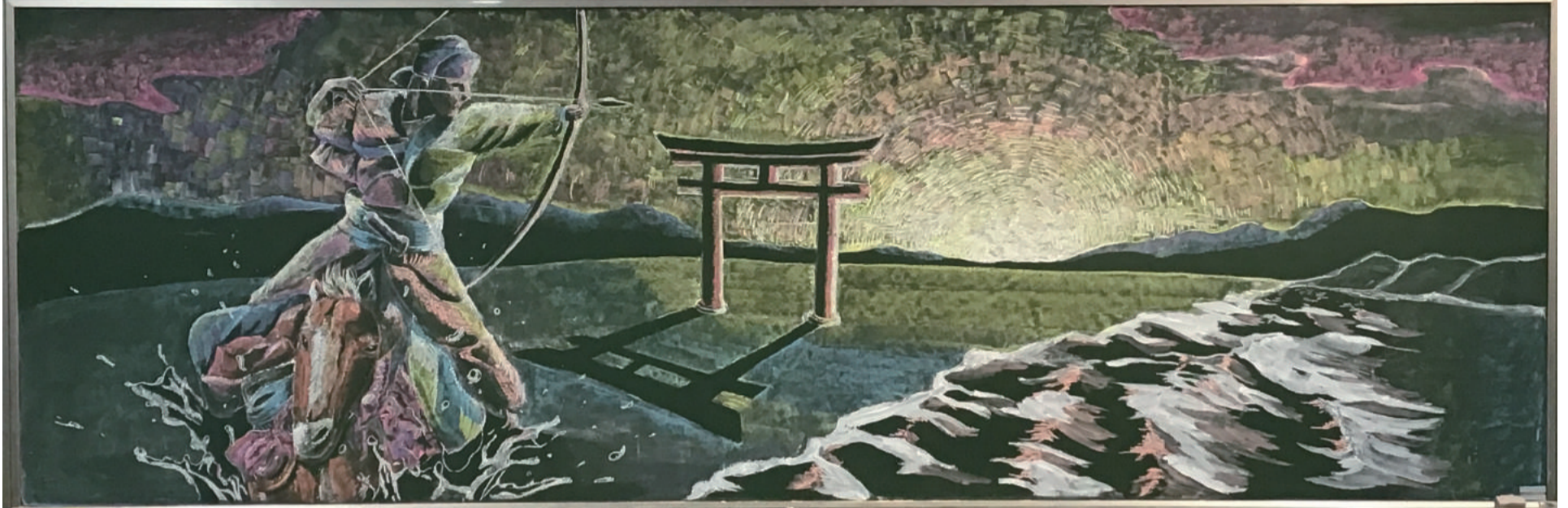


Culture Festival Finally Came Back



Blackboard art by the art club

(Photo by Kamajo teacher, Yukiko Tanaka)

The 2022 Culture Festival was held on a grand scale and, for the first time in three years, welcomed guests from outside the school. Right now, Kamakura grabs the attention of Japanese citizens, thanks to The 13 Lords of the Shogun, so we would like to focus on two exhibitions related to this drama.

Kamakura and the History Club

The 13 Lords of the Shogun was also the theme of the history club at the school festival this year.

Most of the members are interested in this historical drama, so they settled on this theme. During their club activity sessions, they visited Kamakura stone monuments associated with the drama and linked them with their exhibition. They later created a quiz rally and a Sugoroku, a Japanese board game, both of which drew attention at the school festival.

Revive Samurai In Kamakura

This year, the art club exhibited blackboard art related to the NHK

drama The 13 Lords of the Shogun and received the grand prize of the After Taiga Baton Project. The black background, combined with the lack of color choices, proved to be a challenge since they usually paint in oils on white canvases. However, they took full advantage of their creativity, using methods such as mixing chalk with water and applying it with a brush to draw waves. Having had only two weeks to prepare, the members of the art club continued to perfect

