

未来をひらく 思いをつたえる

# Hirakû

27

Cover photo: Craft "A Gathering of Koinobori"

A large gathering of unique and colorful carp streamers!

The colorful patterns are eye-catching against the blue sky of May.

Some of the carps are so energetic, they bumped into their friends.

May everyone's originality shine in the big wide world!

## 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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- ★A Kinder Kids graduate wins the Grand Prize at the Children's English Contest!
- ★Eiken Class for Grade 1 starts ★Successful Examinee File 010 ★Grad Club Okinawa Camp
- ★Infinity Elementary School welcomes its second class of new first-year students.



日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.



## The 33rd Children's English Contest

### A Kinder Kids Graduate Wins the Grand Prize & Three other Graduates also Win Prizes!

On March 12, The 33rd Children's English Contest, organized by KBS Kyoto Broadcasting, took place at KBS Hall in Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto City. Among the 462 applicants throughout Japan, 100 finalists in six categories, who had passed the preliminary screening, competed in this highly competitive contest. Four Kinder Kids graduates won remarkable prizes, one of them winning the Grand Prize! We had the opportunity to interview the graduates who achieved these outstanding results.

### Grand Prize, L.I. [Title: Best Friend]

- School Graduated...Kyoto
- Grade at the time of winning the prize...G2

### Through the Grad Club speech contest, I learned the joy of expressing my thoughts in front of others

Although I was able to win the Grand Prize in this year's contest, I didn't make it past the preliminary round in the previous contest. I was shocked because I had won the Grad Club's G1 speech contest that same year. I participated in this year's contest with the determination to prove that

**"effort will always lead to results"** through my speech. I wanted to convey the importance of not giving up and to keep moving forward and that everyone has something special within them.

In my speech, **I focused particularly on captivating the audience.** I thought that no matter how native-like and clear the pronunciation was, without strong

expressive skills, it is not possible to deliver a compelling speech that will truly move people's hearts.

Giving a speech in front of an audience is tough, even in Japanese, but because of practicing and winning the Grad Club's speech contest (G1 category), I improved my presentation skills and gained the courage to go up on the stage. **I learned how much fun it is to express your opinions and thoughts in front of others.** I am trying to think about things in English. I believe that having fun while studying is the key to continuous learning even after you graduate from Kinder Kids!

In the future, I would like a job where I can be a bridge between countries, so I need to improve my English and also become a person whose words are powerful. **I want to be a person who can make people laugh, think, and move their hearts with my speeches.**



### First Prize in Speech Category, R.G. [Title: Rwanda Rescue Team]

- School Graduated...Kyoto
- Grade at the time of winning the prize...G3

### I want to improve my English at Grad Club and live abroad someday.



I delivered a speech about "The Rwanda Rescue Team," a group that sends donated funds to Ms. Mami, a Japanese who provides prosthetic legs free of charge to people who lost their limbs due to planted landmines during the Rwandan Civil War. I have been participating in the Grad Club's speech contest every year since G1, so I could become more comfortable speaking in front of an audience. Once you enroll in elementary school, opportunities to speak English tend to decrease. However, **by attending Grad Club, I was able to continue speaking English with my friends from Kinder Kids and communicate with the teachers in English-only settings. This has been extremely helpful in improving my English skills.** My parents lived abroad for many years, and I speak English, especially with my father who was born overseas. I am also studying other languages such as Spanish, and I hope to live abroad like my parents someday. I'm really looking forward to the Grad Club's Australia study tour, where I'll have the opportunity to attend a local primary school.

### First Runner-Up in Speech Category, Z.G.

[Title: One Mistake Brought Me The Best Result.]

- School Graduated...Sakai
- Grade at the time of winning the prize...6th grade

### I practiced my speech very hard while also preparing for the junior high school entrance exam, and my next aim is to pass the Eiken Grade 1.



I gave a speech about balancing junior high school entrance exams and club activities. I chose this topic because I wanted to share my experience of achieving positive results that others thought impossible. **I wrote my speech by speaking it out loud and selecting phrases and words that best suited my voice, pronunciation, emotions, and overall speech flow.** For instance, I found it difficult to say "Grade 6," so I chose the word "Year 6," which is commonly used in Australia. **My experience with "Show & Tell" at Kinder Kids proved to be extremely helpful as it naturally taught me how to capture the interest of the audience.** I had to prepare for junior high school entrance exams, so I had only a limited time available for my speech. However, **I practiced my speech every day while commuting in the car.** My future goals are to pass the Eiken Grade 1 test by the third year of junior high school, attend a foreign university, and eventually become a politician who can negotiate on an equal footing with foreign countries.

