

## Message from an Alumnus

Sho Takahashi (Jonathan)  
Takamori 42nd Graduating Class

I entered MeySen Kindergarten when I was five years old and continued attending MeySen's various programs for twelve years through High School. During those twelve years I met many different people and had a variety of interesting experiences. I remember playing outdoors on the MeySen campus during my kindergarten years. I can still vividly recall different events from Kindergarten and Friends Club. I believe those memories I made with my family and friends are what made me who I am today.

The America Study Trip caused me to pursue long term study abroad in America.



Friends Club 5th Grade Aichi/Kansai Study Trip (first on the left)

## Volunteers from Premier School's Charter Class

Life for university students has been affected by the pandemic both academically and personally. Three of Takamori Premier School's charter class graduates, who were scheduled to begin their studies in Kanto from April, remained in Sendai and started online classes instead. During this time they were active at MeySen, helping the Premier Elementary students with their learning, playing with Friends Club students, and volunteering with the younger students at MeySen.

MeySen wishes them the best at the universities as they pursue their dreams: to Amber, who wants to "work in a work environment using English," to Beth who wants to "become a cabin attendant," and to Eddie, who desires to "work to introduce Japan to the world."



Saho Ohmi (Amber)



Sakura Ito (Beth)



Kazuki Takahashi (Eddie)

Support teaching at study stations

Playing with the students

Top: At the food pantry for people undergoing difficulty due to the spread of the coronavirus

Bottom: At the candy shop which was opened by Jonathan's host family for raising contributions and to provide a place for interacting with people in the local community



With teammates of the high school basketball team (front row, second from left)



## Bible verse

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

聖書  
マタイ

Matthew 5:5-9 (ESV)

In this series, we are looking at what the Bible teaches about the meaning of our lives. In our last article we looked at the consequences of man's sin. In this article we will look at God's love toward mankind.

## Part 4 God's Love and Salvation

There are two big issues we have as human beings. The first is the issue of *sin*. We are born with a sin nature, having our hearts separated from God, with a tendency to do evil without being taught how by anyone. Because of this sin, we are unable to have fellowship with God. The second issue is *death*. Man is destined to die as a consequence of sin, and every man will face judgment by God after death. These two issues cannot be solved by our own ability. However, God in his mercy provided a solution, a way of salvation, to deal with these two issues.

### Jesus, God's only son

God sent his only son Jesus in the form of man to the world. Mary, a virgin, bore a son and gave birth. Isaiah had prophesied about Jesus' birth more than 700 years before the time of his birth.

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* (Isaiah 7:14)

During the three years from when he turned thirty to the day he was crucified, Jesus went

about the region that is now Israel, teaching people and working powerful miracles.

*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."* (Mark 1:14-15)

These are the words of Jesus when he started his mission. The word *gospel* means the proclamation of the good news of God's salvation.

### His sacrifice on the cross

At the age of thirty-three, Jesus was sentenced to death by the high priest and religious leaders of the time and hung on the cross. This was prophesied by Isaiah around 700 BC:

*But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* (Isaiah 53:5-6)

The *he* mentioned in these verses refers to Jesus. It is clearly written that Jesus was to die for all of our sins.

*But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8)

This verse is taken from a letter written by Paul, a man who became a disciple of Christ at

What the Bible Teaches about  
The Meaning of Life

Daniel Fanger  
Principal



a later time. Jesus took our place and was punished for our sin. This is how much God loved us.

### Christ's resurrection

Jesus was killed and buried in a tomb, but three days later he rose back to life. During the forty days following this, he appeared many times to his disciples, explaining to them the meaning of his death on the cross and resurrection. He taught that when man recognizes and confesses his sin before God and repents, and believes on Jesus, he can be saved and go to heaven.

*Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."* (Romans 10:9-11)

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

It says that we are made children of God through our faith in Christ. We will receive a new body and eternal life and go to heaven. This is the love of God and His wonderful promise.

## Two MeySen Students Win Awards at English Contest

At the 9th St. Ursula Gakuin Eichi School English Contest held in September, Mika Inoue (Melinda) from the Takamori High School Grammar Class received the Tohoku Broadcasting Award, one of the grand prizes. Mayu Kimura (Jackie) from Premier G4 also received first prize in the recitation category.

