

KCC
Newsletter

5
2021

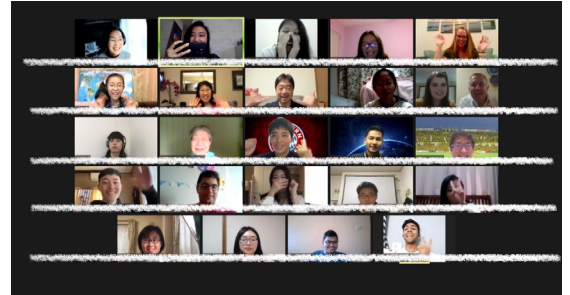
Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center
Palette Kashiwa
2-7-1-301 Kashiwa, Kashiwa
Chiba, Japan 277-0005
Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321
e-mail: kcc@kira-kira.jp
URL: <http://www.kcc.kira-kira.jp>

Online Home Stay (held on 3/21)

By KEYS members (KEYS - Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society, a subcommittee of KIRA)

Because foreign travels are restricted due to the wide spread of COVID-19, we decided to hold an "Online Home Stay" event on zoom. On the day of the event people from all over the world including Australia, the US, India, and Bhutan participated. We played "True or False" "Who's photo?" and "Chain Word" games in addition to talking about the culture of each country. English was the language used in the event, so we had to explain game rules among other things in English. As a result of this event, our English skills improved greatly.

Online events are still new to us, and so there were some difficulties. We will make sure all goes smoothly in the next event.



Online Home Stay

Japanese Speech Contest manuscripts and videos available now

All manuscripts of the canceled "the 5th Japanese Speech Contest by Foreigners in Kashiwa" are now available on the KIRA (Kashiwa International Relations Association) website. Please visit our site and read them.

<https://www.kira-kira.jp/cross.html>



In addition, 3 contestants sent us a video letter. You can view them on KCC (Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center) and KIRA YouTube channels.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1q7L-xDgamSYwuxMnaHKCA>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB0BRkeUtVs88lrLHMvTb0g>



Announcement from the city of Kashiwa to foreigners

"Koho Kashiwa" (a public relations magazine of the city of Kashiwa) can be obtained in the following ways:

- Kashiwa city website
- "Machi-iro" a smartphone app
- At the city hall, community centers, and convenient stores
- Free delivery to your home



Please see the details in the website below.

<https://www.city.kashiwa.lg.jp/kohokocho/koho/pr/kohokashiwa/saishingo.html>

(Click Foreign Language to view in different languages)

From QR code
click "閲覧支援" on top
to select language.

Announcement from other organizations

"Online Study Meeting" for KIRA members

This study meeting is to create a new style to continue our activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's learn and keep our activities going. We'll have the meeting at 8:00pm on every 3rd Thursday of the month.

We are always looking for new ideas for this study meeting so please give us any of your ideas.

"Easy Japanese #2" lecture will be given on June 17th meeting.

Next Meeting:

Date and Time: Thursday, May 20, 2021
8:00pm - 9:10pm

Study Title: "Tips on online conference"

Lecturer: **Ms. Kumiko Yamaguchi**
(Interactive Training in Communication Japan)

Fee: Free

Capacity: 25

Apply by: Send your name and phone number to
boshu-1@kira-kira.jp

Or use this QR code.

We will send you a URL showing how to join.





Special Article

Former Kashiwa students in the world

Helicopter Instructor

Nobuyuki Kosuge (1991 Kashiwa-Torrance exchange student)

I visited Torrance in 1991 as one of the 18th Kashiwa-Torrance youth exchange students. I always stayed close to my host families and Torrance Sister City Association members. Since 2001, when I started to attend a helicopter flight school until now, they have given me advice and support about living in the US. I thank them all and owe them for what I am now.

When I was a child, I used to see airplanes and helicopters flying out of the Maritime Self-Defense Force Shimofusa Air Base and wanted to have a flying-related job. Later I had a chance to ride in a helicopter and I made up my mind to become a helicopter pilot. The instructor at the flight school (where I work now) gave me a good impression with his teaching, and I wanted to become like him.

Now my main work is giving periodical trainings to commercial pilots. It's a teaching job, but I feel that it's also an opportunity that we can mutually learn different techniques and stimulate each other so we can both improve.

I am very honored to have received HAI (Helicopter Association International) Flight Instructor of the Year Award this year. I am determined to work harder for people who recommended me and for people who supported me at work. My appreciation also goes to my family and friends who encouraged me when I left Japan for the US with unknown future and kept supporting me through all these years. I will continue to improve my teaching skills with safety in mind. Thank you very much.



Mr. Nobuyuki Kosuge

Working in Geneva

Nozomi Tsuchio

(2005 Kashiwa-Camden exchange student,
2007 Kashiwa-Torrance exchange student,
2008 Kashiwa-Chengde exchange student,
2009 Kashiwa-Guam student leader,
2011 Kashiwa-Chengde student leader)

Hello everyone! I visited all 4 sister and friendship cities of Kashiwa as an exchange student and as a student leader. I was a junior in high school when I visited Camden and that experience made me wonder about all other parts of the world, and various languages used in the world. Later I studied in Mongolia and China, then I worked in Mongolia and Tokyo. In December of 2020 I was assigned to Geneva, Switzerland.



Ms. Tsuchio against Matterhorn

When I moved to Geneva, PCR testing and self-quarantine upon entering Switzerland from Japan weren't mandatory. But, as I started to spend time as a resident, I found that the countermeasures against COVID-19 in this country were much stricter than in Japan. Stores other than grocery stores and pharmacies were closed. It's been about 5 months since I arrived here. It is a disappointment that I haven't had an opportunity to meet people in a city where 40% of the population are foreigners.

