

Volunteer Activity Report Meeting

With Gratitude for Your Many Contributions

Regarding the volunteer activities supported by so many parents, a Volunteer Activity Report Meeting was held on February 25, with 51 parents in attendance. Parents who had participated for 10 hours or more or five times or more by the end of December were invited, and we expressed our appreciation for their continued support while reflecting on the activities carried out to date.

From April 2025 through the end of December, a total of 196 parents took part, contributing an impressive 3,000 hours of volunteer work. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your warm daily support.

Through these volunteer activities, parents have helped with creating kindergarten materials, preparing teaching materials for Friends Club and Premier Elementary, producing and wrapping items used for school events, and supporting us in many other ways. In addition, at FitKids, parents have assisted the physical education teachers and supported the children's physical activities together.



Parents who participated shared comments such as, "It was fun to interact with parents from other grade levels," "I feel closer to MeySen's education," and "I'm happy that I have more opportunities to talk with my child about kindergarten." We are truly pleased that these volunteer activities help parents feel a stronger connection with the school and the children.

We look forward to welcoming the participation of many parents again in the 2026 school year!

Volunteer information will be sent to those who register through the MeySen Parents' Website under "Volunteer Recruitment."









Bible verse

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 3:20–21

聖書
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Spring of the 60th Anniversary Year

Daniel Fanger, Principal

The First 20 Years of Foundation A Foundation Built in Prayer

At the time the kindergarten opened in 1967, Izumi Ward in Sendai City was a small town with a population of about 24,000. From the hill of Maruyama, the view consisted of rice fields and farmhouses stretching out below, with mountains surrounding the area to the south and west. It is said that many people worried whether children would really gather if a kindergarten were built in such a place.

Fifty years ago, in the spring of 1976, I was appointed to MeySen as an English teacher. Looking outside from the classroom, I could see wild rabbits hopping about, and raccoon dogs and foxes making appearances—the surroundings were rich in nature. At that time, applications for enrollment exceeded twice the capacity every year, and I could keenly feel the high expectations the local community had for the school.

"High School Classes" for junior and senior high school students. Through these efforts, a wide variety of programs were established.

During this period, symbolic changes such as the introduction of a logo mark, new bus designs, and new uniforms were also implemented, marking a major leap forward for the school as an institution.

20 Years of Innovation An Era When the Breath of Renewal Began to Emerge

In the spring of 2006, MeySen Academy celebrated its 40th anniversary. At that time, former principal Mr. Philip Broman retired, and I assumed the role of principal. Even before that transition, the Board of Directors had been holding in-depth discussions about the future direction of the school, and a policy was decided to significantly renew the English program and curriculum.

Based on this policy, initiatives such as the establishment of the Premier School, the development of the new English curriculum GrapeSEED, and the launch of EX Classes were undertaken, leading to a major leap forward in the English program.

At the same time, the Japanese-language early childhood education curriculum was also strengthened. Programs such as music, literacy, physical education, and art were further enhanced, and the FitKids physical education program was introduced, as we worked to build a foundation looking toward the next era.

In 2016, MeySen celebrated its 50th anniversary amid many blessings. Over the following ten years, the

FitKids physical education class in action

Those who believe in Jesus live in this world as citizens belonging to heaven, and they wait in hope for the return of Jesus. Our present bodies are weak, will perish, and return to the earth, but one day we will be given "glorious bodies" like that of Jesus—bodies that will never become sick, grow old, or die—and become citizens of heaven. This is a wonderful message of hope that is being proclaimed.

MeySen
Newsletter
No. 214

60 Years of Continuity What Has Remained Unchanged Since the Founding

Since its founding, MeySen Academy has walked its path with the Bible as the foundation of everything it does. The standards of right and wrong taught to children, the school's approach toward students and parents, and even decisions related to school management are all based on biblical teachings.

Even as social conditions and values continue to change dramatically, God's Word does not change. It is like a light that shines in the darkness, guiding us along the path we should take. We hope to continue walking faithfully according to God's teachings and to carry on work that is pleasing to Him.