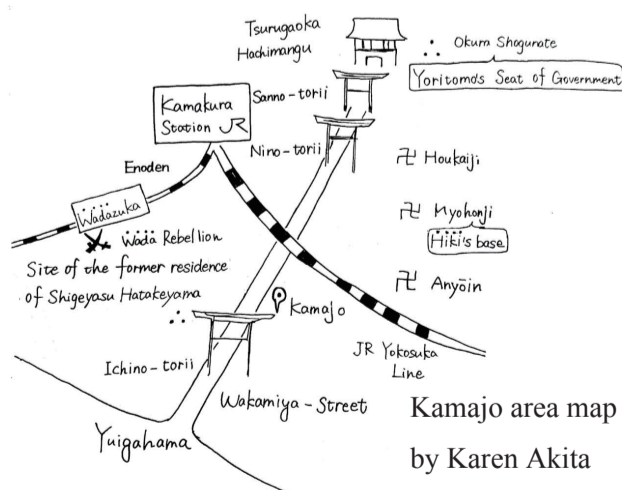
their work until the second day of the school festival. Finally, after much trial and error, they successfully created a masterpiece. It depicts Yabusame, horseback archery, at Hachimangu Shrine and opening the future up in Kamakura. According to the club leader, their aim was to express the tension and strength of samurai in the war-torn 12th and 13th centuries.

(By Sakura Mori, Haruka Matsuo, Aiko Abe, Misaki Kimura, Nozomi Kato)

Kamajo located in a special place

The 13 Lords of the Shogun, an NHK TV drama that gained

Jogakuin, Kamajo. Our school is located along the main Wakamiya



Kamajo area map by Karen Akita

street, which is the approach to Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine. We usually pay the first visit of the year there as part of a class activity, and many students

people who watch the drama and are familiar with The 13 Lords will be excited to know Myohonji temple is just a 10-minute walk from Kamajo. Myohonji was the base of Yoshikazu Hiki who was one of the powerful lords, and it is also where they were defeated. As a point of interest, Wadazuka is where Yoshimori Wada was killed by Yoshitoki Hojo in the Wada Rebellion, hence the name. The fans of the drama must be thrilled on hearing this naming history.

Though most Kamajo students may have forgotten the excitement of spending time in such an interesting city, it is quite thrilling and romantic that we feel the tide of historical times in Kamakura every day isn't it?

(By Karen Akita)



School building of Kamajo

(From the Kamajo official website)

attention last year, is actually set in Kamakura. This means there are a lot of historical spots related to the drama around Kamakura

enjoy selecting a paper fortune telling called Hato Mikuji, which comes with a cute little dove-shaped keychain. Also,

Overnight Field Trip in Okinawa

The long awaited, long anticipated field trip finally took place! After two years of Covid delays, the H2 students were able to go to Okinawa for a cultural and historical treat. It was our first time to travel by plane for a school event and so everyone was filled with excitement throughout the whole trip, feeling exhilarated by the upcoming events. During this trip, we had the chance to learn about Okinawan culture through their traditional music and dance called Eisa. The powerful dance and vocalizations were

enthralling, particularly being able to see the performance so up-close. We definitely couldn't have felt so impressed through videos on screens. Trying Okinawan traditional foods was also a first for us all. While food like goya chanpuru, stir fried bitter melon, might have been a challenge for some people, everyone seemed to enjoy Okinawa soba, noodles with pork, fish cakes and chives in a kombu broth. It really was delicious and something warm that everyone was craving.

As it was an overnight field trip, we got to know more about each other than we ordinarily would at school: our daily habits, quirky preferences, but especially – our faces. Due to Covid-19, it was more natural to see each other with masks on, so showing our whole visage did feel strange, and we all tended to exchange awkward smiles during mealtimes. From the history to the culture, the unfamiliar landscapes, the warm weather and the atmosphere itself, everything felt different from the

Japan we know. It was truly a phenomenal experience. Indeed the four days flew by so fast that we still talk about all the remarkable memories we made in Okinawa even a week after coming home.

(By Kokoro Fukuda)



Photo of Shisa, a traditional artifact of Okinawa.

(Photo by Yusaki Kagamoto)

Learning Culture from School Events

Kamajo, our school, has a lot of events where the students can feel and study culture, not only Japanese but also foreign's. We'll introduce some of them.

Non Japanese Culture

PV program refers to an exchange program with students of Perkiomen Valley High School, which is Kamajo's sister school in America. Kamajo students can taste overseas culture, and have the experience of sharing Japanese culture with foreigners in English, motivating them to study deeply. Some came to want to study abroad, and visited PV High School as exchange students.

