



# The Shoei Shout



STUDENT EDITION, JANUARY 2025

## The Wonders of Our School

There are many traits in our school that may seem odd to some students. For instance, “Why is there a strange door at the top of our school?” “What is the memorial hall by the school yard for?” To get to the bottom of these questions and to uncover the history of some of our school facilities, we interviewed Mrs. Hayashi, our music teacher, who was a student here at Shoei over 40 years ago.

With her help, we found a plate with our school history on it engraved on the wall of our school (①). The current school building was built in 1962, which means our school is over 60 years old! As we explored, it became clear that

the mysterious door at the top of our school leads to the rooftop. There used to be a staircase which led to the door, but during the process of constructing another school building, it was taken down. Over 40 years ago, students could go up to the roof to eat lunch or view Mt. Fuji. Moreover, the school yard used to be a huge pond. In the early Showa period, the principal at that time bought the pond from the Hosokawa clan to turn it into a school yard.

By the school yard, there is a building called the White House. This is where Junior One students spend their first year at Shoei (②). It was originally built to

accommodate the increasing number of teachers and students. Before it was built, there was a hill where students would hang around. As the new school building was under construction, they decided to incorporate English tiles, as Shoei was already a Christian school at the time.

The memorial hall (③) was designed by the principal's relative. It is a replica of a different building, and some architecture students even come to study the structure of the building. It is now used as a warehouse, but what's inside remains a mystery.

By Momoka Nagano &  
Nao Takizawa

①



②



③



Photo by ① Momoka Nagano  
②,③ Shoei

## The Pool Crisis

Since last year, there have been rumors about the pool getting taken down, but the reasons behind this remain unclear to many Shoei Students.

Our research revealed that the idea of demolishing the pool arose because people could see students from the skyscrapers around the school. The pool's wear and tear due to age is another major reason for this. Having been built 70 years ago, the pool is in poor condition, causing water leakage. The high maintenance fee of the pool is another key issue.

Despite having to pay a large amount of money to manage the pool, almost nobody except the swimming club uses the pool. Many teachers believe the money used to preserve the pool can be put to better use on other issues such as electricity bills.

Then why don't we rebuild the entire school building? It might be a great opportunity to do so, but we would need to find



Shoei's Pool  
Photo from Shoei Instagram

another place that can hold over 1200 students during the construction. We cannot make a big change immediately, but some teachers have commented that they are looking forward to removing the pool and transforming the area into a space where students can hang out. So, here's what we propose!

We would like to request a terrace to make full use of the space, where students can interact with those who are in different

grades. This could be a great idea, as Shoei currently lacks spaces for students to communicate outside of classrooms. A western-styled terrace will suit well in Shoei's English-style garden.

Transforming the space into a vegetable garden where students can experience growing plants and vegetables by themselves would be a good idea as well. This could spark new student-led

activities dedicated to taking care of the garden. The vegetables can be used in the school cafeteria for students to enjoy by themselves. All in all, we are looking forward to seeing what will be built after this memorable pool in our school.

By Hinata Miyamoto &  
Yu Morichika



Illustration by Haruno Yashiki



# Serving Up Stories

## Inside the School Cafeteria

Food and eating are one of the most inevitable elements in life. Shoei students are of course no exception to the rule. The appetite of teenagers is boundless and Shoei's cafeteria is an essential part of the students' diet. We interviewed the staff working at Shoei's cafeteria.

### Students' Favorites

Ramen was the most popular. Depending on the day, the flavor of the ramen changes. Sometimes they have soy sauce, miso, salt and so many more. In addition, students can buy daily lunches to eat in classrooms. The most popular ones are (①). Aside from the main menu, they provide us with a small food sale during lunchtime. The menu differs every

day, but the best sellers never budge.

These are the rankings from the cafeteria (②).

### The Secret Recipe

They spend an unimaginable period making Char-siu pork and hamburger steak. They spend two whole days making the juicy Char-siu pork. As for the hamburger steak, they try to make it authentic, by kneading it with their hands.

