

**The
November
2022
Issue**

**What is in
this issue:**

**Keika
School
Founder's
Day:**

**Veteran
English
Teacher
Interview**



Mr. Yosuke Ohzono

Veteran English Teacher Interview

Days that glitter in the azure sky...



1. Where are you from?

Mr. Ohzono: I was born and **bred** in Osaka. Osaka is very interesting! I **attended** Ikuno high school in Osaka and then came to Tokyo to enter **Waseda University**.

2. Please tell us about your school / student life.

In my junior high school days, my PE teacher advised me to practice shot put, discus throw and 110m hurdles though I belonged to the baseball club (**Picture 11**). And finally, it was in the 110m hurdles that I entered the Osaka Junior High School Athletics Championship in the Osaka Nagai Stadium. The result was the 4th place in Osaka. I could not reach a **medal**, sorry. When in high school, I was a member of Kendo club. (**Picture 12**) I was also a **president** of student council, facing many problems especially **school uniform** issues. I also experienced Rugby (my position is Stand off or Flyhalf). So maybe watching and playing rugby is one of my favorites. These are my sports experiences like Erin and Sheila showed us theirs in the July Issue.

3. Why did you become an English teacher?

O: I became an English teacher because an English teacher I learned from was a person I could **respect**. When I was a child, I wanted to be a professional baseball player, or a manga **artist**. Or I wanted to make **sci-fi** (science fiction/ SF) **monsters** like **Godzilla**.

4. How long have you been a teacher at Keika Girls' School?

O: I have been here for 40 years, since 1981. I **retired** in March 2022.

Did you know that I helped to start and name the Keika Chronicle in 2015?



Picture 11

Picture 12



5. What is your final advice to Keika girls?



Follow your dreams, ♥

Follow your heart.

Picture 3a

*Inscrutable are the ways
of Heaven.*



*Fortune is unpredictable
and changeable.*

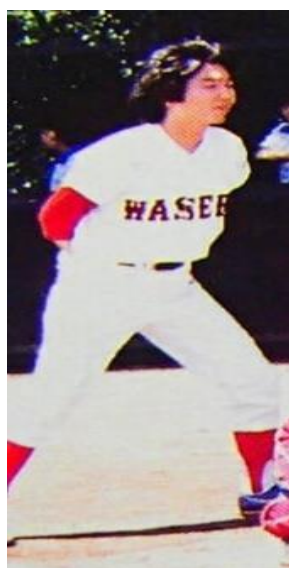


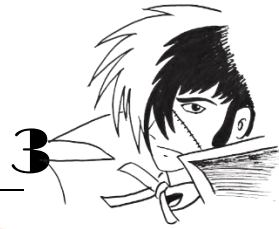
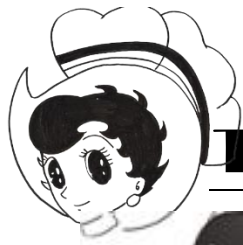
6. You have traveled to many interesting cities. Where is the best place you have been?

O: I've been to Sydney, Brisbane, Auckland, Christchurch, New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Liverpool, Munich, Cologne, Brussels, Amsterdam, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Singapore, and so on. But Osaka is one of the most interesting cities.

7. You have met many famous people. Who was the most interesting?

O: I've met Osamu Tezuka (1928-1989, born in Osaka) in Takadanobaba and I've got his **autograph**. He gave me a quick sketch of Blackjack's portrait on a page of my lecture notes! He is a **genius** and one of my favorite people. My other favorite people are John Lennon (1940-1980) of the **legendary** rock group **'The Beatles'** and Sadaharu Oh (1940-), the famous Japanese baseball player for the Yomiuri Giants and now Fukuoka Softbank Hawks Chairman of the Board. Though, I haven't met them! John Lennon was **shot** to death at 40 in 1980. At the time I was about to **graduate** university. I was so sad and everybody in the world **mourned** the **loss** of great music. Sadaharu Oh was born in the same year as John Lennon but he had a great talent **hitting** homeruns... 868 **homeruns!** This is No. 1 in the world, more than Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755), or Babe Ruth (714) in **Major League Baseball (MLB)** in the U.S.A. Though some people **complain** about the different sizes of the baseball fields.





