



Rei Harrison (Emily)
Takamori Friends Club 26th Graduating Class

After graduating from Friends Club, I joined MeySen's high school program and then enrolled in a university in the United States, so that I could improve my English skills by using English daily, through studying college courses.

When I first arrived in the US, I could barely communicate in English, and I remember often shedding tears of frustration as classes seemingly progressed without any regard for me as an international student.

However, I didn't give up and after graduating from college, I had an internship lined up and was even aiming to get a job in the US. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to obtain a work visa in time, and had to return to Japan. A few days later, the Great East Japan Earthquake struck. After the turmoil of the disaster had calmed down, I started looking for a job, and



Kindergarten Graduation ceremony in March 1993
MeySen Day in Kindergarten

through a fortunate chance, I was able to return to my alma mater, MeySen, as an assistant in the Immersion Class (now called the Premier School). Later, I was asked by the head of the English Department if I would like to become an English teacher, which I quickly accepted.

As a former teacher, I've had the opportunity to work with students of all ages and share with them my own experiences and struggles. I often told my students how I couldn't speak English when I was their age, but that if they work hard and continue to use English, that they too have the ability to be fluent like me someday!

I am now a mother, raising a child of my own. With this new perspective, I feel that I am able to understand the students on a deeper level, with a perspective even closer to them.

From the start of this school year, I am no longer a homeroom teacher and am now in a position to support the homeroom teachers as their Head Teacher. I hope that I can continue to work diligently, creating a nurturing environment to promote our students' growth and I want to be someone who is a source of strength to them, if they hit a wall or start to waiver.

Maruyama Premier School, Kindergarten Head Teacher Emily



Bible verse

Put away all uncharitableness, resentment, anger, rage, and cursing, along with all malice.

Be kind to one another and forgive one another with a tender heart. For God also has forgiven you in Christ.

Ephesians 4:31-32

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Bible Teachings to Protect Our Hearts and Minds

1. Let go of resentment and hatred

In our daily lives, we are constantly faced with a variety of problems. We would be happy if things always went smoothly and we could live peacefully, but there are many things in life that happen that do not go our way. During such times, we may not be able to control the circumstances around us, but we can control the way we respond to and feel about these things.

There are many wonderful teachings in the Bible that help us to look at life in a positive way and walk forward without losing heart, no matter what situation we are placed in. We will continue this series of articles on the Bible's teachings to protect our hearts and minds.

Poison invades the body through wounds

Bitterness and hatred can start with critical words, emotional arguments, unfair treatment, betrayal, and many other things. It can occur even among friends and family members who are in close contact with each other, and it can arise from assumptions or misunderstandings. It may also be nothing too serious, just a slight wound to one's pride, which can be easily resolved if properly handled.

Using a physical wound as an example, if a wound is left unattended and not disinfected, it can become infected, and bacteria can enter the bloodstream from there, making the whole body sick. In the same way, if a wound in the heart is left unattended, disappointment and anger toward the other person will multiply and develop into bitterness and hatred, and the poison will eat away at your heart, causing you to suffer more and more.

Choosing not to retaliate

When we feel hatred and bitterness toward another

person, we are tempted to retaliate in some way against that person. However, this is not a solution, because it is repaying evil with evil.

When we retaliate to "get back" at someone who we feel wronged us, it does not heal our wounds or free us from bitterness and hatred. It will simply continue the conflict, escalate it, and make everyone involved unhappy. The Bible teaches the following,

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17-19,21

The Bible says, leave it to God to judge and punish. Overcome evil with good. Of course, if there is an illegal act, it is natural that it will be judged by the law, and that is justice and fairness being exercised.

Or, if there is trouble among children, adults should step in to make fair judgments, and if there is bullying, it should be dealt with firmly.

But other than that, a good attitude is not to try to get back at them, but to let God handle it.