Toward the Next 20 Years A Journey Woven into the Future

No one can accurately predict what the next 20 years will bring. The world is changing rapidly, and it is difficult to foresee even five years ahead. However, everything is visible to God in heaven, and politics, history, and sovereignty all move according to His will.

As we look as far ahead as possible, we will make plans and do our utmost for the future happiness of our students. At the same time, we hope to continue trusting God fully, seeking His wisdom and help, and walking the path to which we are led.

Over these past 60 years, MeySen Academy has undergone many transformations. Going forward, we will continue to respond to the needs of the local community and move ahead without sparing any effort. We sincerely ask for the continued understanding and support of the community and our parents, just as we have received until now.

フレンズ Friends Spring 2026

「読む」とつながる。「読む」とひろがる。

フレンズ
friends

「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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With her host family during her short-term study abroad in Australia

to speak and understand English broadens one's perspective, values, and connections with others. I came to truly appreciate how meaningful it was to not only learn English, but also to be exposed to other cultures during my everyday life at MeySen. This led me to want to pass on to children what I had been taught and given at MeySen.

Pictured Right:
Minami

what the teacher was saying, but I believe I was able to continue because of the patience and warmth shown by the teachers at MeySen.

One of the reasons I decided to become an English teacher was realizing the skills I had gained through my experiences at MeySen. When I was a first-year high school student, I participated in MeySen's short-term study abroad program in Australia. Through that experience, I realized that being able

The reason I chose to become a teacher in Miyagi Prefecture rather than in my hometown of Sendai City is that I wanted to support children who did not have the opportunity to attend MeySen.

Have you heard the phrase "on-okuri" (passing kindness forward)? It means passing on the kindness you have received to the next generation or to others. In that spirit, I want to give back, as a teacher, the strengths I was able to develop thanks to my parents, who allowed me to attend MeySen, and to the teachers at MeySen who supported me in such a wonderful environment. Although I still have much to learn, I will continue to do my very best as a teacher with this feeling in my heart.

The days you spend at MeySen are truly precious. Being able to attend MeySen is not something to be taken for granted. Please do not forget to be grateful to your parents and teachers. And please fully enjoy your time at MeySen—your English classes and the many events you experience there. Your experiences at MeySen will surely become your strength. I am cheering for you!

Alumna Minami Kimura (Natalie)

Takamori Friends Club, 35th Graduating Class

Hello. My name is Minami Kimura (formerly Sugawara), and I am a member of Takamori's 35th graduating class. I am currently working as an English teacher at a public junior high school in Miyagi Prefecture.

I spent 13 years at MeySen, from kindergarten (what is now the Nenchu kindergarten class) through high school. There are countless memories I could share from my time at MeySen, but beyond the English lessons themselves, I especially loved the time spent playing with friends before and after classes. I truly loved going to MeySen. There were times when I felt frustrated because I couldn't pronounce English well or didn't understand

HELLO SPRING, HELLO ADVENTURES!



Warm spring has arrived, and a new school year has begun! You will meet new friends and teachers, and exciting days are about to start. May each and every one of you give thanks to God in the light of spring and spend your days in good health and high spirits. Like spring flowers, may you each grow beautifully and freely in your own way. The teachers at MeySen Academy will continue to watch over your growth with great care.

The Kangaroo Club Enters Its 27th Year

A First MeySen Experience for Parents and Children

Established in 2000, the Kangaroo Club has marked its 25th anniversary and is entering its 27th year. Supported by many families over the years, it has continued to serve as a place where children and their families can gather with peace of mind.

At the Kangaroo Club, children attend MeySen together with their mothers and fathers, allowing them to participate in activities while feeling secure. Spending time in classrooms and a nature-rich environment and sharing a variety of experiences with friends of the same age, provides valuable moments that support children's growth.

For parents as well, the club offers opportunities to consult experienced teachers about childcare concerns and to connect with other parents raising children of the same age. Through these interactions, parents can encourage and support one another. We hope that these connections contribute to the well-being of the entire family.

Moving forward, the Kangaroo Club will continue to be operated with heartfelt care so that children can build strong bonds with their mothers and fathers before entering kindergarten, gradually gain the confidence to attend on their own, and so that families can enjoy a long and meaningful journey with MeySen.



