



Message from an Alumna

Haruka Yuyama (Bonnie)
Maruyama 33rd Graduating Class (2006)



At Miracle Ranch during the
America Study Trip

Hi, my name is Bonnie. Growing up, my family lived very close to the Maruyama campus, so my two older brothers both graduated from MeySen, and my mother worked at MeySen for about ten years.

In kindergarten, I was the rambunctious child that was always getting corrected by the teacher, the sort that gets into trouble the day before the performance of the concert. Every time I passed my English teacher, he would start singing, "My Bonnie lies over the ocean..." I also had a childhood friend, Carol (Rieko Kato), who was often mistaken as my twin sister.

In junior high, I remember going to a work experience for a week that I enjoyed so much that I cried on the last day because I didn't want to leave.

On the America Study Trip in 7th grade, I said to myself, "I want to be able to speak English better," and I later went to study in Indiana through YFU. I returned to Japan, and then went on the Europe Study Trip and became interested in German after being exposed to the language for the first time. I joined a study abroad program and studied at Bonn University in Germany for a year.

I knew I wanted to find a job where I could use English, and during my time at university I discovered my dream of becoming a pilot. So, in spring of last year, I started the Aviation Program at the Japan Coast Guard Academy. The Japan Coast Guard is responsible for rescue at sea, regional ocean patrol, and preventing crime at sea, among other duties, and the airplanes play a vital role in its operation. During the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, even though the

Sendai base suffered heavy damage, it was still busy doing rescuing missions.

About 600 students between the ages of 18 to 25 from all over Japan attend the school, and we live in dorms. Of course, we study things such as criminal law, but we also do practical training like swimming and going on boats. Last summer, I visited the US Coast Guard in San Francisco with a training abroad program.

I just graduated from the Coast Guard Academy this March, and I have started my training to become a helicopter pilot at a facility at Sendai Airport.

For aviation duties, as well as for other Coast Guard duties, English is essential. I am not overstating when I say that without MeySen I would not have become the person I am today. I have many hurdles to overcome before I can be a professional pilot, but I am going to work hard so I can serve in the air over my hometown of Sendai.



Standing second
from the right is
Bonnie

Ms. Yuyama Visited MeySen!

In July, Ms. Yuyama spoke to the High School students, telling them about her memories at MeySen, her experience studying abroad, and her work with the Japan Coast Guard. The students were eager to hear her stories, realizing yet again the importance of having their own dreams and working toward them.



Overseas Program Department for Study Abroad

The students at MeySen work hard at learning English, but opportunities to use that English within Japan are limited. Living in an English-speaking country allows the efforts of these students to blossom as they gain confidence in their language ability. It is also an excellent opportunity for them to grow as a person.

MeySen Academy would like as many students as possible to experience this, so the school has set up the Overseas Program

Department and increased the variety of study abroad programs. MeySen's scholarship system has also made advances with the "A Way We Learn" project, which started three years ago. We hope that many MeySen students, whether long term or short, will take up the challenge of studying overseas.

If you are interested in studying abroad or have any questions, talk to Mr. Peter at Maruyama, or Mr. Sano or Ms. Emily at Takamori.

MeySen SMG Study Abroad Program

MeySen's SMG Study Abroad Program allows students to customize their study abroad experience. Students can choose their own subjects they want to study, sports they want to play, or even city they want to live in, matching their time abroad with their unique interests and dreams.

This year, Momoko Sugawara (Angie, Maruyama PS 2015 Graduating Class) will be participating in the SMG Program. A graduate of Premier School, Momoko has a solid foundation of English ability and multi-cultural awareness. She will be attending a prestigious high school with top-level students from August.

The Overseas Program Department will endeavor to assist MeySen students through planning overseas experiences that support their personal goals and dreams.



Miss Sugawara

Playing Rugby Through the SMG Program

Lenon Sawada
(Isaiah)

Maruyama 40th
Graduating Class (2013)



In the fall of 2017, Mr. Nathan talked to me about the possibility of studying in Canada. It did not take me long to decide, as I had been wanting to study abroad ever since the America Study Trip I went on in 7th grade.

My host family gave me a warm welcome, and we still keep in touch with each other like a real family. Another reason I wanted to go to Canada was to play rugby. Playing rugby with players who are overall a much larger body size than Japanese players was exhilarating, but there was also the challenge of not being able to get across what I wanted to communicate with my teammates. However, although I was frustrated, I did not give up. I continued to communicate with them, and I was able to be a part of the team. Our team even ranked near the top in the province.