Jesus' example

Jesus taught his disciples to

**Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who abuse you.**

Luke 6:27-28

Daniel Fanger,
Principal



Jesus himself set the example. He had compassion for sinners, healed the sick, performed many miracles, and was sinless, but because of the jealousy and hatred of some religious people, He was nailed to the cross and killed. At that time, Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing."** Luke 23:34 and prayed.

It would be unusual to love one's enemies, to repay evil with good, or to bless those who curse you. But God's teachings offer a perfect solution. If you believe His word and allow God to handle the problem, the poison of "hatred" that has been eating away at your heart will be gone, and your heart will be filled with peace and joy. The mind that was darkened by bitterness will be cleared, and you will begin to see all the good things around you that you should be thankful for.

This may be a difficult lesson for young children to learn, but if they learn to forgive and make up with friends who have apologized, they will grow up to be people who are not ruled by hatred and bitterness.

When we hurt others

We may say or do things that hurt others without controlling our feelings and thoughts. We may also hurt others even when we do not intend to do so. When you realize that you have made someone else feel bad or hurt, apologize sincerely as soon as possible.

Sometimes it may be difficult to apologize.

This is especially true when the other person did something unkind first. Even so, apologize with a humble and meek heart. Those who can do this will gain favor from both God and others.

Benefits of Continuing REP Learning Every Day

*How can I motivate my child to continue studying at home?

*How can I use the GS app and the textbook?

While it's difficult for our students to listen to the point of full memorization, the closer the child gets, the easier it becomes for them to recall what they have studied and the more confidently and naturally they'll begin to speak.

If your child is starting to get bored with the current unit they are listening to, try saying to them, **"After this unit, you can play any unit you like."** Reviewing previously learned units will of course also help.

Studying only using the app's screen may lead to more of a passive learning experience for your child. Instead, **it's more effect to have your child use their finger and track along in the textbook, as the app plays the audio. We also recommend the use of headphones, to limit distractions.**

Using headphones also ensures your child will hear the sounds accurately and that will lead to better pronunciation. **The more you use your different senses (i.e., listening with your ears, looking at the text with your eyes, and tracking the words with your fingers), the more it will stick in your memory.** Above all, the sense of accomplishment that comes from being able to say, "I did it!" along with encouragement from parents will motivate your child to continue working hard.

*Can you please explain the REP method?

When you start a new unit, the child should play the audio without speaking out loud and listen to the correct pronunciation and intonation. As the child progresses through the unit, they will be able to pronounce the words on their own, so they should begin to read and sing along with the audio.

Also, it is more effective to study a short amount every day rather than for an extended amount of time, just on the weekends.

Please take advantage of the app's playlist, which includes content and quizzes where you can earn rewards based on your progress.

Also, it's okay to take an occasional day off if you're too busy or tired, but try not to let that become consistent.

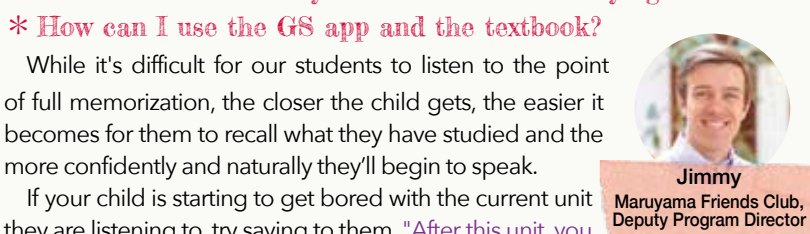
***What should I do, if there are parts that my child cannot say well?**
It is important to go back and listen to the audio again for the parts you do not understand or cannot say well, and practice until you can say them well. As your child improves, it's beneficial if you can praise them for their effort.

*What can we do if we're too busy and can't find time?

*How can I support my child who has difficulty navigating the app by themselves?