Ms. Emi Okoshi

The Kangaroo Club was established with the hope that by experiencing group activities before entering kindergarten, both parents and children would be better prepared for enrollment. We also hope that it serves as a place to support mothers in their child-rearing journey. We are deeply grateful for the many smiles and memories we have shared with families over the years. We believe that we are a child's very first "teachers" and that we play an important role in connecting children with MeySen. Even as times change, the bonds between parents and children and the love they share remain precious and unchanged.

Moving forward, the Kangaroo Club will continue striving to ensure that the irreplaceable time parents and children spend together is warm, filled with smiles, and a place where everyone can feel safe and at ease.



Ms. Tomoe Okoshi

The Kangaroo Club offers families the opportunity to attend together in MeySen's rich natural environment, experiencing the changing seasons while taking part in a variety of activities and closely witnessing their child's growth.

In recent years, more children who are enrolled in daycare centers have also been attending the Kangaroo Club in preparation for entering MeySen (Toddler Class or Nensho Class). Participation by fathers, not just mothers, has also been increasing. Why not take your child's first step into kindergarten life at the Kangaroo Club? In addition, as a place that supports child-rearing, we are here to encourage and assist parents. If you have any concerns about parenting, please feel free to consult with the Kangaroo Club teachers.

Naotera Classic: Special Edition

Enjoy Brilliant Classical Masterpieces Through Four-Hand Piano Duets!

At this year's music appreciation event, we were delighted to welcome the Naotera Piano Duo, a popular four-hand piano team, featuring Naomi Ishikawa and Kazuki Teraki, who treated us to a wonderful performance.

The duo was formed in 2018 and has since presented numerous concerts under the name Naotera Classic. One of their distinguishing features is their engaging style—combining clear, easy-to-understand explanations and enjoyable dialog—making their performances accessible not only to children but also to those who may not be very familiar with classical music.

On the day of the concert, a typewriter and even an alarm clock made a surprise appearance! Their charming sounds and rhythms brought great excitement to the venue. There were also moments when children had the opportunity to conduct, making the experience not just about "listening" to music, but truly "experiencing" it.

In addition, at the Maruyama campus, freelance announcer Takuto Honma joined the performance, providing narration based on an original script. His lively and entertaining storytelling added to the atmosphere, creating a concert filled with smiles from both children and teachers.

This music appreciation event was a special time in which participants not only listened to classical music, but also learned about composers and experienced conducting, coming together to create the concert as one. It was truly a special 45 minutes—a *Special Edition* to remember.



Naotera Piano Duo
Visit their website and social media here →



▲ From left in the photo: Ms. Naomi Ishikawa and Mr. Kazuki Teraki

PROGRAM

All Grades

- Elgar: *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1*
- Anderson:
The Syncopated Clock,
The Typewriter

Grades 1–4

- "Become a Maestro!" Conducting Experience
- Saint-Saëns: *The Carnival of the Animals*

Grades 5–6

- "The Life of Beethoven:
What Kind of Person Was Beethoven?"
*During the performance: conducting
experience with "Symphony No. 5 (Fate)"

Holding of the "Community Gathering"

Carried Forward by Warm Support, Toward the Future

The community-based study abroad support project "A Way We Learn," which began in 2017, has now reached its ninth year, thanks to your continued support. Including three high school students currently studying abroad in the United States, a total of 41 students have taken flight overseas through this project. In addition, the number of sponsoring companies has grown to 115, and the project continues to move forward with the support of many people.

This initiative began with the belief of "raising local children through local businesses." This summer, six new students are scheduled to depart for their study abroad programs.

At the "Community Gathering" held in January, we welcomed representatives from companies that have been supporting us, as well as those considering future support, and expressed our gratitude for their continued encouragement. On the day of the event, returned students gave speeches, and there was time for interaction between company representatives and staff, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. One participant from a sponsoring company shared the following comment:

"In my regular work, I never had the opportunity to be involved in children's education together with a school. Becoming a sponsoring company has once again made me realize the importance and great impact of education. Seeing the students grow far beyond the amount of our donations brings us joy, and each student we support feels like one of our own children."

