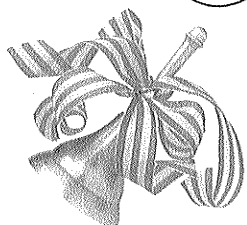


12TH LABOR GAKUEN NEWSLETTER: FEB 2012

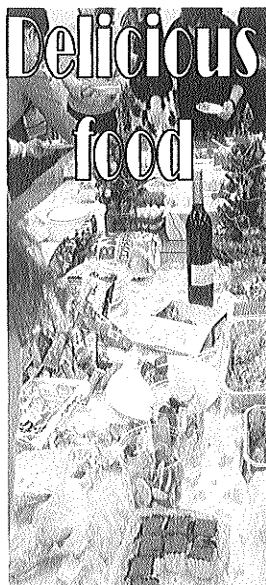
Christmas Party, Teachers' Sons, Watching Movies & Listening Tips

Christmas

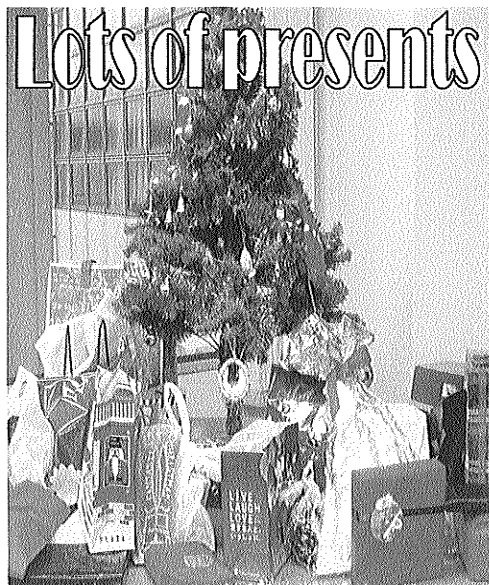


Party 2011

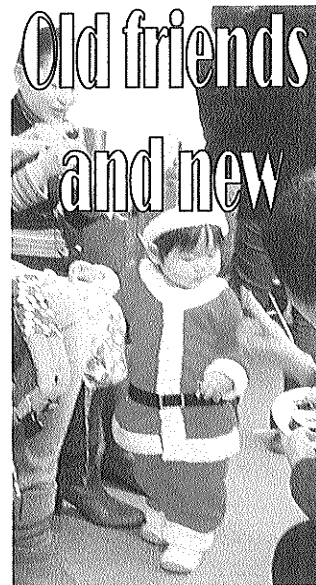
**Delicious
food**



Lots of presents



**Old friends
and new**



**Thank you to all
the 50 students
who attended
the Potluck
Christmas Party!**



Fun and games

**We hope everyone had
fun eating homemade
dishes & snacks, playing
games and chatting with
friends & teachers.**

**We look forward to seeing
you next year too!**

Teachers'



sons



Miles' son, Noah.

In Japanese: 能和

Age: 6



Characteristics: cheeky, clever,
oversensitive

Favourite food: persimmon pie

Favourite word: snowflake

Favourite TV show: Pink Panther
Kamen Rider

Likes / interests: games, dinosaurs
drawing, story books

Bad habits: Doesn't finish dinner.
Cries when he loses.

Mark's son, Ryo.

In Japanese: 亮

Age: 18 months



Characteristics: *Smart, funny,*
adventurous.

Favourite food: Banana Porridge

Favourite word: *Oishii !!*

Favourite TV show: Inai, Inai Baa

Likes / interests: Everything in my
room, loves to go outside.

Bad habits: Scratching my face
when he is unhappy.

Justin's son, Rei

In Japanese: 怜

Age: 5 and a half



Characteristics: skinny, cheeky

Favourite food: Fruit, desserts, cheese

Favourite word: baka, unchi

Favourite TV show: Tom and Jerry
Lego ninjago

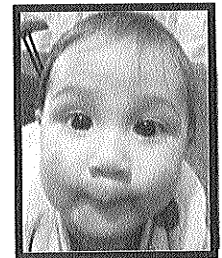
Likes / interests: Lego, riding his bike
collecting sticks, acorns

Bad habits: See Favourite word!

Kris' son, Rick.

In Japanese: 莉久

Age: 9 months



Characteristics: chunky, noisy

Favourite foods: Bananas & mother's
- milk

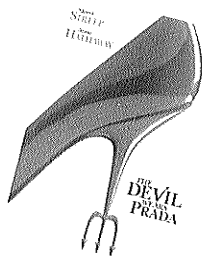
Favourite word: "agu", "argh!"

Favourite TV show: MitsuKeta!

Likes / interests: cell phones, The zapper

Bad habits: pulling hair & chewing
- things

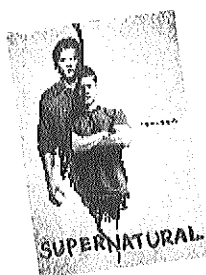
Studying English with a DVD



We will soon be adding some new titles to our DVD library for you to borrow so I want to give you some ideas to help you watch and study with an English language DVD. Have a go!!



