



SEIWA GAKUIN TIMES

Special Edition

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Seiwa strives to give world 'something new'



YUKA MATSUMOTO PHOTO

Seiwa Gakuin students do research by themselves. They come up with ideas, and discuss approaches and solutions with classmates when someone has a problem. Furthermore, students give presentations to each other in order to share information and develop opinions of their own.

Inspired by the abundant greenery, shimmering ocean and the warm sun of its beautiful natural Shonan Zushi beach setting in Kanagawa Prefecture, Seiwa Gakuin Junior and Senior High School is constantly searching for "something new" to give to the world.

The school believes that

learning is not something we receive from someone, but is something we develop ourselves and by working with others, through identifying problems and their solutions, asking questions and doing research. This is why there is always "something new" at Seiwa Gakuin.

English Dept. leads way

At Seiwa Gakuin, we have an English department for those students who want to use English in the future. It is the only one in Kanagawa Prefecture. The department's goal is to improve students' all-round English ability, broaden their inter-

national horizons and cultivate their communication skills.

The students implement all the elements in the curriculum. They also give presentations and have discussions while learning about the world situation, environmental issues and international problems.

By Yuka Matsumoto and Wakana Takeda

Zushi has so much to offer: City Mayor Ryuichi Hirai



Symbol of Zushi City



KAI NONAMI PHOTO

Members of Seiwa Gakuin's ESS (English Speaking Society) club went to the city office of Zushi on June 24, 2016, to interview Zushi City Mayor Ryuichi Hirai. His remarks during the interview follow:

Question: We love Zushi. What do you like about the city? What are its features?

Answer: First of all, it is the nature. In Zushi, there's the sea, mountains and rivers. Research of the natural environment has found that there are so many valuable plants and animals in the Ikego Forest Natural Park. Interactions between volunteers and citizens are quite active, and

communication with the U.S. armed forces personnel will be very useful for everyone's English skills.

Q: What would you like to send out from Zushi City to the world?

A: We love to introduce the attractiveness of Zushi's nature. There's also the "fair trade" movement. ("Fair trade" is an event to sell crops and products that are made in developing countries. Seiwa Gakuin students have been participating in the event as volunteers. They like to contribute to the peace of the world while making the community "people friendly and Earth friendly.")

Q: What are your expectations of the younger generations?

A: It's never "too early" to have big dreams and to work very hard to make the dreams come true. The sooner you set your future goal, the better, and then please waste no effort going for it.

By Yuka Matsumoto, Wakana Takeda, Erena Arai and Haruna Sasaki

NOTICE TO READERS

SEIWA GAKUIN TIMES was Created by the ESS club memers of Seiwa Gakuin Junior and Senior High School, a private girls' high school in Zushi City, Kanagawa Prefecture

ENGLISH EDUCATION

Seiwa longtime pioneer of 'living English' education



SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

School founder Ko Muto attends the 21st meeting of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP) in London in 1972.

In 1972, Ko Muto, the late founder of Seiwa Gakuin, participated in the 21st annual meeting of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP) in London. At the conference, she discussed education with Margaret Thatcher, then a British education minister, and their meeting developed into a life-long relationship.

In 1979 when the annual summit of major industrialized countries was held in Tokyo, Muto again met Thatcher, who had become prime minister of Britain. At the time, their reunion was reported in the Mainichi Daily News.

International studies

On April 1, 1987, Seiwa

Gakuin opened the only English Department in Kanagawa Prefecture. The three-year course involved 39 units of special education and a homestay in New Zealand, which was mandatory as a part of the international studies component.

The language training in New Zealand was a great opportunity for students to improve their English skills and become familiar with another culture through homestay. It helped students broaden their international horizons, and helped them consider English as a communication tool, without having to think too much about grammar.

Staying with host families was certainly a valuable spiritual exchange experience. In July 1988, English language training



SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

Margaret Thatcher and Ko Muto

at Southern Illinois University in Niigata for seventh, eighth and tenth graders started, and the participating students deepened their cross-cultural understanding while working on presentations with native English speakers.

English Dept. now

Seiwa Gakuin was a pioneer at introducing opportunities to learn "living English."