The last time, in 2019, PV students joined Kamajo's classes and after school events. The students exchanged opinions and taught each other about their cultures, which made them realize that English is not only for passing tests. They can also use English to communicate with others and have amazing experiences with a wider range of people.



The welcoming ceremony for PV students (Photo by Kamajo teacher, Eiji Funahashi)

Japanese Culture

Kamajo has a school villa in Amagi, and students visit it in their first and second years. The first-graders go there to enjoy team-building activities with their classmates, and consider it the highlight of their year. The second-graders go there again and this time they visit beautiful nature spots, culturally significant sites and other places of educational value. They visit Joren Falls and the old Amagi Tunnel, which are featured in the novel The Izu Dancer, written by Yasunari Kawabata, a Japanese laureate of the Nobel Prize for

Literature. They read it before their trip, so they could fully value the experience. Another day, they walk around the villa, collecting many kinds of grasses in order to study them. Many stars are also to be seen at night. Through these experiences, they can make great memories.

(By Haruna Fujinaka, Michika Higashimoto, Nozomi Munakata,



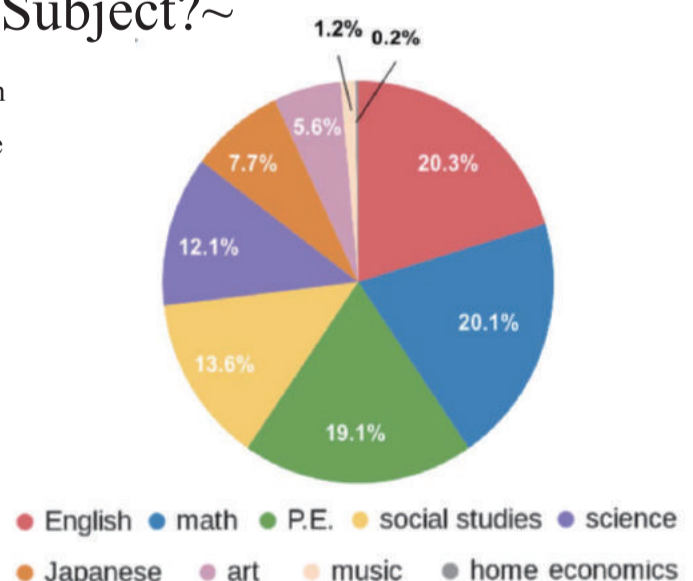
Kamajo's Villa in Amagi (Photo by Kamajo teacher, Misaki Ishii)

Column ~What Is Your Favorite Subject?~

We surveyed Kamajo students about the subjects they like. 398 students filled out the questionnaire. English got the most votes by a narrow majority. English and math are the two most popular subjects across the whole school. Kamajo puts emphasis on English, Japanese

and especially in junior high school, math, so this result partially reflects its educational policy. In our English classes, we often talk about a wide range of topics which range from personal preferences to social problems. This is one of the features of Kamajo's English

teaching and the students seem to have fun participating in the classes. Interestingly, many votes for P.E. came from final year students. Perhaps it is de-stressing for them while they study so hard every day. (By Nao Matsumoto and Ayaka Yamamoto)



Sports Festival

The first big annual event in a school year is our sports festival. It's held every May at the Yokohama Budokan. For M1 students (7th graders), it is the first opportunity to experience the culture of Kamajo. This event enables M1 students to envision their future in this school. It is also the final big event for H3 students (12th graders) so they perform two special programs: Kousan-bushi and Quadrille.



H3 students are dancing Quadrille at the sports festival. (Photo by a Kamajo Teacher)

What's Quadrille?

We have the tradition of dancing the quadrille at Kamajo's sports festival every year. Quadrille is a traditional dance, which originated in Europe in about 1700. Four people dance elegantly in a square and the choreography of bowing one another is quite impressive. Our students have been doing it for more than 70 years. It is an important and final event for H3 students and has become one of the symbols of Kamajo. It is a simple dance with a memorable rhythm which reminds us of our life in Kamajo. This is why we continue to dance the quadrille.

