

President's Message

Werner Willoughby



Uncertain and unstable times are the norm; expect the unexpected and be ready to adapt to survive.

Congratulations to **Deanna Sun**, who was selected as the next English teacher at Kashiwa Municipal High School. On behalf of TSCA, I would like to wish her the best of luck. I know that she has a lot to offer the students and faculty at Ichikashi.

I would like to thank **Lori Chong Eurich**, chair of the English Teacher Committee, for organizing the selection process with the participation of TSCA members which included **Amie Komae**, **Stephanie Mikamo**, **Mark Roulette**, **Stephanie Warner**, and myself. It was a pleasure working with the committee, most of whom are educators who are committed to maintaining the quality of the teachers we send to the English Department at Kashiwa Municipal High School. We were very fortunate for Amie and Stephanie Mikamo's participation, as both taught for three years at Kashiwa Municipal High School. During the selection process, they shared experiences and insights with the committee and with Deanna Sun after her selection. Thanks Amie and Stephanie!

On behalf of TSCA, I would like to extend condolences to the families of **Barry Henson** and **Ellie Ozawa** on their recent passing, both of whom had extensive connections to TSCA. Barry was the husband of **Mikko Haggott**

Henson, Past President of TSCA. Ellie's son, **Mark**, was part of the first TSCA student delegation in 1974.

I am pleased to announce that TSCA was awarded \$400.00 by Northrop Grumman Corporation in recognition for the volunteerism by **Rae Ann Carr**. Thank you so much to Rae Ann for applying for this award and naming TSCA as the recipient. Northrop Grumman is very proud of their employees volunteering in their communities, as we are proud of Rae Ann's contributions to TSCA as a Board member and Editor of the newsletter.

Another thank you to Lori who will be coordinating the July TSCA meeting via Zoom, on Monday July 13. For the first time, the TSCA group will be joined by ten members from Kashiwa, which will include Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA) and their Torrance Committee members in this virtual meeting. The meeting will take place at 11:00 am Japan time (7:00 pm our time). What a wonderful opportunity to see old friends, make new ones, and discuss common concerns in real time.

Please be safe and the best of health to you and your families. ☘

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JULY 13

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
Zoom Meeting

SEPTEMBER 14

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
TBD*

Ballots mailed out for Board of Directors
Election

OCTOBER 12

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
TBD*

Ballots tallied for Board of Directors
Election

NOVEMBER 9

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
TBD*

DECEMBER 14

2021 Budget Planning Meeting (7 pm)
TBD*

*Meeting originally scheduled for City Hall West
Annex Commission Room. TBD due to corona
virus social distancing guidelines.

**Torrance Sister
City Association**

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Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com

I am **Hitoshi Watanabe**. **Hank** is my English nickname. Please call me Hank.

I lived in Torrance for three years with my family as an oversea staff member from 1991 through 1993. During my stay, I received friendly hospitality from the people in Torrance. At this time, I hope to enhance the friendship between our two cities as an adult leader.

As I couldn't speak English at that time, I had a tough time. However, I have many good memories because the people in Torrance were so kind and friendly. When my daughter was a newborn and we went shopping with a stroller, people would approach us saying "she is so cute." We were very encouraged by their smiley faces and conversations.

We were in the Los Angeles Times on January 3, 1993. The caption of the picture says, "Hitoshi Watanabe and his wife, Yuriko, eat a Japanese meal at the Little Company of Mary Hospital. Familiar food is a key part of the outreach program." The lower picture says, "Ningen dock, comprehensive physical exams, have attracted hundreds of Japanese to Little Company since 1991. The exams, which include a battery of tests, start at \$595. Dr. Joe Yoshida examines Hitoshi Watanabe." I will bring this article to Torrance for you to see.

I enjoy horseback riding every weekend. I think of it as animal therapy as well as physical exercise. This is **Carino Piccola**, an eight year old thoroughbred. She gets excited when I wash with her with cold water after riding in the summer. I heard that in Palos Verdes, there are riding trails. If I have a chance, I would like to see the trails.

I have started tennis lessons recently. Our beginners class is comprised of three young ladies and one old guy (me.) Playing tennis with young people energizes me.

When I get older and outdoor activities get difficult, I would like to do indoor activities like cooking or playing Jazz music. ☘



Local Flora and Fauna of Kashiwa, Japan

Lily Newhart

TSCA 2019 Student Delegate



As soon as we had landed and got on the bus to Kashiwa, I remember us pulling out our phones and recording the drive. We were all so eager to see what Japan was like. I'm not sure what we expected, but regardless, we were glued to the windows, staring at the big trees and overwhelming green beauty in front of us. It was such a drastic contrast from the desert landscape of southern California that I was thoroughly amazed. In each photo that I took, the background was so full of green and I loved it.