You went to Waseda University and helped with the Japan Study Program in 1978. That was Sheila's study abroad program in 2015-2016! Please tell us about that.

O: In the middle of the 1970's, when I was a Waseda University student, I was not only a member of baseball club **organization** (*Yakyu Dokokai*) but also a member of Waseda Manga Club (*Manken*). And what's more, we **founded** a **film-making** organization. It was named *Ronin-gai*, after a famous movie in 1957. It looks like it still **exists** now, because I have seen the name on the **web** recently.

And one more, I was a helper for the exchange students from the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) and American Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) in the U.S.A. This is the group that Sheila was also a member of over 40 years later at Waseda University. What a **coincidence!**

I **guided** the **foreign exchange students** in how to take a **public bath** at the nearest *Matsunoyu*, and how to use Japanese style toilets. I also guided them so they could use **facilities** in the **orientation** place. And I **assisted** professors to teach classes, then attended teachers' meetings to make comments for better Japanese classes. And Professor Yoji Tanabe asked me to **translate** the Waseda college song into English for the students to understand the meaning. We always sang it at the end of the party.

Miss Sheila's comment: 'I am from Maryland, near Washington D.C. but I went to Kalamazoo College. The school is in Michigan so it's in the GLCA/ ACM! I was so happy and **grateful** to do the Japan Study Program. The Japanese students who helped us were part of a 'circle' called *Niji-no-Kai*. They guided us and became our friends. We went on autumn and spring **retreats** too, just like Mr. Ohzono did in his time! Amazing! Did you know that Mr. Morikawa, Mr. Hiratsuka, and Mr. Natsugari went to Waseda too?'

3b

3c

3d





See Ume no Kaori (Keika Girls School Magazine) No. 18 & No. 41 for more of Mr. Ohzono's university days!

The Keika Chronicle

4



You studied animation and helped manga authors. Please tell us about that.

1

O: This time for the Keika Chronicle, I will tell you the story behind W.U. Manga Club, Manken...

One day I happened to enter the club room at student hall (*gakusei kaikan*). I was asked to help a senior member (*senpai*) **draw** and make a manga **version** of the famous TV drama *Kinpachi Sensei* (Pictures 1,2). So, I went to his house in Nerima City to draw **frame lines**, draw **background effects**, make the **blank** part black, and so on. As is usual with manga artists, they are very **busy** when the **deadline** of the work is near. So, he was very **nervous** about it, and we had almost no breaks. We only drank lots of coffee and smoked... just drawing, drawing, and drawing... day after day. Now I don't remember which part of which **volume** of the complete set it was.

At the same time, my friend was also a member of the club. She was one of the young ones who tried to become a comic artist (*mangaka*) like Machiko Satonaka, Moto Hagio, or Riyoko Ikeda. One day, I heard that a big **magazine company** (Shueisha Inc.) agreed to **debut** her **original** story. So, she made a **romance** story and put in a main character who was **modeled** after me! Of course, I assisted her work, drawing **frame lines** or **background effects**. (Pictures 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d) She **continued** to make her stories in a famous **monthly** magazine for girls. (Picture 4) And then she got **married** after making **plenty** of works. (Picture 5) But she found that she couldn't have a baby, so she got **infertility treatment**. In the end, she **overcame** it and had a baby. She made the whole story into a book! It **sold** popularly at that time. (Picture 6) And she wrote a **couple** of books about **raising** her child. (Picture 7) She also **translated** "Alice in Wonderland" into **modern Japanese**. (Picture 8).

So now you know that Manken was a **jewel box** for **talent**, making many great members. In the 1980's after I graduated, some other of my **seniors** (*senpai*) made famous video game software... the **Dragon Quest** series!

X
O
X
O
S
h
e
i
l
a

4

5

6

7

8

