



SHOEI TIMES



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The School's Beloved *Sanso* and *Gakuso*

Ski camp at *Sanso* Photo by Shoei

Sanso and *Gakuso* are the facilities which Shoei owns for education outside of the school and do extra-curricular activities. They have been a relaxing place for Shoei's students for decades, and have interesting origins. *Sanso* was built in 1966 in the Minami Shiga Highlands, and is used for skiing during winter and

club camps and other camp activities during summer. On the other hand, *Gakuso* was built in 1981 in Karuizawa, and is known as the first open air school in Japan. It gives the students an opportunity to interact with the great nature of Karuizawa, and there are many camps held there, the same as in *Sanso*.



Gakuso Photo by Shoei

But when do we go to *Sanso* and *Gakuso* while we are in Shoei? The first trip to *Sanso* and *Gakuso* is in the first year in Shoei, and is a wonderful opportunity for the new students to get familiar with peers, with whom they are going to spend six years together. We also go to skiing camp, which is open to the beginners and more

experienced students, during winter, and is usually held three times annually. Here, students can interact with students different from their own age, which makes it available to discover the diverse ways of communicating with the other grades' students, not like the relationships in club activities. This summer, many clubs were

fortunate to go camping in *Sanso* and *Gakuso* for a few days ever since the pandemic broke out three years ago. Though many things were to be restricted, they remain as a part of the Shoei's beloved features.

By Rena Goto and Miku Matsushima

CLD Before and After COVID

Co-Learners' Day aka CLD, is an annual event held for students to research topics in which they have interest in. We heard many students saying how it has changed due to Covid-19, but is it really so different from how it was before?

Before the outbreak of the corona pandemic, junior 1 students either performed on stage or did group presentations for

CLD. Junior 2 to senior 2 students all presented as a class. Performances by clubs were done too. Also, we were allowed to invite our family and friends. In 2020, junior high school students did presentations individually, and high school students presented in groups. We couldn't do any presentations for our clubs in CLD,

and we were not allowed to invite people to CLD. In 2021, both junior 1 and 3 students gave presentations individually, and the other grades did group presentations. We were able to perform as clubs too. However, we were still not allowed to invite any guests. In 2022, the presentations were done in the

same form as 2021. We were able to perform as clubs, and we were also allowed to invite our family to watch us perform.

By comparing CLD before and after Covid-19, it became evident that CLD was greatly affected after all. It can also be said that it is slowly but surely returning to the way it was before, thanks to the teachers' efforts and reliance on the students that we won't risk doing anything that might cause an outbreak of the virus.

By Rena Goto and Miku Matsushima



CLD Before Covid
Photo by Shoei

Our “*Kawaii*” School Uniforms

Midsummer uniform in Shoei
Photo by Shoei



Shoei’s uniform is very famous and popular from both the students and the examinees perspective for its design being very fashionable and unique.

Nevertheless, these uniforms are not just “*kawaii*”, but also have much more of which to be proud.

The uniform was enacted in 1982 as a project of the commemorative event of the 100th anniversary, and Shoei was the first school to adopt the blazer and the tartan skirt as an official

school uniform. Additionally, the skirts of the uniform were created from Scotland’s traditional dress, the kilt, and Shoei also became the first school to introduce this kilt as school uniforms.

One of the foremost symbols of the uniform are the skirts. For summer, we have a fresh light blue colored summer skirt and an optional midsummer uniform called “*seikafuku*”. The airy, light clothing creates a refreshing impression, which is perfect for hot summer temperatures.

On the other hand, the winter skirt is colored in dark blue for high school students and deep red for junior school students. These skirts were designed from Scotland’s traditional tartan skirt. Kilt pins were also added to the

skirt along with the original tartan design.

The emblem on the chest of the blazer is designed with the letter SHOEI and a lily flower, which represents the trinity.

These original and traditional designs of the uniform introducing traditional clothes are now one of the most attractive points of being a student of Shoei.

Shoei is well known for its unique uniform, but how do students in Shoei think about it? In a survey taken by students from junior 1 to senior 1, 93% of the students answered that they like the uniform. Especially, there were many opinions that they like the skirt, which has a distinctive design. The remaining 7% of students who gave a negative response said that the skirt is too



Winter uniform for high school
Photo by Shoei

long and heavy. In addition, many students said that the moss green colored socks are too flashy and makes the students stand out in public places.

