

Message from an ALUMNA

Ayano Nakamura
(Chelsea)
Takamori 42nd



The group participated in the Space Law Moot Court study round in Japan of the Space Law Japan Students Conference and won second place (Nakamura is on the far left).

I graduated MeySen Highschool in 2020 and attended grammar classes until 2021. I am currently a senior in the Faculty of Law at Dokkyo University, majoring in International Law.

International law is the law governing relations between nations, such as treaties, etc. In the seminar, we are deepening our practical learning by conducting mock international conferences and mock international trials. In a mock international conference, for example, the participants represent a country or international organization in discussions and negotiations based on a theme, assuming the role of a representative of the United Nations. Mock international trials generally assume the International Court of Justice (ICJ) or International Criminal Court (ICC), where participants are divided into plaintiffs and defendants to simulate the resolution of disputes based on international law, assuming a case in which a problem between nations cannot be resolved.

When I was a student at MeySen, I particularly remember the study trip to the United States in the first year of junior high school and the study trip to Europe in the second year of MeySen Highschool. I was disappointed

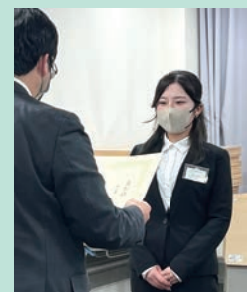


At a study tour in Europe



that I could not speak English as well as I had hoped during the study trip to the United States. When I participated in the European study tour as a revenge trip, I realized my growth as I was able to communicate much more smoothly in English and had more opportunities to express my thoughts.

My experience at MeySen was valuable not only for learning English, but also for experiencing English naturally in a playful way. In particular, being able to continuously learn from native English speaking teachers was an invaluable experience for me now.



Individuals also won the first place in plaintiff's argument and JAXA's special award.

I had many opportunities to experience foreign cultures in this environment, and gradually developed a strong interest in international affairs. It was my interest in the law, which is the foundation of the international society and the order under

which it is established, that led me to study international law. Since the original text of international law is in English, it is necessary to read all treaties and precedents that have not been translated into Japanese in their original language, which requires reading comprehension skills. The English skills I have developed at MeySen are useful for classes and reading materials given in English. English is also indispensable in mock trial competitions, where we have to check all the necessary precedents in English and extract the important parts.

Although there are few opportunities to use English at my place of employment, I would like to steadily acquire essential skills, including English, with a view to future career development.

MeySen Students

Volunteer as Interpreters for International Exchange Program



On August 22 and 23, MeySen students volunteered as interpreters at the international exchange camp "Bridging to the World with Smiles - Future Leaders EXchange Program".

This event was co-sponsored by the Sendai Junior Chamber International and the "Smiling Children's Future Creation Committee." Nine junior high and high school students from the Philippines and 28 junior high and high school students from Sendai City participated in the event, and MeySen students supported communication so that participants could deepen mutual understanding beyond national and language barriers. MeySen students supported communication to help participants deepen their understanding of each other across national and language barriers.

Another event related to global education, study abroad, and international exchange will be held at the end of October.



Comment from Ms. Mana Kanno, Chairperson of the Committee for the Creation of Children's Future

When I first started interpreting, I was nervous and stiff, but I was sincerely surprised and greatly impressed by the MeySen students' expressions and approaches, which changed minute by minute, and by their growth on the final day. Their English skills were also excellent, and they did a great job.



Events in October
Read for details!



Volunteer participants

Participated in all days of the program

- Nina Hanzen (Maruyama G7 / Nina)
- Seri Kobayashi (Maruyama G7 / Sofia)
- Kota Abe (Takamori G8 / Pete)

Spot participation

- Nanaka Sakurai (Takamori G7 / Renae)
- Kensuke Endo (Takamori G10 / Sid)
- Riho Onishi (Takamori G10 / Mitch)
- Yuzuho Onishi (Takamori Premier High School graduate / Matthew)

Bible verse

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord. He shall rely on the Lord. He is a tree planted by the waters. He will stretch out his roots by the stream, and when the heat comes, he will not know the heat; his leaves will be thick, and he will not cease to bear fruit in years of sunshine without worry.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

聖書
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Biblical Teachings to Protect Our Hearts and Minds

2 Freedom from Anxiety and Fear

In this series, we are discussing Bible teachings that protect our hearts. In this issue, we will introduce God's word that gives us peace and dispels the anxiety, worry, and fear that grows in our hearts.

