

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Dear students,

We hope you are having a good time studying English this term.

First of all, a big 'thank you' for all your comments and ideas from the mid-term survey. We will look into the idea of a cherry blossom party or a temple visit and we are working hard to make sure you have a great experience here at Labor.

A few people wanted to know how we choose the textbooks. Well, every November we get 5 or 6 sample books for each level. Then each teacher checks them and notes what they like and don't like. Then we all come together and choose from our top choices for each level. What are we looking for? Well, some books are designed for teenagers and some are too easy or hard. Some books only have a few units so they are hard to use, and some have tiny writing which is hard to read. We like the books that have a good number of units, with a nice mix of activities, exercises, videos etc. We want interesting things to do and topics which students can talk about. That means there are usually 2 or 3 books per level that we think will be good for our students. We choose the one we think will work the best.

So, thanks again for your feedback – it's very important to us!



Next, we have some news about some **new classes** on offer next term.

If you are interested in the **Tea ceremony** then we have a new course with Bernie, from America. He loves the tea ceremony and will be talking about the history of tea from India to Japan. He's a very interesting guy – you'll love him!

Another new course will be Mark's '**Pop Culture**' course. In that class students can find out about how and why Japanese pop culture is popular in the West. Why do so many foreigners like *manga*? Join up and find out!

But that's not all.

We also have a new **Travel course**. It's a little higher level than the Passport series we have used in the past. If you want to travel without a tour or just want to improve your general travel English skills, then this is a great course to take.

We also have some **continuing courses**:

- ❖ Graham's **Pottery Club** will continue and is great for existing students or new ones. In this friendly class you can share your knowledge of pottery and learn many things you didn't know about pottery in Japan.
- ❖ **TOEIC** will be back for another course and will have some examples of the new questions that will be in the Japanese TOEIC test from this May. If you are interested in being a guide in Kyoto, or you want a pay rise at work, a high TOEIC score is very useful, so why not give it a go!
- ❖ **The Book Club** is also continuing. If you like reading, why not come along and read a book in English. It's not just about reading though, but also looks at the background of the book, facts about the author or the places and people in the book, and lots of other things too.
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- ❖ The popular **media class** will be continuing too. In this class you can discuss things in the news with your classmates and learn some useful vocabulary and phrases. A comment from a current student was *"This course has really broadened my perspective."*
- ❖ There're also the **business classes**. The higher level one is on Wednesday evenings and the lower one is on Saturdays. If you need to improve your business English skills, then these classes could be for you!
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- ❖ And Yuko is continuing with her Saturday classes explaining **Junior High School English**. It's a fantastic course if you want to understand grammar more clearly by using some Japanese in the class to help you.
- ❖ Finally, we will repeat the **Botchi Botchi Japan** course next term. It will be in the afternoon for all those people who couldn't come in the mornings.

Taking a regular class plus an extra course is a great way to improve your English skills quickly and the different lesson styles will keep you interested in English. And why not bring a friend along to study English too, or even a family member? Hopefully we have something for everyone next term!

We hope to see you all next term, with our new courses, new textbooks and new experiences!!

See you! The Labor teachers and staff