I know one year is a short time compared with the length of a person's life, but I feel this year was a year that will enrich my life many times over.

Bible verse

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist;
return to me, for I have redeemed you.
Isaiah 44:22 (ESV)

聖書
せいしょ

Part 17

About Covetousness

We read in the Old Testament (Exodus 20), that God gave the Israelites through Moses what is now called the Ten Commandments. The tenth commandment is about coveting:

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Exodus 20:17

In other words, the Bible states that coveting is as much a sin as committing adultery, performing idol worship, telling a lie, or stealing. In the New Testament, Jesus spoke many times about the danger of coveting and loving money. Here is one such passage:

And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Luke 12:15

Desire for money and materials rises up naturally in man, but no matter how much we accumulate, material wealth by itself will never satisfy us. The Bible teaches us about that too:

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5

Moral Lessons from the Bible

Daniel Fanger, Principal



Jesus' disciples also taught that if we become consumed with a desire for money and wealth and constantly pursue it, we put ourselves in danger of temptation, and in the end actually destroy our own soul.

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 6:9-10

Money itself is not evil. It is the love of money that is evil. It is good to work diligently and receive an income, and then not waste it, but use the wealth you save up for people, for society, and in ways that are pleasing to God.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

I encourage you all to think about what would benefit others, and to be rich in doing good, generously helping those in need. This is an important topic for parents to discuss with their children. Using wealth to benefit others is something that is pleasing to God. It is "storing up treasure in heaven," as Jesus taught us.

Playtime With the Animals at meysen!

Events for parents and pre-kindergarten age children

On May 17, the weather was warm and sunny, and MeySen welcomed 101 children and 111 parents to the Takamori campus. For many of the parents and children, it was their first time to visit MeySen. It was an opportunity for them to experience the rich natural environment of the campus, see the animals, and even ride on a horse-drawn wagon.

Another event is planned for October, so if you know of anybody with young children, be sure to let them know about this event!



MeySen Academy Schools LINE@

Use this QR code on your LINE app to find out more news about MeySen's pre-kindergarten age events! (Japanese Only)

Cover: Summer in Sendai and Tohoku feels hotter every year.
Take care of yourselves in the heat, and let's have a great time at all the summer events!

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Friends is the MeySen Academy newsletter and publishes the latest news and event announcements for all members of our community, including students, alumni, teachers, and interested friends of MeySen.



Fathers Volunteering in Full Swing!



Many fathers came to help out at the Takamori 4th Grade Friends Club Family BBQ in April, and they were a tremendous help. We were very thankful to have not only 4th Grade participants, but those from other grades and Premier Elementary helped as well.

We will keep you posted on upcoming events, and we hope you can join us.



Vegalta Sendai Soccer & Cheerleading Classes



On May 20 and 27, coaches and cheerleaders visited the K5 and Premier K5 students and taught them soccer and cheerleading as a part of the Vegalta Sendai Soccer Team's 25th anniversary event, KIZUNA Future Project Soccer Caravan.

Students that chose to do soccer chased the ball with excited shouts under the clear blue sky. Students that opted for cheerleading learned choreography from members of the Vegalta cheerleading team and team mascots Vegatta and Rutana, and then performed what they had learned for the teachers.

Reports of these events are also featured on Vegalta Sendai's website.



Vegalta Sendai Blog
(Japanese Only)



Maruyama
(Japanese Only)