- a. Choose a movie you are interested in (older ones usually have slower speaking and less slang) because you will be watching it many times!
- b. Decide what you want to focus on – listening, vocabulary, intonation, general plot – and **ONLY** focus on that.
- c. Don't expect to understand much. If you understand 20% of what is spoken in a new movie and can guess 40% then you are doing well.
- d. To help you study with the DVD you can first watch it in Japanese or check the story on the internet. This will help you guess what is being said.
- e. When you are watching, think about context. Where are they? What can you see? What are they doing? Are the actors angry or happy? It will help you understand.
- f. **DON'T** try to do too much. Studying with a DVD should be fun!! For listening or vocabulary you should watch a 2 to 5 minute scene three or four times. For understanding a whole movie, just watch it once in English but don't concentrate too hard – just try to understand the main points.
- g. **For general plot:** Watch the whole film in English **ONLY** and try to understand who the main people are, where they are, what they are doing and why. What is the ending? What was your favourite scene? **DON'T** worry about vocabulary or understanding everything. Just understand the main ideas. After you watch, try and write a summary of the film including the information above.
- h. **For listening:** Choose a short scene and play it again and again. Play it with Japanese subtitles and English subtitles and no subtitles. Use a dictionary to check new words. Pay attention to intonation and how words are blurred together.
- i. **For vocabulary, especially slang:** Choose a short scene and play it again and again. Play it with Japanese subtitles and English subtitles and no subtitles. Use a dictionary to check new words. Pay a lot of attention to context so you can understand when and why slang is used. It's easy to understand "C'mon man!", but harder to understand when to use it!



Have fun!!



TIPS FOR LISTENING



リスニングは難しい？心配しないで！

Is listening difficult for you? Don't worry!

Many students say: "I couldn't catch everything on the CD." That's OK!

授業で使うリスニング問題は、今のレベルよりもちょっと難しく作られています。ちょっと難しいからこそリスニング力が上達します。

Listening exercises in your textbook are designed to be a little above your level. If they are too easy, they will be boring and your listening won't improve. A little more difficult is good because they will be challenging, and they will help you improve your listening skills.

より上手にリスニングができるためのアドバイスは、次の通りです。

Students often ask "How can I become a good listener?" Here is some advice:

1. Relax! リラックスして！

全部聞き取れないことは当たり前。

Accept that you are not going to catch everything.

2. Don't try to understand every word.

言葉一つ一つを理解しようとしなくて。

You can only catch every word in very simple sentences. Difficult sentences spoken fast are hard to understand, so just listen for the main idea and key words.

3. Catch the main idea.

最初は、大まかに話の筋を理解すること。誰が、何について、どんな気持ちで話しているのか…？

The most important thing to help you understand is to catch the main idea. This is called 'catching the gist'. The first time you listen, just try to understand things like: who is talking, what is the main topic, how do they feel.....

4. Notice the intonation.

声のイントネーションに気づいて、話している人たちの気持ちが分かれば話の内容が想像しやすい。

People usually raise intonation when they are happy or excited, and lower their intonation when they are sad. Even if you don't understand what people are saying, you can understand how they feel (and guess what they are saying).

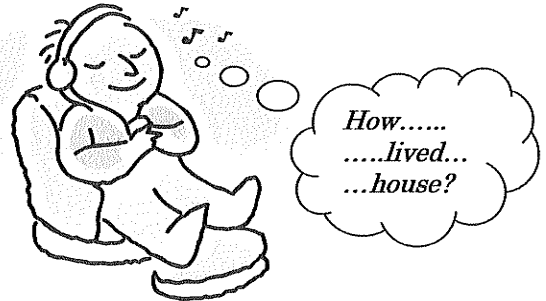
5. Listen for the key words.

キーワードを聞き取ること。主語、動詞（時制）、目的語で話を想像します。

The key points to catch in a sentence are the **first word** (especially for questions), the **verbs** (for tense) and the **object**. For example, if I only catch: *How.....lived...house?* I can make a good guess at the meaning:

How (long have you) lived (in your) house?

The more words I can catch, the better I can guess.



6. Stay relaxed when you don't understand.

わからなくても、パニックにならないで。

後で(二回目、三回目)もうちょっと聞き取れるかもしれません。

Even if you continue to not understand for a while, don't panic...maybe you will pick up a few points later (or the next time you listen).

7. Don't translate into your native language.

基本的に日本語には訳さないで下さい。質問は英語で確認しあうことが大事。

When you check listening questions with your partner, do it in English. Trying to translate into Japanese will slow down your rate of improvement. If you are not sure, use English like:

"I think she said....."

"I heard the words and"

"I couldn't catch it. Let's listen again!"

二回目、三回目聞いた後、一回目よりも聞き取れてより理解できれば、リスニング力が上達しています！

Finally, feel satisfied with yourself if you can catch more meaning and words after listening to the conversation 2 or 3 times...because this means that your listening skills are improving!!!

もちろん家で好きな方法を見つけて練習することも、上達につながります。またラポール学園でも聞き取り力を強化するためのクラスを設けています。

Remember that practicing at home, listening to the radio or watching movies can also help your listening skills to improve. We even have a special Listening and Pronunciation class in Labor which can help you too!