomplish things. We also want them to be people who are willing to work hard in their studies and jobs.

● **Creativity**
Creativity is the ability to generate highly original, flexible and constructive ideas, and is an ability that is particularly sought after in today's world of AI technology. Children with high creativity are said to be able to act proactively and find creative ideas and solutions to problems and challenges. We would like to nurture this creativity through a stimulating environment and diverse experiences in childhood, when children are not as constrained by groupthink or societal pressures of conformity and guide them to be flexible in their thinking.

Strength & Perseverance

The fifth pillar "Strength and Perseverance" refers to mental strength, and that is having the strength of mind and will to accomplish something. In business for example, perseverance in the face of difficult circumstances or stress, is considered an important element of mental strength. This "Mental Strength" is defined as follows.

● **Perseverance**
We want to nurture the ability to persevere through hardships and difficulties. To this end, we do not give children an easy way out when they encounter difficulties or hardships. Instead, we encourage them to try their best to address it on their own, giving advice or extending a helping hand only when necessary, to help them gain the skills they need to be mentally strong adults in the future.

● **Ability to overcome difficulties**
We hope that when they encounter difficulties, they will not give up easily or fail, but will think of ways to overcome the difficulties, and through further efforts, they will gain strength and have the mental fortitude to try again.

● **Courage and spirit**
Courage to face difficulties and challenges. The courage to take on challenges without fear of failure. Courage to reject what is not moral or good. I hope you have the courage to stand on the side of justice and to help those who are weak. For example, if someone is being bullied, you can help that person and be a source of strength for them.

To help them acquire these qualities

So far, we have introduced five pillars of our educational vision. In the next issue, we will introduce the remaining sixth pillar, "Hope and Peace," which is obtained through faith and trust in God.

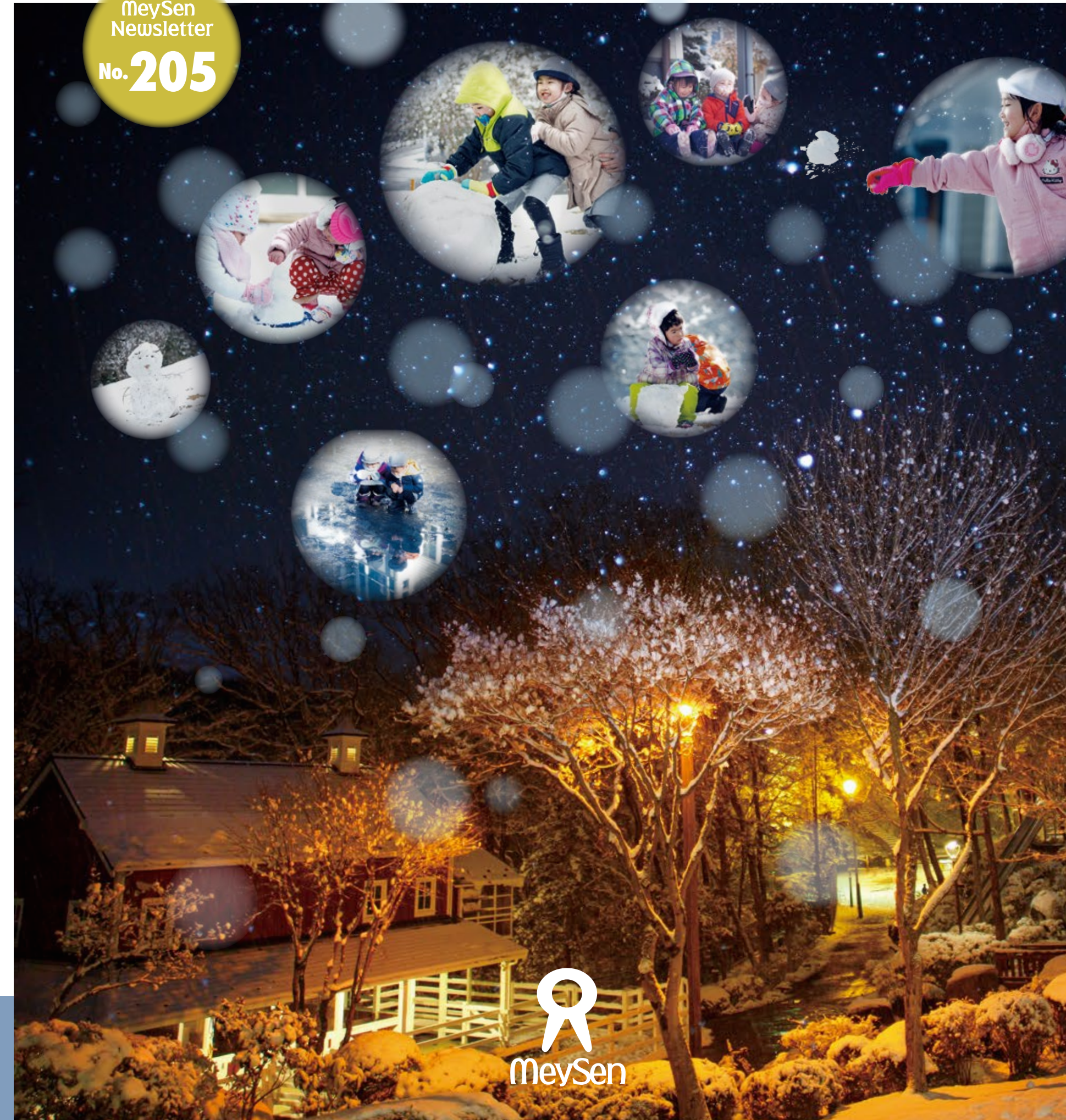
Conversely, the five pillars introduced so far are qualities that are acquired through training, so we ask parents to deepen their understanding of these visions and policies, and to work with the school's faculty and staff to teach and train their children in these qualities.

