

Expanding future possibilities

# Hirakû

23

Front cover page: Arts and crafts "Otsukimi Rabbits"

While the rabbit parent and child looked at the big full moon, many little moons appeared.

One after another, the faces of friends appear on them.

They all look happy.

Let's have fun again tomorrow.

**We look forward to  
your ideas!**

"Hiraku" provides useful information  
and the latest news related to  
English and childhood education.

- Your recent interests
- Topics you want us to cover
- New content etc etc...

If you have ideas to contribute,  
please share these with us!

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**Hirakû**

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日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.

# Rugby Exchange

at Higashiosaka School

Two rugby players on the **Yokogawa Musashino Atlstars** rugby team visited Kinder Kids Higashi Osaka School and coached the children how to play rugby. We had a fun time struggling with the unfamiliar oval shaped ball! We interacted in English with Kazan Watanabe, who spent his junior and high school years in New Zealand, and Jayden Toa Maxwell, who came from New Zealand to play rugby at a university in Japan and then went on to play on a company team in Japan. We interviewed these rugby players about playing rugby across their language and cultural barriers.



Kazan Watanabe

Kazan Watanabe moved to New Zealand to play rugby when he was in middle school, and was a playmaker on the Christchurch Boys' High School rugby team that produced many national rugby players.

\*Graduated from Doshisha University

\*Positions played: Stand-off / Full-back

## ► What was your childhood like? What were your dreams or goals for the future?

With my parents' encouragement I played rugby and wanted to become a rugby player. I played a variety of other sports too.

## ► Why did you choose to enroll in middle and high school in New Zealand?

I chose to study abroad because there were only a few middle schools that had rugby teams in Kanagawa Prefecture, and **I thought I could play more rugby in New Zealand.** There were not many international students back then, so it was a good experience for me to communicate with the local students.

## ► How was it living in New Zealand?

In the beginning, I spent my time not knowing what was going on. But I started to get to know the people and made many friends while playing rugby. I was also able to spend my school days just like the other local students. Thanks to rugby, I was able to have a fulfilling school life compared to other international students.

## ► Have you ever thought of quitting rugby?

Since I am optimistic in nature, I've never thought about quitting rugby. I rarely felt bored because I made friends with the local students.

## ► Rugby is a physically hard sport. What is the reason that keeps you playing?

It is certainly a hard sport, but the players work together as a team to achieve our objective.

## ► Tell us about your future goals, and also a message for the children.

Thank you very much for this opportunity. Everyone's energy and enthusiasm made my day very enjoyable. I would be very happy if this event makes you want to start playing with rugby balls. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again! Our team will also do our best to get good results, so it would be great if you will root for us.



Jayden Toa Maxwell

Jayden Toa Maxwell started playing rugby at the age of 4 and moved to Japan after being scouted by a Japanese university. He was a member of Japan Men's Rugby Sevens National Team in his junior year of college and won the Asia Rugby Sevens Series in 2017.

\*Graduated from Hakuoh University

\*Positions played: Number 8 / (Three-quarters) Outside center

## ► What was your childhood like? What were your dreams or goals for the future?

I played a lot with my friends. I played not only rugby but also other sports, dance and playing musical instruments. **I think it is important to participate in many different kinds of activities and enjoy your childhood.**

## ► I heard that you were playing American football at a university in Japan. Why did you choose to come to Japan after graduating from high school?

I was scouted by a Japanese university when I was in high school, but I was supposed to work in Australia to support my family. However, my family convinced me that studying in Japan would be a good opportunity not only for playing rugby but also for my future.

## ► Did you have any difficulties living in Japan?

It was difficult for me at first because I did not speak Japanese at all. I took my time to study Japanese and tried to communicate with people around me. I am very close to my family, which sometimes made me homesick.

## ► Have you ever thought of quitting rugby?

Never! I am staying in Japan to support my family, and their encouragement helps me to get through tough times.

## ► Rugby is a physically hard sport. What is the reason that keeps you playing?

Rugby is a tough sport, but it is fun to practice with my team members. You learn to help each other and make lifelong friends and brothers.

