

ALUMNI

Ayumu Maehara (Robbie)
Takamori 35th Graduating Class (2007)

I have many fond memories of MeySen, but one that particularly stands out is the Friends Club America Study Trip. I remember that on the day of our departure, my 7th grade self could hardly hold in the excitement for this rare chance to travel abroad. My heart was full of anticipation upon our arrival at our first stop in Seattle, Washington. I made some friends at the camp, and I invited them to go play catch out on the big open field. Before I knew it, many more campers joined us in a game of

kick ball, and in the end we were all dancing in a circle. I was able to experience the fun spirit of Americans. I enjoyed the dry weather where we could run around without sweating. The host family I stayed with warmly welcomed me into their home. I played baseball with other kids, enjoyed the jacuzzi under the evening sky, and got a baseball signed by a major league player. These are all unforgettable memories that I cherish.

I obtained a qualification allowing me to study abroad, and am currently studying piano at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. Through living abroad, I now realize that exposure to a foreign culture has more value than you can imagine. I became aware of the difference in concepts such as *goodness* or *beauty*, and I feel that I am gaining a wider perspective as a person. I feel fortunate to be able to study piano under a Hungarian professor.



English is not only used as an official language all over the world, but it is also studied all over the world as a second language. I encourage all of you students at MeySen to have an interest and turn your eyes to the world as you study English, so you can live a global life.



Friends Club
5th grade Kansai trip

Letters from Schools using GrapeSEED



Moscow, Russia



Anna Postnikova
School Principal,
Moscow School No. 1354, Russia

From the time we opened our school in 1999, we have thought about teaching our students good English and producing young people who could speak English fluently.

In 2000, we started using Oxford University Press course books and participating in experimental work together with the best Moscow schools. Our students' level of English was gradually becoming better but we were still not satisfied with it. We had a strong desire to help our students become fluent speakers, using their English in real life situations.

A year later we started the program with the first group of young learners. There were only twelve children in the group then. Last year we recruited more than a hundred. The students in GrapeSEED groups acquired good knowledge and improved their skills demonstrating better results than children in other groups. This school year there are about two hundred children involved in the program and nine English Language teachers working in it.

After visiting MeySen Academy in 2017, our great wish to provide children with all the opportunities of GrapeSEED became much stronger. We also invite guests to our school—teachers and principals from Moscow and other Russian schools. We are glad to welcome GrapeSEED trainers and other professionals.



Comments from Teachers

“GrapeSEED is fun, interesting and creative. The children learn to speak English naturally. They see their progress, they love to speak English and they are motivated. All the parents are happy to see their children improve. They help and support them. I'm really excited about being chosen to work with this program and of course I'm proud of my students and their achievements.”



Ms. Nune

“With the help of GrapeSEED children become more confident in speaking English. Creating a fun and pleasant atmosphere during the lessons we reduce the stress level and psychological barrier. Thus, children learn much faster. As a teacher I can say that GrapeSEED is the best program for learning English without fear and with lots of pleasure.”



Ms. Alina

Bible verse

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.
But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.
1 Timothy 6:6-10 (ESV)

聖書

New School Year Greetings

We have entered our 53rd year at MeySen Maruyama Kindergarten and our 42nd year at MeySen Takamori Kindergarten. I would like to say thank you to all of the parents of MeySen students for their understanding and cooperation in the previous year. MeySen is truly blessed to have such supportive parents, and we are sincerely grateful.

The Bible says that *“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him” (Psalm 127:3, NIV)*. Children are precious gifts from God, and each one is a treasure. The Bible also teaches that when God made the heaven and the earth, he made mankind in his own image. His purpose was a loving relationship with us. We find the purpose of our existence in the context of this relationship. It is a true privilege to be with and work for these children, who are made in the image of God and loved by him. All of us at MeySen, hand in hand with the parents, will give our all for the children's future happiness.