### Special Prize, M.I.

[Story Recitation Category, Title: I Went to the Market]

- Graduated School...Kyoto
- Grade at the time of winning the prize...K3

### With the presentation skills and courage nurtured through "Show & Tell," M.I. won the prize at the same time as his brother L.I., who won the grand prize.



I chose "I Went to the Market" among the assigned writings for the English recitation contest because the main character was just like me and I thought I could express myself well. I practiced reading every day thinking, **"I want to be better than I was yesterday and better than my brother. Through "show and tell" at Kinder Kids, I developed the ability to explain things in English, got used to speaking in front of people, and improved my presentation skills.** I discovered the joy and excitement of expressing myself, and I gained the confidence to step onto the stage. In the future, I want to become a pilot and make friends from around the world, so I want to try many new things and be able to talk with many more people.



# Eiken Grade 1 Class Opens!!

The new class will start at the request of our students!!



**Grad Club is proud to announce the start of our Eiken Grade 1 class**  
If you are interested in taking the Eiken Grade 1 test, please consider joining the class!!



Message from the Eiken Teacher

We are pleased to be starting this class at the request of our students who have already passed Eiken Grade Pre-1. The lessons will be taught in English only and will focus on **all elements of the Eiken Grade 1 test**. Students joining the course will need to apply themselves even more than when they did to pass Eiken Grade Pre-1. During the lessons, we will be studying **a large number of new vocabulary** and we will discuss the meaning of these words, and give example sentences to **show how to use these words in context**. For the writing section of the test, students will learn to write about **a wide variety of topics** centered around social, professional and educational situations. Students will learn to structure their writing in order to give a clear representation of their views on each topic and learn how to add supporting evidence to help the reader clearly understand their point of view. We anticipate that this course will be very challenging for our students, but we will do our best to **support them and help them take their English learning to the highest level**. If you are interested, please contact Grad Club and take a new step forward in your English learning.

Grad Club Manager  
Andy Asher



- P l a c e : Temma Grad Classroom ( Pulala Temma, 2nd floor)
- S c h e d u l e : Second half of JHS/HS Saturday Class, 5:30-7:00 p.m. (According to the Saturday Class calendar)
- L e s s o n : Face-to-face **all-English lessons**
- Grade Level : **G5 and above (Only those who have passed Grade Pre-1)**
- Monthly Fees : ¥27,500 (tax included) \*Except August and December



For more information about Eiken Classes, please contact us at

TEL:06-6135-0140 (Tue.~Sat. 9:00-18:00)



Examinee

File010

S.O.<ん

Grade at exam	K2
Test date	January 2023 (The Third exam in the 2022 school year)

School	Sakai
Grade	Level 3



### My Study Methods

At home, I mainly focused on **solving past exam questions**. **It was very effective in getting used to the test format and the difficult questions**. Also, I wrote down a lot of English words, which I like doing, and I found it helpful when memorizing many new words. I believe that spelling words correctly is very important to achieve a passing score.

### Interview with Parents

How did he achieve a high score on the Interview test?

I believe that was **due to the support of the teachers at Kinder Kids and the curriculum** they provided. During the interview practice, they gave us excellent responses that allowed us to learn how to answer the questions. The reason he was able to achieve a high score was simply because **the curriculum at Kinder Kids was perfect**.

### What I like about Kinder Kids!

**I learned the most from writing journals** at Kinder Kids. **My writing skills improved, by regularly writing English sentences**. Taking spelling tests was also very beneficial for me. At first, I found it challenging when encountering unfamiliar words in the Grade 3 past exams, but as I increased my vocabulary through writing journals and taking spelling tests, I gradually became able to understand those words better. As a result of my effort, I am very happy to have passed the Grade 3 exam!

### Interview with Parents

I think some of the questions are difficult for young children.

It is true that some of the questions in the Eiken test require knowledge of world events and our society, which are difficult for young children to understand, but I believe it is important for children to experience **the joy of discovering new things through the Eiken test**. The quality of the Eiken questions is always very good, so even if you don't understand the meaning perfectly the first time, it would be good to start with "I kind of understand" and then change to "I understand perfectly" after solving the questions many times.

### Interview with Parents

What made you try the Grade 3 test during K2?