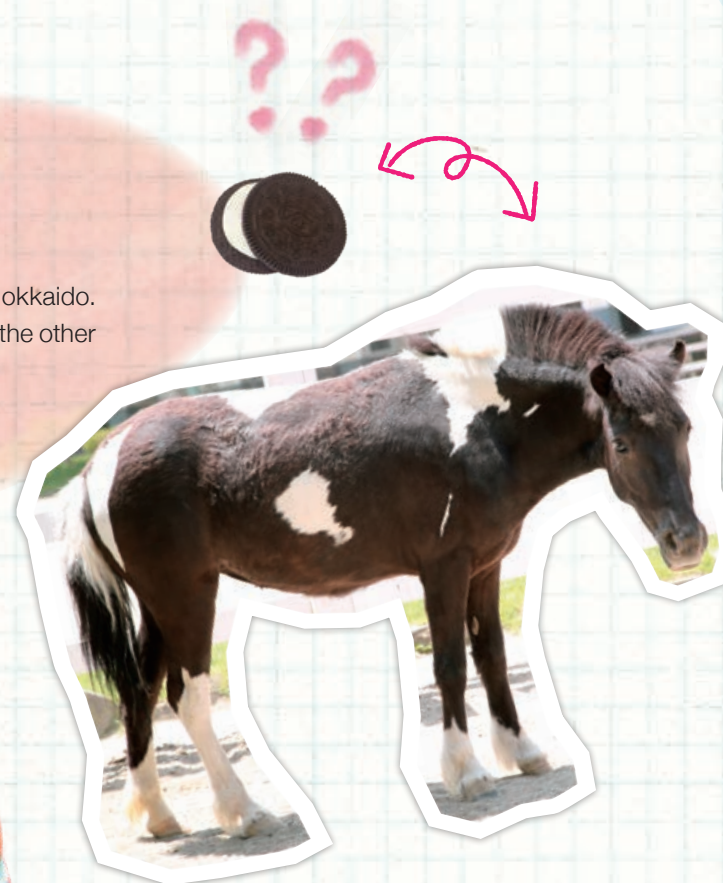


Takamori
(Japanese Only)

OREO, the Pony!?

Maruyama campus has a new pony! She is a 4-year-old female pony born in Hokkaido. She is a little shy, but is very smart and well-behaved. She is also a little bigger than the other ponies and sometimes acts like the leader among them.

Her name is Oreo. One look and you will probably know where she got her name. Come see her during recess time!



Thank You for Your Generous Donations

Thanks to the many clothing items contributed by MeySen students, families, and alumni, this year's annual clothes drive was a tremendous success. Thank you all for your generous support. MeySen donated 569 boxes, 23,797 items in total, to people in Cambodia and Thailand, as well as to the homeless in Sendai through the Sendai Night Watch Group.

We also would like to say a special thank you to all of the 38 parents who helped to sort through all the clothes items.

You can find more information about this project on our Social Contribution Activity page on the MeySen website.



Students Returning from Abroad Give Report to Sponsors

The six students who were sponsored by business owners through MeySen's study abroad scholarship project "A Way We Learn" completed their study and returned to Sendai. The students shared about the challenges they experienced in a foreign culture: days when they felt discouraged at the speed of their improvement, and times when they felt lost due to the differences in history and culture. But despite the trials and hardships they persevered, and we are proud of their personal growth and their excellent English ability.

MeySen invited 29 individuals who were sponsors in the program to attend the gathering on July 3. The students shared their experiences and expressed their gratitude.

Miyu Itaya (Idaho)
Arei Ono (Louisiana)
Sakura Suzuki (Virginia)

Kanon Kuninaga (Mississippi)
Kenshin Tsuchiya (Texas)
Mei Yamada (Missouri)

We wish all the best to the four scholarship students that are soon departing this year!

Parenting Seminar

by Prof. Hatta

On Saturday, June 29, MeySen held a parenting seminar for parents in the morning and a training seminar for staff in the afternoon. The speaker, Prof. Tetsuo Hatta, had not been to MeySen for three years, but many remembered him from the previous seminar. Over 300 people applied to attend, so many that having enough parking space was a concern.

Prof. Hatta covered a broad range of topics in the seminar. He shared information such as the latest research findings in neuroscience, his experience in speaking events in six different countries over the last three years, information on physical education training, psychology, positive reinforcement in child raising, his own experience as a father, and the vast amount of information that has been tried and tested through presenting 3,920 speeches. It was simply too much to summarize for this article, and time flew as he spoke with humor about encouraging self-affirmation in children, and on not being satisfied with simply completing your own work, but to be someone who can bring joy to others. What he shared regarding the importance of the mother's influence, especially in younger children, left a deep impression on everyone listening. We believe that each attendee received significant insight through his presentation.

In the afternoon, Prof. Hatta spoke to MeySen staff for three hours, almost losing his voice by the end. It was a deep learning experience for all the staff of MeySen Academy, which we will endeavor to incorporate in our educational activities.



SUMMER EVENTS

Kindergarten
K5 Camp

Friends Club
1st Grade
Camp

Premier
G1/G2
Camp

Premier
G3/G4
Bandai Camp

Friends Club
4th Grade
Bandai Camp

Premier
School
Blue Day