The ideal way to do this would be to review these points from time to time, and to choose one or two areas where we want each child to develop in, set goals, and focus on training each child to improve in those areas. Most importantly, we adults must be good role models. The influence of parental example is especially powerful and if we see any progress in our children, or if we see them trying their best, no matter how small the change may be, it is a good sign that they are doing well.

If you see any progress or effort in your child, no matter how small the change, be sure to notice it and praise it.



MeySen Newsletter
No. 205



「読む」とつながる。「読む」とひろがる。

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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Cover: MeySen Takamori Kindergarten at night



MeySen Kangaroo Club

Kangaroo Club's Year-round Class* for 1-year-olds will start!

Events to experience MeySen's English program and other activities!

MeySen Kangaroo Club's one-year-old class used to be divided into three terms in June, September, and November, but will be changed to a full-year program with approximately 30 activities per year starting in 2024.

We plan to hold monthly events and birthday parties where children can experience MeySen's English program and other unique activities. Our intention for these parents and children, is to use this opportunity to familiarize themselves with the kindergarten environment, and we hope that the parents can make close friends with each other and even become a source of support to one another, as their children grow up together at MeySen Academy.

The Kangaroo Club is a parent-child program, where preschoolers and their parents participate in a variety of activities, both in the classroom and outside in the natural environment.

Kangaroo Club in 2024, Programs & Events		
1-yr-old・2-yr-olds Year-round Class	2-yr-olds 5-Session Class	Open Event
Start accepting applications for 1-year-old class	Jan	
Admission Ceremony & Start of Activities	May	Let's play with MeySen's animals!
	Jun	
	Jul	
	Aug	
	Sep	
	Oct	Let's play with MeySen's animals!
	Nov	Kangaroo Club Experience
	Dec	
	Jan	
	Feb	
	Mar	

About 30 activities

- ◆ Birthday Party Held monthly to celebrate student birthdays
- ◆ English and P.E. Class, and Other Themed Events Each held several times a year

* The "5-session class" is subject to change.



If you wish to receive more information and notifications, please register as a friend on MeySen Kindergarten LINE.

Click HERE for more information about the Kangaroo Club program.

The 3rd trimester is a time to prepare your "Mind & Body" for moving on to the Next Level!



Takamori Premier G5
Yuma Mori
Rob

I want to test my English skills in Seattle!

There are two things I want to do during my stay in Seattle. First, I want to test my ability to communicate with others in English by making use of the English I have acquired at MeySen Premier School over the past seven years. The second is to learn about the differences between Japan and the U.S., including American culture and customs that I do not know about, while living a daily life with the people who will take care of me in my homestay.

I want to increase my vocabulary!

What I want to do is to learn English that I don't know yet. When I first came into contact with English at a young age, I learned how fun it was to speak English. Now, I want to increase my vocabulary even more so that I can expand my new world and communicate with people from many different countries. I would like to make use of the English I have learned so far when I go abroad in the future to develop myself.



Maruyama FC 6th
Miyu Tatsumi
Sylvia

English is essential for my tennis dream!