In another survey in regard to the uniform, 78% of the students answered that they prefer the winter uniform more, and the other 22 % of the students answered that they prefer the summer uniform more. As a minority opinion, some students answered that they like the midsummer uniform, which we wear from July to September.

By Nanako Tanaka, Yu Fujisawa,
and Wakana Yano

Exciting Extra-curricular Activities

ESS CLD ‘Mean Girls’ Photo by Shoei



There are many extra-curricular activities at Shoei, and 90% of the students belong to one of them. We will introduce three clubs, of which each of us are members.

Haruka: I belong to the Japanese Tea Ceremony club. We have it twice a week, on Tuesday and Wednesday after school. We learn about Japanese etiquettes

and ways of making and serving green tea. At Co- Learners’ Day (CLD) before COVID-19, we held tea services in the etiquette room, and served green tea to the visitors. We practice hard and aim to become polite person. Why not join the Japanese Tea Ceremony club?

Yui: I belong to ESS club. We perform musicals and participates in debate contests. We have club activities three times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Senior Two students make the scripts, songs, and dances and we usually have an audition to

decide the roles. Along with singing, dancing and acting, we also do the staff work for composing the stage. Whatever your role is for the play, it is important, and we cannot miss even one person. Through the cooperation of all club members, we build a good relationship between seniors and juniors. This year, we played the musical “Mamma Mia!” in CLD.

Nina: Model United Nations is a debating club in Shoei. This year, we were able to join a competition called AJEMUN. I had the honor of serving as the

Honduras representative. Although we didn’t win, we were able to gain an insight and experience things we couldn’t do inside our school. This year, we talked about deforestation, where we created a world organization that would help developing countries achieve eradicating illegal deforestation. There were also many issues on illegal deforestation, so my partner and I were able to learn so much about the issues that come along with the environment.

By Yui Ichikawa, Haruka
Daikuhara, and Nina Takeuchi

Travelling Back in Time

~ What was our school like back in the Edo period? ~

Just a few hundred years ago, there was no one with shirts and skirts like what we wear now. Males wore *kamishimo* with their swords on their waist, and females wore a kimono which is quite hard to imagine. There were no concrete buildings like the present and most of the buildings were made of wood. Well then, what did our school look like? We did some research on how our school looked back in the Edo period. By

looking at the map of Edo city (former city name of present-day Tokyo) made approximately 300 years ago, we discovered that our school was a former samurai mansion. It was a *Daimyo*; Lord *Hosokawa Buzennokami*'s house and up to our school yard was his dominion. There is a likelihood that the forest and the pond down the slope on the way to the school ground, was his garden. Also, next to his house, there was a road

named *Shirokane Sarumachi*. Even though the name disappeared in the Showa era, the road is still used and many Shoei students pass through this road to get to *Gotanda* station. It is exciting to imagine how our

school that we go to every day was like a long time ago. It will definitely make your way to school more enjoyable than not knowing about its history.

By *Nanako Tanaka, Yu Fujisawa,*
and *Wakana Yano*



Takanawadai in the Edo period
Photo by
<https://mapwarper.h-gis.jp/maps/4908>

Strong bonding with the Prince Hotel

Only a seven-minute walk from Shoei, stands a gorgeous hotel known as the Takanawa Prince Hotel. Famous for its various wedding venues, the hotel has even welcomed many actresses for their weddings. Its motto is "Find Peace and Luxury in Nature", and in the center of the hotel surrounded by its buildings, a beautiful Japanese Garden can be seen. This hotel is one of the many Prince Hotels all over Japan. Shoei's close relationship with the Prince Hotel allows students to enjoy its facilities during their time in Shoei.

Table Manner

In Junior one, students go on an orientation camp to Karuizawa. One of the key events during the trip is the table manner class that students take at the Karuizawa Prince Hotel. Entering the massive hall with round tables all prepared for a full French course meal, you can already smell its aroma. One of the hotel staff guides students with a detailed explanation of various table manners while students and teachers enjoy the delicious meal. Learning table manners is essential because being well-mannered gives a good impression and shows sophistication portraying a responsible, intelligent person that Shoei students strive to become. Students feel

privileged to be given an opportunity to take such a valuable lesson.

Thank-you Party

Open the door of a banquet hall at the Takanawa Prince hotel in spring, and you will see about 500 people: teachers, graduates, and their parents all gathered to hold a thank-you-party. The students plan the party every year to show gratitude toward the teachers who supported them during their six years in Shoei by giving bouquets, offering a full original French course meal, and making speeches.

