

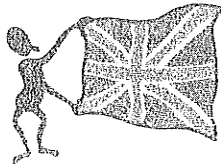
11th Labor Gakuen Newsletter - Sep 2011

INSIDE: Short Courses, Summer Vacation, Beer Garden & Book Marathon

Short Courses & Events

SHORT BRITISH ENGLISH QUIZ:

1. If a person sneezes you should say:
A: Bless you
B: God bless you
C: Gesundheit (pronounced guz-zun-tite)
2. 'Trouble and strife' is cockney Rhyming slang for:
A: A big knife
B: A hard life
C: Wife
3. After drinking, the traditional meal to eat is:
A: A kebab
B: An Indian curry
C: Fish and chips
4. England has the most:
A: Beer
B: CCTV cameras
C: International language schools.
5. How many different languages are spoken in London?
A: Over 100
B: Over 200
C: Over 300



*If you like this quiz & would love to learn more, then join the English & London culture short course this autumn.

Emails and Cards Short Course

(Thursday ~~evenings~~ - Oct 6th and 13th)

Hi, I'm Justin and I'll be running this short course in October. We'll be looking at writing e-mails to friends overseas as well as writing birthday cards, Christmas cards and other types of cards.

I'd like to show you an example of a "Round Robin". It's a letter usually sent with a Christmas card to people you don't contact very often with a short personal hand written note at the bottom. Why don't you try it this Christmas??

Dear Mary, Tom & Annie,

I'm so sorry I haven't written or emailed. I thought
2011 has been a busy time! Tom has started elementary.....
Also we have a new pet. Her name is Hermione and
And in July we changed our bathroom. It was looking
For 2012 we are hoping to go to Canada to visit my
Anyway, Merry Christmas and have a wonderful 2012!!

Ellen

How's Annie? She must be 12? And what

English art school

Hi, I'm Kris. In this course I'd like to share with the students some of the techniques and approaches that are taught in English art schools. In classes students will be encouraged to draw quickly & freely, with the aim of 'freeing up' their approaches to drawing. The following are some of the methods students will practice: figure drawing / still life drawing / speed drawing / drawing from memory / left handed drawing / drawing negative space and drawing in shapes.

Dynamic Poetry Performance

(Thursday Sep. 29th)

Philip Norton performs poetry like you have never seen it before. Incorporating electronic music, digital images, and video, Norton brings his poems to life in a dramatic presentation.

Suitable for Novice level English speakers and above, Norton's performance will include digital projections of the text and discussion of the work.

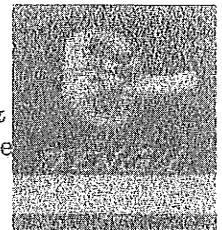
Philip has won two National Australian poetry prizes, and has performed at the Sydney Opera House and festivals around Australia, the US and Britain.

Film Screening & Talk

Saturday October 8th

Roger Walch, from Switzerland & former teacher of the Kyoto Guide Course will be screening his film Tengu (2009) at Labor Gakuen from 1:30 - 3:30.

In Tengu, a Westerner named 'David' comes to Japan for one week to study traditional legends. He's supposed to meet Professor Ozawa, an expert in the field. But when he arrives, he gets picked up by Ozawa's female assistants & they bring him to a traditional guest-house. A strange man in the bath house tells David about the local Tengu legend. David is fascinated, and the more he finds out, the more he is drawn into his own past-life.



- are: French, Spanish, Polish, Hindi, Italian).
1. A & C (a popular German word sometimes used)
 2. C 3. A & B (fish and chips is not as popular)
 4. B (+2 million, one for every 14 people.)
 5. C (Top 5 languages spoken by London residents

British Quiz Answers:

Summer Vacations

Kris

Rick, my 3 month old son is definitely the king of our house. My wife and I were at his beck and call 24-7, all summer. Whenever he woke, we woke. Whenever he slept we tried to! When he screamed and howled he was like a monster. However, when he smiled or giggled, yes, you guessed it; he was like an angel.

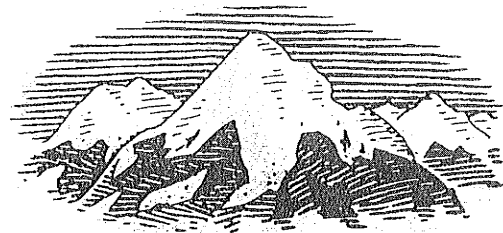
During the summer, to keep my sanity I escaped to the garden to tend to the vegetables. This year I planted tomatoes, peppers, cucumber and bitter melon (*goya*) to name but a few. I can't count the times we had *goya chanpuru* or *morokyu* for dinner.