Daniel Fanger
Principal

MeySen's Core Values

MeySen Academy has core values that are held and cherished by all of our faculty. They were the same 53 years ago when the academy was first established, and have been passed on through the years. Eight years ago, we summarized these values into five points for clarity. As in all of MeySen Academy's policies, they are based on Biblical principles:

1) DILIGENCE—All Your Heart, All Your Strength
“The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance...” (Proverbs 21:5)
“...the diligent man will get precious wealth.” (Proverbs 12:27)

2) INTEGRITY—Honesty and Integrity above All
“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.” (Proverbs 10:9)

3) SERVANTHOOD—Acting for the Good of Others
“...through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)
“rendering service with a good will...” (Ephesians 6:7)

4) HUMILITY—Knowing our Limits,
Learning from Others
“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.” (Proverbs 11:2)

5) COMPASSION—Understanding, Caring, Loving
“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)

We desire that all of our teaching staff possess these attitudes of the heart, which act as guidelines for our daily life. We hold to these standards as we recruit new staff, choosing candidates that meet these values, and they are also character qualities that we hope to pass on to the students learning at MeySen.

Cooperation with the local community

With its 50th year celebration, MeySen has been working to build a new vision for the future as well as re-examining its picture of what lies ahead for the students. One new endeavor is forming stronger bonds with the local community, inviting parents and business owners to partner with us in order to provide education for children that will create a better future for Japan. One such program is A Way We Learn, a program allowing local community businesses to support MeySen students studying abroad. Another one is the volunteer system Heart & Hands. These programs were introduced in our previous newsletters, and to our great delight, they are producing even bigger results than we had imagined. We are thankful for all the understanding and support from the parents.

I was recently invited to give a presentation titled “MeySen Academy's Education for Creating Bilingual Japanese Citizens” at a seminar in Tokyo for kindergarten and daycare owners. I briefly mentioned our new endeavors in the presentation, and afterwards I had comments from several principals and directors such as, “having education that partners with the local community is a wonderful thing,” and “that's not something you can accomplish just by having ideals.” It made me again realize just how blessed we are with such wonderful partners.

We will continue the development of these programs this year, as well as taking up new challenges. We will keep you informed of the latest developments, and we sincerely ask for your support for the future of all the children at MeySen Academy.



Illustration of new Maruyama hall,
a place where MeySen and the local community can
work as one to raise our children.

New Maruyama Hall construction

The rebuilding of the Maruyama hall has been in progress since last year, and this year we are asking for donations for this large project. Asking for donations is not something we are familiar with. It is new territory and a new endeavor for us.

Since MeySen's founding, our goal every year has been to provide the best possible education for the children, and to create experiences that the students can share together with their family, leaving them with many happy moments and memories. The plan for rebuilding the hall began about 10 years ago as one of the projects to improve our environment. Now we are able to make that plan a reality.

However, there are many more projects we would like to do on both campuses. Donations for rebuilding the hall will speed up the process for other projects.

We hope that many parents and alumni will join us. It does not matter how small or large the donation. We look forward to celebrating the completion of the hall—something made possible by all of us working together.



SPRING EVENTS

Michinoku Park
K4, K5 & FC2



Thank-you Party for MeySen Volunteers



Last year, volunteers helped handle the preparations for child care, classes, events, materials, and equipment, allowing teaching staff to focus more on the actual educational activities, their primary responsibility. MeySen volunteers have become a vital force.

From April 2018 to March 2019, we had a total of 1164 parents volunteering for a combined total of 2588 hours of work. Thank you so very much.

We would love to have more of the fathers lend us their strength this year at upcoming events such as the Friends Club 4th Grade BBQ. We look forward to having you join us!

What kind of challenges will you take up this spring?

Family Day, Field Trips, Special Days. Each of our events has a purpose and a goal, which we talk about in our letters:

“Let’s make one or two more friends.”

“I want to speak more English.”

“I am going to talk to different teachers.”

Try setting your own goals for when you come to MeySen each day, and also for the special activities and events. Let’s have a fulfilling year!

Uminomori Aquarium
K5



Friends Day



Yagiyama Zoo
K4, FC1

Family Day
K4

Kangaroo Club Celebrates 20th Year

Kangaroo Club is now celebrating its 20th year. The idea, started by Philip Broman (former principal and honorary chairman), was to help young children get used to kindergarten by having a variety of experiences at MeySen once a week they could participate in with a parent.