Causes of Anxiety and Worry

Around the world, one in four people now have some sort of mental health problem, and in many cases it begins between adolescence and age 25. A Harvard study also reported that more than 50% of people will develop such a condition at some point in their lives. Most of these symptoms come from worry and anxiety in the mind.

There are many things that cause us to worry and fret. We probably all have a few of these worries and anxieties: financial worries, vague fears about the future, about our jobs, about our relationships, about our health, and so on. Especially in this day and age, there are many concerns and worries about the future, such as global pandemics, natural disasters, "wars and rumors of wars," and concerns about the global economy.

There are always factors to worry about, such as global pandemics, natural disasters, "rumors of wars and war," and global economic uncertainties.

To dispel anxiety and fear

People try many things to escape from their fears and anxieties, but they never reach a true solution. Having a lot of money does not guarantee peace of mind, and it may even increase worry. We may also immerse ourselves in pleasure to forget our worries, or in alcohol to ease our pains and fears, but while they may help us temporarily forget our suffering, they do nothing to dispel our anxiety and worry.

The Bible is full of words of wisdom and helpful teachings. Regarding worries about life, Jesus spoke as follows.

Do not worry about your life, what to eat or what to drink, or about your body, what to wear.

Look at the birds of the air. They do not sow, they do not reap, they do not store in a storehouse. Yet your heavenly Father provides. You are worth much more than the bird.

Which of you can prolong his life even for a moment because he is worried? Why do you worry about what you wear? Why do you worry about what you wear? Consider how the flowers of the field grow. They neither work nor spin. But even Solomon, in all his glory, did not dress himself as well as one of these flowers.

If even the grass of the field, which is there today but will be thrown into the furnace tomorrow, God can dress it in this way, can He not do better to you?

Therefore do not worry about what to eat, what to drink, or what to wear. Your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Then all these things will be given to you in addition. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about tomorrow. There is enough hardship for each day.

<Matthew 6:25-34, excerpt>

Studies on worry and anxiety have shown that 91% of the things that people worry about never actually happen; some studies show results as high as 85%. Considering that on average only about 10% of the things we worry about happen, and that we often cannot change the outcome of our worries, Jesus' words, "Do not worry about tomorrow," ring true.

Faith and trust in God

There is one more major decisive factor that

leads to peace of mind. It is faith and trust in God. Our Creator God in heaven loves us. He does not want us to be afraid or anxious.

Leave all your worries to God. Let God take care of you
<1 Peter 5:7>

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace through faith, and fill you with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

<Romans 1:5-13>

And do not be troubled about anything, but in every case let your requests be made known to God through prayer and supplication, offered up with thanksgiving. Then the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

<Philippians 4:6 - 7>

It is "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding." Human peace can only be had "when everything is going well financially, in terms of health, and in relationships. In contrast, peace from God comes from unwavering faith and trust in God. It comes when we believe that God loves us, will not abandon us, and will ultimately welcome us into the Kingdom of Heaven. And that peace is not dependent on our circumstances.

I encourage everyone to believe in God in heaven and confide your worries and concerns to Him. You will be filled with joy and peace that comes from trusting God. I hope that you will surrender everything you have to God and live a life full of hope every day.



Daniel Fanger,
Director

DONATION of TOYS for Kindergarten



▲ From left: Mr. Hayato Takadama, Manager of the Kita-Sendai Branch and the Aramaki Branch of The 77 Bank, Ltd., Principal Daniel, Mr. Amaki and Ms. Amaki

Rikuzen Sougou Kaihatsu and 77 Bank donated 100,000 yen worth of toys for kindergarten. On June 25, Mr. Eiju Amaki, President of Rikuzen Sogo Kaihatsu Corporation, and Ms. Mariko Amaki, Executive Director, attended the presentation ceremony (Ms. Mariko, Executive Director, is a graduate of the kindergarten and her child is currently attending Maruyama Campus). Thank you very much for your donation that supports the activities of the preschool.

