

The  
April  
2022  
Issue

What is in  
this issue:

Easter

#Cranes  
For  
Ukraine

Earth Day

SDGs & GBR



## Easter Sunday

### A Beautiful Springtime

Easter is a happy **Christian** holiday about new life. It celebrates the **death** and **resurrection** of **Jesus Christ**. Resurrection means that a person dies but then comes back to **life**! However, for many people who are NOT **religious**, Easter is a bright, spring **festival**. Easter's date changes every year, but it is always a Sunday in March/April in the '**West**' and April/May in the '**East**.' This year in the Western Christian Churches, Easter Sunday is April 17, 2022. For example, in countries like Italy, Ireland, Mexico, Brazil, the Philippines, and the U.S.A. In the Eastern **Orthodox** Churches, it is April 24, 2022. For example, in countries like Greece, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Russia, and Ukraine.

Easter has many colorful **symbols**. Some symbols are religious, and some are **secular** (not religious). The colors are **pastel**, which means light and bright. Easter lilies, daffodils, tulips, hyacinth, daisies, and cherry blossoms are all **cheerful** & popular spring flowers. **Chicks** (baby chickens) and other baby animals are symbols of new life. The **Easter Bunny** is the most famous **holiday** animal. He comes the night before Easter and brings candy **baskets** for children on Easter morning. Jellybeans, peeps, chocolate bunnies, and chocolate eggs are classic **candies**. Easter is one of the biggest candy holidays in the U.S.A. with **Halloween** and **Valentine's Day**.



There are many fun Easter events! Disney Parks and Universal Studios do Easter **Parades**. In New York City, there is the NYC Easter Parade & Easter Bonnet Festival. A **bonnet** is an old-style, **fancy** hat. I am from around Washington D.C., the **capital** of the U.S.A. So, when I was five years old, I went to the Easter Egg Roll at the **White House**. My family still has the special **wood** egg from the year 2000.

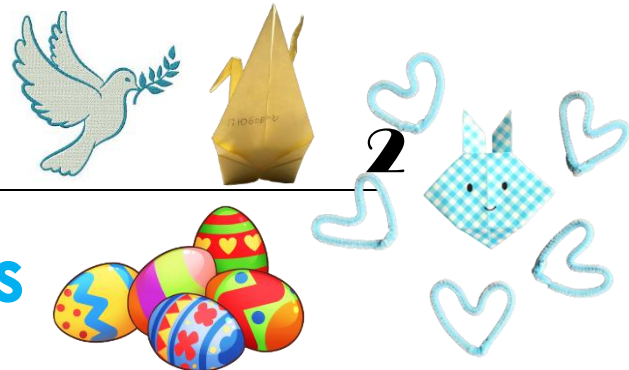
Sheila & Sisters' Easter Card. **Who is Sheila?**

Easter Parade  
(1948)



White House Easter  
Egg Roll April 19, 1965





## Easter Eggs



Did you know that we **dye** and **decorate** hard-boiled eggs for Easter? I used to do it every year with my family. Then we had **battles** to see which eggs would **crack** first. We also had Easter Egg Hunts in our backyard for our **neighborhood**. This is when children **hunt** for **hidden** chocolate or plastic eggs with candy inside.



### Ukrainian Easter Eggs ('Pysanky')



Did you know that **Ukrainian** Easter Eggs are especially famous? I wanted to write about them even before the **war** between Russia and Ukraine this February. Now, I think it is even more **important**. The eggs have **traditional** folk designs that are very beautiful. They often have plants, animals, or religious symbols. The patterns are so colorful! Easter is a time of **joy** and new life. However, in **Ukraine**, people are **fighting**, **leaving** the country, and **dying**. It is a **heartbreaking** situation. The people of Ukraine are being so **strong** and **brave** right now. Let's be strong and brave to show our **support** too.

### Keika Girls & #CranesForUkraine

Erin & I wanted to do something to help Ukraine. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 中2 **inspired** us during their test when they told us how to make simple *origami* in English. Japanese **paper cranes** have been an **international** symbol of **peace** since **World War II**. The young girl Sadako Sasaki from Hiroshima was famous for folding 1,000 paper cranes (*senbazuru*) as a **wish** to live. She was about the same age as our students... and many of the children **hurting** now in Ukraine. So, we decided to make **#CranesForUkraine**. The main idea is to **fold** cranes in blue and yellow to match the Ukrainian **flag**. Then, **post** pictures online with **#CranesForUkraine** to spread **awareness**. We have also **donated** money to famous **charities**: the Red Cross, UNICEF, Save the Children, and more. As an **American** in Japan, I think that I have a special **responsibility**. Now that **President Putin** talked about **nuclear weapons** against Ukraine, I think Japan and the U.S.A. should work together to stop this. We can't forget our history of war and **reconciliation**.



### The Embassy of Ukraine in Japan



When we told you all about our project, you girls understood! You wrote many kind messages of support to Ukraine, mostly in English. Girls also made many cranes with their families too. Some had friends in Ukraine through the Internet and were worried about them. Many girls asked us about mailing the cranes. Soon, we hope to deliver the 1,000 cranes and messages to the **Ukrainian Embassy** in Tokyo. The principal wrote a special letter to the embassy for us too. We will also put our **extra** cranes and message board in the glass display case in front of our school to show support.

