

# 14<sup>TH</sup> LABOR GAKUEN NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2013

Movie & Book Recommendations, Student's Funny Story, Questions to the Teachers

### Spring-Break Courses

#### Sounding Natural with Phrasal Verbs

**Teacher:** Kris

**Level:** Pre-Int ~ Intermediate

**Date:** March 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 10:00 - 12:00

**Content:** Phrasal verbs are simple words, so native speakers use them often. In this course, you can learn some important phrasal verbs to help your English sound smoother and more natural.



Don't *put off* studying phrasal verbs!

#### Natural English Expressions

**Teacher:** Mark

**Level:** Inter ~ Advanced

**Date:** March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 10:00 - 12:00

**Content:** How do you say 「お大事に」 in English? Find out this and many other expressions, and learn the right thing to say in a variety of social contexts. You will sound more fluent & natural, and hopefully you can avoid embarrassing situations.

#### Reading Children's Books Aloud

**Teacher:** Justin

**Level:** Elem ~ Pre-Intermediate

**Date:** March 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 1:30 - 3:30



*I DO NOT eggs like green and ham!*

**Content:** Have fun reading children's books! Learn how to use intonation & different voices to sound more interesting. You can also improve your vocabulary & your pronunciation by joining sounds together.

#### **Did you know**

You can take home  English newspapers from Labor Gakuen!!!



in the 英字新聞 box next to the bookshelf in the lobby.

There is also information about other Labor Gakuen facilities on the notice board in each classroom.

**PLEASE CHECK IT OUT**



## Tell Us Your Story

*In the last newsletter we asked for stories from students about interesting experiences. Thank you to everyone who sent in a story. Unfortunately we only have space to print one, so here is the one sent in by Tatsuya – a very lucky guy!*

### 『Exclusive flight from New York to Detroit.』

About forty years ago, I went to the U.S. It was my first travel abroad. We (three Japanese colleagues) were about to go to Detroit from New York. We were already on board and waiting for take-off, when there was an announcement about mechanical trouble of the plane. All the other passengers changed to another plane but we missed it because we couldn't understand the announcement. But the airline company kindly made arrangements for chartering another big plane only for three of us plus one American guy who also could not catch the announcement because he was dead drunk. Eventually we could arrive at the Detroit Airport safely.

During the flight I felt like I was treated as the president.

Tatsuya NAKATANI.

### Some activities I've tried in Japan.

**In the last newsletter Brooke wrote about her favourite café.  
In this issue, Justin writes about some things he has tried in Japan.**

*When I visited New Zealand I tried rock climbing. It was great fun so I found a climbing gym in Kyoto, near Kyoto Station, called Crux. Unfortunately it's expensive so I don't go often but it's very interesting as some members are elementary school students and some are retired people in their 70s. And they are all better than me!*



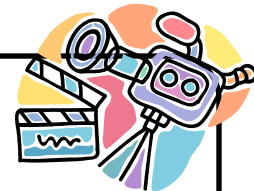
*A friend runs Seiga Samurai Kembu. She teaches classes in Shiga and does displays at some corporate events. She also does special classes for tourists. They can go to the school, dress up in samurai clothes and practice using a sword and fan. It's a lot of fun, but the sword is heavier than I expected.*



*When I went to Gifu prefecture a few years ago I tried making the plastic display food seen in restaurant windows. I made tempura ebi and a lettuce leaf. It was really interesting to make and it looked just like tempura ebi!*

*Other things I have tried are the tea ceremony, taiko drums, making mochi, Japanese archery, Kendo and Ikebana. Japan is a great place to try interesting activities. Have you tried many? Do you know an activity that Labor's teachers or students might be interested in trying? If you do, why not tell us and maybe we can put some of the best ones in the next newsletter. Send an email to [justgone2@gmail.com](mailto:justgone2@gmail.com) with your ideas! We want to know!*

## Mark's Movie recommendations



A great movie to watch, just like a great book to read, is not always great to learn English from. So just what are good movies to watch to learn English?

Well, it should be a film where the characters speak English slowly, clearly and repeat themselves. A good example of this is '*Field of dreams*', where the main character often has to explain things to his young daughter, so he uses easy English. Movies where the characters are learning English are always fun. '*The King's Speech*' and '*The King and I*' are good films to learn English from, especially pronunciation. Older black and white movies are good to learn from as the English is usually slower and clearer. '*Roman Holiday*' and '*Casablanca*' (both available from our library) are good examples. Some children's movies can also be good as children often use simpler, easier English. (for example, '*Home Alone*'.) Whatever you choose, be sure to watch it many times, using English subtitles and repeat what the actors say and the way they say it. Enjoy!



## Mark's Book recommendations

Books are a great way to study English, just make sure that the book you choose is the right level for you. Once you get the right level you have a wide variety of graded books to choose from our library.

Classics like '*Gulliver's Travels*' and '*Treasure Island*' are fun, as are the books which are also films like '*The 39 Steps*' or '*Phantom of The Opera*'. You can read the book and then watch the film. A personal favourite is '*How to be an alien*'. It's a little old now, but it's a great introduction into British culture and the British way of thinking, from the viewpoint of a foreigner.

If you like reading about celebrities, then why not try some of the biographies? There are some interesting books about the lives of *David Beckham* and *Audrey Hepburn*. There's a wide range of different available to suit all tastes. If you have not used our library before why not give it a try?

# Getting to know Labor's Teachers.

Brooke Suzuki

- 1.) I studied Japanese in high school and then I did a Working Holiday.
- 2.) I've been here about 22 years
- 3.) *Natsukashii* (it's difficult to say in English!)
- 4.) I love hot springs & *nabe*.
- 5.) I do yoga & still learn *taiko*.

Mark McCrory

- 1.) Loved manga, anime, kaiju cinema when I was young.
- 2.) 13 years! Wow, so long!
- 3.) *Wagamama*. Actually, there's a sushi chain in England with this name.
- 4.) The temples, culture and food.
- 5.) Work on my novel and spend time with my son.



- 1.) Why did you come to Japan?
- 2.) How long have you lived here?
- 3.) What's one of your favourite Japanese words?
- 4.) What's something you like about Japan?
- 5.) What's something you do in your free time?

Justin Bales

- 1.) Because I like travelling and Japan was on my list to visit.
- 2.) About 15 years in total.
- 3.) *Gokiburi* and *mendokusai*.
- 4.) The good food & it's very safe!
- 5.) Travel and plan for travel! And, of course, go to Aeon Mall.

Kris Evans

- 1.) Because I liked traditional Japanese visual aesthetics.
- 2.) 10 years and a bit.
- 3.) *bimyou* or *komorebi*.
- 4.) My family and the food.
- 5.) Gardening, I especially like pruning my trees.