

ENGLISH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
of
WESTERN HARIMA



NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS!

2018/9/30
Volume 3, Issue 4

Inside this issue:

SHINE YOUR BEACON
LIGHT ON THE WORLD 2

By Natsuko Matsui

HOW I BECAME AN ALT 5
- My Cultural Background -

By Philip Wilby

THE ENGLISH TALES OF 6
HAGA: Last Bullet - A Story
of an Old Matagi - Part 1

By Futamu Kishimoto

THE 36TH ENGLISH 8
SPEECH CONTEST
ON OCTOBER 13TH
- Names of Contestants and
Their Titles -

A MESSAGE FROM 9
PROFESSOR TAMAI
- Toward the General Assembly
on October 25th -

Welcome everyone to the September issue of the Western Harima English Teachers' Association Newsletter. As we move into the autumn season, Western Harima will look especially beautiful, with the changing color of the leaves. Autumn is arguably the most beautiful time of year in Japan, which such diversity of color on display. We are especially blessed to live in such a splendid region of Japan!

During this time of year

there are a lot of fun activities to enjoy at school, such as sports days, and many school events. It is also a time for 3rd grade students to apply for University as their thoughts turn to graduation, and a new beginning in the adult world.

As teachers we prepare the students to reach their full potential, by considering what knowledge was most important for us, as we transitioned from school life to the adult world. The students may not need to know eve-

rything they have learned at school, but they need to be confident in their ability to adapt and thrive, no matter the situation, using the knowledge and experience they have gained at school.

Thank you for reading the Western Harima English Teachers Association Newsletter, we hope you find the articles always interesting and enjoyable to read, and provides a wider perspective of English teaching in our region.

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

The first article we would like to share with you is titled 'Shine Your Beacon on the World' written by Ms. Natsuko Matsui. In this article Ms. Matsui introduces Kenmei Joshi Gakuin, a private Roman Catholic girls' junior and senior high school. She discusses the opportunities the school provides in international experiences for the students, and the spirit of sympathy the school promotes, both locally and internationally.

Next we have an article written by Mr. Philip Wilby, the new ALT at Yamasaki Senior High School. Philip introduces himself, discusses his experience with cultural change, and writes about the strong connections between Western Australia and Hyogo Prefecture, and Japan.

The third article is part 1 of a three part series titled: The English Tales of Haga: Last Bullet - A Story of an Old Matagi.

The story was originally written in Japanese by Mr. Mokutaro Sugatani, and was wonderfully translated by Mr. Futamu Kishimoto. The story expertly written, tells the tale of Ryuichiro, a mountain hunter, who is inexplicably drawn to a hunt at the zenith of his hunting career.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy the following articles, and have a wonderful month!



SHINE YOUR BEACON LIGHT ON THE WORLD

By Natsuko Matsui



Hello, everyone. My name is Natsuko Matsui and I have been teaching for eleven years at Kenmei Girls' Senior and Junior High School. I am glad to have such a wonderful opportunity to introduce our school.

Kenmei Joshi Gakuin, founded in 1951 by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, is a private Roman Catholic girls' junior and senior high school for students in grades 7-12. The

Presentation of Mary sisters have missions at more than 200 schools in 18 countries in the world.

We are located in historic Honmachi, Himeji, just a short walk from Himeji Castle. Situated on what was once the Himeji Castle Estate, the campus is populated by a diverse range of learning facilities in an atmosphere of natural and architectural beauty.

Kenmei provides a quality education that seeks to integrate Catholic beliefs and values with academic excellence, empowering students to assume roles of leadership and service. It offers the unique opportunity of high quality academic programs, which cultivate the intellectual, emotional, creative, spiritual, physical, and aesthetic capabilities of its students. Here are some examples.

Students learn from "Cross-Curricular Study" how to apply diverse knowledge and skills to problems in their lives on a daily basis. How about researching how to make Australian cookies? In English. Figuring out how to pay your bills? Using math. How about in baking cookies? In home economics. Students can take six different lectures from the areas of natural science, humanities, and art. Each lecture consists of four lessons and has no tests. Students can understand the joy of learning and work towards their next goal.



(Continued on page 3)

SHINE YOUR BEACON LIGHT ON THE WORLD

By Natsuko Matsui

(Continued from page 2)

Kenmei also offers a wealth of opportunities for students to gain international experience, including language study programs in advance, and long and short-term overseas study. About 20 of the 10th and 11th graders visit a sister school in the United States and stay with their host families for about fifteen days. The applicants can learn language and culture from two full-time ALTs in an intensive course and in morning lessons before they visit the U.S. Some students study abroad as an exchange student for one year on a Study Abroad Program offered by the Japan Foundation for Intercultural Exchange (JFIE). Moreover, the “Passport Room” is open every day for all students who eagerly want to achieve their targets in speaking English. They enjoy English conversation with ALTs during the lunch break in the room.