The roots of Kousan-bushi

Kamajo has the habit of dancing Kousan-bushi. It is considered as a traditional dance by our students, but actually it was made not long ago. Kousan-bushi, a masculine cheering performance that H3 students do wearing Gakuran, black school uniform for boys high school with stand-up collar, was created about 50 to 55 years ago. It was inspired by the Gakuran cheering performances done at some universities. When Kamajo adopted this dance, it was rare to wear Gakuran in girls-only schools, and they didn't expect it to be passed down for so long,

but it is actually still an important part of our Sports Festival. The lyrics to Kousan-bushi were written with reference to Nihon University and Tokyo University of Agriculture's songs. With those songs in mind, they were adapted for the location and atmosphere of Kamajo. Therefore, Kousan-bushi is one of the important traditions for Kamajo. (By Kotoko Niwa, Hinako Senbonmatsu, and Suzuka Kitagawa)



"Kousan-bushi" -one of the dances at the sports festival (Photo by Kamajo Teacher)

Blast From the Past

This is the column from the interviews with Kamajo-graduated teachers.

Tea Time

Students used to take turns to make and serve tea for classmates at lunchtime, which created a restful study environment. Teachers recall it stemming from Kamajo's motto of "sincerity and calmness".

Graduation Souvenir

In the recent past, final year graduate students were gifted a silver ring with the school emblem and the graduation year engraved on it. Each year, the designs would be significantly different, making them really unique gifts to receive.

(By Nozomi Kato, Sakura Mori)



The left ring is a graduation souvenir from 2019 and the right one is from 1993. (Photo by Haruka Matsuo)

No Lapin No Life



People working in Lapin (From the Lapin official website)

Every day Kamajo students use a lunch vendor called Lapin which sells bento, lunch boxes, every day. As part of this article, we aimed to find out about their history and philosophy.

Founded in March 2012 by Bunny Foods founder, Ryoji Takahashi, Lapin has been providing bento to Kamajo since June of 2021. Lapin means rabbit in French and it was chosen to symbolize their aim to work together like rabbits living in a herd in the

wild. Inspired by a disabled colleague who previously worked at Bunny Foods, Mr. Takahashi wanted to create jobs for many people with disabilities in order to give them a fun and rewarding workplace experience.

The company is particular about the ingredients they use, often purchasing its foodstuffs from local companies rather than big enterprises. Eggs, especially, are freshly produced and directly delivered. Furthermore, vegetables are ordered mainly

from Miura City, which is local to the school. Lapin's menus are designed to be not only appealing to the eye, but also healthy and convenient. With mild seasoning and two available sizes, their mouth-watering lunches have been a big hit among both students and teachers. These contrivances help Kamajo students improve their health and dietary habits.

The goal at Lapin seems to be to create a work environment which reflects an ideal society with everyone cooperating and contributing together to make high quality food with fresh ingredients for their customers. On behalf of all of the Kamajo students, we would like to thank Lapin for serving us such delicious food!

(By Tomoka Hasegawa, Mayu Kaneko, Mirei Tachiwana, Mayuko Mori, Haruka Ogawa)

Our School Uniform Through the Ages



Every day Kamajo students attend school with bows.

(From the Kamajo official website)

Kamajo's sailor-style uniform has not changed for over 60 years, and it has long been admired by many people. This article will focus on how it evolved into the current style. In 1922, Kamajo introduced a school uniform for the first time. The winter uniform consisted of a purple-blue

jacket and hakama. In 1925, the school emblem was designed around the Chinese character "pine", reflecting the school's natural setting in a pine forest. The design had three pine nuts in the center. The school emblem was worn on a badge tied through the hakama.

When the first school principal Shinnosuke Tanabe retired as principal after 30 years, the first female principal, Yu Eguchi, assumed the position. She introduced a sailor suit for the school uniform. The sailor uniforms were perfect for the image of a good wife and wise mother that was the educational policy of the time.

On the 50th anniversary of our school, a new school emblem was adopted. It was a more sophisticated and artistic design based on a white chrysanthemum flower, representing a pure and resolute woman. Also, a bow was added to the iconic sailor-style uniform. Shaped like a butterfly, the stylish 'Kamajo-musubi (Kamajo knot)' has become a great symbol of our school.