One flower that I saw everywhere was blue *Ajisai*, otherwise known as Hydrangea in English. My host families took me to multiple gardens in Kashiwa and Tokyo, and the *Ajisai* flowers were at each location I visited. Sometimes, as I walked past a park, my host families would point them out. One of the highlights of my trip was going to Kiyosumiteien Park with my first host family, where I got to see a lot of *Ajisai* flowers. Another flower

that I saw a lot was the *Himawari* or sunflower. I got to visit a large sunflower patch with my second host family. Each time I went to a new garden I got to learn so much more about the local plants, and every location was so beautiful.

A contributing reason to the difference in the scenery is the rainfall. Almost every day for the first two weeks I had my umbrella with me, and it helped only sometimes. While Torrance has an annual rainfall of 14 inches, Kashiwa is much more, at about 56 inches. It only rains in Torrance for about 30 days per year, but in Kashiwa, it is about 115 days per year. Because of this, the climate in Kashiwa is much more humid, allowing for plants and animals to thrive. Even if the heat and humidity made hiking much more extraneous, it also contributes to the beauty of the scenery.

The tall trees, beautiful flowers, and open fields never got old, even when we were driving to the airport on the last day. The beauty of Japan was such a memorable sight, and I am so grateful that I got to see it first hand. ☸



Fourth part in a series of reports
from TSCA's 2019 Student Delegation

Kashiwa News

The 2019 KIRA Student Delegates sent messages to TSCA to update us on what's new in their lives. Thank you for the news Karin, Mina, Sakura, Kana, Arata, Riho, Sei, and Gen! Please visit us in Torrance soon.



Karin Fukui

Disneyland reopened on July 1st. I was so glad to be able to go in the park again!



Mina Nomoto

Hello everyone! How are you doing? It feels like just yesterday that I went to Torrance last year! A few months ago, my new cousin was born! His smiles always heals our minds. I hope we can meet again soon.



Sakura Iida

I'm into *Ninja Meshi* now! This is my favorite gummy candy. It says "Food for Ninja." Let's eat a lot of tasty foods and stay healthy!



Kana Kishida

I did strawberry picking in my friend's house. It's the new style of strawberry picking during the days of social distancing. It was so fun! I love strawberries.



Arata Kawabe

Shakespeare says, "The miserable have no other medicine but only hope." Please live with hope and never give up.



Riho Shimaoka

I would love to see you again soon! Let's stay healthy together



Sei Sakamoto

I went to Tokyo Bay to bicycle alone on March 29th. It took me two hours to ride 30 kilometers each way.



Gen Yasuda

Last week I played soccer with my friends for the first time in a long time and after that I found some interesting clothes to buy.

ConGRADulations



Tejas Lolge, 2018 Student Delegate, graduated from West High School. He will attend UC Riverside and major in Data Science.



Andrew Kang, 2018 Student Delegate, graduated from West High School as the valedictorian. He will attend UCLA and major in Mechanical Engineering.



Lily Newhart, 2019 Student Delegate, graduated from West High School. She will attend Grand Canyon University and major in History and English for Secondary Education.



Ruchi Shetti, Student Delegate 2018, graduated from West High School. She will attend UC Riverside and major in Biochemistry.



Anna Wheeler, Student Delegate 2016, graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Anna will stay in Starkville, MS where she intends to get a job and formulate a path to graduate school in linguistics or speech pathology.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our TSCA graduates.

English Teacher News

Teacher Selection Team Appreciation

Lori Chong Eurich

Chairperson, English Teacher Selection

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the members of the English Teacher Selection Committee for all of their valuable time, insight, expertise, and immense patience on Zoom that was essential in choosing our new English teacher, **Deanna K. Sun**. She joins **Brandon Matsumoto** at Kashiwa Municipal High School (called *Ichikashi*) as soon as the government entry ban on Americans is lifted. The committee members were: **Amie Komae** and **Stephanie Mikamo** (former English teachers at Ichikashi), **Stephanie Warner** (former student delegate, former adult leader and National Board Certified teacher at Long Beach Poly High), **Mark Roulette** (Assistant Principal at Torrance High), and **Werner Willoughby** (retired chemistry teacher and fearless TSCA leader). There were four candidates (two men and two women) interviewed in May including a former student delegate.

Committee members and other TSCA members have joined me in organizing and conducting orientation sessions for Deanna on Zoom and conference calls since we are unable to meet in person.