## ► Tell us about your future goals, and also a message for the children.

In the future, I would like to share my knowledge with people in Japan and other countries, and how fun it is to play rugby. **I want children to just enjoy every moment and seize every opportunity.** Thank you for inviting me to Osaka. I hope to see you all again someday!

# Restart of the Global Transfer System!



As many of you may already know, we have resumed accepting **Global Transfer System** applications, which had been suspended due to the spread of COVID-19. Clarkson School in Canada was the only school that accepted Global Transfer students, but from this school year, we started accepting students for our newly-founded Oakville School in Canada, and our Hawaii School, which makes a total of three schools that will accept Global Transfer System applications. The Global Transfer System, which makes students feel safe and secure in the same uniform and study in a familiar Kinder Kids environment, which helps students to have wonderful experiences.

Why don't you study abroad while you are enrolled in Kinder Kids?

\***Minimum transfer period 5 days - maximum 30 days** (actual attendance 5 - 21 days)

## 【How to Apply】

Submit applications through Kinder+. We start to accept applications from noon of the 1st day of the 4th month prior to the desired transfer month.

## 【Available Classes】

- Canada (Clarkson School/Oakville School) - Current K1-K3 Kinder Class students
- Hawaii School - Kinder Class K1-K2 students \*No K3 Class due to the difference in the school system

## 【Enrollment Grade Level】

The grade level of the students during the transfer period is decided according to their birthdates. The students may be placed in a grade level different from their current grade level.



## ~Overseas Travel and the Hague Convention~

The Hague Convention is a multilateral treaty, which seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of wrongful removal and retention across international boundaries. (as of October 2019, 101 countries including Japan are parties to the Convention as members of the treaty). Because of this treaty, when a child under 16 years of age travels alone (school trip) or with one parent, some countries require a letter of consent from both parents if traveling alone, or a travel consent form from the one parent who will not be going together with the other parent. (\*Canada and Hawaii require a travel consent form if only one parent is traveling)

Please check the details about the transferring country and school as the condition may vary.

For more information check, ... [Kinder+](#) ▶ [Contents](#) ▶ [Global Transfer](#)

## ●●● Read the stories of those who have participated in Global Transfer! ●●●

You can read many informative stories, and learn about the reason to participate in the short-term transfer, about the classes and friends, daily life abroad, and how parents spent their time.

[Kinder+](#) ▶ [Contents](#) ▶ [Global Transfer](#) ▶ [Canada School Experience](#)



Login to Kinder+ for direct access through the QR code→



## Examinee

File008

I.M

School	Ibaraki Saito
Test date	June 2022 (The First exam in 2022)
Grade	Level 2
Grade at exam	K3

## Thinking about the challenges faced until passing the Grade 2 Examination

I am not very good at writing sentences, so I found the English composition section of 3rd Grade especially difficult. I thought the upper grade would be more difficult since more words were required to write the composition. But as I became used to writing sentences, and learned about writing patterns, I no longer felt it was difficult to learn the increased number of words.

## My Study Methods

I used new words I found in books and newspapers, and even when I was playing with my younger sister, (who is in K1). Right away she used the words again and again, and that helped me to build up my vocabulary. To improve my writing skill, I tried to write what I wanted to say in my journal homework, wrote letters to friends, made my own picture books, etc. For the speaking test preparation, I made use of the videos uploaded on Kinder+.

## What kind of books and newspapers do you read?

Recently, THE LAST KIDS ON EARTH series, Treehouse series, THE DANGER GANG, Nazotoki( Riddle solving) series, etc. I also borrow books that interest me from the library and read **over 10 books a day, or more than 300 books a month**. I subscribe to The Japan Times Alpha, a newspaper for English learners. It is easy to read with pictures and short sentences, and the meanings of words are explained at the bottom.



## What I like about Kinder Kids!

I study the words that appear in the higher Grades of the EIKEN tests from the teachers' daily conversations. I also thought that the **journal homework was very helpful in preparing for the Eiken**. I tried **new words and phrases** that I found in books on teachers, and they would correct me, so I was able to learn how to use new vocabulary correctly.