### Announcements

Since all dishes are prepared from the day before, the amount of ingredients is estimated based on the reservations. For this reason, the cafeteria staff ask that meal

tickets be purchased as far in advance as possible.

When we inquired about the creativity behind their menu ideas, they revealed that the staff came up with them. Not only that, but they also responded to students' requests. "The request box is in the cafeteria open for all students, so feel free to write your requests", said the staff. Some examples of the popular menus that were added to the daily menu include lasagna and hamburgers. Requests are not the only secret to adding popular menu items, however. Since students in Shoei tend to love Korean dishes, the staff sometimes visit Shin-Okubo on their days off to do market research. Our favorite menu items

are the result of such effort and love.

### Top 4 Best-Selling Daily-lunch menus

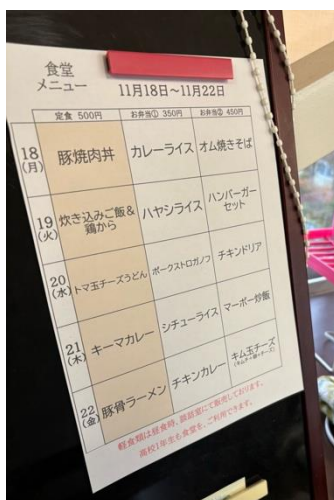
1. Lasagna ①
2. Demi-glace omelet with rice
3. Tan-tan Noodle without soup
4. Yurinchi

### Top 4 Best-Selling Small Foods

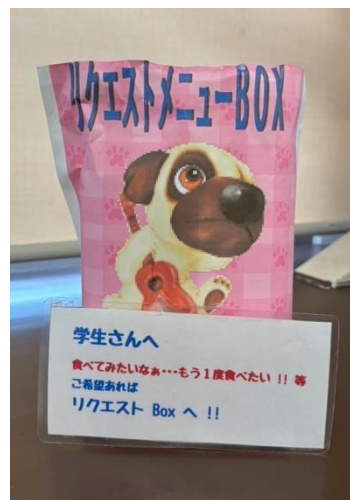
1. Fried bread ②
2. Chocolate Coronet
3. Fried chicken
4. Yangnyeom chicken



Cafeteria on the 4F of Building 1  
Photo by Mana Yoshida & Yurika Yano



Daily lunch menu



Request box

### Tips to make the most out of the cafeteria:

If you don't like crowds, come to the cafeteria on Monday! On seasonal holidays, we can request and eat anything we want without reservation! You can enjoy chocolate, vanilla and melon soda frozen shakes starting from this year.

By Akari Amemiya, Mana Yoshida,  
Rinca Ogawa, Yuka Ochi

## Shoei Fun Facts

### The Mystery of the Freezing Cider

Five years after the Coronavirus outbreak, Shoei went through a transformation: installing vending machines. They contain various kinds of drinks, including the freezing Mitsuya Cider which has gained popularity among students. There is a way to turn it into a sherbet-like state. However, the Cider didn't freeze for many students including us, and some vigorously shook it to make it freeze, causing a mess. Due to this situation, we decided to research why they did not freeze and whether there are any tricks.

The drinks are decided by Hachiyoh, the vending machine company, and the school office. Part of its profit is donated, so students can contribute to the SDGs just by buying drinks from them.

Workers of Hachiyoh usually restock the drinks in the morning or after school, so we assumed that the cider would be the coldest early in the morning or after the last period, right before they open the vending machine to add drinks. Many students claimed they don't freeze during summer, but they

mostly freeze in winter. This proves that whether the cider freezes or not depends on the temperature outside. Students also stated that the timing is important. They said, "It often works when you gently open the bottle cap, watch the bubbles rise to the surface, and then close it quickly."

Based on the tips and information, we conducted experiments to try them out and were able to successfully freeze it into sherbet.



Freezing Mitsuya Cider  
Photo by Sayako Ito & Mirai Sano

By Sayako Ito & Mirai Sano



# TAMAKAPPA

## Behind the Scenes



“Tamakappa” (SFD 2024)

Photo by Shoei Instagram

The moment the familiar music played, the cheers of more than a thousand students filled the gymnasium of the Tokyo Budokan. The students dancing energetically to the cheerful music with big glowing smiles on their faces are the Senior One students of Shoei. They were truly getting

all the attention that moment; however, behind the scenes, “Taikubu”, Shoei’s school sports committee, was working relentlessly to make this performance truly special. Now, let us take you through the journey of the “Taikubu” creating this unforgettable dance.

