

A Graduation Reflection

By: A Keika Kou 3



"I love Keika."

School life is filled with countless memories, happy times, difficult times, and deep friendships.

The
February
2026
Issue

What is in
this issue:

The End of
the
Beginning:

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Challenge
All-Stars



First, the thing I remember most is the **daily** walk to school. Every morning, the **rhythm** of my steps mixed with my excitement for the day ahead. I often met my friends on the street, and as we walked, talking about yesterday's homework, weekend plans, or funny videos we found on social media, the sleepy morning mood immediately felt brighter. These casual **chats** were the signal for the start of our day.

When we arrived at school and walked into the classroom, we saw even more friends, and the chorus of morning greetings and laughter filled the room right away. Classes that needed a lot of focus or covered difficult subjects sometimes felt like they lasted forever. But the classes that had exciting **discussions**, or where we shared **excitement** about a favorite topic, flew by so fast we forgot to watch the clock. Even for tasks we didn't really want to do, like preparing a difficult presentation or **tackling** a tough math problem, the **teamwork** and **encouragement** from friends made it possible to do our best. The **reassurance** of being together turned difficult homework into a "group mission."

We also had a lot of **laughs** with our teachers. Of course, we were always **respectful**, but moments when a teacher told a funny story, made a joke, or showed how much they truly loved their subject created a real, human connection. Break time, even though it was short, was always a flurry of fun and **laughter**. We made the most of those important ten minutes. This was the time for happy exchanges: sharing snacks we brought secretly, hurriedly lending and borrowing notebooks for last-minute studying, getting super excited about a topic the teacher had just mentioned, or just bursting into laughter about something we couldn't even explain later. The simple fun of being young and understanding each other often fueled these **lighthearted** moments. Even the memory of rushing and running because I was always running late for the next class is an important and now kind of funny **memory**.

Besides the daily routines, the school year was broken up by big events like sports festivals, culture festivals, and school trips, which brought huge joy and excitement to our lives. The preparation for these was definitely hard. Practice for the sports day relay race was **exhausting**, and staying up late to prepare for the culture festival was tiring. Of course, sometimes we **argued** with friends over how to do things or **creative** ideas. But the amazing feeling when our performance went perfectly during the main event, or when the audience cheered for our team, was the best reward for all the hard work. Taking tons of pictures to capture every moment and staying up late to prepare together are all precious memories that taught us the importance of teamwork.

After school was another important time. Once the official school day ended, we felt a sense of **freedom**. Some days, we stayed on the school grounds and talked slowly about our future **dreams** and **hopes**, painting a clear picture of where we wanted to be in five or ten years. Other days, we needed to **complain** about a hard test, something we felt was **unfair**, or a **strict** teacher. And, of course, we always had to share the funny and strange things that happened that day. This after school time was crucial for **processing** the day and **strengthening** our friendships.



Of course, school life wasn't always fun and games. The pressure of **expectations**, especially for tests, often casts a **shadow**. There were days marked by small **heartbreaks**, little fights with a friend, the **disappointment** of a bad grade, or just days when everything seemed to go wrong, leaving me sad and **overwhelmed**. But now I realize that these hard times helped me grow just as much as the fun ones. Because I faced these challenges, I learned the power to keep going even after a setback, the deep importance of **relying** on someone else for help, and the key skill of facing and accepting my own feelings and **limits**. I think having the full range of emotions, the fun and the pain is what makes the memory of my everyday school life so rich and complete.

The school I went to was special because I got to **experience** both the old school building and the new school building.

The old school building had a warm, slightly dim charm that made me feel **nostalgic**. I remember the old wooden floor, the **unique** smell, and how the light came through the windows. Even the problems, like a leaky roof or old equipment, became a "unique experience" that made us work together and be creative with our friends. It was fun, like having a **secret base**, and I really loved it.





However, after we moved to the new school building, school life changed completely! We had shiny, **brand-new** classrooms, science and art rooms with **modern** equipment, and big, open spaces. Especially the new library, which had areas for ⁺self-study and group discussions, became our favorite place. The bright, functional environment naturally made us want to study more. Most importantly, the days we spent with friends in the updated space gave us even more fun times, full of hope for the future, surpassing the memories of the old building. The new school building will continue to create many **brilliant** memories as the stage of our **youth**.

Looking back now, the most important things weren't the big, spectacular events, but the casual, seemingly ordinary moments of everyday life. It was a common **ritual** of having a simple chat on the way to school, eating lunch boxes side by side and exchanging snacks. And a deeper conversation in the empty classroom after school. These small, routine times have built up and become the **essential** memories that support and shape who I am today. The days I spent at school, all of them, have become my most lasting and **valuable** treasure.



I will always cherish the friends I have made at Keika.

I don't want to graduate."

-Haruka



"As the years go by,

「どんなに時が経とうとも

our friendship will **never die**.

