

MESSAGE FROM AN ALUMNA

Shizuka Ejiri (Kathryn)
Takamori 27th Graduating Class

Ms. Ejiri, first one from the right on the back row ▶



Hello! My name is Shizuka Ejiri, and I am a MeySen alumna. When I went on the America Study Trip in junior high, it left a huge impression on me. It was my first time encountering the world outside of Japan which was completely unknown to me at the time. I have been interested in things overseas ever since.

program and I went to Ohio. It was a year where I learned to persevere in the face of difficulty and experience growth.

After that, I took action on my strong desire to work overseas. I joined a Japanese recruitment company working in Vietnam for three years until February of this year. The work involved assisting Japanese companies that are expanding into Vietnam in their recruitment efforts. If I had to sum up my impression of Vietnam in one word, it would be "energetic". Vietnam is in the middle of major economic development, the towns and people are full of energy, and many Japanese companies are investing in the country (and there is a lot of good food!).

Working with people whose language, lifestyle, culture, customs, and thinking

are different, yet giving our all to obtain a common goal was an exciting learning experience for me. As the office expanded, my colleagues and I overcame many difficulties and grew together.

Now I am back in Japan working for a recruiting agency in Sendai. My experience overseas, both as an exchange student and working in Vietnam, is a tremendous asset, and I am walking forward toward more growth. I hope that all of you MeySen students will experience growth as you learn to persevere in difficult circumstances.

I am so fortunate to have been able to study at MeySen, make friends, and gain many irreplaceable memories. Thank you to all of my teachers, my friends, and my parents.



Bike riding on the America Study Trip as a junior high student

Europe Study Trip

SENDAI ✈ EUROPE | Oct. 4 - 22



The Europe Study Trip was created as an opportunity for MeySen High School students to deepen their understanding of the history, culture, and customs of Europe. Students do so through interacting with people in England, France, and Germany, while also reaching for the goal of introducing and representing Japan to them.

Participants stay with families that have children of similar age to themselves in England and Germany, talking about their future and dreams with their host brothers and sisters, and sharing life as a temporary member of the family. It is a fresh and stimulating 18 days, with very different experiences from those they have had in Japan or even America.



Itinerary for the 2019 trip

- October 4 Depart from Narita to London Homestay, Schooling experience
- October 14 Depart from London to Paris, Sightseeing
- October 15 Depart from Paris to Stuttgart Homestay, Schooling experience
- October 21 Depart from Stuttgart to Frankfurt
- October 22 Return to Japan

Japanische Schüler in Weinstadt
Drei Schülerinnen und ein Schüler der privaten Mey Sen Academy im japanischen Sendai empfing Oberbürgermeister Michael Schramm vergangene Woche im Rathaus Beutelsbach. Im Rahmen einer Europareise, die sie auch nach London und Paris führte, verbrachten die Jugendlichen einige Tage in Weinstadt, wo sie in Familien untergebracht waren. Organisiert wird der Weinstädter Aufenthalt jährlich vom Christuszentrum Weinstadt, mit dem die private Sprachschule in Sendai gute Kontakte pflegt.
„WEINSTADTmotive“-Ausstellung im Alten Bahnhof Endersbach



▲ Last year, the group visited Michael Schramm, mayor of Weinstadt, and was featured in a local newspaper article.

Bible verse

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... John 1:12 (ESV)

聖書

Do you ever wonder why you were born, about your purpose in life, or what awaits in your future? Many all over the world wander about on this earth having no clear answers to these questions, no peace in their hearts, and no hope about their future.

In order to live healthy in both our heart and body, we need to be aware not only of our physical needs, but also of our spiritual needs. Some say that spiritual needs are things like being loved, finding your life's purpose, and having hope for the future. We pray that all of the students of MeySen and their families will know that they are loved by God, understand their significance, and have hope and peace as they live out their lives on this earth.

The Bible gives us clear answers to these questions. I would like to look at each of them through the teaching of the Bible.

What the Bible Teaches about
The **Meaning of Life**



Daniel Fanger
Principal

Part 1 The Origin of Life

The book of Genesis, which is at the beginning of the Bible, tells us about the time when God made heaven, the earth, and all things.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Genesis 1:1-3)

Beginning with these words, the Bible says God created the universe, the plants, the animals, and finally, the human race.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them

have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26-28)

All living things that God created are wonderful, but the human race, his final creation, was created after his image. Humankind is different from the animals in many ways, one important distinction being that humans were made to have fellowship with God. The first man and woman (Adam and Eve) were able to directly hear God's

voice and converse with him. We talk to God through prayer, communicating our thanks and praise to him, letting him know our hearts' desires. This is only given to humans and not to animals.

The book of Psalms in the Bible consists of poems and songs of prayers to God. One of them says the following.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:13-14)

A tiny embryo in the mother's womb growing up all the way up to birth is a creation of God. Our bodies that God created are truly full of wonder. Each of our lives (including babies in the womb) are valuable and precious.

MeySen
2020
いっしょに、つくろう。

Maruyama Hall Construction Well Underway

The construction work of Maruyama Hall that started in December of last year is going well, and the shape and size the hall will be at completion can already be clearly felt and seen. The metal pillars and beams are being assembled, and work will soon begin on the interior such as on the walls and floors.

This new hall, Friends Square, is going to be used not only for classes and events at the kindergarten, but also act as a place for building community. We are thankful for all of the donations and support for Friends Square from parents, MeySen alumni, and local businesses. We would like to ask for

your continuous support so this new community center will grow to become a place which people can enjoy together.