This donation was made possible by 77 SDGs Private Placement Bonds (donation type/social contribution course), in which 77 Bank donates the issue fee of corporate bonds to education and welfare fields, etc. Rikuzen Sougou Kaihatsu Co., LTD. designated MeySen as the donation recipient.

A doctor's set and shovel
purchased with the donation



friends フレンズ
「読む」とつながる。「読む」とひろがる。

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.

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フレンズ
Friends

「読む」とつながる。「読む」とひろがる。
Autumn
2024

MeySen
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No. 208

MeySen

A Harvest of Memories

Sweet Potato Roast



Friends Club 4th & 5th Grade Tohoku Safari Trip



Friends Club 6th Grade & Premier G6 Tokyo Trip



Premier G5 Nasu Animal Kingdom Trip



Jamboree Party

English & Movement Event for Future Kindergarteners

Pre-Kindergarten Program Director
Yayoi Saito

Many pre-kindergarten children and their parents participated in the "English and Movement Event" held in June and July.

The first half of the event was an enjoyable time of singing, playing, and learning English, with Mr. Jimmy playing the guitar and performing magic tricks. For the second half of the event, the cheerful and energetic PE teacher led the young children in enjoyable movements and exercises, challenging their little bodies and even working up quite a sweat! The young ones were all smiles as they enjoyed navigating the little obstacles and challenges, using some of the same PE equipment that the older MeySen kindergarteners use on a daily basis, getting them excited for when they will become MeySen kindergarten students, and use the same equipment in PE class.

Even children as young as 1 or 2 years old were listening intently to the English songs and gazing at the materials, moving their hands with the music, and jumping right in to try their hand at the PE equipment obstacle course, all with a sparkle in their eyes. We hope that this event will help families catch a glimpse of MeySen's English and Physical Education programs, and to help build up their anticipation to enter the kindergarten when they are a little older.

We are planning to hold more events like this in the future, so if you are interested in participating, please register with MeySen Academy LINE and wait for announcements of upcoming events. If you know anyone who has not heard about MeySen and think they would be interested, we would be happy if they could join, too. All of us at MeySen are looking forward to meeting you!



Click here for more information about pre-kindergarten events.



History and origin of the JAMBOREE

Halloween is said to have originated from a European tradition that was held on the evening before All Hallows' Eve (November 1), or the night of October 31. It has become a popular autumn event in Japan due to the fun and festivity of the masquerade.

MeySen also held this event under the name "Halloween Party" until 1991, but changed the name to "Friends Jamboree" in 1992. "Jamboree" is a word used to describe a lively gathering of people, such as a party or celebration.

At the end of September, Americans prepare for Halloween by decorating their homes and making jack-o'-lanterns, and on the night of October 31, they dress up in costumes of their choice. It is such a big event that statistics show that nearly 70% of Americans are prepared to hand out candy on Halloween.

In a 1979 Friends Newsletter, former Principal Philip Broman, shared his memories of Halloween from his childhood. You can ask your homeroom teacher what Halloween was like when they were little.

What did you do for Halloween as a child?

On Halloween night, we would dress up in costumes and go from house to house with large paper bags in our hands and soap in our pockets to receive candy (we were allowed to doodle with soap on the windows of houses that did not have candy ready). When the bags were full of candy, we would rush home, grab another bag, and head out again. It was quite a busy evening!

There was a time when we used to take the Friends Club students on a "costume parade" through the Sendai Chuo Street Arcade on the evening of October 31. After several years, we discontinued the parade and replaced it with a party at MeySen for the students. However in 2011, after the Great East Japan Earthquake, we revived the costume parade for a couple years, in the hopes of brightening the streets of Sendai, with our students' warm smiles.

Overjoyed by the Musical Theater Musical Exchange with University Students

In September, 14 third-year students from Tamagawa University in Machida City, Tokyo, who are in the Department of Education, visited MeySen Kindergarten and performed the musical play "Rosinante and the Music Band." This is an original story about a donkey, Rosinante, who makes a musical band with animals in the forest. The children were delighted by the beautiful harmonies and fun characters. Using MeySen's Songbook as a reference, they included many songs that the children knew, and the children enjoyed singing along with the performers.