Young children often experience loneliness or anxiety in being separated from family when they first start kindergarten, but Kangaroo Club enables them to make friends by being in a group before starting, and parents are able to connect with other parents as well.

In addition, MeySen is continuing new endeavors such as classes for 1-year-olds, working toward its primary aspiration of providing children with a rich environment where they can thrive and blossom in the future.

MeySen will keep working to create a fun-filled environment through events and other activities in addition to Kangaroo Club, so pre-school aged children and their parents will have the opportunity to get to know MeySen.



MeySen
Kangaroo
Club



(above) Kangaroo Club
(below) Scene from opening day

Kangaroo Club’s Yasuko Maki Receives Educational Achievement Award

Sendai City implements a program titled My School Plan 21, which opens up spare rooms at public schools for community-based study and volunteer work.

Yasuko Maki of Takamori Kangaroo Club, who has worked as the coordinator for My School Kawadaira at Kawadaira Elementary School, recently received an award along with her group from the Sendai City Board of Education for their educational achievement and for their contribution of over 20 years of activity.



47 Alumni on Staff at MeySen

As of this year, 2019, MeySen has 47 alumni students in different departments working to create an educational environment of excellence. We hope that some of the current students will also return when they grow up and join us working at MeySen Academy in the future.

Maruyama Day Care, Kangaroo Club



Administration and Office

Takamori Day Care



English Department
and English Teaching Support



English Grammar,
Takamori FC Day Care

Support Crew



Bus Drivers

*Some alumni were not able to be photographed due to their work responsibilities.

We can't wait to give you a ride in the wagon!

MeySen's New Horses Ella and Elina

Last December, two horses arrived at MeySen from Seattle, succeeding Belle as MeySen's draft horse. They are Norwegian Fjord horses, a breed known for their gentle temperament and a long history as a dependable work horse.

With the help of a professional horse trainer invited from America, Ella and Elina started their training pulling MeySen's wagon from January. Their official debut is planned for the wagon-ride day at kindergarten, but you can come talk to them any time. Ella can always be found in the stable at Maruyama and Elina at Takamori. Be sure and call them by their names. “Ella! Elina!” We look forward to seeing them giving you a wagon ride!



Gordon Mitch, the trainer who raised Ella and Elina in Washington state, came to Japan to provide their training.

Ella

Elina



Premier School's First Class Graduates High School



Last month on March 22, 15 Premier High School students celebrated their graduation.

We applaud these students as they take this new step into their future. These students entered Premier School at the age of four (known at the time as the Immersion program), continued through elementary and junior high, and all the way to their second year of high school, a total of 13 years in the program, all while balancing the demands of school life and study. We wish these students the best as each of them sets out in pursuit of their goals. We also want to thank our graduates' parents, for helping take part in the creation of the Premier School program.



You can view the video of the graduating students' speeches and the ceremony.



Number of Takamori Graduates Reaches 10,000

This March, the number of students that have graduated from MeySen Takamori Kindergarten has surpassed 10,000. Since the opening in 1978 with 176 students, the number of students has continued to increase with the development of the Izumi Park Town residential areas, reaching over 10,000 in 40 years.

The Takamori teachers look forward to welcoming more children in the future.



Donation of English Books to Premier School

Reading improves English reading skills as well as expressive ability

For the past two years, the family of Kensuke Endo (Sid, Takamori G5) has been donating English books to Premier School. Last year, MeySen created a library corner using these donated books at both campuses in Premier School, so Premier students can access a variety of books.

Kensuke loves reading, and he devours the English books his father buys for him. Reading so many English books has given him a high proficiency in English expression and he seldom makes grammar mistakes in his writing. This perfectly demonstrates the many benefits of reading.

His father, wishing for other Premier students to be able to have books to read as well, made another donation of somewhere between 200 and 300 books last year, bringing the total number of donated books to around 500. We are very thankful.

It is unusual to find a place in Japan where children have access to this many children's English books. The library is also open to EX Class students. Please make the most of the library corner and read as many books as possible to expand your knowledge and your world.



Maruyama

Takamori

Premier building library corner