Ever since I was in elementary school, I have loved speaking English, but now that I am in junior high school, I want to speak it more actively and a lot more. My dream is to become a world-class tennis player and compete in tournaments around the world. If I cannot speak English, my dream will not come true. Last year, I made an American tennis friend. I want to learn English grammar well at high school so that I can write letters to my friends. My goal is to talk a lot with my teachers and friends in good spirits and with a smile.



Takamori FC 6th
Rin Sato
Suzanna



Maruyama Premier G6
Celi Kobayashi
Sofia

Challenging English in Science

Six years of perfect attendance! I want to cherish the remaining time with my friends from kindergarten and my teachers at my favorite place, Premier School, without missing any of my remaining G6 classes. I would also like to improve my English skills in preparation for when I move on to high school. I would like to do medical research in the future. In order to get closer to my dream of using English to develop my research while exchanging opinions with scientists from various countries, I will read more in English than ever before, challenge myself with Western books in the scientific field, and do my best in the third semester to convey my opinions in English.

Introduction to the Work of the Physical Education Teachers

At MeySen Kindergarten, physical activities are conducted according to a developmentally appropriate curriculum for each age group. Here we introduce the schedules of the four physical education teachers as they go about their day.



Arriving at school



Free play



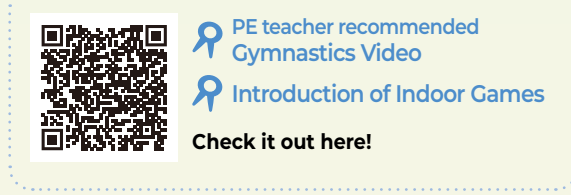
FitKids

- ### A Day in the Life of the P.E. Teachers
- 8:30~9:30**
Free play outside with arriving children
 - 10:00~12:00**
Regular Physical Education / 10-minute Exercise Patrol
 - Watch over and accompany children participating in the challenge course
 - Free play outside with the preschoolers
 - 13:30~16:00** Extracurricular Activities
Preparation for FitKids - Activities
 - 16:00~**
Cleanup and meetings

Leave at work
※ Regular P.E. Activities are conducted in the hall by the P.E. teacher, and 10-minute Exercise activities are conducted in the kindergarten classroom by the class teacher.

Let's move our bodies even in the cold winter!

When it is cold, it is easy to stay motionless inside the house, but going outside to play in the sunshine and cold wind will strengthen your skin and lungs. Please watch as our P.E. teachers introduce exercises and games that can be enjoyed both outside and indoors!



Our teachers played sports, too.

Kengo Iwanaga, one of our Maruyama P.E. teachers, used to play softball and competed in a national tournament! Sho Suzuki, one of our Takamori P.E. teachers, won the Iwate prefectural championship, for a unicycle competition when he was in elementary school, and after that he played baseball. The teachers know the importance of daily physical training. There are many elementary, junior high, and high school students who attend MeySen while playing sports. We are rooting for you!



Sho Suzuki



Mizue Yoshida



Suguru Yamasaki



Kengo Iwanaga

MeySen Encyclopedia «Animals at MeySen»



"Captain" the Pyrenees, who was big and gentle.

MeySen has been raising horses, sheep, and other small animals since the kindergarten opened. Some of these same types of animals still live at the school, both indoors and outdoors, but a look at the old newsletters shows that many different kinds of animals were raised at MeySen. Old English Sheepdogs, which was the mascot of MeySen (photo: bottom right), Great Pyrenees (photo: bottom left), cats, turkeys, peacocks, spider monkeys, crows, ferrets, parrots, tortoises, and llamas are just a few of the animals that have been raised at MeySen.

Some of our graduates have grown to love animals after having interacted with them at MeySen and have gone on to work with animals in their careers. Please enjoy interacting with the animals by gently touching them and talking to them. If you have any questions, you can ask any of the animal caretakers!

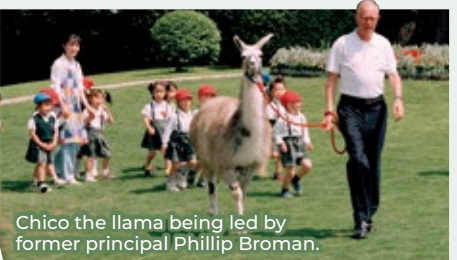
The 1983 Newsletter contains a chart of the animals that were at the kindergarten at that time. You'll be amazed at the number of chipmunks and rabbits!