The biggest event of the summer was definitely *Jizo Bon*, where the king made his first official entrance into our local community. Rick had all the neighbours wrapped round his fingers. Everyone praised him for being cute and so quiet. Gosh, he's a smart one!

Maybe next summer the king and his 'servants' will be able to get away a bit in the summer, because this summer was definitely a tough one. I now have an even deeper respect for my parents.

Mark



My Amazing Summer vacation!

I always ask students how was your vacation? But usually when students ask me this question I just say "Oh, it was nothing special." (Futsu) But this year it was really special!

First, I spent 10 days in England seeing old friends and introducing my son Ryo to my mother and brother and that was really nice!

A few weeks back in Japan and then I was off again this time to Calgary in Canada for my sister-in-law's wedding.

I visited Banff national park in the Canadian Rockies and saw some amazing lakes and mountains and a wild bear. I was lucky enough to play golf at a professional course in the mountains too. (Only the 2nd time I've played golf in my life!).

Other highlights included an international firework display to music, a canyon trek to some beautiful waterfalls, a visit to a heritage park, an amazing barbeque and of course, a wonderful wedding.

I now have some great memories and some new members to my family.

Wow! I wish every summer vacation was that good!

Please take a look at some of the teachers' photos on the notice board in the hall.

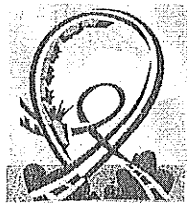
Brooke

I left for Taiwan the day after the Beer Garden party, Monday July 25th, and stayed there for 4 nights and 5 days. I went with two friends and we had a great time! Taiwanese people were friendly, the food was delicious and prices for most things were really cheap. Of course we visited the National Palace Museum to see the wonderful treasures brought from China by Chiang Kai Shek and we had dumplings for dinner at the renowned Din Tai Fung restaurant. We also visited some hot springs to the north of Taipei, as well as some teahouses in the mountains to the south, which we reached by Gondola. I'd love to go back there again one day with my daughters.

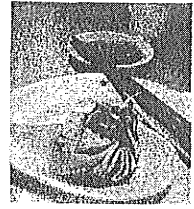
After Taiwan, I spent 10 days in Australia catching up with family – especially my 92-year-old Grandma and my two cute young nieces. I was able to see my nieces dancing, swimming, running and playing netball (a very popular game for girls in Australia which is kind of like basketball). I also did a lot of shopping too!

Once back in Japan, my daughters and I spent a long, hot, exhausting but exciting day at USJ – we rode on the Hollywood Dream roller coaster 4 times! During Obon, we traveled to Kusatsu Hot Spring (fantastic!), Yudanaka Hot Spring (to see the monkeys at Jigokudani) and then one night in Nagano City (staying at the Kokusai 21 hotel for a really cheap price we found on the internet!). Nagano was lovely and cool, and it was a bit of a shock to get back to the heat and humidity of Kyoto.

Actually, I think this was the busiest summer holiday I've ever had!



Justin



Hi! My family went to Taiwan this summer so I wrote a short travel guide to Taiwan for you.

Getting there and away: We flew to Taiwan on Jetstar, a very cheap, no frills airline.

Money: Change money at Taipei airport using an ATM machine or bank branch. Changing to Taiwan dollars in Japan has a very bad rate. Do it in Taipei.

Hotel: We used the Yomi Hotel. Tasty breakfast, 24hour coffee and juice machines, free washing machines and bike rental. Similar hotels in Taipei are about 6000 yen a double.

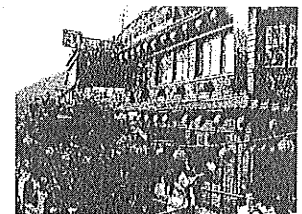
Getting Around Taipei: Get an Easycard, similar to an Icooca. You can use it on subways, buses, local trains, convenience stores and on most short trips from Taipei. It's easy to get and you can get a refund when you leave.

