



The Wind Times

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What the Student Council Must Do

MIKA ASAI
OPINION

The lack of the student council's ability to publicise information has been frequently pointed out. Although they have established the suggestion box and published the PR paper, these activities seem yet unfamiliar to students.

To raise their awareness, the student council has to make the students aware of their presence and motivate them to be involved in activities organized by the student council. Indeed the current suggestion box is an easy way to collect opinions, but it does not encourage discussions among students about school issues.

That makes it difficult to motivate students to think about school more. Therefore, the student council should set up an opportunity to exchange opinions more closely with the rest of the students.



Students enjoyed Hanetsuki, Japanese badminton, in 2023.

First Time in 4 years, Oshiruko in New Year's Festival

MIKA ASAI

The student council holds the New Year's Festival every year. This year, it is scheduled to be held on January 27, 2024. Due to the downgrade of COVID-19's legal status, they will resume handing out Oshiruko, sweet red bean soup with rice cake, since 2020.

Nina Iwai, the president of the student council, said, "The New Year's Festival is a great opportunity for returnee students and international students, who are unfamiliar with Japanese events, to



In 2019, Oshiruko was distributed for free.

experience Japanese traditional culture. I hope many people will enjoy the event."

Last year, students were able to enjoy various activities related to the New Year, such as Fukuwarai (a puzzle of a human face, played with a blindfold)

and Kendama (cup-and-ball). In addition, they drew Omikuji, or fortune-telling.

After completing all the games, students were given an original Sugoroku, a board game which is similar to Western Snakes and Ladders, made by the student council.

Tanabata Festival Celebrates Stars' Reunion

MIKA ASAI



Students enjoy various stalls, such as water balloon fishing.

Tanabata, or the Star Festival, is celebrated on July 7. It is a special night when the two stars, Altair and Vega, can meet across the Milky Way. Our student council organizes the Tanabata Festival every year.

At the event, students write their wishes on colorful strips of paper and hang them on a bamboo branches set up in the courtyard or next to the stairs on each floor. The strips are distributed during the HR to every student. The festival also features various stalls, including one by the Cooking Club that offers sweets inspired by the legend of Tanabata.

Osprey Crash in Yakushima

MAI SHIBATA

MAP



The Kadena Base is about 900 kilometers away from the Iwakuni Base.

CV-22 Ospreys, a U.S. military aircraft, crashed off the coast of Yakushima Island, Japan on November 29. Seven of the eight airmen passed away in the crash. Though Maj. Eric Spendlove, who was missing, had still not been found, the Air Force Special Operations Command announced that they will give up the search on

January 13.

The accident happened during the routine training flight from Iwakuni Base in Yamaguchi prefecture to Kadena Base in Okinawa prefecture. It was 14:40, a few minutes after the aircraft requested an emergency landing, at Yakushima Airport to let them make when the aircraft disappeared from



These are CV-22 Ospreys. The USFJ sometimes hold events to open their aircrafts to the public.

the radar.

The cause of the crash is considered mechanical failure. It was the first time air-

men on the Osprey died in Japan. Since December 6, the U.S. military has grounded Ospreys for a while.

Exploring Meaning of Army

54,000 U.S. Soldiers Are in Japan

MAARE SAITO

The United States possesses the largest military force in the world, with about 1.3 million troops as of 2022. The U.S. Armed Forces deploy troops in more than 160 countries around the world, and Japan is one of them. The United States Forces Japan, The USFJ, is a part of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and plays an important role in

maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The headquarters of the USFJ are the Air Force, the Army, the Navy and Camp Butler for the Marines branches located in Yokota, Zama, Yokosuka and Okinawa respectively.

Currently, about 54,000 soldiers work at these bases. U.S. Forces are stationed in Japan in accordance with the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security that was concluded between Japan and the U.S. in 1960.

The USFJ manages the U.S.-Japan Alliance and is the focal point of interest for U.S. defense issues in Japan. The goal of The USFJ is to ensure a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." To this end, it possesses the ability to prevent invasion, support Japan's defense, and strengthen regional peace and security.



