



Changing Times

Hello! This is the first Keika Chronicle article in five months. It was very hard to think of a topic because there is so much unrest all over the world right now. It feels disrespectful not to acknowledge the **Coronavirus pandemic, global protests for human rights**, and recent **natural disasters**. So, I will discuss the ways I am proud of the Keika Girls` School students for acting with such grace, energy, and goodwill during this time. It may be the stormy season now, but the sun will shine down on us again soon enough. Have hope!

Good Points about Keika Girls

Global Citizens

Recently, the junior high school trip to **Malaysia** and **Singapore** and the high school exchange trip to **Australia** have been canceled. This is sad but understandable. The health and safety of ourselves and others must be our top priority. However, that does not mean that such news is not a disappointment to the students who had been excited for their chance to travel abroad.



Unhappy news has not stopped the students for long though. I have been very impressed with how much energy and excitement the girls continue to put into English class. I was worried that they might lose motivation in such troubled times, but I think that some now have more reason than ever to study. I heard two junior high girls proudly calling themselves "**global citizens**" in the teachers` room. That is very true! The huge events of this year have changed the entire world and it has become clearer than ever that we are all connected. The youth, especially, have the opportunity and duty to use their words for good.

**The
July
2020
Issue**

**What is in
this issue:**

**Good
Points
about
Keika Girls**

**June`s
Goodbye**



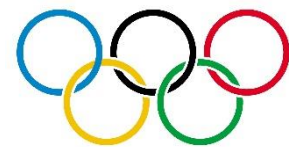
In this theme, Keika Girls` School will enter two English essay contests for the first time this summer. The topics are "**The Book That Opened My Mind**" and "**What I Am Passionate About.**" Hopefully, these contests will give the high school students a good chance to express themselves in English. I look forward to helping and hearing from them!



I have also heard of many girls making masks for themselves and their families` while at home during the **State of Emergency** in Tokyo. I think it is amazing that they have the skills to sew and use them to help others. All their masks have cute designs too!

I have seen the girls making sure to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer because we do not have to "**stay home**" or do **virtual learning** anymore. I think they are taking the responsibility of "**social distancing**" seriously, even though it is hard to be far from friends. It has been good to hear the girls using these English buzzwords in the hallways.

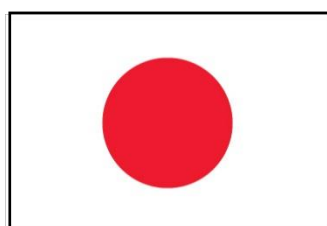
I know that everyone is excited that club activities are slowly starting again. I have missed seeing and hearing the marching band practice outside. It will be nice to play word games in **English Club** again soon too. It is good to practice sports and cultural activities because they are an important part of life. We must create a **new normal** now.



Summertime in Japan and the Future

It might even be a good time to delve deeper into Japanese history and traditions while the rest of the world is off-limits. I know that I want to explore, study, and understand **Japan** better. I think this time is a wonderful chance for the students to learn how to express their culture in English. It is easier to understand others when you can confidently share who you are with the world. Hopefully the global community can come together to remember and mourn this crazy year at the **Tokyo Olympics** someday.

I wish you all the best of luck on your exams! I hope you will have a safe and happy summer vacation. Please enjoy the sun, the sea, and other people`s company... within reason!



XOXO,
Sheila

June's Goodbye

♡ Thank You For The Memories ♡

As the saying goes, time flies... It is hard to believe that my JET journey has come to an end, and so has my time at Keika Girls' School.



2020 has been a really strange year. So much has happened, affecting the lives of so many. I am proud of you girls for hanging on, staying strong, and standing tall during this difficult time. Please continue to take care of yourselves, stay healthy, and smile through it all. :)

After being stranded in Singapore for the past few months, unable to re-enter Japan and return to work, I am just so thankful that I am able to make it back to Keika Girls' School for the last time to say a proper goodbye, and to finish what I have started with. Just like the Chinese saying, **有始有终 (an end to a start)**, to see something you started with through to the end.



I came on board JET because I have always been interested in and curious about Japan's education system, and of course, living in Japan. The experience did not disappoint. What a fun-filled year it has been with you girls, and the staff members at Keika Girls' School! I have met so many amazing human beings the past year, and made so many new friends. My heart is so full! ♡

Thank you girls for welcoming me into this school, this community, and this big family. I will always remember your bright smiles, your contagious laughter, and your "元気" energy. I really appreciate them a lot! They are some of the many reasons why I enjoy teaching.



Last but not least, I want to thank Sheila for being the teammate that she is, and I want to thank the Principal, the Vice Principal, and all the teachers for their guidance and assistance the past year.

天下无不散之筵席 (all things come to an end), sadly it is time to say goodbye.

Thank you for the past year, and thank you for the wonderful memories!

いつもありがとうございました！

さようなら！

With love and best wishes,
June



Women of Wisdom!

Never Die!



Keika Keika Keika!