Kenmei promotes the spirit of sympathy by encouraging students to do some volunteer work. Through this kind of work students come to consider what they can do to help others. The Student Council asks all students to have a minimum lunch once a month and donate the surplus money to the people in need, specifically deprived, excluded, and vulnerable children in the Philippines. Each grade sponsors one or two children to go to school. Students look forward to exchanging letters with their sponsored child.



I have briefly written about our school's history, location and educational policy. Encouraging positive self-image, self-discipline, leadership, and academic excellence

We sing the school song in English.

*♪All through life we can
look upon her and say
“Kenmei Beacon Light.”*

are worthy goals that lead to the service of God and the betterment of humankind. I believe this idea is common regardless of which school you work at. I hope you could find this article enjoyable and have a better understanding of Kenmei.

HOW I BECAME AN ALT – My Cultural Background.

By Philip Wilby

In this article I would like to introduce myself as the new ALT at Yamasaki Senior High School, and discuss why I chose to become an ALT. Then I would like to talk about the long-standing connection between Western Australia, and Hyogo Prefecture and Japan.



First of all let me introduce myself. My name is Philip Wilby, and I am 38 years old. I was born and grew up in London, England. When I was 9, my parents decided to emigrate to Western Australia. Coming from London, Perth was an incredible place. The stunning beaches and the big blue sky were the first things I noticed. There were all these strange birds and animals like parrots and kangaroos. I remember seeing a kangaroo hopping down a residential street, and being amazed how normal everyone else thought it was.

However on arrival to Australia, the scariest thing was being told about all the horror stories of poisonous snakes and spiders. There are giant Huntsman spiders that are as big as your hand there! I remember one day looking on my shoulder and a giant Huntsman was sitting right on my shoulder! I looked at him and he looked back! Instead of freaking out, I very carefully stood up, slowly walked with the giant spider on my shoulder to the bathroom, and then very quickly, with a towel, hit it into the toilet! Thankfully that has only happened once. I have seen a few poisonous snakes and spiders over the years, but never had any problems with them. Because Australians like to share, we have kindly given Japan the red back spider. If you ever see one, please feel free to give it a friendly whack!

My first introduction to Japan came about when I was a teenager in Perth. I became friends with two Japanese students when we went on a camping trip together. They introduced me to Japanese culture, which I found fascinating. From that first introduction as a teenager, I really wanted to visit Japan. I finally had a chance to visit Japan for the first time in 2014. From this holiday my love for Japan really blossomed. The warmth and kindness of the people was amazing, and the incredible natural beauty of Japan really struck me. After my holiday in Japan I continued to research about Japanese culture, and it was this passion and a desire to teach, which led me to apply to become an ALT.



(Continued on page 5)

My best shot, *Kinkakuji*. The most impressive site on my first visit in 2014.

HOW I BECAME AN ALT – My Cultural Background.

By Philip Wilby

(Continued from page 4)

During my research into Japanese culture, I found that there were a number of strong connections that had already been formed between Western Australia and Japan.

Originally Japanese people came to Western Australia for pearl diving in Broome, in the north of Western Australia. At that time it was actually the mother of pearl which was most prized. Many divers came from across Asia; however the Japanese female divers were considered the most talented due their productivity. Between 1889 and 1935, 900 Japanese divers and fishermen were laid to rest in Broome. Please refer the following website for reference. (<http://www.cksca.org.au/39-koshigaya/japan-with-john/132-the-pearling-days>).

The Sister State relationship Between Hyogo Prefecture and Western Australia was formally established in 1981. In 1992 The Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Center was established in Perth. The center has an extensive library, provides Japanese language lessons and also provides many different cultural events. The center also has a traditional Japanese room, with Tatami mats and a beautiful Japanese wedding gown on display. In summer a large Japanese cultural festival is held in the center of Perth, where the general public can see lots of different Japanese crafts, enjoy delicious food, can watch Japanese dancers in costume. The city of Perth also has a sister relationship with the city of Kagoshima. A park is named in honor of the relationship in the heart of Perth, and a street is named after Perth in Kagoshima, Perth Dori (Street).



The Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Center in Perth

The bonds between Japan and Western Australia of course go far deeper than official connections between Governments. There are many cultural exchanges between schools and communities, and a shared sense of social justice, and the rule of law between our two peoples. However most importantly of all, are the personal relationships which are shared between individuals of both countries. These are the connections which really binds us together. Thank you very much.