New first-graders of the junior high school, for instance, take advance study classes in English before the entrance ceremony. Through cooking sweets, having a picnic and orientations, students come to like English more, make friends and start their school life.

During the summer vacation,



SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

Thatcher agreed with Muto's statement: Education is the foundation that will support our country for 100 years and I have been devoting myself to education", and their relationship got even stronger.
(Mainichi Daily News 1979.6.30)

the first-graders of the senior high school go to a six-day English camp in Shonan international village in Hayama to brush up their communication skills in the language. In general, there are about four English classes a week, but at the school, there are more than eight English classes a week. Students learn proper pronunciation from native English teachers. The school also implements IT education that will be essential in the global society, constantly improves the English education environment with native English teachers and textbooks, and practices spontaneous and active learning with student speeches and presentations.

By Yumi Ofuji, Danielle Zamora, Kaai Nonami and Rena Fujikawa



Seiwa held New Zealand English camp first in Kanagawa Prefecture.



SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

Encounters with host families in New Zealand are something that students will always treasure, and staying with the families is a valuable opportunity to learn "living English" – spiritual human communication that transcends nationalities or ethnicities.

An English study camp at Southern Illinois University in Niigata leaves teachers, and seventh, eighth and tenth graders of the junior and senior high school with many happy memories.



SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO



SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

An English camp at Shonan International Village in Hayama

EDUCATION POLICY



SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

A former international flight attendant teaches a student how to bow politely during a class on manners and etiquette.

Courses teach students to build good relationships

Since Seiwa Gakuin was established in the 1950s, there have been manner classes in the “Manner Room.” Students learned how to maintain good posture, behavior and how to use language, and the tradition has been passed on to the present.

Now, Seiwa Gakuin promotes the importance of learning etiquette with manner courses three times a year to build good human relationships.

The school believes that it will help students master communication skills, and make a fresh and positive impression on others. There is also practical training to learn essential business manners by instructors with experience as international flight

attendants.

Relationships start with greetings

A greeting is a way to get a lively conversation going with someone you meet for the first time, to share significant time together and to make human relationships meaningful.

On the course, students practice role playing in situations such as passing by one another, and entering and exiting interviews.

Creating good impression

Students learn how to dress elegantly, but modestly, and to maintain good postures and how

to bow in order to polish the sense of being refined.

Using language

Students practice how to express compassion to others and aim to become women who understand how to use language beautifully.

Many graduates have said that the manners and greetings they learned at Seiwa Gakuin have been helpful to them as adults in society when they communicate with people in different age groups.

By Haruka Maruyama, Ayaka Miura, Erena Arai and Haruna Sasaki

Love, peace and Seiwa

Seiwa Gakuin values the importance of spiritual education.

Why did Ko Muto, founder of the school, try to include the spirit of Christianity in her education? Probably, she found her ideal of education in a faith that focuses on “love and peace.” Since the establishment of the school, Seiwa Gakuin students have been traditionally taught “to serve their soul, knowledge and work to love God, as well as to love themselves and others.”

Bible study, church service

At Seiwa Gakuin, there is a church service every Friday morning in the chapel, where

students sing hymns accompanied by the organ, and listen to the priest’s Bible reading and prayers. Studying the Bible helps maintain a peaceful spirit and enables people to look at themselves.

A weekly Bible study class is mandatory for all students.

Spiritual education

Seiwa Gakuin’s Christian education is a warmhearted spiritual education based on “loving others and cherishing one’s life.”

UNESCO works to advance peace and the welfare of people through communication as it uses education, science, culture and communication to promote international understanding and cooperation.

The UNESCO Constitution says: “That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.”

Seiwa Gakuin students hope a peaceful world can be realized through spiritual education.



UNESCO flag

By Niko Takehara and Sara Minomo

Volleyball club championship win still inspirational 40 years on

In 1976, the Volleyball team of Seiwa Gakuin won the championship at the girls’ national volleyball high school tournament. How did they manage to come out on top of some 2,300 schools and grab the title?



SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

Their championship victory was the result of a lot of practice, supportive families and enthusiastic teachers.

This feat has taught us the importance of working hard and expressing gratitude to those around us.