To know more about the party, we interviewed our 118th graduate English teacher Mrs. Nakajima, and our 128th graduate biology teacher, Ms. Miyamoto. "After the graduation ceremony, we all go to the Takanawa Prince

Hotel. I stepped in the hall and saw spectacular chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and countless tables, with cute nameplates on them." Ms. Miyamoto continued, "In my year, the plates were the design of our skirts." Both spent their time in a building called the "International Convention Center Pamir", but the rooms seemed to be different; for example, Ms. Miyamoto's party was in the "Hall of Hiten". She told us that it is sometimes used in the FNS (Fuji Network System) Music Festival!

Being able to go to the Prince Hotel with your classmates is a chance to experience the unordinary, special moments. It will be an unforgettable moment you just can't miss.

By *Chiho Ito, Yuri Kuroda, and Yui Sano*



The Hall of Hiten
Photo by Takanawa Prince Hotel

The ‘White House’ in Our Campus

Walking down a hill called the ‘Green Hill’ in our campus lies a building with the name of ‘White House’. It is not the official workplace of the President of the United States, but a building with the main facilities of the school. Along with the classrooms of Jr.1 students, there are the art room, the library, the music room, and so on. Therefore, although it is hidden behind a forested area, the White House is indispensable to the students’ campus life. While there are a variety of interesting features, the Shoei TIMES researched about its history, the school library, and Jr.1’s unique-shaped classrooms.

The White House, where Jr.1 students spend their first year, was built in 1991, by the former principal Mr. Okami. Its name

came from the exterior of its white building. Before this building, there used to be a memorial hall and an art room. The memorial hall is now a small monument in a corner of the school ground.

On the fifth floor of the White House, is the library. Entering the library, on the left-hand side, English books are presented to students largely since Shoei puts a great emphasis on English education. In the right-hand side corner at the back of the library, is a studying space. With large windows spreading across the library, students can concentrate in comfortable silence while viewing the open school ground and green trees. Although the library stores over 33,000 books, because the White House has classrooms for only Jr.1

students, the inconvenience for other grades to use the library has long been a problem. However, the library started an online reservation system after the Covid-19. By reserving books online, students only need to come to the library when receiving the books. The online reservation system may be the key to making the most use of our fulfilling library.

Another interesting feature of the White House is the shape of the Jr.1 classrooms, which is a sector shape. There was a problem that students couldn’t see the blackboard clearly due to the sunlight reflection. Then, the teachers came up with the idea of arranging the seats into a sector and made the blackboard easier for the students to see. Also,

without permission from the School Board of Directors. These rules exist to protect students from getting involved in any criminal activity or other serious problems.

The most important rule in our school might be on social media. Though seeming a bit harsh, they are made by teachers who love us and whose words can only keep us safe. The rule that relates the most to our wellbeing is the social media rule. It keeps us safe by restricting our exposure to the public eye by banning photos with school uniforms or anything that reveals the identity of Shoei.

Not only does this rule save



The entrance of the White House

Photo by Shoei

shaping the classroom in this way, made it more comfortable for the teachers as well.

Through the research of the White House, the Shoei TIMES discovered the teachers’ passion towards creating a better environment for the students’ education. Now, confronted with the Covid era, Shoei continues moving forward to achieve the best place for the students to enjoy their invaluable school lives.

By Chiho Ito, Yuri Kuroda, and Yui Sano



Us walking up the hill
Photo by Nina Takeuchi

us from the invasive world of social media, but it keeps our school reputation intact and clean. This is one of the reasons for maintaining Shoei’s long-lasting traditions and culture. The part we all love about Shoei.

By Yui Ichikawa, Haruka Daikuhara, and Nina Takeuchi

Shoei’s school rules

The rules at Shoei are particularly strict, but it means that we are protected by the school. At Shoei, we have rules which are often confusing among students, because they are complicated. Shoei keeps an eye on the student’s appearance a lot. We must look neat and tidy. For example, we must keep our skirts at a certain length (the hem below the middle of your knees). Also, we must open our first and second button on the blouse and blazer respectively. In addition, there are rules to only use the three

designated navy school bags. No other bags are allowed at school, otherwise it would be confiscated.

There are various rules to follow outside school as well. For instance, we are not allowed to hang out in our school uniforms after school. This is because the school uniform represents Shoei and we will spoil the image of Shoei if we get in trouble outside of school. We are only permitted to use our phones from our houses to the nearest station. We cannot do part-time jobs, get a driver’s license or become a fashion model

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