Philip with junior high school students at an Open High School lesson

THE ENGLISH TALES OF HAGA:

Last Bullet - *A Story of an Old Matagi* - Part 1

Written by Mokutaro Sugatani & Translated by Futamu Kishimoto

This story of an old Matagi, a bear hunter, was originally written in Japanese by Mr. Mokutaro Sugatani, a local writer in Haga, Shiso. Now, the thrilling and breathtaking story in a remote mountain village is presented in English again through the magic hand of Mr. Futamu Kishimoto, a former teacher of English and a creative translator in Haga. Please enjoy reading the unknown world of a hunter for roughly three months from now.

Under the dim light in the room, the rifle on the *kotatsu* gave off a soft silvery sheen. For the past four days, Ryuichiro had been feeling irritable and perplexed night and day. In the quiet living room, the clock on the wall struck eleven with a clear note. Outside of the house, the sound of the cold wind could be heard. His wife, Haru, was sound asleep in the backroom, relieved that the hunting season was over.

Four days ago, Ryuichiro had had nine bullets on hand. However, because the number nine was said to be bad luck, before leaving for the mountain, he left one bullet at a small shrine dedicated to the mountain god. Then, on his way home, he reclaimed the bullet from the shrine and, put it beside the checkered scarf he had received from his grandson, Kenta, who had been visiting from the city for New Year's.

Since he returned from the mountain four days ago, Ryuichiro had been twiddling with the bullet, until it was shining blunt.

On the last day of the hunting season, Ryuichiro remained behind alone after his hunting party had gone home. He crossed the narrow ravine and then stopped to smoke and rest on the stump of a tree. A wind blew through the silent forest of trees, with few leaves left on their branches.

His wife, family, and relatives were all against his hunting at the age of 72, and, in recent years, had been trying in vain to persuade him to stop. However, he ignored them, saying, "Without a gun, life is meaningless. My gun is everything to me!" Stroking the barrel of the gun he had used for many years, Ryuichiro knew that eventually he would have to put it down for good. Eventually, there would come a day when he would not load the rifle for the last time. In his heart, he was prepared for that day!



An image of *matagi* and a bear.

Although he had expected the day to come, as he grabbed his now bullet-less gun, the thought of parting with his gun, left him with a certain loneliness, an emptiness and sweetness as if the cold wind were blowing right through his body.

(Continued on page 7)

THE ENGLISH TALES OF HAGA:

Last Bullet - *A Story of an Old Matagi* - Part 1

Written by Mokutaro Sugatani & Translated by Futamu Kishimoto

(Continued from page 6)

Suddenly Ryuichiro felt a chill behind him, as if a body of cold air was hanging over and pressing down on him. A strange tightness paralyzed him from his neck down to his back and a chill ran down his stiff spine. Not knowing what he would find, Ryuichiro, turned around, clutching his rifle in his right hand and looked toward the ravine behind him. A shiver ran down his back; In the lingering snow, a bear seemingly more than 210 kilograms was glowering down at Ryuichiro. The bear stood still with only its head turned toward Ryuichiro. It was the largest bear that Ryuichiro had ever seen in his long hunting career. The bear looked down at him quietly, almost as if it were provoking him because it knew the rifle had no bullet. Ryuichiro had never known a bear to behave this way. The tension between Ryuichiro and the bear made their surroundings seem all the more still, the mountains shrouded in absolute silence, without even a trace of movement. How long the silence lasted, Ryuichiro did not know. Suddenly, the silence of the thicket was broken by the shrieking of a bird.

The big bear slowly turned away, as if ignoring Ryuichiro, and then disappeared into the ravine. That was the first encounter between Ryuichiro and the bear that should not have happened.

At home, Ryuichiro, picked up his last bullet from beside his grandson's scarf and, rolled the bullet between his fingers, still at a loss of what to do. Although he wavered a bit, he had already made up his mind. He could not suppress the burning desire to face the mysterious bear that had stared at him down with shining, fearless eyes.

He knew quite well that, now the hunting season had ended, hunting was illegal, but even that knowledge could not stop him. For the first time in his 72 years of life, even the thought of betraying both his wife and his hunting party was fading into the distance. It was beyond Ryuichiro why the big bear haunted him so much as to paralyze his reason.

The wind rattled the back gate of the house. Judging from the sky, it seemed to Ryuichiro it would soon snow. If he was going to pursue the bear, he would have to enter the mountain before snow fell. If he did not, the bear would remain forever free to roam the mountains just beyond Ryuichiro's reach. His recent irritability made the thought all the more unbearable, and his mind was flickered and swayed like a blue flame. Looking at the gleaming bullet, Ryuichiro wondered if he was going crazy. Even though it was an extraordinarily large bear, he would be laughed at and scorned as a hunter if he brought down a bear. He would never be able to take up a gun again. He knew all of this and yet, deep down, he thought defiantly that a man should be allowed to go a little crazy at least once in his life.