After the performance, the university students entered the kindergarten classrooms in their stage costumes, ate lunch with the children, and then spent playtime with them. It was a wonderful experience for the university students who will one day become kindergarten and elementary school teachers.



English Exchange between Izumi High School and Premier School Kindergarten

Japanese and American High School Students Experience Kindergarten Life at MeySen

On July 3, eight Izumi High School students and eight international students from the U.S. visited the Takamori campus for an English-only conversation and play session with the children of Premier School Kindergarten.

While the small class size of Premier School is a great advantage for English learning, we are constantly thinking of ways for our students to expand their horizons, by communicating with other English speakers from Japan and even around the world. Therefore, Premier School Kindergarten invites students from Izumi High School's English Course every year, to give our children opportunities to communicate in English with people outside of the kindergarten and for them to hopefully gain confidence in speaking English with others, outside their normal circle.

With the cooperation of the Izumi High School English Course, we hope to continue this exchange program moving forward, three times a year.

Comments from Participating High School Students

I had a very enjoyable time visiting the Premier School this time. The children were cheerful and kind, and they actively engaged in conversation with us.

We were very surprised at their good English pronunciation and their ability to understand the pronunciation of the native English-speaking teachers, but we also saw their energetic and child-like side when they played games with us.

This exchange was an opportunity for me to receive a lot of positive influence from the children and to continue to be involved in English. It is a precious experience to be able to communicate with the people of MeySen together with foreign students, so I was happy to be able to participate.

Izumi High School 11th Grade
Kaede Abe & Rino Ichikawa

Impressions from Participating International Students

The kindergarten visit was one of the things I was looking forward to doing the most during my stay in Japan. The children were all delighted with our visit and were very cute and kind.

I was impressed by their fluency in both English and Japanese and playing games with them was a lot of fun. It was such an enjoyable day that I wished I could have spent more time with the Premier School children.

Fern Creek High School (Kentucky, U.S.A.)
Zachary Burkhart

MeySen students have been very successful in demonstrating their English language skills!

We have received one piece of great news after another, with one graduate not only passing Level 1 of the Practical English Proficiency Test (Eiken), which is a difficult test even for adults, but also receiving an award for her high score!

The 44th English Speech Contest for High School Students

◆ Foreign Minister Prize (1st Prize)
Maruyama Premier G11 Shion Saito (Ariel)

The 44th English Speech Contest for High School Students is a competition held by the National Council for International Education and Research, and this year again, high school students from all over Japan competed in five-minute speeches about international exchange, international cooperation, multiculturalism, etc. In 2021, a Premier School graduate became the first student from Miyagi Prefecture to win first place nationally at the 41st contest, and Ms. Saito is now the second to achieve this feat, following in the footsteps of her senior Premier School classmate. Ms. Saito was actually motivated to join this competition, when she heard her senior classmate's national championship speech, which he gave three years ago and right then and there, decided that she would do her best to also win the national championship as he had.

The 77th Miyagi Prefectural High School English Speech Contest Group 2 (for students who have lived in English-speaking countries)

◆ Winner of the Miyagi Prefectural Championship, advancing to the Tohoku Tournament in November
Takamori Premier G11 Itsuki Sato (Ameri)

H.I.H. Prince Takamado Trophy 76th All Japan Inter-Middle School English Oratorical Contest

◆ Best in Show, advancing to the National Competition in November
Maruyama HS 8th Grade, Reina Ueda (Sylvia)

The 13th Ursula Eichi English Contest

◆ Grand Prix "Ursula Eichi Prize" in Show & Tell division
Maruyama FC 3rd Grade, Takuma Fujii (Lewis)

◆ Special Supporter's Prize "Fujisaki Prize" for Recitation A
Maruyama Kindergarten Nencho, Juri Hayashi (Maggie)

Eiken Level 1 English Proficiency Test

◆ Canadian Ambassador's Prize
Takamori Premier Alumna, Oriza Miura,

Ms. Miura received the Canadian Ambassador's Award for the top-scoring student in the elementary through junior high school age bracket, when she passed the highest level of the English Proficiency Test, Eiken Level 1, in 2023 in her third year of junior high school.