“Taikubu” usually has a lot of work to do such as running the friendly greeting campaign, maintaining the school field, cleaning the locker room, and most importantly, organizing Shoei Field Day (SFD), our sports day which is held once a year.

On the day of Taikubu’s biggest event, SFD, they are busy all day marking the tracks on the gymnasium floor, leading students, and working as judges for the games. Despite their busyness throughout the year, many students often wish to become committee members due to its fun atmosphere, the opportunity to propose ideas of SFD, and the sense of fulfillment it provides.

Finally, let us walk you through how they put together the new game Senior One students participated in this year’s SFD: Tamakappa.

First, the teachers decided the game the Senior One students would participate in. There was a choice between a normal ball-toss game or a dancing-ball-toss game. This was decided based on a class survey, which showed that the

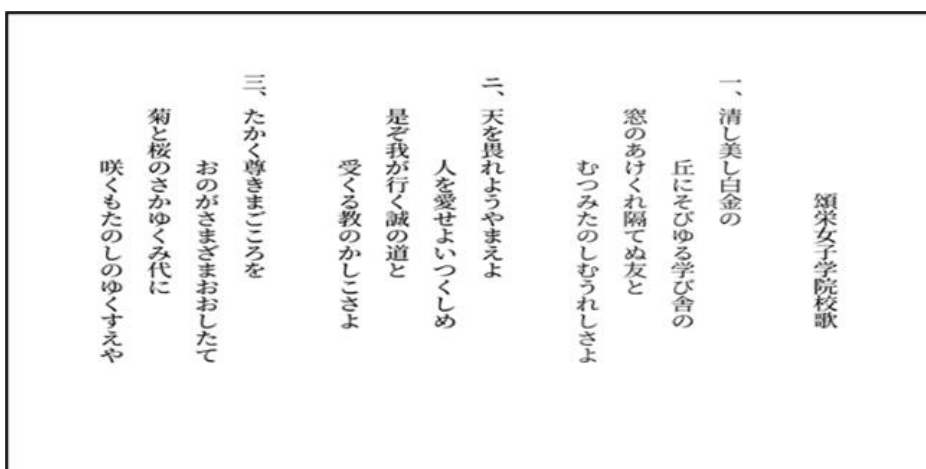
majority preferred the dancing-ball-toss game. Once decided, Taikubu started choosing the music. The top three choices were: “Che Che Kule,” a common song for a ball-toss game, “Matsuken Samba” a popular song of all time, and “Smile” from the anime *Hanakappa*. The final decision was made: “Smile”. After the song was chosen, the hardest part remained: making the choreography. Taikubu used many sources such as TikTok and YouTube, and rearranged some parts to make it cuter and fun. Not only that, but they also discussed the rules of the game to make it even more special by adding costumes and position changes during the dance.

On the day of SFD, as soon as the music started, students danced joyfully to the music, but the battle started the instant the music stopped. They earnestly threw the balls in daze, and the Taikubu’s effort came to life.

By Haruno Yashiki & Mirai Sano

# Surprise Surprise!

## The Hidden Verse of the School Anthem



Shoei School Anthem

In Shoei, singing is familiar to many of us because we sing various hymns every morning. At first, singing out loud felt awkward, and some of us were hesitant to do so. However, as

time went by, singing became a part of our daily lives and our school anthem holds a special place in our hearts. We sing the school anthem on special occasions such as Entrance Ceremony, Shoei Field Day (SFD), and the School’s

Anniversary Worship Day. The anthem was first made when the school was established, and it has not been edited since then. Initially, Shoei’s school anthem had three verses, but the second verse had to be hidden. We decided to do some research on this because we were interested in why the second verse suddenly disappeared and came back abruptly. According to a book named “125nen no Ayumi”, which is about Shoei’s 125 years of history, the reason why it disappeared was due to the outbreak of World War II. The second verse of the anthem includes a lot of Christian elements, such as praising God

and a call for worship. Christianity was banned in Japan during the war as it was a belief that came from overseas, where Japan was at war with. This change in the anthem’s lyrics serves as a reminder of how cultural expressions, even those seemingly innocent or timeless, can be deeply influenced by the political and social landscapes of their time.

