

Sister Schools

The
May
2022
Issue

What is
in this
issue:

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Art by Moonlilith91
on DeviantArt.com

Erin's big brother & university
exchange student

Do you have a **sister**? Older, younger, or the same age? What is a sister? I think a sister is a girl who you love, **support**, and try to understand. What is **sisterhood**? I think sisterhood is a **special** type of **connection** between girls and women. A **unique** history together and understanding of each other's **hearts**. So then, sister schools are schools that **build** that **bond** between their students together. How beautiful! Do you agree?



Keika Girls' Junior & Senior High School &
St. Mary's Star of the Sea College



Keika Girls' Junior & Senior High School is an **all-girls** school in Tokyo, Japan. It has a brother school and a **co-ed** sibling school too. All are by the cute Keika-dori, Keika Street! **St. Mary's** is a Year 7-12 **Catholic** Girls' School in Wollongong, New South Wales (NSW), Australia. The school is right by the beach with a beautiful, white **lighthouse**. St. Mary's girls sometimes stop by Keika on a **school trip** to Tokyo. Also, Keika High School girls have been visiting St. Mary's on exchange since 2014. However, because of Covid-19, no **international exchange** has happened since 2019. Maybe one day soon!



Raffles Girls' School

We miss you,
Miss June! <3



Keika Junior High School girls visit **Singapore** & Malaysia on their school trip. Did you know that our old **ALT** (Assistant Language Teacher) Miss June went to a famous all-girls school in Singapore? **Raffles Girls' School**! She was a big **supporter** of girls' **education** too! Maybe one day our students can visit her old school?



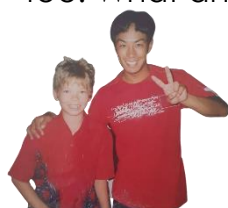
Miami State High School

Yokosuka Gakuin Junior & Senior High School



&

Erin went to **Miami State High School** in Queensland, Australia. Remember that high school in Australia is 6 years because there is no junior high school. She even **returned** there as a teacher! Miami is a bright school right by the beach. They have many special things like **surfing** in P.E. **Yokosuka Gakuin** is an elementary, junior, and senior high school in Yokosuka, Kanagawa, Japan. It is right near the **U.S. Military Base**. It is a **Christian** school with boys and girls. They have an exchange program with Miami. Erin **volunteered** as a '**buddy**' for Yokosuka students visiting Miami, then went to Yokosuka Gakuin during her school's Japan trip. In fact, Erin's family **hosted** about 10 Japanese **university** students too! What an amazing Australian **host family**!



Look, Erin on
her school sign
with a girl from
Yokosuka
Gakuin!



The Keika Chronicle



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School Legends of Love

Do you know the old, classic manga and anime called **Marmalade Boy** 『ママレード・ボーイ』? There is an **episode** called 'Legend of the **Medallion**.' I love this story! It is about special school jewelry that represents love. Family, friend, AND romantic love! And it helps people **find** each other again, even after many years or from different countries. It **reminds** me of my own special school **jewelry**! <3



Network of Sacred Heart Schools

Sacred Heart Sisterhood

Keika Girls' School Network

My high school is called Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart. It is right outside Washington D.C. It is an elementary, junior, and senior high school, but I only went there for high school. It is a **private**, Catholic, all-girls school.

The **Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** is a special Catholic group. It is from France in 1800. It was started by a woman, St. Madeliene Sophie Barat, so it's special **focus** is on girls' **education**. Before it was **normal** for girls to go to school, women were making Sacred Heart schools. Now, there are 150+ schools in 41 countries all over the world! This is the Network of Sacred Heart Schools. The **network** has its own exchange program too. In 'Culture Club,' I started a Sacred Heart **Pen Pal Program** with my co-leader. We emailed the schools in Dublin, Ireland... and Tokyo! Last year, I **suddenly** found the Sacred Heart **International School** here! I was so happy and surprised.

Washington D.C. has famous **sakura** from Tokyo, but my high school has cherry blossoms from the old **Empress of Japan**. Empress **Emerita** Michiko went to Sacred Heart University in Tokyo, so she gave my high school beautiful **sakura** trees as a present. My school also hosts Saturday classes for the Washington Japanese **Language School**. When I worked in **Morioka City**, a man at one school brought in a Stone Ridge **yearbook** to show me! His family had lived in D.C. for a few years and his children had gone to the school on Saturdays. It must be **fate**!

Most women in my family are Sacred Heart **educated**. Nine of us went to five Sacred Heart schools in the U.S.A. It is very important to us, even if it was hard because it is so **expensive**. I am **thankful** that I received a lot of **scholarships**. **Community service** is a very important part of Sacred Heart, so I am trying my best to '**give back**' now. Hopefully, I can help you girls like other women have helped me!