Celebrating 70 Years of SDF

MAARE SAITO

The USFJ is not the only organization that defends Japan. There is an organization called the SDF (Self-Defense Forces) that protects the peace and independence of Japan and exercises the right of self-defense.

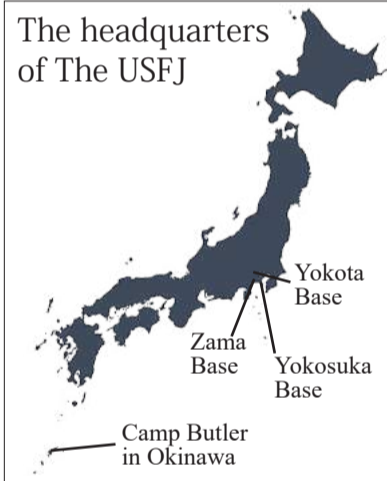
Around 240,000

soldiers are serving in the SDF as of 2023. The SDF was established in 1954, but the organization on which it is based was established in 1951. The SDF does not have the right to attack other countries in cases of invasion or occupation of territories, and can only retain a



In case disaster happens, SDF goes to affected areas and rescues victims.

minimum level of power for self-defense.



War's Other Victims

a former student at Navy School an English teacher

MAO TAKABATAKE

How do people with close ties to the U.S. military feel about the U.S. Armed Forces? We interviewed Seiichiro Muroya, who used to be a student at the University of Maryland Global Campus in Nagasaki, and is currently an English teacher at SFC.



After Mr. Muroya became a teacher, he sometimes worked as an interpreter in The USFJ bases.



Aircraft carrier's appearance. (Photo pixelated)

Mr. Muroya studied in Nagasaki for three years from the age of 22. On September 11, terrorist attacks occurred in the U.S. after a month he entered the school. The school closed, and about half of his classmates went to war and did not return. Some of the new bonds he made through coping with this disaster became like a family to

him. On the other hand, many of those who did come back from the war were devastated physically and mentally. For example, some sustained injuries from bombs, and others suffered from PTSD, or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It led to the loss of his 10 years of friendship with a former army soldier.

Never Studied about USFJ

an English teacher from the U.S.

MAARE SAITO

How do Americans feel about the U.S. Armed Forces? We interviewed Douglas Perkins, who is from the U.S. and an English teacher in our school.

Mr. Perkins grew up in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where there is an air force base just west of town. He felt close to and positive about the air force because he saw flying fighter aircrafts and his classmates were the children of airmen. However, he did not have a chance to learn about the present situation of the U.S. Forces in

Japan because the U.S. media does not report about it. U.S. soldiers in Okinawa sometimes violate the law, but their crimes are not reported in papers in the U.S. Mr. Perkins never studied anything about the current U.S. military presence in Japan when he was in high school. He only studied Japan during World War II in World History class.



Mr. Perkins teaches English to junior and high school students.

SFC High School has some clubs related to Japanese culture. We listened to three students in these clubs.
MIKA ASAI

Karuta : Japanese Playing Cards

Players Compete in 1/100th of a Second



The members usually wear the club's original track-suits, but during the school festival, they wear kimonos, dressing each other. The picture on the left is the *Hyakunin Isshu Karuta*.

Karuta is a Japanese playing card that is familiar to the Japanese as a traditional activity. When playing *Karuta*, the reader randomly draws a reading card from the deck and reads it aloud. Players compete in searching for corresponding the playing card to the reading card, the winner being the first player to touch it.

Competitive *Karuta* has become famous since the comic *Chihayafuru*, which is about a high school *Karuta* club, was pub-

lished. In their *karuta* games, *Hyakunin Isshu Karuta* is used. It consists of 100 reading cards with traditional Japanese poems and corresponding playing cards with pictures. As players compete in a 1/100th of a second, the match is so intense that it can be compared to a martial art.