One day's study session is only about 20 minutes, but if you still can't find the time, **you can just select a few items to listen to in the "Library Mode" setting.**

We also recommend connecting your phone to your car's stereo via Bluetooth or cable to listen to the app when you are out and about. This is one of the best ways for a really busy family to make time to listen!



Jimmy
Maruyama Friends Club,
Deputy Program Director



Library mode screen of the GrapeSEED application



Joshua
Takamori Friends Club,
Deputy Program Director



Mike
Takamori, English
Department Trainer



President Sekiguchi (second from right in photo) and family. All three of their children are MeySen alumni, and they are a third-generation MeySen family, with grandchildren who attend Premier School and Kangaroo Club

Donation of Table Tennis Equipment

Ltd. SE-Technica and 77 Bank donated a table tennis table, rackets, and balls worth 200,000 yen, as well as playground balls for playtime and a refrigerator for the Takamori Premier School office.

Mitsuaki Sekiguchi, representative director of the bank, attended the presentation ceremony on June 12. Thank you very much for your donation that supports the activities of the kindergarten.

* This donation was made possible through 77SDGs Private Placement Bonds (donation type / social contribution system), in which 77 Bank donates the issue fee of corporate bonds to the education and welfare fields, etc., and SE-Technica designated MeySen as the donation recipient.

* The refrigerator stores milk and other items for the children of Takamori Premier School.

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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.

Cover: The Aichi/Kansai study tour for the Friends Club 5th graders will take a ferry to Nagoya, visit the Toyota Museum in Nagoya, Universal Studios Japan in Osaka, and Kinkakuji Temple in Kyoto, and then fly back to Sendai.



Every day is filled with singing!

MeySen children sing many songs throughout the day, from the morning greeting upon arriving at the kindergarten, as well as during playtime, and even before and after lunch time.

In June, we had our first of three special “Singing Assemblies” that we hold throughout the school year. All of the kindergarten students gathered in the hall and sang many songs during the 45-minute gathering.

MeySen Kindergarten places special importance on music and singing. Starting in 2008, musician Mr. Bin Komiya (a former Tamagawa Gakuen Elementary School teacher) visited the kindergarten and provided musical education classes to our students for eight years. Mr. Komiya’s approach to music education was not to focus on “singing perfectly,” but rather to “Sing happily, regardless of how well you sing.” He taught us how singing should be, “Singing is more enjoyable when you’re having fun doing it!” By singing classic songs with good lyrics and simple melodies that children can understand, children’s language and sense of sound are enriched and nurtured.



The “MeySen Songbook: The Joy of Singing Together” includes many of Mr. Komiya’s songs, such as “Walking Together” and “Gorin Suika,” which the children love.

After Mr. Komiya passed away, Mr. Koya Asahi of Tamagawa University took his place, and every year he gives us tips on how to make singing even more fun and playful.

At MeySen, we make a list of songs to be sung each month for all our kindergarten students starting with our two-year-olds, and up to our five- and six-year-olds, who sing more than 200 songs a year. We also provide and send home our own original songbooks containing these songs, so that many song-filled days can be enjoyed by our students and their family members in their homes.



Mr. Asahi, giving a training workshop to the MeySen kindergarten teachers.



How much do you know about America?

This school year, there are 42 English teachers from the United States. They represent a whopping 20 different states and districts!