(To be continued on to the next issue.)

The 36th Nishi-Harima Senior High School English Speech Contest

Come and listen to the voices of the young leaders in Nishi-Harima !

Date & Time: Saturday, October 13th, 2018 12:00 ~ 16:30

Place: Himeji City Culture Center (Small Hall)



Contestants and Their Speech Titles

No.	Name	Gender	School	Grade	Title
1	Fujimoto Seira	F	Himeji Bessho	2	Smartphone Circumstances
2	Tominaga Rumi	F	Toyo University Himeji	2	Living with an Aging Society
3	Kometani Naho	F	Ako	2	Experiences in Australia
4	Yamada Hinano	F	Kanzaki	2	Through Volunteer Activities
5	Yamagata Mao	F	Himeji Higashi	2	Let's stop reading the mood
6	Furukawa Juri	F	The High School of University of Hyogo	2	Invisible Supporters
7	Takahashi Ayano	F	Himeji Shikisai	2	Seeing with Your Heart's Own Eyes
8	Nishioka Runa	F	Yamasaki	2	Do You Really Need It?
9	Tsukamoto Saki	F	Kamigori	2	Advance Forward! The Future Is Bright!
10	Satomi Kanon	F	Himeji Nishi	2	To Be Yourself, or Not to Be
11	Shimahata Yuuki	F	Fukusaki	2	You Can Be Happy
12	Komoriya Shuri	F	Hyogoken Harima	2	How to Close the Gap Between the Rich and Poor
13	Trisha Jane	F	Kotogaoka	2	Beauty
14	Matsumoto Misaki	F	Shikama	2	A Warm Bowl of Rice
15	Takami Noa	F	Sayo	2	Just Dance
16	Tanigawa Runa	F	Himeji Technical	2	The Importance of a Dream
17	Chakilli Karen	F	Taishi	1	Shall We Dance?
18	Uenishi Manaka	F	Himeji Minami	2	Across the Rainbow Bridge
19	Nagasaka Mari	F	Tatsuno	2	A Step Forward
20	Inoue Taichi	M	Aioi	2	Why Me?
21	Tamura Nachika	F	Aboshi	2	The Relationship Between Words and Emotions
22	Hamada Rei	F	Kenmei	2	Are You a Good Pet Owner?

*The speech order will be decided in a lottery just before the contest.

THE ETWH GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

At Himeji Commercial Senior High School

On October 25th, Thursday

The English Teachers' Association of Western Harima (ETWH) will hold a General Assembly 2018 at Himeji Commercial High School on October 25th. With two English demonstration lessons by the teachers at the school, in the afternoon Professor Ken Tamai at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies will give us a **lecture and workshop on "Super Active Grammar Teaching."** We believe that all the attendants will have a lot of eye-popping and eye-opening experiences to acquire new insights and perspectives on teaching and learning English.

Professor Tamai used to be a teacher of English of Kobe Municipal Senior High Schools (mainly at Fukiai Senior High School), and he is one of the founding fathers of the present Hyogo Prefectural Senior High School English Speech Contest, which was created in 1986. Many people clearly remember his historic and epoch-making demonstration lesson of English debating at the *Chu-Ko-Dai* Meeting on November 27th, 1986 by the Fukiai students under the resolution that atomic power plants should be abolished. Since he was young, he has always been a pioneer in promoting active English learning/teaching.

Here is a message from Professor Tamai to all the English teachers in Nishi-Harima:

"Super active grammar teaching: What happens if teachers let students find and create rules and use them in writing?"

"What a gloomy idea it is to teach grammar in English. Isn't it a waste of time?" "How could I explain modifiers and relative pronoun in the way students would understand?" Voiceless sighs of Japanese English teachers are heard from corners of classrooms in Japan. Here is one answer. If you are to EXPLAIN, it would be an awful pain (for students in particular), but what if we change the way to approach grammar? Explanation is not the only way of teaching grammar. There are other doors, of course. The door I open today may be called 'teaching grammar in context.' Instead of understanding and remembering stacks of rules, we jump into the fresh water of text with students and observe how rules are swimming in the water called context. Rules may emerge or come closer from them. See what kind of rules you will find.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

Date: **October 25th, 2018**

Place: **Himeji Commercial Senior High School**

Schedule: Registration	9:50 ~ 10:10
Opening Remarks	10:10 ~ 10:25
Demonstration Lessons	10:35 ~ 11:25
General Assembly & Symposium	11:35 ~ 12:25
Lunch Time	12:25 ~ 13:25
Lecture by Prof. Tamai	13:30 ~ 15:00
Closing Remarks	15:00 ~ 15:10