Food and Drinks: Go to a night market (e.g. Shilin) and have fun! Stinky Tofu, Candy Tomato, steamed buns, fruit drinks, Taipei okonomiyaki, squid ink sausage etc... Also try the famous Tei Tai Fon restaurant and while you wait an hour to get in, have a delicious kakigori. And if you want to eat from a toilet bowl, then try out Modern Toilet Restaurant.

Sights in Taipei: Watch the changing of the guard at the Martyr's Shrine, check out the jade cabbage at the National Palace Museum, go up Taipei 101, enjoy tea at a teahouse after riding the glass bottomed Maokong Gondola, have a Taiwan Shampoo and enjoy the night markets and temples.

Around Taipei: Good daytrips include sunset at Dansui, 30 minutes away on the MRT, or weird rock formations by the sea at Yehliu, 1 hour away by bus. And visit Jiufen, with its many steps, nice shops, great views and the building that was the inspiration for the sento in "Spirited Away". Get there by train and bus in 1hr.

Weather: Summer is like in Kyoto, plus some thunderstorms and typhoons. Spring and autumn are nicer.



Beer Garden Party 2011

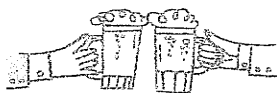


The 3rd Labor Gakuen Beer Garden was held on Sunday July 24th at the Shin Miyako Hotel on Hachijo St. near Kyoto Station. 150 students as well as 7 teachers and 4 staff attended the party, and we apologise to those students who were on the waiting list, but didn't get a chance to attend.

Luckily, this year it didn't rain! The weather was fine, and also very hot, so everybody seemed to be enjoying the all-you-can-drink beer, wine & soft drinks that were available. There was quite a good selection of food this year: from salads to fried food to ice cream for dessert! It was a great opportunity to catch up with old classmates and meet new people, and the 2 hours passed really fast!

We hope you had a chance to talk to one of your previous teachers (Mark, Kris or Brooke), meet our new full-time teacher (Justin) or to chat with one of the part-timers (Dawn, Roger and Jehan). Our other part-time teachers (Miles and Graham) were unable to attend this year as they had already gone back home to Australia and England to spend their summer holidays with family.

Thanks to everybody who attended the Beer Garden party and made it such a fun night. And to those who couldn't attend.....See you next year!



The 2nd Book Marathon!!

Do you love English? Do you want to improve Your English vocabulary and grammar? Then, you should take part in the Labor Gakuen Book Marathon!!



Reading is the easiest way to practice English in Japan. You may think 'practicing English' only means speaking. It doesn't. Practicing English means understanding and using the vocabulary & grammar you know in a communicative situation. Reading is a means of communication.

It is also true that if you learn new words, you need to see them and use them many times before you can remember them. Reading gives you an opportunity to see again and again many of the new words you have learned.


So, here's what you should do:

- (1) Borrow a book* (a graded reader) from the bookshelf in the Labor Gakuen lobby.
- (2) Read it and write a short Book Review about it (There is a Labor Book Review sheet included in this Newsletter, or you can get a new one from the bookshelf).
- (3) Give the Book Review sheet to your teacher to check.
- (4) Get a stamp on your Book Marathon stamp sheet (also in this Newsletter).
- (5) Read lots of books and receive a Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificate from your teacher, and notice your English getting better!!!


*We suggest that you borrow a book that is *easier than your level* so that you can read through the story quite quickly and enjoy it.


Labor Gakuen Reading Marathon


Name: _____
Class: _____


Start
1st title: _____


2nd title: _____


3rd title: _____


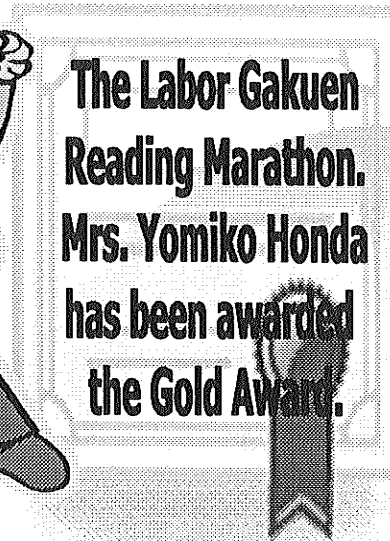
10th title: _____



11th title: _____



12th title: _____





9th title: _____

4th title: _____


8th title: _____


5th title: _____




7th title: _____


6th title: _____