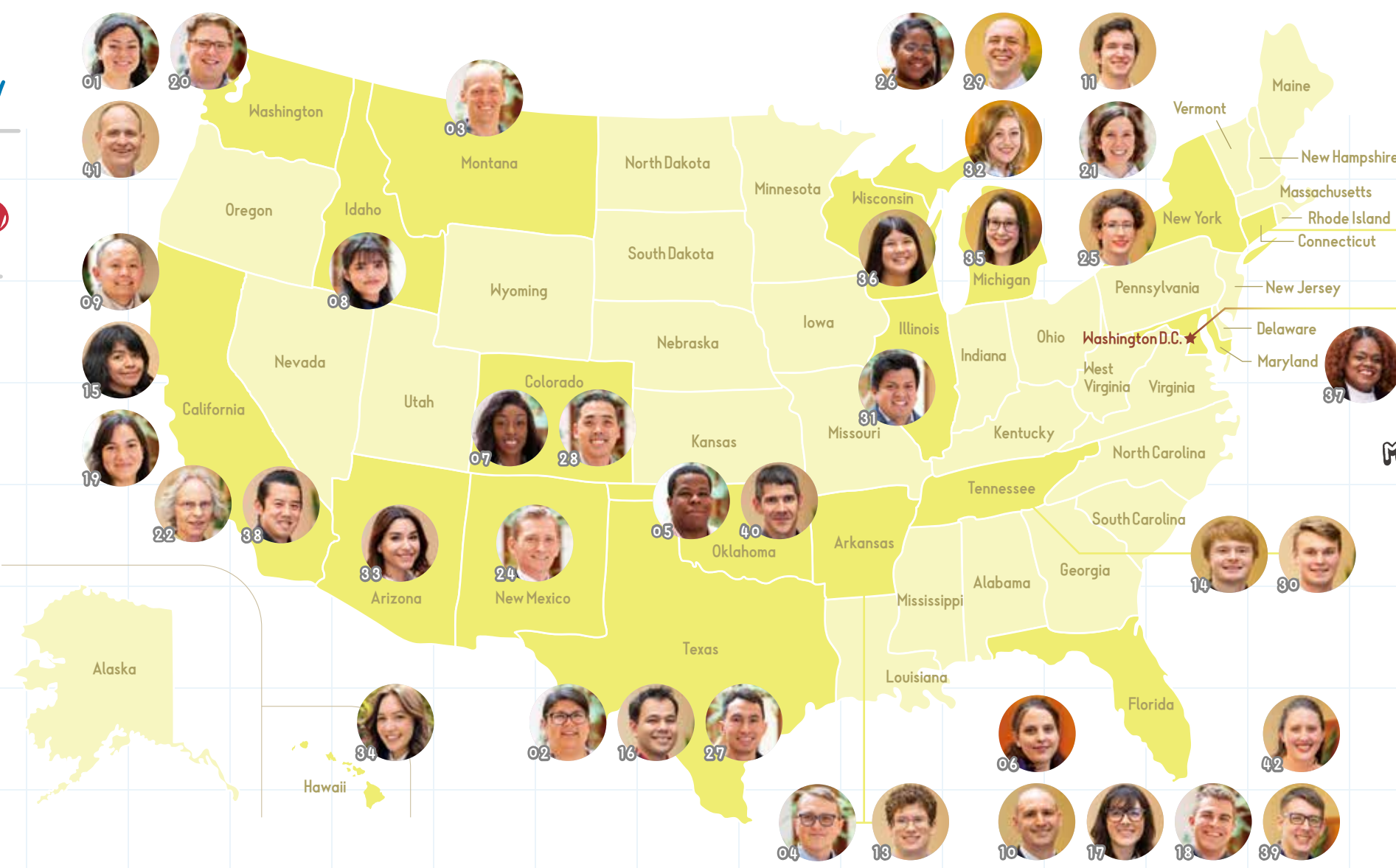
Take a quick quiz...

1. What is the capital of the United States?
2. How many states are there?
3. How many states can you name?

How many could you answer? Let’s learn more about the United States by looking at the map and finding out where your homeroom teacher is from, or by asking your teacher questions about the states!

Let’s ask these questions!

- ▶ What is the biggest city in your home state?
- ▶ How long does it take to get to your home state from Japan?
- ▶ What food is delicious in your home state?
- ▶ What is your home state famous for?
- ▶ What activity do you recommend if I visit your home state?



Quiz Answers.

There are 50 states in total and the capital is Washington, D.C.

