



## Girls' Day!



## 雛祭り!

#You'reADoll

#Let'sGoGirls

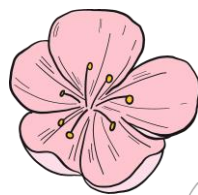
The  
March  
2022  
Issue

What is in  
this issue:

Girls' Day

International  
Women's Day

Crystal's  
Goodbye



**Who?** Japanese families with girls enjoy the day.

**What?** *Hina-Matsuri* means 'Doll Festival' but is called **Girls' Day** too. It is a day to celebrate girls' **growth** and **wish** for their **happiness**. Sometimes, the dolls also bring **hope** for a happy **marriage** and are used at weddings.

**Where?** Japan and **communities** with Japanese roots around the world. In Hawaii, Crystal says kids celebrate in school.

**When?** March 3<sup>rd</sup> every year. (May 5<sup>th</sup> every year is **Children's Day**, 子供の日. It is for all children and families now, but it was Boys' Day before. The symbol is koi fish **flags**.)

**Why?** Girls' Day is also the **Peach Festival** (桃の節句, *Momo-no-Sekku*), one of the five **seasonal** festivals from **ancient** China. That's why the symbol of *Hina-Matsuri* is **peach blossoms**. Now, Girls' Day has Japanese **Shinto** traditions too. Did you know that the symbol of Keika Girls' School is **plum blossoms**? **Cherry blossoms** or *sakura* are beautiful too. They all look like spring!

**How?** Families set up **platforms** with red carpets to display **ornamental dolls** (雛人形, *hina-ningyō*). The smallest set is only the Emperor and the Empress. A full set has the **Emperor**, **Empress**, **3 court ladies**, **7 court musicians**, and **5 guards**. All the dolls wear the traditional **court dress** of the **Heian period** (794-1185).

Empress Kōjun & daughters at 1940 festival

Sheila at a tea party at a kindergarten in rural Iwate in 2018

Erin made paper crafts with her class in Australia in 2019

Sheila, Erin, & Crystal had a picnic with special food in 2021

In 2022 Sheila sent this to the little girl in her old host family in Tokyo





## International Women's Day!

### Who?

People all over the world can join, especially women! The day is supported by the **United Nations (U.N.)**, many famous businesses like **Google**, and local **social justice** groups.



### What?



It is a day to celebrate the **social, economic, cultural, and political** achievements of women. It is also asking people to **DO** things to change the world. For example, making posters, joining parades, and studying famous women. We can also talk to people who make **laws**, give money and food to **women's shelters**, or **support** women's **health** programs.

### Where?

International Women's Day (**IWD**) has no ONE country, group, or **organization**. All people can celebrate everywhere!



### When?



It is March 8th every year. The first IWD was in 1911 with more than 1 **million** people meeting. It became a **global** holiday in 1977 because of the U.N.

### Why?

Women still have many problems in **society** just because they are women. For example, the **gender pay gap**. This is when women and other genders get less money than men for the same job. Women are very **likely** to experience **domestic violence**- violence at home. In some countries, women still cannot go to school, drive a car, or make their own money. Some women cannot take a break from work to have a baby.



### How?

Every year the U.N. chooses a new theme for the day. For example, 2020 was 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights.' 2021 was "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world." The **hashtag** was **#ChooseToChallenge**. 2022 is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow." The focus is on **climate change** and women who are helping the **environment**. This year's hashtag is **#BreaktheBias**.



## IWD 2022 Campaign: Break the Bias!

- ✧ **Let's make a world with equal genders!** Gender is a set of **behaviors, habits, and health** that is usually matched with girls/women, boys/men, or others. For example, I am a woman. I love **pink**, often go shopping for fashion, and can have a baby. HOWEVER, these things do not always **match** girls or women. Some people do not fit into these groups. For example, sometimes, someone may 'look like' a girl but **FEEL** like a boy or something **in-between**. Even if we are different, we are **equal!** Men, boys, women, girls, and anyone else with a different gender is **worth** the same.
- ✧ **Let's show that every person is different & beautiful.** Together we can do this!
- ✧ **Let's make a world with NO bias, NO stereotypes, and NO discrimination!** 
  - **Bias** is thinking that some people or ideas are better than others. Then, being **unfair** to those people because of that. For example, many people have a bias against women in sports. They think that women are always bad at sports and men are always stronger. So, they might only support men's sports teams. Or, some people think that women should cook and clean at home. So, they might only ask women to make tea or clean at the office too.
  - **Stereotypes** are the **belief** that all things in a group are the same. For example, a bad stereotype is that ALL women want to have children. Another is that women are too **moody** to make good **choices**. Or that women are not smart enough to be **leaders**.
  - **Discrimination** is a **system** of treating one group differently than another group in an unfair way. For example, in 2019 in Japan there was the **#KuToo movement** by actress and writer Yumi Ishikawa (石川 優美). It mixed the Hollywood **#MeToo movement**, shoes (*kutsu*, 靴), and **pain** (*kutsū*, 苦痛). It said there was a problem in many **workplaces** in Japan because of rules that women **MUST** wear high-heeled shoes. This was discrimination because men could wear **flat** shoes. **High heels** do not help women do their jobs. Actually, high shoes are more expensive and more painful to wear. So, that is a system of treating women differently in an unfair way.
- ✧ **Each person can change their thoughts and actions every day!** Even if people don't understand that they have a bias against women, they still make life harder for women. Just knowing about bias is not enough, we need **actions**. What can you do?
- ✧ **We can break the bias in our communities, at our jobs, and at our schools!**
- ✧ **Will YOU help break the bias?** → **If YES, then do the #BreakTheBias move!**

Miss Crystal,  
Miss Erin, Miss  
Sheila, & Miss  
Pepper?!  
#IWD2022  
#BreakTheBias



XOXO,  
Sheila  
& Erin





## Crystal's Goodbye



THANK YOU!

#GoAllGirlSchools

### The Value of Girls' Education

Girls' **education** is important for many reasons. First, educated women usually have more **independence** and money. Second, **studies** show that countries with educated women usually have better health. Third, educated women can bring gender equality to their countries. Often, women are put in **supporting roles** in society. However, I want to live in a world where women break **free** from stereotypes that stop them. Therefore, I believe that girls' education is important because teaching girls how to reach their **goals** and become **global citizens** helps everyone.

#KeikaGirlPower

### What Keika Girls' School Taught Me

Keika was the first **all-girls' school** that I **taught** at, and I will miss it. It has made me **realize** how much more fun and interesting an all-girls' school can be. In my six years of teaching here, I've enjoyed watching our girls grow into **future** leaders and members of society. Here in Keika, girls are **allowed** to be in all **positions** of leadership. They will grow into women who understand that they can do anything they put their **minds** to. Seeing all of my students work towards their **dreams** and future makes me believe that anything is **possible**.



#NeverDie

XOXO,  
Crystal