The SFC *Karuta* Club, which has 28 members, participated in the National High School Competitive *Karuta* Championship last year. "The most attractive thing in a match is the exhilarating feeling when we get a card faster than the opponent," said Miyu Komatsu, head of the *Karuta* Club.

The club is also actively committed to international exchange. In December 2022, they attended a cultural exchange event held at the Machida Citizens' Forum. They conducted a simulation match of *Karuta* wearing *Hakama*, or traditional Japanese clothes. "Through the reaction of visitors, we realized again that *Karuta* is a game that attracts people beyond language barriers, because of the players' highly strategic and powerful actions," commented Harura Ishikawa, manager of the club.

It aims to continue to be one of the strongest among the around 30 high schools in Kanagawa.

Japanese Tea Ceremony

Where the host and guests show respect to one another

Sado, or the Japanese tea ceremony, is to the traditional way of making tea in Japan. The SFC *Sado* Club has 11 members, who perform tea-making at the school festival, or at their tea parties for exchange students from other countries.

They not only learn the detailed procedures for making tea, they also learn the unique spirit of *Sado*. The host and guests open their hearts to each other and enjoy drinking tea regardless of their status, gender, age, or origin. "For people with different backgrounds to live together, they need to respect and understand each other. Through the practice of *Sado*, we hope to acquire the spirit of empathizing with others," explained Sunao Jozen, head of the club.

This year, they held a tea ceremony with

international students as guests. "Different countries have different tastes in sweets. I feel satisfied when

we entertain and interact with people who have different backgrounds," Sunao said. The members provide hospitality by preparing seasonal sweets and utensils.

How to Drink Tea

1. When the host brings the tea bowl in front of you, bow and take the bowl with your right hand and place it on the palm of your left hand.
2. Hold up the bowl a little to show your appreciation.
3. Rotate the bowl two or three times clockwise with your right hand to avoid staining the front of the bowl when drinking.
4. Drink the tea in three or four sips.
5. Wipe the bowl where your lips touched it with your right hand.
6. Rotate the bowl counterclockwise to turn the front of it toward the host, and return it to the host.



Replenishing water into a kettle with a ladle.

Karate: Martial Arts with Politeness

Karate is one of the most famous martial arts in Japan. This sport aims to strengthen the body through practicing strikes, kicks, and defensive movements, and train the mind as well.

The SFC *Karate* Club has 19 members. Gaku Mori, the captain, says karate emphasizes politeness. "We do not pump our fists even if we win. We always start with a bow and end with a bow to show respect. Through karate, I learned the culture of respecting the opponent."

There are two forms of karate: *kumite* and *kata*. In *kumite*, or sparring, the emphasis is on how fast you can make a valid strike. In contrast, *kata* has no opponent. One competitor simulates attack and defensive movements, and the performance is



Practicing Karate in the dojo.



Before and after the practice, the club members bow each other to show their respect.

evaluated by how beautiful and strong they look.

Farmer's Restaurant "Ibuki" Aims for "Agricultural Diversification"

MAI SHIBATA

The Farmer's restaurant "Ibuki" manages cultivating, processing and selling local food. It aims to achieve agricultural diversification. The purpose is to prove that it is feasible for farmers to make the most use of vegetables grown by themselves.

The largest obstacle in the way of achieving of agricultural diversification was overcoming the legal barrier. This is because the construction of restaurants in farmland was strictly prohibited, Fujisawa city legalized "The Outline for the Construction of Farmer's Restaurants." "Ibuki" was approved as a



This is Ibuki's signature dish "Fermentation mix plate". It costs 1480 yen.

"Extreme Uniqueness to the Local"

National Strategic Special Zone for the first time in the Kanto region and opened in 2018. It took about two years to enact this ordinance because there was no precedent.