Despite various restrictions, I was able to enjoy skiing in the great nature of Switzerland. Stepping on top of a high mountain from gondola lift, I was in another world. The view was superb and all my problems were gone as I skied down the mountain.

Ever since visiting Camden through the KIRA exchange program, my craving for knowing more languages has not been exhausted. Now I study French, Chinese and Korean online. I am looking forward to the day when the pandemic is under control and I can attend face-to-face classes. I hope the day will come soon for us all. Please take care of yourselves till then.



Special Article

Teachers from Torrance teaching in Kashiwa

Brandon Matsumoto

English teacher at Kashiwa Municipal High School



Mr. Brandon Matsumoto

Hello to you all! I'm from Torrance, California. It's been about 3 years since I moved to Kashiwa. For a long time, I longed for everything in Japan and I wanted to live in Japan. When I was in Torrance, many things around me were influenced by Japan. Major companies in the US, Japanese cuisine that everyone likes, Anime that young people watch... I was proud that Japanese blood was flowing in me, and I wondered if I could someday live in Japan.

For the past 3 years I have been working as an English teacher at Kashiwa Municipal High School, and I'm used to my life here. The school's teaching program is well-considered, and they have extensive international activities. This year, a new teacher Ms. Dianna and I are teaching classes with new, creative, and fun ideas. Our objective is to have students set a goal and motivate them to progress by themselves to achieve the goal.

This is a year to challenge life using new technology. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, a study trip to Torrance was cancelled, and I haven't been able to go back to the US. It has certainly been a tough time. However, thanks to modern technology, we were able to communicate with each other easily. We had a zoom event with students at North High School in Torrance. Our students had a good time practicing English and asking questions about American culture. COVID-19 has limited school activities, but we decided to make a promotion video of the international liberal arts course. I will keep challenging various tasks using new technologies.

(Brandon is enthusiastically involved in student activities of KCC.)

Kevin Butt

English Teacher at Reitaku High School

This year will be my 11th year in Japan, and as many years living in Kashiwa.

My first three years I spent at Kashiwa Municipal High School (Ichikashi) with the Teaching Exchange program, exploring Japan in my free time and learning about the different places and communities through conversation and experiences. At school, I made friends and helped them with English conversation. To deepen the bonds between the visiting teachers and the Japanese teachers, I joined the high school's judo club team and happened to learn enough judo along the way to win a few tournaments and earn a black belt.

After three years, I had to leave Ichikashi, but I was not ready to leave Kashiwa. Though I had opportunities to work elsewhere and explore new parts of Japan, I enjoyed living in Kashiwa, a community that not only welcomed foreigners to learn about Japan but was interested in learning about the cultures of its foreign residents as well.

When I changed schools, I had to find a new place to meet people and get exercise. I searched on the internet for new activities or clubs when I found a youth judo school that was nearby. I joined the school and the next four years I helped teach judo and taught a little English.

I am now working at Reitaku High School and though I don't have enough time to continue with judo, at Reitaku I can continue fostering cultural exchange through English education and extracurricular activities like rugby.

(Kevin helps KCC as an English translation proofreader.)



Mr. Kevin Butt teaching Judo



MAY Events



Japanese Shonan Classes

Classes

Online Classes

Thurs	10:00 - 11:30	Intermediate I Japanese Intermediate and up
Sun	10:00 - 11:30	Beginning II, Intermediate I

In Person Classes

Thurs	10:00 - 12:00	Intermediate I at Shonan Community Center
-------	---------------	--



Online Japanese Kashiwa Classes

Classes

Online Japanese Kashiwa Classes

Tue	10:00 - 11:30	Japanese for all Beginning I (2nd half)
Wed	10:00 - 11:30	Japanese Intermediate and up
Wed	19:00 - 20:30	Japanese for all Beginning I (1st half)
Thurs	10:00 - 11:30	Beginning Conversation I (Beginner, Beginning 1)
Thurs	13:00 - 14:30	Beginning Conversation 2
Fri	19:00 - 20:30	Japanese for all Beginning II
Sat	9:30 - 11:20	Intermediate Conversation

Talk about important matters by Kashiwa Police Department

A police officer from Kashiwa Police Department will talk about matters you should be aware of.

Date and Time:	Thurs. May 6 13:30 - 14:30
Place:	Palette Kashiwa Meeting Room F
Fee:	Free
Subject:	“Road rage” and “Swindling”

Free legal advice and administrative procedure support for foreign residents

Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists will be available to help foreign residents with legal questions and documents. Any questions or problems are all right, such as visa, domestic violence, divorce, or trouble at the workplace. Please register beforehand.

Date and Time:	Wed. May 26 13:00 - 17:00
Place:	Palette Kashiwa Meeting Room A
Reservation:	KCC (Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center) Office

Information about COVID-19 for foreign residents

Available in multiple languages



Kashiwa information delivery service

Sign up to receive email announcements from the city, such as information about earthquakes, fires, crime, and infectious disease outbreaks in the language of your choice. Send a blank email to this address to register.



Questions?
Please contact the office of
Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321
Hours: 8:30 - 17:15
Closed on Sundays and national holidays

KCC Newsletter Edited and Published by:
Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center designated administrator
Specified non-profit organization
Kashiwa International Relations Association
General Affairs Committee Public Relations Division