By Konomi Fujigaya

Love-spreading logos

When the school was created, students wore navy jackets, navy skirts and white shirts as their daily uniform, unlike the current sailor blouses. The modest and lovely uniforms were designed according to the school’s motto, “Gentleness, Diligence and Love.”

The design of Seiwa Gakuin’s logo, which is based on this motto, expresses “students that grow to the future,” and “students and the school that walk together while trusting each other based on the theme of ‘Love.’”

The spirit is expressed by

the logo’s soft-curving lines and powerful straight lines. The letter “L” in the logo is for “LOVE.”



KAAI NONAMI PHOTO

Seiwa Gakuin’s logo

By Kaai Nonami

SCHOOL FESTIVAL/ZUSHI CITY

Seiwa-Sai festival showcases students, school



Members of the ESS club make a presentation, using a short music video, at the school festival.

Seiwa-Sai, Seiwa Gakuin's school festival, is held every June under the sponsorship of the student council and the Seiwa-Sai executive committee.

This year, it was held June 18 and 19, with the theme "Let us make our flowers bloom. Radiant, dazzling flowers."

Selected students designed the brochure, posters and the arch at the main entrance.

Members of the ESS (English Speaking Society) club produced a music video and gave presentations on their favorite things (titled "My Favorite") in English through slide shows.

The brass band club, the chorus club and the acting club showcased their talents. There was a "battle of the books," during which members of the Japanese club introduced their favorite books. The one that got the most

votes was declared the "Champ Book." This year's theme was Kenji Miyazawa's works.

In July 2015, the Biblio Battle competition for the entire Kanto tournament was held and a junior high school third-grader, took second place.

The students also set up, a rhythmic sports gymnastic club as an addition to the school's many other athletic clubs, as well as a "Biblio Battle" club. The "Biblio Battle" involved mind games that were to support local people in Kumamoto, who are still suffering from the effects of a major earthquake.

On the second day of the festival, Seiwa Gakuin invited Ryoji Kuniwake to give a special lecture, titled "Link your favorite things to 'dreams of 22-year-olds.'" Kuniwake, a director of BIP Inc., is a member of the

preparation committee for the sailing competitions at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. He is very active in IT and sports.

The lecture helped students link the dreams they have today to the future. Many people visited the school during the festival, and enjoyed two days of fun, entertainment and education. Seiwa-sai was a huge success.



Some scenes from the school's culture festival, including the lecture meeting (bottom)



By Asuka Kuwano, Yuka Takei and Minori Fujioka

SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

Zushi, Seiwa Gakuin now

The Zushi Culture Plaza Hall, which is marking its 10th anniversary, has become a heart of the community for Zushi citizens

Seiwa Gakuin students have received awards for their activities, including working to build a sense of community, brass band performances and performances of taiko Japanese drums by the school's kindergarteners.

Furthermore, Seiwa Gakuin students participate in activities to keep the city tidy, organize "fair trade" events, clean the Hisagi tunnel and promote volunteering in Zushi society.



Seiwa Gakuin students help to clean a local tunnel.



Students of Seiwa Gakuin play taiko Japanese drums in front of JR Zushi Station as part of a traffic safety campaign in spring 2016.

By Ayaka Miura, Erena Arai, Haruna Sasaki and Haruka Maruyama

SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

SEIWA GAKUIN PHOTO

Seiwa Gakuin, Zushi City join hands to prepare for disasters



Nikkei 2012.2.29

Seiwa Gakuin and Zushi City work closely together on disaster prevention. In 2012, the No. 2 playground of Seiwa Gakuin was designated as a wide-area evacuation site for local people to prepare for a major earth-

quake or tsunami.

The playground is five minutes away from the school's main entrance, but it is over 40 meters above sea level, and it is an ideal evacuation site.

Since the site can accommodate 3,700 people, it has been used by a neighboring elementary school and junior high school, JR Zushi and local people as a safety evacuation area. Also the roof of the school building can accommodate 340 people.

The availability of the school

as a safe haven and regular disaster drills have helped to ease the anxieties of people in the local community, and brought the school and city even closer.



Staff members of JR and Zushi City, and local people take part in an earthquake drill.

By Haruka Maruyama and Ayaka Miura

ZUSHI CITY OFFICE PHOTO

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