This restaurant gets groceries with awareness of

"Extreme Uniqueness to the Local." "Ibuki" uses approximately 10 tons of local ingredients per year and they make up 70% of the menu. The purpose is to make other restaurant owners become aware of the importance of using



It takes 15 minutes to get "Ibuki" from SFC. Its exterior has a rural design.



Ibuki has many windows, so customers can enjoy the open atmosphere.

local products. The reason is that the restaurant does not have to use food additives in order to keep food fresh. The chef who runs his own farm can

prepare food for the next business day without going to the market.

"Ibuki" wishes for their customers to eat safe and nutritious meals at ease.

Endo Sasakuboyato Park reaches 1st Anniversary

MIKA ASAI

Endo Sasakuboyato, one of the Fujisawa city's three major valleys, is next to the Keio Shonan Fujisawa Campus. The area is so rich in nature that we can observe the biodiversity and natural scenery.

To preserve nature around the park, the 2.5 ha "Endo Sasakuboyato Park" opened on July 16, 2022. It has a rice field, an iris field, and the "Satellite Center for Biodiversity" which promotes conservation activities and environmental education. In addition, a pond in the park has a rainwater storage function to prevent flood damage.

On July 15, 2023,



Participants experienced Sasara Bon Odori (traditional folk dance of Endo area.) The picture on the left is the SFC Environment Project's booth.

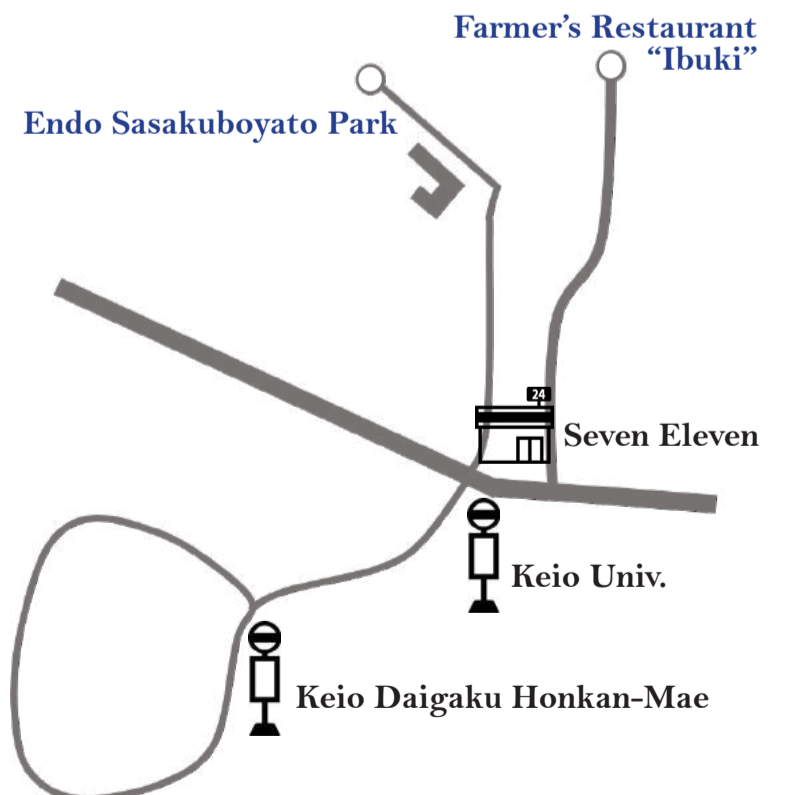
the First Anniversary of the Park Opening was held. Visitors exhibited some activities such as the observation of the nature in the area. The Environmental Project, a volunteer group from SFC High School,

made playing cards for this event. By playing cards, the visitors enjoyed learning about famous locations around the Endo area. The park is serving a role as a place for encouraging regional revitalization.

Access

To "Ibuki" and the Park from SFC High School

Take Kanachu Bus (Bus numbers 湘23, 湘24, 湘25) from bus stop 1 to Keio University, or Keio Daigaku (15 minutes). From the Keio Daigaku bus stop, walk north for about 10 minutes, and you will get to both of places.



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