Special thanks to: Amie Komae and Stephanie Mikamo for a three-hour session that included valuable advice on: Narita arrival, apartment, daily life, commuting, school attire, gifts, speeches, Japanese lessons, what to pack, shipping personal effects, a typical day at school, and Torrance Committee/KIRA activities.

Dōmo Arigatō to these members for the following contributions: **Hazel Taniguchi** (former eight-time TSCA president) for a discussion of TSCA's rich history and programs via a two-hour conference call, **Jen Hirashiki** (TSCA vice president and English as a second language instructor for Westcliff University) for a forthcoming in-service training, and **Brandon Matsumoto** (current English teacher at Ichikashi) who, via the LINE app, has provided endless updates, support and sound advice. Brandon has taken extra teaching assignments since a Japanese teacher of English resigned in April and **Alison Abraham** (outgoing teacher) returned to Torrance in March. Ichikashi switched to video lessons in May and resumed daily, in person classes in June.

Good luck to Alison in her future endeavors. ☘

Introduction to Deanna Sun

Stephanie Mikamo

English Teacher Selection Committee

The English Teacher Selection Committee is pleased to announce that **Deanna Sun** will be replacing **Alison Abraham** at Kashiwa Municipal High School (Ichikashi) in August. She will be joining **Brandon Matsumoto**, who is finishing his second year teaching at Ichikashi.

Deanna graduated from South High School and UC Riverside with a BA in Psychology. She also has a post-baccalaureate certification in Communicative Disorders from CSULA, where she was a graduate assistant in Phonetics. Her experience as a graduate assistant led to her interest in teaching English abroad to foreign language learners.

In 2017-2018, Deanna went to Japan to Tokiwa Elementary School in Mito for four months, where she taught English vocabulary, grammar, reading, and writing to



Deanna Sun

students from Kindergarten to 6th grade. Once she was back in the States, she wanted to return to Japan to teach English more long-term. Deanna has been preparing by teaching English to Japanese students at BYB English Center in Torrance as well as studying Japanese herself.

Deanna also enjoys dancing hula and during her time at UCR founded Oceania Dance, a Hawaiian club promoting dance, culture, and language. ☘

English Teacher Report

Online Classes*

Brandon Matsumoto



The hallways are empty. The classrooms are quiet. It's difficult to comprehend this situation we're in. I'm always glued to my phone, watching the daily updates in Japan and back home. I hope and pray that the world comes out stronger after all of this. I'm trying my best to get used to this new normal. The

prime minister of Japan, Abe Shinzo, announced at the end of February that all schools were to be closed until the end of March. Then in the beginning of April, they announced that they were to extend it until the end of Golden Week (May 6th). With the coronavirus spreading throughout the world, daily life in Japan is also changing by the day. Here at Ichikashi, we have started an online YouTube Channel so students can be updated with due dates, lessons, and practice tests. Watching teachers exploring these new methods of teaching is absolutely fascinating.



Mr. Saito, the homeroom teacher of the 2-A international class, wanted to do something for his students. He is one of the most passionate teachers I know, and he couldn't sit around for this epidemic to end. We decided to start a daily conversation video for the students to watch. Everyday, we would play out a common scenario and act it out, slowly and clearly. He would edit subtitles on the video so students can pause it, and read the Japanese translations.

We've made around 15 videos so far, and the responses from students were amazing! They were entertained by it, and looked forward to seeing the new episode the next day.



This is all new to me, and a little exciting to see what will work. If they are not engaged in what they are seeing or watching, there is no way it will stick. It's a very interesting time to be living in right now. We now have the chance to test new teaching methods, try new applications, and receive feedback about their effectiveness.

The most important thing to consider right now is everyone's emotional well being. We are all struggling to get through these tough times and everyone deals with it in a different way. Here in Japan, both the students and the teachers are stressed. We don't want to overwork these students. We hope to build a platform where students can get excited to learn again and hopefully bring a smile to their faces.

Please check out some of our videos! ☺

<https://bit.ly/3fHyiE5>, <https://bit.ly/2CDkCuN>,
<https://bit.ly/3enYkKY>

*Article written in May 2020



【2・3年 / 英語表現】 Useful English Phrases Vol. 2

Except for the Lifetime Membership*
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TSCA meetings are held on the second Monday
of each month at the Civic Center West Annex
Commission Room 7-9 pm
(No meetings in August or December)

*If you have
any questions
about your membership,
please email Alyssa Yamauchi at
tscamembership@gmail.com*

www.torrancesistercity.org



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Association**

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