We applaud these two MeySen students who worked hard every day at both school and MeySen and were able to show the results of their English study on this big stage.

Melinda



Jackie



Cover: What will the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade Friends Club and Premier Elementary students dress up as for the annual Jamboree? You can come as Disney or cartoon characters, wear your favorite sports team uniform, or just put on a mask. We hope to enjoy Jamboree again this year as planned and will continue with the preventative measures for infection.

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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.192  
AUTUMN  
2020

ENGLISH EDITION

MeySen





Collecting leaves for the bonfire

Harvesting sweet potatoes

It has been eight months since the spread of COVID-19 affected MeySen's regular class and activities schedule. Especially in the midst of this, the smiles and laughter of children are something to be treasured. They are what give the staff at MeySen Academy their energy and motivation. While we continue in our efforts to prevent the further spread of the virus, all of us here at MeySen are working hard to maintain the second trimester event schedule, because we know what an important opportunity these events are for students to connect with each other heart to heart.

Fathers Open House

Jamboree

## A healthy mind in a healthy body

Let's be thankful for our daily food and build strong hearts and bodies!

Are you eating a balanced diet with a variety of different foods? You probably have at least one kind of food that you don't like because of the way it tastes or smells, or because of the way it felt in your mouth the first time you tried it. But these foods have important nutrients you need for your growth, such as calcium, vitamins, protein, and minerals.

If green peppers, for example, are not something you like, there are other kinds of foods that contain the same kind of nutrients that you could try. Learning about how different vitamins help your body will also help you understand why you need them.

The Bible tells us, "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:4)." Let's thank God for the food He provides as we enjoy the refreshing weather and the yummy things that the autumn season brings.



Presuming that there are no further restrictions imposed due to COVID-19, the annual Thanksgiving celebration and curry dinner for Kindergarten and Premier Kindergarten will be held in November.

\*This year, the curry will be ordered from a company rather than made by the students' mothers.

**FIT KIDS**  
MeySen Academy

## MeySen Begins Extra-Curricular PE Program "Fit Kids"

In the spring edition of Friends newsletter, we introduced two new PE teachers, who began a new extra-curricular program in July. The children worked hard as they enjoyed practicing the rhythm jumping and using the Ellipse Sense ball.

The new Fit Kids logo has been created for the program, designed to express the concept of "raising children who are well balanced in their body and heart." The word "Fit" is also an acronym for Fun Inspired Training for kids. The exclamation mark at the center of the logo expresses the wonder of children as they discover things they could not do or see before,

as well as the parents' wonder as they see their children grow.

The number of applicants exceeded the capacity of the program, so more classes are planned to be added next year as the MeySen PE program continues to develop.



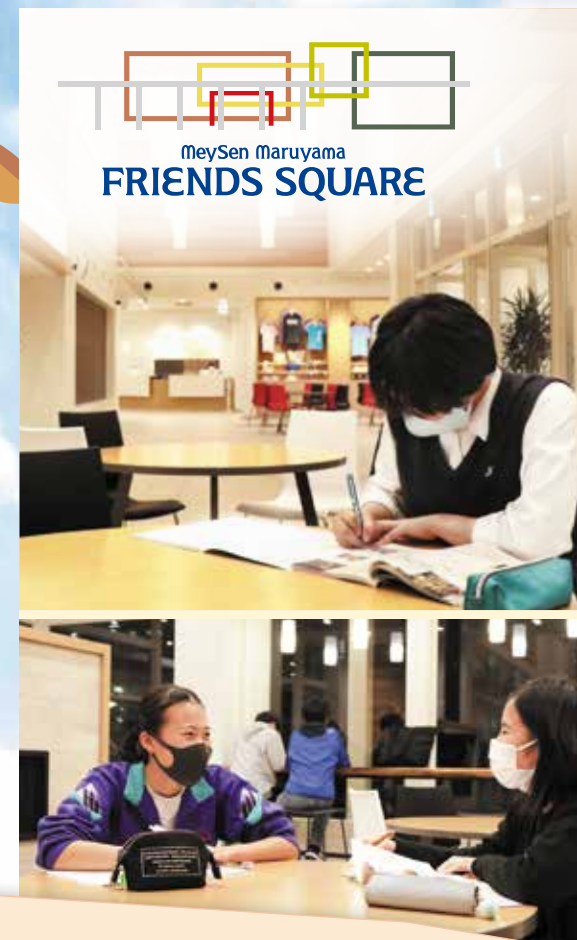
Rhythm Jumping



Ellipse Sense

An oval-shaped ball with points on the surface to make it easier for little children to grip and throw. The Fit Kids program uses this to help students develop their throwing, gripping, and agility.