Sometimes, you can see **doves** for Easter, the white birds of **peace**.

Let's look for cranes this Easter too & pray for peace together.



XOXO,  
Sheila







## ウクライナに平和を



去る2月24日、ロシアはウクライナへの侵攻を開始し、今もなお紛争は続いております。子どもたちを含む多くの犠牲者が出ており、その報道に私たちは胸が締め付けられる思いでいます。

戦争からは悲劇しか生まれません。

一刻も早く、ウクライナに平和が訪れるように、これ以上の犠牲者が出ないように、私たちは平和への願いをこめた折り鶴を贈ります。

ウクライナに平和を！ 世界に平和を！



2022 年 3月

京華女子中学・高等学校

校長 塩谷 耕



## Earth Day

Earth Day is on April 22<sup>nd</sup> every year. It is all about helping the **environment**. The first Earth Day was in 1970 in America. Students all around the country organised **protests** against problems like **pollution** and **loss** of **wildlife**. In 1990, Earth Day became a **global** event, with 141 countries **participating**. Now, it is **supported** by the United Nations. There are 193 countries in the UN, and they all **celebrate** Earth Day. Wow!

There are lots of ways to help on Earth Day. Some people work as a group to clean up beaches or parks. Some people plant trees or make new **gardens**. Schools often have special **lessons** about the environment. Even small things can help. For example, if you always forget to use an **eco-bag**, a day like Earth Day can be a good **reminder** to put one in your handbag or schoolbag- so you'll always have it when you need it.

While it is good to have a special day for the Earth, we don't need to wait until then to do something! We can be **environmentally friendly** in our daily lives too.



## Sustainable Development Goals

Do you know this **symbol**? I have noticed it on construction near school, banners in Ikebukuro, on my phone, and on a pin our **principal** sometimes wears. How about you? It is the symbol for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

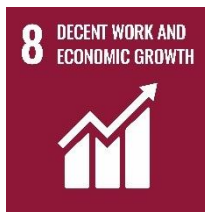


SDGs were made by the UN in 2015. They want to **achieve** all of them by 2030. They **focus** on important problems like the environment, **poverty**, animals, **education**, **climate change**, and more.

There are 17 **goals**, and 169 **targets**. The goals are very big, like fighting climate change. The targets are smaller, like making safe buildings in places where climate change **often** causes **natural disasters**. By taking many small steps to reach targets, we can **eventually** take big enough steps to achieve the goals.

Keika is also helping by teaching students about SDGs. Here is what one student thinks about how they can help us be **global citizens**:

*"I think [being a global citizen] means that we must respect other people's culture and should think globally to solve problems that affect us all. For example, the key principle of SDG's is to 'leave no one behind.' Let's reach out to children far and near to achieve those goals."*





## The Great Barrier Reef in trouble!

### What is the Great Barrier Reef?

The **Great Barrier Reef** is the largest **coral reef** on Earth. It is so big, you can see it from **space**! It is in Queensland, Australia. Since we are reading about helping the environment, I would like to tell you about it.

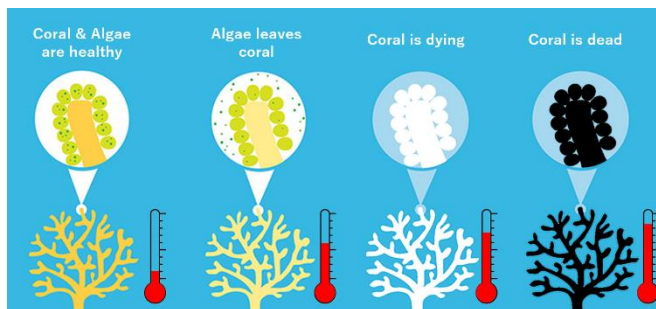
The Great Barrier Reef is **famous** for its **colourful** coral reefs & its many animals. About 1,500 types of fish & **sea animals** live there! It is also a very popular **tourist destination**. Many people visit to **snorkel**, and swim with animals like **dolphins** and **sea turtles**. You may have seen the Great Barrier Reef before in the Disney movie 'Finding Nemo'!

### What is wrong with the Great Barrier Reef?

Coral reefs are **normally** very colourful, but a lot of the **coral** in the Great Barrier Reef is turning white or black. Let me explain why. You might be surprised to learn that coral is not a plant, but an animal! They live together with **tiny** animals called **algae**. Coral & Algae help each other.

The large coral **protects** the small algae. The algae gives the coral its bright colour. The animals also make food for each other.

But now, **climate change** is making the Earth **hotter**. Algae do not like hot **temperatures**, so when the water in the reef gets too hot- they leave. When the algae leaves, the coral turns white. If the algae doesn't come back, it will **eventually** turn black & die.



### How can we help?

The **main problem** is that climate change makes the water too hot for coral to **survive**. **Luckily**, there are many things we can do to stop climate change. Just like the things we can do for Earth Day! Some examples are using less plastic, taking **public transportation** when you can, and turning off things like TVs & air-conditioners when you are not using them.

XOXO,  
Erin