Based on the experiences of his older brother and sister, who are also graduates of Kinder Kids, I thought it would be **more efficient and in line with the school curriculum to take the Eiken test in K2**. Since writing the journal starts in K1 and the spelling test starts in K2, my recommended plan would be to take the Grade 5 to Grade 3 test in K2, then work on Grade 2 in K3, and Grade 2 in G1 to G4. **I believe that Kinder Kids students will be able to handle this plan**.

### Interview with Parents

Please give some advice to other parents.

Even if parents are not very good at English, it is **important for them to think positively and enjoy learning together with their children**. Initially, I could only understand basic phrases like "Good morning" and "See you," but before I knew it, I was able to comprehend most of the English conversations. The children's English levels will definitely improve, not only during their K2 and K3 years but also after graduation, so please stay positive and try your best!  
**(Message from S.) Let's study hard together!!**



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# Okinawa Camp Report

Grad Club held its first Okinawa Camp during spring break. The children from the Kanto, Kansai, and Nagoya regions enjoyed a lunch of Taco-rice and then went on to their first activity! On the first day, we embarked on a trip to find whales. The children were overjoyed as we set sail! The sea was a bit rough that day, but luckily, we were able to see wild whales! On the second day, we had a thrilling experience on a Sabani traditional boat, enjoyed two types of crafts, went sea fishing, and participated in a dolphin encounter. It



We experienced the traditional fishing boat "Sabani," used by fishermen in the old days to fish as far away as Southeast Asia!



We learned about the ecology and role of coral and experienced coral transplanting.



was a day full of exciting activities. At the dolphin encounter, we enjoyed dolphin training and interaction, and for many children, this became the best memory of the trip. On the last day, we enjoyed the beach and the beauty of Kouri Island. The children learned about coral cultivation, fed sea turtles, and had hands-on experiences with various sea creatures such as starfish and sea cucumbers. It was a unique experience that they would not usually have. Our first Okinawa camp was an exciting experience for everyone who participated. We hope many more Grad Club students will participate in this wonderful experience the next time too.



We are planning to hold many **summer events!!**

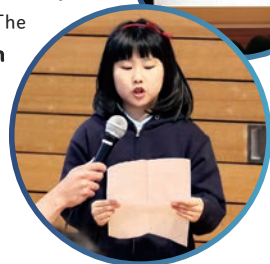
Please visit **Grad+** for more details!



**Infinity Global Elementary School**  
welcomes its second class of new first-year students.



The entrance ceremony for the 27 new first-year students was held on April 9th at Infinity Global Elementary School, Tennoji Yuhigaoka. We had the honor of having Ms. Mitsuyo Tamai, the founder of "Tamai-method Mathematics," which is used in our school's mathematics classes, and Mr. Einosuke Sumitani, CEO of KCJ GROUP INC. which operates "KidZania", in attendance. Mr. Sumiya kindly delivered a congratulatory speech and gave a message to encourage the new students. The representative of **the current students gave a welcome speech in both English and Japanese. It was a wonderful speech that showed the internationality of Infinity School and the abilities of our students.** The new students presented their future dreams using the video-based learning tool "Flipgrid" as part of their spring break assignment. We are excited to see these new students as they take each step toward their dreams!



Ian Mackenzie  
the Principal,  
Infinity Global  
Elementary School

We have just begun our second year of operation and have expanded our facilities to include three colour coded homerooms linked by a fantastic new library space filled with books written in three languages (English, Japanese and Mandarin). Our children will make good use of these spaces along with our deck area adjacent to the classrooms and the spacious school gym. It is a very exciting period for our school as we continue to create a new educational experience for children growing up in Japan. Our mission is to be **'a school where everyone is happy'**. A place where children's true potential can be realised and they can be the best that they can be as a result of their effort. Each person has their own talents and preferences so we aim to **provide a wide variety of experiences to help our students discover their new interests and passions.** **We encourage children to focus on their processes more than on their results. It is very important to remove the fear of experimentation or unknown outcomes.** The world is changing very quickly and children growing up today need to be **problem solvers, critical thinkers, project managers and collaborators.** **We use computer technology** across our curriculum areas and children **learn to research, evaluate and create through a variety of methods.** They also have a lot of fun doing it! I am very proud of the kind, considerate and forward thinking approach that our children will adopt as part of their education. We will be world wise, curious and embrace challenges we face. We will be entrepreneurs, entertainers and enthusiasts. **The possibilities are endless!**