A big **milestone** for a Sacred Heart girl is Ring Day. It is every May around prom and graduation. Each **junior** asks a **senior** girl to be her Ring Sister. A ring sister gives you your special **class ring**. It has the Sacred Heart symbol on it and your name & graduation year on the inside. Then, the next year those girls become senior Ring Sisters to pass along the **tradition**. We say that you can show your Sacred Heart jewelry at any Sacred Heart school in the world, and they will **welcome** you as family. I think it is **true**! I think that the rings might be magic. My mother once lost her class ring down the **sink** as she was doing the dishes. She was **heartbroken**! But then 15 years later, she got a phone call. The new people in her old house were fixing the **pipes** and found her ring! She got it back!



Keika emblem pin

Wear your Keika Girls' School pins with pride!
You have so many sisters out there supporting you!



Sheila's class ring

XOXO,
Sheila

The Keika Chronicle

Stories from the Zoo

Have you ever heard of the Saitama Children's Zoo? It is near Takasaka Station. Sheila, Crystal, and I have been there two times. We **visited** last Autumn; and saw the beautiful red leaves, and the capybara relaxing in their *mikan* bath. Then, we visited again in April this year. It was interesting seeing things in a different season!

The zoo is very big, so we also got some good **exercise** both times we visited! It feels like you are walking through **nature**, with lots of big trees. Also, I was happy because the tickets were only ¥700 for adults! In Australia, zoo tickets are around \$40 - \$50, so it was a **bargain** to me.



Sister States



You have read about sister schools- but what about **sister states**? In 1984, Queensland, Australia became sister states with Saitama, Japan. Saitama is a **prefecture**- which is a little different to a **state**. But to keep it simple, we just call it a sister state.

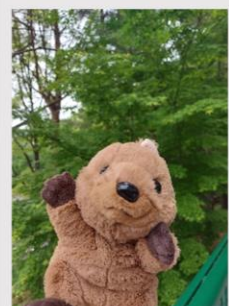


In 2014, to celebrate the 30th **anniversary** of the sister-state **relationship**, Queensland sent a present of 3 koalas to Saitama Children's Zoo. They came from a theme park & Zoo called 'Dreamworld'. This theme park is from my **hometown**, and I have been there many times! It was so interesting to see something so **familiar**, so far away from home.



The 3 koalas' names were Beau (male), Dolly (female), and Jimbelung (female). The zoo has been taking good care of them! They built a big **greenhouse** to grow their food. This is because koalas only eat one type of food- leaves from **eucalyptus** trees. Also, some very cute babies have been **born**! When we went, we saw 5 adult koalas, and 1 baby koala.

Sadly, koalas are **endangered** animals. The biggest **threat** to wild koalas in Australia is loss of **habitat**. A lot of the forests they live in have been cut down to make room for roads and buildings. Or, they have been burnt down by wild **bushfires**. Now people are trying to plant trees, and make new places for koalas to live. Saitama Children's Zoo is helping with its Koala **foundation**. If you visit, maybe you can **donate** a little!



The only Quokkas outside Australia!

Have you seen this animal before? It is called a **Quokka**, and it is a small member of the kangaroo family. They are always smiling, and are famous for being the **friendliest**, and **happiest** animals in the world. In the wild they live on Rottnest Island. Here they have no natural **predators**, so they live very safely, and aren't afraid of humans. Kind of like cats on Aoshima, or deers on Miyajima.



Rottnest is a small island off the **coast** of Western Australia. I live on the East coast of Australia- so if I wanted to see **wild** Quokkas, I would need to **travel** very far! There is only ONE zoo outside of Australia that has quokkas. **Lucky** for me, it is Saitama Children's Zoo!

In 2020, Featherdale Wildlife Park (a zoo in Sydney) gave Saitama a present of 4 quokkas. Since then, there have been 5 new quokkas born! The newest baby was born in March this year. They all live in Quokka Island- a small **enclosure** inside the Kangaroo area.



Since the Quokkas at Saitama Children's Zoo are new to Japan, they are only on **display** for a few hours a day. The first time we visited the zoo, we read their **timetable** wrong, and were too late to see them! We even bought quokka hand **puppets**, but we could not meet the real animals!

That is why we had to go a 2nd time! When we visited again we were **extra** careful and saw the Quokkas first. They were so cute! They were very **active** when we went. They ran and hopped around their enclosure, and we were surprised by how fast they could be!

Our other favourites at the zoo!

All of the animals are very cute, but some of our favourites were the **Humboldt penguins**, the very slow **sloth**, and the very fast **lemurs**! We watched the penguins at **feeding** time. It was funny watching them **waddle** as fast as they could to the zookeepers. We also rode the tour bus around the zoo. It is a bus, but it is shaped like a train! It was interesting listening to the **tour guide** tell us all about the zoo.



XOXO,
Erin