By Aoba Toda & Yukina Umezawa



# Unlocking the Secrets Behind Teachers

Here at Shoei, the relationship between teachers and students is very close-knit. It is common to see them chatting in the hallways near the teachers' room or in classrooms after classes are over. Whether it's about studying or not, students love to talk with teachers about various topics—everything from what they did during the weekends to their worries about future paths. However, that doesn't change the fact that students and teachers are two completely different groups of people with different ages, different classroom roles, and different life experiences. For this article, we asked five teachers to “spill the tea” about themselves so that we can learn more about them.

## Mrs. Yamaki

She is known for her well-organized classes and passion for teaching, motivating many students to learn more about



modern Japanese literature. Here are some of the answers she gave to the questions.

• *Is there a specific lesson or activity that you're always excited to teach?*

Her answer was *Kokoro* by Soseki Natsume. According to her, it is her most favorite work of literature out of all the modern literature that are on Japanese textbooks. She loves this story because while being unrelatable for her, it allows readers to understand the characters' emotional shifts.

• *What would your students be most surprised to know about you outside of school?*

Her answer was “playing the piano”. She has been learning to play the piano for a long time, and this year, she visited a piano factory to choose one grand piano to buy out of three options.

## Mr. Matsumoto

He is a Classical Japanese teacher who is known for his enthusiasm for *Kojiki* and engaging classes.

Here are the answers he provided us.

• *Is there a specific lesson or activity that you are always excited to teach?*



He answered Chinese literature and *Sangokushi* (The Records of Three Kingdoms).

• *What would your students be most surprised to know about you outside of school?*

He said he likes to collect board games. His recommendations are “Turing Machine”, “Codename”, and “6 nimmt!”.

## Ms. Harada

She is a geography teacher who is known for her kindness and her

commitment to valuing every student's questions. Although it is only her first year teaching at Shoei, her fun personality has captivated many students from different grades. Here are the answers she gave to our questions.

• *What would your students be most surprised to know about you outside of school?*

Her answer was collecting Ekitagu, which are railway stamps.

• *What is the strangest/funniest thing that has ever happened in one of your classes?*

According to her, her junior high



school students played a prank on her before class, where they all faced the back instead of facing the front to take the lesson

## Mrs. Hayashi

She is a music teacher who is also a Shoei graduate.



She is known for her energetic personality and beautiful singing voice. Here are some of her answers to our questions.

• *Is there a specific lesson or activity that you're always excited to teach?*

A song called “Caro mio ben” was her answer.

• *What would your students be most surprised to know about you outside of school?*

She answered yoga.

Thanks to the cooperation, we were able to get some interesting pieces of information from each interviewee. I hope this article helped you learn more about our teachers.

By Yurika Yano & Kizuna Nakamura  
Illustration by Haruno Yashiki

# The Mystery Warehouse



The warehouse next to Shoei's entrance  
Photo by Mana Yoshida

Next to the gate of Shoei is a small warehouse. It is so integrated into everyday life that it is now just part of the everyday scenery for students. However, many students have probably wondered at least once what its contents are. We therefore decided to investigate the secrets of this warehouse. Our investigation

revealed that the warehouse belongs to Shirokane Saru-machi town council. Mikoshi, sacred religious palanquin, sits in the warehouse few times a year. This is perhaps related to the festival held by the Shirokane Sarumachi town committee. In this festival, people carry a Mikoshi and parade around Shirokane area to remove

evil spirits and wish for local prosperity. In doing so, they borrow the Mikoshi from the Shirokane Hikawa Shrine themselves.

By Akari Amemiya, Rinca Ogawa, Yuka Ochi, Mana Yoshida

## The Shoei Shout

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