Every spring, seniors show the freshmen how to tie the knot, which takes time to master. According to the questionnaire (refer to Chart 1), over 70% of students prefer the 'Kamajo-musubi', while others choose a bow or tie knot. It is a new-fashioned symbol of Kamajo, loved by many students.

(By Mao Sakakibara, Yuuri Ohsawa, and Hirari Ogawa, and Yuki Kasai)

Which scarf knot is the most popular in Kamajo?

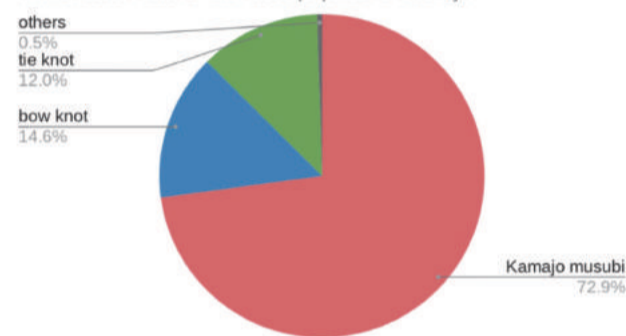


Chart. 1

Over 70% of Kamajo students prefer the Kamajo-musubi.

A Tragedy for a Silk Ribbon

"Wow, so this is my brand-new scarf." The new Kamajo student looked at me with shining eyes. Ah, what a great memory. I was so proud of attending school with her. However, she soon got used to being with me and found that I am the most worth using as a glasses wipe. I hate being used to clean her dusty glasses. That is NOT how I am to be! So, dear students, DO use me only as a scarf. And needless to say, don't forget me and the school badge when you wear your uniform. (By Yuki Kasai)

Kamajo-sei for a Day

Interested in being a Kamajo student yourself? Well, you're in luck. All you need is your smartphone and a thin silk scarf! Scan the QR code below on the left for a tutorial on how to tie your scarf in the Kamajo way. When you are ready, scan the other QR code for a sneak peek of some of our favorite spots around the school! (By Yusaki Kagamoto, Riko Komai, Nao Matsumoto, and Yume Yamagami)



Kamajo-musubi Tutorial



School Tour

A Ten-legged Visitor from the Sea

Kamajo is in the suburb of Yuigahama, the seaside area of Kamakura. The school is located within walking distance of the shore, so students can sometimes see baby

Akategani crabs on the first floor of the school building.

It is incredible to think that they have migrated from the sea and the Nameri-gawa

River. With smile-like designs on their backs, these crabs often surprise freshmen and first-time visitors to the school. When visiting Kamajo, it might be fun to look for one while walking around the building. (By Kaho Yokoyama)



Editor's Note

For the first edition of Kamajo Times, we created articles which not only give you a fun little peek into our school lives, but also enable you to discover a side of Kamajo you never knew before. Topics range from exciting events to tiny tidbits, so we hope you find one that catches your eye! On behalf of my fellow journalists, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the readers and everyone who made this newspaper possible.

(By Yusaki Kagamoto)

KAMAJO TIMES

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Publisher : Kamakura Jogakuin

Project Supervisors : Sawako Otake, Natsumi Soeta, Nahoko Sudo

Editor: Yusaki Kagamoto

Assistant Editors: Mao Sakakibara, Yuki Kasai

Contributing Editors: Ayano Usukura

Staff Writers : (Group Leaders) Mayuko Mori, Nozomi Kato, Nozomi Munakata, Karen Akita, Hirari Ogawa, Ayaka Yamamoto, (1-1) Haruka Ogawa, Misaki Kimura, (1-3) Lisa Kato, Kaho Yokoyama, (1-4) Mao Sakakibara, (2-1) Aiko Abe, Yusaki Kagamoto, Suzuka Kitagawa, Hinako Senbonmatsu, Nao Matsumoto, Yume Yamagami, (2-2) Yuki Kasai, Riko Komai, Mirei Tachiwana, Michika Higashimoto, Kokoro Fukuda, (2-3) Yuuri Ohsawa, Haruka Matsuo, Sakura Mori, (2-4) Mayu Kaneko, Saki Kawamura, Kotoko Niwa, Tomoka Hasegawa, and Haruna Fujinaka

Contact : 2-10-4 Yuigahama Kamakura 248-0014

URL : <https://www.kamajo.ac.jp/>