All donations received from our supporters are provided to students studying abroad as grant-type scholarships. With gratitude toward those who support them, the students are each taking steps forward toward their dreams.

Next year's "Community Gathering" will mark two milestones: the 10th anniversary of "A Way We Learn" and the 60th anniversary of Miyagi MeySen Academy. Moving forward, we will continue to support children's futures by strengthening the connections between the community, businesses, and the school.



If you are interested in educational support initiatives such as the "Community Gathering" or "A Way We Learn," please feel free to contact the administrative office at either campus.



MeySen Teachers Visit Shuko Junior High School & Sendai Ikuei Senior High School!

A Day to Discover Learning Beyond

In February, several English teachers visited Shuko Junior High School and Sendai Ikuei High School (Miyagino Campus) for a school tour and an exchange of ideas. It was a valuable opportunity to observe actual classes and learn how students who graduated from Friends Club and Premier Elementary are studying at the junior high and high school levels.

During the visit, current high school students and alumni were surprised to see their former teachers—exclaiming, "What? Why are our MeySen teachers here?!"—and greeted them with smiles, making it a very happy reunion for the teachers as well.



At Shuko Junior High School and Sendai Ikuei High School, forward-looking education is being carried out in an excellent learning environment. Through discussions with the teachers, who are sincerely committed to supporting each student and nurturing the ability to complete tasks with confidence and a sense of responsibility, we were able to share the aspiration of "working together to nurture future leaders."

MeySen teachers will continue to value opportunities such as school visits and training, deepen their research into education, and strive to further enhance the English program.

Note: MeySen has an enrollment cooperation agreement with Shuko Junior High School, and letters of recommendation are issued by the school for entrance examinations.



Winner of the 18th Annual National English Speech Contest Finals!

At the 18th National High School English Speech Contest, held in February 2026 (hosted by the National Federation of English Education Research Organizations), Ayumi Leider (Nicole) achieved an outstanding accomplishment by winning first place nationwide.

Last year, Ms. Leider advanced through the prefectural competition, and at the Tohoku Regional Contest held in Akita, she was selected as one of the top two finalists out of twelve participants. The national finals, held in Yoyogi, were highly competitive, consisting of a five-minute speech followed by a two-minute Q&A session. Among 18 representatives who had advanced through nine regional contests, she earned the top national ranking with a confident and impressive performance.



▲ Featured on television as well!

In recognition of her achievement, she was also awarded the Miyagi Prefectural High School Cultural Federation Award. Her award ceremony was featured on television, moving and inspiring many viewers.

Regarding her future, Ms. Leider shared, "I want to be of help to someone, beyond borders." While her career path is still open—whether in an international NGO, a United Nations organization, or as a flight attendant—she expressed her sincere desire, saying, "No matter what job I choose, I want to be someone who can share small acts of love. Even through something as simple as a smile or words of gratitude, I want to be a person who conveys love."

Through English, Ms. Ayumi Leider boldly expressed her thoughts and shone brightly on the national stage. We wholeheartedly support her as she prepares to spread her wings to the world, and we look forward to her continued success.

Ayumi Leider (Nicole)
Takamori Friends Club
Graduate

SPEECH CONTENT

Title: The Power of a Box

Summary: Even a small box can hold many possibilities depending on how it is used—it can create change and become a tool to help others.

At my junior high school, a suggestion box set up by the student council quickly filled with negative comments, prompting me to wonder why there were so many unfavorable opinions.

Instead of focusing on people's faults, I wanted to create a more positive environment where we could notice others' good qualities and feel gratitude, so I changed it into a "Thank You Box." We redesigned it so that students could express gratitude even for small acts when classmates or teachers did something kind. The collected thank you notes were displayed on a wall to create a "Thank You Tree" that everyone could see.

As a result, the atmosphere at school became brighter, and it became easier for people to express appreciation to one another. How wonderful it is when the entire school feels brighter, and people show kindness and consideration toward each other.

In addition, we placed a donation box for Ukraine at a nearby community center and delivered what may have been a small act of love to many people who are suffering. I believe that no matter how small an action may be, it has the power to make the world a better place.



▲ A speech expressing gratitude by participating student, Oriza Miura