## My advice to friends

The amount of writing English such as journals will increase in K3. **This will make the composition test in Eiken easier, and also improve your speaking skill because you write what you think. Using difficult words and phrases will help to build up your vocabulary.** I recommend that you do your best to write your journal.

## Asked his parents How did you support him?

We let him learn what is going on in the world through the news on TV and newspapers, and try to notice what is catching his interest. **We also explain even simple things to him thoroughly and, if possible, have actual experiences together to learn about our society and add to his common knowledge.** For example, we actually compared bank tellers, ATMs, and online banking, and asked him which one was more convenient. Then we expanded our conversation and let him think about the reason why the banks close at 3pm or why the number of ATMs is decreasing.

7/25-28  
**Niseko Trip**

**New Project**

**Four Exciting Days - Adventures, River Rafting, Hot Air Balloon Ride, and More!**

After arriving in Niseko, we first had a lesson in table manners and had a course lunch at Hilton Hotel.

We visited an aquarium, stargazed at the starry sky, and even tried river rafting and hot air balloon rides! It was an adventure filled with activities that most of the students had never experienced before.

All the activities were held in English and everyone participated enthusiastically and excitedly. We had a wonderful four days on our first trip to Niseko.



Grad Club Manager  
Andy Asher

**Message from Andy 2022 Summer**

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Grad Club Summer Event this year. I am glad to resume the overnight trips, such as to the usual Hachi Kogen, and the first-time Niseko trip. I am also pleased that many children could participate in the various school excursions, such as the visit to the world's largest miniature theme park, and an aquarium with a concept of fusion with art.

The summer of 2022 was especially memorable because we were able to resume overnight trips. We all thought it was important to get back to our usual state, as many plans had been canceled or scaled down over the past few years, so all of the trips this summer were very special and touching for us! I am glad to see all of our Grad Club students enjoying the summer and having fun with their teachers and friends! We will come up with other exciting plans that will be memorable for everyone, such as studying abroad, for the next year!

*Andy Usher*



**Grad Club 2022 Summer Events**

Creating bilingual young adults

**New Project**

**Midsummer Ice Skating Experience at KANKU ICE ARENA and Exciting Tour of KIX**

The children put on warm clothes, helmets, knee pads, and skates, and before skating on the ice rink they learned how to skate safely, such as how to fall and stand up. After taking lessons from a professional ice skater who speaks English, they enjoyed skating and running around on sleds on the ice rink. In the beginning, they occasionally fell down, but they gradually got the hang of it, and by the time we left, they were able to skate well. It was amazing to see how quickly they improved. Everyone could enjoy ice skating in the middle of summer!

The KIX guided tour took us to a security area by bus, and they were curious about cargo planes and places that are normally closed to visitors. At the end of the tour, they were excited to see a powerful airplane take off near the runway!



8/2-4  
**Ice-Skating Fun**



[Kanto] Small World



[Kansai] Hachi Kogen Camp

7/26-27  
8/22-23  
**Dolphin Camp**

**Ver. UP Popular Event Expanded to 2 Days & 1 Night! Dolphin Experience & Sanuki Udon Making in Kagawa**

Last year's popular event returned as a 2 days & 1 night trip! Swimming with dolphins, which is something we don't usually get to experience, had everyone's eyes sparkling with joy, and they were excited to see the dolphins jumping when signs were made in the dolphin show, saying "I wanted to try this". On the second day, they made their own unique udon noodles, using a traditional method that included using their feet to knead and then cutting the dough with a knife. They received the Udon experience certificates and chopsticks engraved with "Udon Prefecture". We made wonderful summer memories!

We made the most of our free time, such as exploring the beautiful beaches near our accommodations. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, some of the G1 students had never been on an overnight trip alone before, but the teachers were proud that all the children could enjoy their stay without shedding a single tear!



[Kansai] Kobe Art Tour



[Kansai] Nara Camp



[Kansai] Yodel Forest



[Nagoya] Summer Camp