We apologize for the inconvenience caused to Maruyama parents because of the time limitations on rotary and parking lot use. Please be patient with us as there are only a few months left until completion.

MeySen 2020 Donation Link

<https://meysen.ac.jp/donation/>



Image of completed hall

Cover: October is the halfway point for the Japanese school year. Have you learned something new this year, or made a new friend? What kind of "you" do you want to be at the end of the year? Envision your goal and let's enjoy the rest of the school year at MeySen Academy.

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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.

Friends

MeySen Academy Newsletter フレンズ

No. 188
AUTUMN
2019

ENGLISH EDITION

Autumn Studies

Discovering the
Many aspects
of autumn!





Autumn Sports

Friends Club 4th Grade Day Trip



Friends Club 6th Grade & Premier School G6 Tokyo Trip



Premier School G4 Day Trip

Autumn Travel



Kindergarten Art Activities

Autumn Art



Autumn at MeySen

Autumn is a refreshing season when the trees are dressed in vibrant colors under a blue sky. Try eating all your food without being picky, and get your body moving with physical activity. Open yourself up to new experiences and you will find your own special way of enjoying autumn!



Sweet Potato Roast

Autumn Flavors



Fathers Open House



Digging for Sweet Potatoes

Autumn Reading



Summer Family Concert An Evening of Gospel Music & Latin Jazz

On Saturday, August 3, a summer family concert was held at the Takamori hall. Ever since the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake in 2011, Jazz pianist Shinichiro Irie and gospel singer MANNA have organized an annual concert to support the recovery from the devastation. This year they came to MeySen.

The program started with "Passion Continent", and they played a total of nine pieces including "Oh Happy Day", which was accompa-

nied by a gospel choir. When the popular song "Paprika" was played, all the children came forward, making it a dancing choir. Before anyone knew it, the one-hour concert came to a close, ending with a two-song encore.

Members of the audience commented on how much fun it had been. It proved to be an enjoyable evening for families. MeySen hopes Shinichiro and MANNA will return next year.



Festival Held for Students Registered for 2020 School Year

On August 23, the children who are due to begin kindergarten next school year were invited, along with their families, to join MeySen's Tulip Club Festival. The participants shared a fun time in both the classrooms and the school field. Starting with a ride on the school bus, the children glowed with excitement as they spent a day making their way around to the seven different event corners such as "Let's make Anpanman" and "Water Play" and getting to know the teachers.

Comments from participants

My daughter was nervous at first and froze when the teachers greeted her, but by the time we left, she was giving them high fives and looked very happy.

You could really see the MeySen atmosphere at the English corner. It was very good.

There were lots of different corners and all of them were for the children to play and have fun, and the time just flew by.



Reevaluation of Kindergarten PE Curriculum

It has been almost 10 years since MeySen introduced its own PE curriculum focusing on basic body movements such as walking, running, jumping, and kicking.

Currently, Vice Principal Yoshimura and Ms. Hiroko Hayasaka, along with the help and input of instructors from Kawai Athletics Class, are working on improving the curriculum. The aim is to give the children the maximum benefit in the limited amount of time available, so that students are gaining the physical experience they need during the very important childhood years when the cranial nerve connections are still developing.



Mr. Kengo Iwanaga, instructor from Kawai Athletics Class, and Vice Principal Yoshimura and Japanese Department Chief Advisor Ms. Hiroko sit down to discuss the new curriculum.



Host Family Coordinators for America Study Trips

-the key to ensuring a safe homestay experience-



▲ Rusty



▲ Ruth



Several churches are asked to recruit and select host families for our America Study trips, and we have coordinators for each of these churches who work to find the best suited host family for MeySen Junior High 7th grade students.

Rusty Carlson, the coordinator at one of these churches, Rainier View Christian Church, has worked with MeySen for the past 25 years. Now he is stepping down from this role, and Ruth Hug will be responsible for coordinating from next year.

Rusty has hosted students himself, and we are deeply grateful for all of his efforts. Ruth is from a veteran host family that has hosted students for 20 years.

Our partnership with MeySen has been an amazing journey over the last 25 years. It has truly brought our family some of our high-light moments together. When our kids were in the appropriate age-range, we hosted students in our home for about eight years and looked forward to making and keeping friends from across the ocean. Those weekend homestays were very memorable and fun!

Over the years, members of our family traveled to Sendai three times to meet the academy staff, see the campuses and interact with the students in their own setting and those trips were incredible. We even had our own "reverse homestay" where we stayed in the home of a MeySen family and we are still in touch with the Aoki family more than twenty years later! My son, Jonathan, had the time of his life on the slides and play equipment, most of which we don't have on playgrounds in America.

Here are lessons I've learned from our partnership with MeySen:

1. Put Jesus first and listen to His calling on your life.
2. Surround yourself with high character people (and lots of farm animals!)

3. Do everything with excellence, preparation and attention to detail.
4. Be unexpectedly generous.
5. Take risks and make friends all over the world!

Those lessons and principles guide me as I help lead our church in America and we look forward to another 25 years working with MeySen. Because my season in life has changed, it is time to transition to another homestay coordinator and I'm very excited for Ruth Hug to take my place. Ruth helped host students as a little girl and now has children of her own and is the perfect choice for this hand-off. I'm excited for Ruth and her husband Jamin to have many of the same experiences and highlights as our family!

Thank you, MeySen, for 25 years of partnership and memories!

Rusty Carlson
Executive Pastor
Rainier View Christian Church