Animals at MeySen (by 1st)	MeySen	Takamori
Horse	4	2
Donkey	1	0
Goat	2	2
Sheep	1	1
Sika Deer	1	0
Chipmunk	42	8
Golden pig	4	8
Rabbit	16	16
Puppy	1	0
Kitten	1	5
Turkey	2	2
Peacock	2	0
Curtain Pigeon	0	10
Golden Chicken	0	2
Bantam	2	7
Crow	0	2

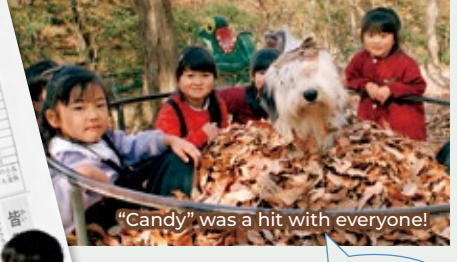
In addition, small birds such as ducks and parakeets are kept in the classroom. Goldfish and turtles are also swimming in the pond.



There was even a friendly crow!



Chico the llama being led by former principal Phillip Broman.



"Gandy" was a hit with everyone!

We will introduce more details in the spring issue!

20th Anniversary Celebrations for Study Tour to Europe

World-Expanding Experiences for High School Students

By John Broman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Although we have had study tours and study abroad programs in the U.S. for many years, we wanted to give our high school students a more diverse experience, and the first European study tour was realized in 2002. The United Kingdom, like the United States, is an English-speaking country, but its history and people's way of thinking are very different. On the other hand, there are many similarities between the United Kingdom and Japan, such as their royal and imperial families, and even though they speak different languages, they have long had deep ties with each other. Therefore, I decided to focus on the United Kingdom as a place where we could not only learn English but also experience the interesting differences with the United States and Japan.

So I went to the UK and researched how I could make a 10-day homestay and high school study experience in the UK, and also chose a place in Paris, France, where we could actually walk around and see the sights. In Germany, I wanted our students to learn and interact with children of the same age who, like MeySen students, were non-native English speakers, aiming to learn something new that was not possible in an English-speaking country. Many students have discussed their future and dreams with their German host sisters and host brothers in English.

This study trip, which visits three European countries, has been a great success for the students, allowing them to hone their English skills beyond MeySen Academy. We are sure that many more high school students will participate in this program in the years to come, and that their interests and perspectives will expand beyond their experiences up to this point.

friends in Europe



2002



Training Coordinator in the UK
Warwick & Phyllis Croucher

A Rich Experience for British Students As Well

When we first agreed with John Broman many years ago to search for host families for MeySen students visiting England, we had little idea how interesting this experience would prove to be. Looking back over these twenty or so years, we feel much has been achieved by MeySen to the advantage of both the Japanese and British students. Many friendships have been formed between the students, as well as between the MeySen staff and ourselves. In England the host families and schools have truly enjoyed this experience and it has been a special pleasure for us personally to have hosted two such students on different visits.

On returning to Japan, we very much hope all these lovely young people will take with them a good report of their experiences in our country. They always leave a good impression here, and we would like to think they will be diligent and honorable citizens throughout their lives, as our Christian faith requires us to be.

On two occasions we have had the privilege of visiting Japan. We have very happy memories of the people we met, and the exciting things we saw and did. Our conducted tours of the MeySen schools impressed us greatly. So these are just a few of our many reflections on our long-standing, very happy relationship with MeySen Academy, and for which we give thanks to God. Long may these visits continue, even when we are no longer able to help.



Training Coordinator in Germany
Hansjörg Egeler

Training to Deepen Your Understanding of Germany

Part of the trip takes place in Germany in the city of Weinstadt. Weinstadt is a small, insignificant city in Germany, opposite Munich/Berlin or Frankfurt. Nevertheless, the students who were with us, hopefully got a lasting impression.

In the early stages of this program, since we were starting completely from scratch, things were pretty simple and we learned as we went along. We now have a well-thought-out program with a wide variety of aspects. For example, the MeySen students used to be placed in several different schools, but they did not get much from the lessons because everything was in German, except for English class. For a few years now, all of the students attend a private Christian school. The lessons have been adapted as much as possible to the MeySen students. This makes it clearer for the young people how they teach in Germany what advantages and disadvantages there are.

Since English is also a foreign language for us, it is important that the students who come have a good vocabulary. It is much easier for host families to communicate with young people if they are open and interested in learning new things.

We hope that the young people here in Europe that have experienced hosting the MeySen students, have had a memorable time and that they have experienced great personal growth. We also hope that the MeySen students have learned a lot, made many memories, and that the trip was a positive experience for them.



2023

