



LETTER

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER JOURNEY

by Michael Ringen - International Program Chief

Time is strange. Back in April, those first weeks of school felt endless. Now it's March, and the year is almost over. Where did it go? This year at Sakae Higashi has been special. I've seen students debate in English at World Scholar's Cup, confident even when it was scary. I've heard about their volunteer sessions during summer break, cleaning up neighborhoods and teaching English to younger kids. Many students raised EIKEN and TOEFL scores too. Students are different now than they were in April. Their English is stronger, yes, but more than that, they think differently. They're asking better questions, challenging ideas, and becoming the people they want to be. To the graduating students heading to university, this is just the beginning. To the junior high students moving up to high school, the next chapter starts now. Everyone's moving forward, moving up.

The International Program has many plans for 2026-2027. We want to create the kind of year that brings students back someday as alumni, walking through these halls to share their stories with the next generation. Congratulations on a great year and enjoy your spring break!



SPOTLIGHT

BUILDING ENGLISH SKILLS OVER TIME

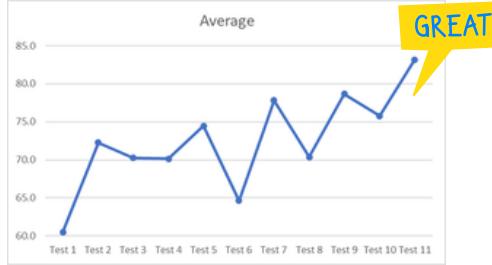
English helps you connect with people from many countries. It is one of the most useful languages to learn. But there is no shortcut. Learning a language well takes years of practice.

That is why we created the International Program. Our students get extra English support for all six years at Sakae Higashi. They start in junior high and keep going through high school. This gives them time to grow.

And we can see that growth happening.

Look at the graph below. It shows vocabulary test results from our first-year junior high students. These tests check which words students truly know. The pattern is clear: steady improvement across the year. Great job students!

This is just year one. By the time they finish the program, our students will have strong English skills. They will be ready for top universities and ready to use English out in the world.



BOOK

PAN'S LABYRINTH

by Alex MacDonald

Pan's Labyrinth is set in Spain after a war. A young girl named Ofelia moves with her mother to live with a strict and cruel army captain. Ofelia discovers a magical world where a faun gives her three tasks to prove who she truly is. She must face danger in both the real world and the fantasy world.

The story mixes fairy-tale wonder with real-life fear and sadness. This story is best for readers who like dark fantasy, brave heroes, and magical challenges. It encourages imagination, courage, and hope even in difficult times.



INFORMATION

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Participating in competitions is not just about winning results; the experience of challenging yourself becomes a valuable asset in itself. When applying to university, having an activity you can confidently describe as something you truly worked hard on during your high school years can make a real difference.

Speech and debate competitions also offer opportunities to express your ideas and connect with people from around the world. These experiences help you grow beyond the classroom and gain new perspectives.

Don't be afraid of making mistakes. Take the challenge and see where it leads you.

1. SIESC (Social Impact English Speech Contest) <https://siesc.org/information>
2. GEM Talks (Speech Contest) <https://gemtalks.org/about/>
3. Global Enterprise Contest <https://entreplanet.org/GEC/>
4. Global link Singapore : <https://www.edunet.or.jp/gl/singapore/flow/>
5. FedEx / Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge (ITC) <https://www.ja-japan.org/contests/ITC.html>
6. JEIMUN <https://zenmoken.com/>
7. WSC(World Scholar's Cup)<https://www.scholarscup.org/>



UPCOMING

HERE'S WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR SOON!

- Feb 7: Sports Day - 2nd year(High School)
- Feb 10: Sports Day - 1st year(High School)
- Feb 12: Sports Day - 3rd year (Junior High)
- Feb 13: Sports Day - 2nd year (Junior High)
- Feb 14: Sports Day - 1st year (Junior High)
- Feb 28 - Mar 4: End-of-Year Examinations
- Mar 9: High School Graduation Ceremony
- Mar 16: Junior High School Graduation Ceremony
- Mar 23: School-wide Cleaning
- Mar 24: Closing Ceremony
- Mar 25: Spring Break