By jumping and stepping to a beat, the children develop a sense of rhythm and balance that is a foundation for different sports activities.



## Study and Conversation at Friends Square

A meeting place for High School and Grammar Class students

Friends Square has quite a different atmosphere in the evening than it does during the day. In the warmly lit lounge near the entrance, students from High School and Grammar Class gather to work on their homework and enjoy talking with each other. MeySen hopes that Friends Square will be used more as a place for teachers and students to talk, and for old friends from their kindergarten days to meet again and share some time together.



## MeySen Store Opens at Friends Square

Last August, MeySen opened a store on the first floor of the new Maruyama hall Friends Square. MeySen goods can be purchased that previously were only available at special events such as Friends Day. The store is also open for students from the Takamori campus, students of Friends Club and Premier Elementary, and other friends and alumni.

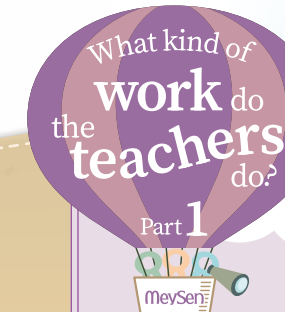
The store is launching several new items perfect for the season, along with the colorful MeySen logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, bottles, and tote bags.

A part of the profit will go towards organizations helping children's education and poverty.

**MeySen Store** Maruyama Campus (Friends Square) 1st Floor

Please notify the office if you would like to make a purchase.

**Opening Hours** Weekdays : 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Saturday : 9:00am - 12:00pm



Introducing MeySen's  
**Driving Department**

From the Office Department, Driving Department, Facilities Department, and Administration Department, MeySen Academy teachers fill a wide range of roles apart from those of the classroom and English teachers. Let's take a look at some of the work of our other MeySen teachers! In this autumn edition, we will introduce you to the teachers in the Driving Department.



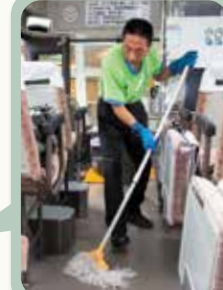
"When we drive our young students, our main focus is safety, both at the campus and the bus stops. Additionally, we feel it is our job to create an environment where the children look forward to riding on the bus."

**Yuichi Watanabe**  
Maruyama Driving Department Head Teacher

## A typical day for a Driving Department teacher

The teachers rotate their driving schedule as MeySen buses run from early in the morning to evening, including Sundays and holidays when there are special events. The day starts at 7:00 am.

- 7:00 am** ◀ Arrive at MeySen. Check and prepare bus.
- 7:25 am** ◀ Buses depart for Kindergarten and Premier Kindergarten student pick-ups.
- 9:25 am** ◀ After arriving back at MeySen, clean the bus.  
◀ Leave again on event days.
- 1:00 pm** ◀ Prepare buses for Kindergarten and Premier Kindergarten drop-offs.
- 1:50 pm** ◀ Buses depart.  
◀ After drop-offs, buses immediately head to Friends Club and Premier Elementary student pick-ups.
- 7:00 pm** ◀ Depart for drop-offs.  
◀ Finish workday.



## Japan House of Councillors Member Visits Academy

Ms. Satsuki Katayama, a member of the House of Councillors and a former cabinet appointed minister, along with MeySen alumnus Mr. Keisuke Shoda, a Miyagi prefecture congressman, visited MeySen on September 29. Ms. Katayama is actively involved in the Parliamentary Association for Early Childhood Education of the LDP and was impressed with MeySen's education program.

House of Councillors Member  
Satsuki Katayama and Miyagi Prefecture  
Congressman Keisuke Shoda  
(both at center).