Maruyama Friends Club

01. Kathleen	Washington
02. Jesse	Texas
03. Joseph	Montana
04. Josh	Arkansas
05. Cedric	Oklahoma
06. Daniella	Florida
07. Tiffany	Colorado
08. Michelle	Idaho
09. Meng	California

Takamori Friends Club

10. Adam	Florida
11. Zach	New York
12. Darren	Washington, D.C.
13. Chandler	Arkansas
14. Trey	Tennessee
15. Harmony	California
16. Brandon	Texas
17. Laura	Florida

Maruyama Premier School

18. Will	Florida
19. Erika	California
20. Austin	Washington
21. Olivia	New York
22. Grace	California
23. Casey	Connecticut
24. Kovach	New Mexico
25. Sara	New York
26. Janele	Michigan
27. Joe	Texas
28. Steve	Colorado
29. Dan	Michigan
30. Parker	Tennessee
31. Benji	Illinois
32. Lindsey	Michigan

Takamori Premier School

33. Adrianna	Arizona
34. Amy	Hawaii
35. Corder	Michigan
36. Courtney	Wisconsin
37. Shenika	Maryland
38. Joe	California
39. Tony	Florida
40. Nic	Oklahoma
41. Bryan	Washington
42. Lindsay	Florida

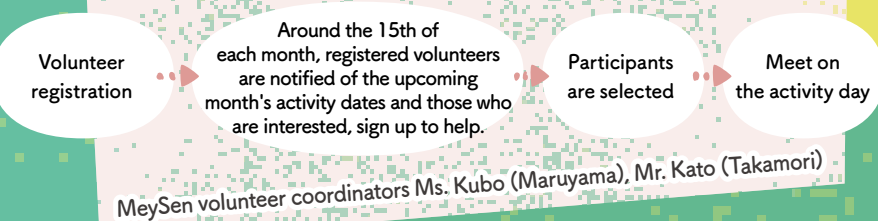
Parent Volunteer Activities

In April, we invited parents to register as MeySen volunteers, and as of June this year, 80 parents have registered at Maruyama and 45 parents have registered at Takamori. We are truly grateful for the many parents who are involved in supporting the educational activities of the school, and all the teachers and staff are sincerely appreciative!

Examples of activities

- | | |
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| <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparation of tickets for Friends Day ● Preparation of materials for Father’s Day gift making ● Preparation of palettes to be used in art activities during the school year | <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparation of materials for the Preschoolers’ “Wakuwaku Day” ● Making flowers for the Tanabata Festival streamers ● Putting name labels on Friends Club English materials |
|--|---|

Activity Flow



Birthday Party, English & Physical Education Event

This event was started from this school year and so far, preschoolers with birthdays in April through June have participated.

On June 28 and July 5, about 70 pairs of parents and children spent time with a P.E. teacher, playing and moving their bodies, and also spent time with an English teacher, communicating with smiles on their faces.

The next event will be held on September 6, so check out our Line account for more information!

Scan for more information on Preschool events.



Scan for details about the birthday party.



for Preschoolers



Teachers sign “Happy Birthday!”

Commemorative handprints, badges, and candy are given to our special students!

We look forward to seeing you at the birthday parties in September and beyond!

MeySen Encyclopedia

Shearing Sheep

Every year, the kindergarten invites Ms. Junko Kojima of Lupinus Farm, a farm in the Shibata district, to show us how they shear sheep. This year, we sheared sheep brought from the farm.

The children were curious to see the sheep being trimmed, and they asked questions and listened to Ms. Kojima’s stories about the sheep.



Photo above: After about 20 minutes of shearing, the sheep are smooth and silky. They look much more comfortable with their new “haircut.”

Bottom: The children took turns feeling the wool. Some said, “It’s so fluffy!” and “It feels so good,” while others honestly said, “It’s sticky” and even declared “It’s stinky!”

Mocha, the kindergarten’s alpaca, was also sheared!