僕らの友情は決して無くならない。

You're going to see it's our destiny.

それが僕らの運命さ。

You've got a friend in me."

僕は君の友だち。」

-“You've Got a Friend in Me”

Toy Story (1995)

「君はともだち」

「トイ・ストーリー」

Keika Chronicle Challenge ALL - STARS 2025

Thank you for 5 years of the Keika Chronicle Challenge! We slowly started the Keika Chronicle Challenge in April 2021. Now in February 2026, we have the whole school reading the newspaper every month then answering a question worksheet. From now on, we will move into an even better phase with more support per grade level through specialized worksheets.

The Keika Chronicle Challenge is a wonderful way to learn new **vocabulary**, test reading **comprehension**, see other cultures, and share your own **opinions**. We love to hear what you girls think! Hopefully, it will prepare you for the difficult essays on **university entrance exams**. ;)



Here is a list of girls who completed every Keika Chronicle Challenge worksheet AND did their very best each time. We could see that they were interested in the topics and worked hard to understand English. Thank you all for your hard work this school year! お疲れ様でした！

Junior High School English Conversation Classes:

Special 中1 Challenge

1-1

#8 KANESHIMA Yukina
 #12 KONNO Haruna
 #16 SUGIMOTO Runa
 #21 HAYASHI Fuyuka
 #26 MAEKAWA Tomomi

1-2

#11 KOMIYAMA Kurena
 #13 SASAKI Mei
 #17 SENDAI Haru
 #22 TOMINAGA Ribeka
 #23 NAKAMURA Chika

2-1

#3 IKEDA Toko
 #19 (Name Redacted)
 #22 (Name Redacted)
 #33 MATSUMOTO Rin★

2-2

#10 KAMURO Saki★
 #16 KOBAYASHI Aina
 #18 KOBAYASHI Chizuru
 #22 SHIKUYA Himari★
 #26 NEROME Aoi

3-1

#18 NAGAI Kaoruko
 #27 YAGIHASHI Yuina★

3-2

#7 KATAGIRI Sara★
 #8 KATAGIRI Yura★
 #11 KUMAGAI Moka★
 #28 YAMAZAKI Yurika★



The Keika Chronicle



Senior High School English Classes:

1A

#4 (Name Redacted)
#17 SAKURAI Haruka
#22 (Name Redacted)
#24 (Name Redacted)
#26 (Name Redacted)

1B

#5 IMAE Kaho
#10 OGAWA Uruha
#16 KOBAYASHI Usa
#17 SAKAI Kanna

1C

#1 IMAO Lian ★★
#4 (Name Redacted)
#7 KAGAWA Ayane
#21 FUKUSHIMA Tamaki ★★
#23 HOSHINO Jun ★★

2A

#5 UEDA Sakura ★★
#10 ONUHI Mai
#16 SUGINO Kaho ★
#29 FUJIMURA Karin

2B

#2 ASAI Minori
#5 ENDO Ayana
#18 SEDO Hana
#24 NISHIYAMA Ruri
#31 YAMAZAKI Neiro ★

2C

#10 OONO Miu
#19 SUZUKI Yayako
#21 SONODA Juna ★
#22 TADOKORO Meiko ★
#29 MATSUOKA Mina ★

2D

#7 ONDA Kinari
#13 SHIBAYAMA Miyu
#26 NOMURA Konatsu
#29 HIKIBA Yuka
#30 HIRAMATSU Izumi

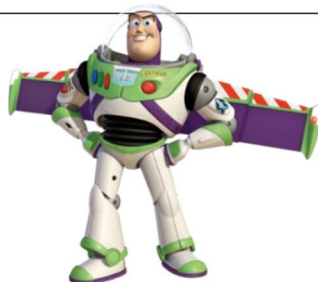


2E

#3 ISHIKAWA Nayumi
#13 KUMAGAI Miku ★★
#21 NAGAI Anna ★
#27 (Name Redacted)
#28 WATANABE Miyu

3A

#14 SUGIYAMA Yurika
#17 TAKIMOTO Yuka ★
#22 FUJISAWA Ririko ★
#23 FUJINAGA Kotone ★
#26 MIZUUCHI Runa



3B

#11 SATO Honoka
#17 TOMIZAWA An
#21 MATSUZAWA Misaki ★
#22 MARUYAMA Aoi ★★

3C

#11 SHIMIZU Funa ★
#15 TAKANO Karen
#16 TATSUKI Miyabi
#21 HATAKEYAMA Rino ★
#24 MIYAKI Hana ★



3D

#1 ARAI Miki ★
#14 SATO Mizuka ★★
#23 HIDAKA Aoi
#28 MATSUMOTO Mona ★

ありがとうございました。 来年度もよろしくお願いいたします！

XOXO,
Sheila,
Hrithika & Anna