



THE KUGAYAMA TIMES



STUDENT EDITION, OCTOBER 2024

The Scrum of Study and Club Activities

On a ground a short distance away from Kokugakuin Kugayama Junior and Senior High School building, members of the rugby club practice very hard. The school is well known for the success of its many strong national-level athletic teams. The junior high school rugby team has recently made a name for itself by winning the Tokyo Metropolitan Spring and Fall Tournaments and the East Japan Tournament twice in a row. Although it is hard to imagine from the rigorous training, many students in the junior high school rugby team are also known for their “Both literacy and martial arts”, which excels in both schoolworks and sports. What are the daily lives of the junior high school rugby club students like? To find out, the Kugayama Times interviewed the club members.

The members spend a lot of time in the club practicing. How do they secure time to study? It is physically difficult to secure the



Members of the club practicing rugby.

Photo by Rio Morotomi

time on the days with club activities, but the members efficiently use their time on their commute to and from school. Some students wake up at four o'clock in the morning to study because they don't have time to study after school. Not to lose concentration in a short time, others set a goal to study at first. They sometimes get stuck in

studying on hard schedules, but they manage to balance their studies and club activities. For example, refreshing themselves by changing subjects, contacting friends, listening to music, etc. Many of the members have gone straight to the high school rugby clubs and then to famous universities.

In addition, the most important

aspect in playing rugby is body-building. How do they build strong bodies to defeat their opponents the others teams? In their normal diet, they eat a good breakfast, lunch and dinner, and get protein from nutritional drinks. Many members also practice running and passing on their own. Their strong bodies are the fruit of their labors.

Finally, Daichi Moriizumi, the captain of the club, who is preparing for the fall tournament. He says that he wants to lead the team by making each and every practice important, with the teammates, aiming for the same goal. The members of the club are not only serious about their club activities, but also about their studies, so they are truly “literary and martial arts” rugger men.

By Neo Omori, Eiko Kawase,
Tsumugi Kodama, Rio Morotomi

Value of New Banknotes in Cashless Society

New banknotes were issued on July 3, 2024. It has adopted a universal design and new anti-counterfeiting technology. Although the quality is getting better with each one issued, this may be the last of type of banknotes because that social cashless is progressing.

The new banknotes are printed with designs that symbolize Japanese culture. Also, it has become a layout that emphasizes Arabic script, which make it recognizable regardless of age or nationalities.

Not only the design but the new technology is attracting attention. From the new banknotes, the 3D hologram, the portrait rotating technology, is one of the newly featured technology, which was adopted for the first time in the world. The Metropolitan Police Department shows that the number of counterfeit notes

discovered last year fell sharply to one-third of the peak since 2000. As technology improves, it becomes more difficult to counterfeit banknotes now.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry is promoting cashless payment ratio. In 2020, they set a goal of increasing the cashless payment ratio to about 40% by 2025 and to 80%, the world highest level in the future. According to a survey of 65 working adults connected to Kokugakuin Kugayama Senior High School, 68.2% of them prefer to use cashless. At this rate, the METI' goal will probably be achieved. New banknotes are issued approximately every 20 years. Cashless is expected to go further in 2044, 20 years later, so these may be the last new banknotes.

In a cashless society, does it make sense for money to continue to exist as banknotes and coins? In

the conducted survey, many people gave examples like fewer things to carry and smoother checkout as benefits of going cashless. However, Satoshi Yokoyama, chief of our school's Boys Department says the downside is that cashless systems are vulnerable to disasters and become unusable in a power outage. In addition, our students' parents and alumni students said that cash is essential to teach children the importance of money when asked how they would feel if society were to become completely cashless in the future.

It means the importance of the feeling of buying things within a limited budget and being paid for it. That only comes from cash. Nowadays, the significance of banknotes is being called into question in an increasing cashless society.



Photo by Minami Yagi

10,000yen... Eiichi Shibusawa, called “father of capitalism”.
5,000yen... Umeko Tsuda, a pioneer in woman's education.
1,000yen... Shibasaburo Kitazato, a bacteriologist who developed methods to prevent and treat tetanus.

By Tamaki Kojima, Meisa Mori,
Minami Yagi

CULTURE

Anime: Bridging Japan and the World

Nowadays, Japanese anime is widely known abroad.

According to a survey of DENTSU INC., one-third of Americans from 18 to 54 years old watch anime. Therefore, The Kugayama Times interviewed foreign tourists in Shibuya, Ikebukuro, and Tokyo, as well as foreign teachers at Kokugakuin Kugayama Senior and Junior High School. What does Japanese anime mean to them?

The Kugayama Times interviewed people who found cultural differences through Japanese anime. A woman from Tennessee was struck by how anime characters take the train daily, as Americans hardly use it. She also noticed the smaller size of Japanese items and the smaller portion sizes of food in anime, such as the small school bags in anime compared to American ones.

Mr. Emilio, an English teacher at the school from Washington, observed differences in Christmas celebrations. In the US, Christmas is deeply religious, with many people attending church and

There are many anime fans overseas in Shibuya.

spending time with their family. However, Japanese anime often portrays it as a time for eating chicken and cake and celebrating with friends or romantic partners, which made Mr. Emilio surprised.

Some people learn Japanese or Japanese culture by watching anime. For example, two men from Germany wanted to enjoy anime without subtitles and tried to study Japanese. Additionally, Ms. Sydney, an English teacher

from the Oklahoma, said that Americans have started to use Japanese words such as “*tomodachi*” and “*kawaii*” due to the influence of anime.

Anime also has an impact on many things besides culture. A fan from Germany said that he felt each anime has a different message or lesson. In particular, a boy who dreams of becoming the King of the Pirates, the main character of an anime about an

adventure story about pirates, has taught him that it is important not to give up on one's dream, and he has been encouraged.

Some people have formed new relationships through anime. A woman from the US stated that she made new friends in high school and college by discussing about Pokemon and other animes. A man from Spain attended an anime event where he first met his girlfriend.

Japanese anime has helped foreigners to notice the differences in culture and values between Japan and their native countries. In addition, it has led them to have an interest in the Japanese language and culture. Anime is not only entertaining, but also enriches their lives by providing them with hints on how to live, how to think of things, and as a key to expand their relationships with others.

By Aoi Matsuda, Ayumi Hogaki,
Claire Keisen Kyu, Shiho Kozoe



Photo by Ayumi Hogaki

Hidden Independence – Broaden Your Horizon

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) introduced “The Comprehensive Inquiry Based Learning Class” into high schools in 2022. It aims for independent, interactive, and deep learning. According to curriculum guidelines, the goal is to let students take action on own initiative by using one's own opinion with consideration. In addition, it includes the ability to solve various problems with own experiences and knowledge. It also puts value on curiosity and ability to read situations. The Kugayama Times conducted a survey among 36 first-year female students at Kokugakuin Kugayama Senior High School about whether they consider themselves independent. Only four students answered “I definitely think so.”

This summer, The Kugayama Times visited Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and actually looked at the current situation of education in the US. All of the



Photo by Misae Kagami (left) and Hinata Aragaki (right).
The form of “discussion” is often taken in the US (left) while it isn't frequently taken in Japan (right).

classes were active ones, requiring students to argue their own ideas. In contrast to this fact, when The Kugayama Times interviewed Saki Nishiyama, a student in the first grade of Kokugakuin Kugayama Senior High School student, about the first grade of her classmates' attitude in the open mock classes in universities, she remarked that almost every student just silently listened to the professors due to the lack of chances to speak up. Paul Yarabe, the special lecturer of the academic program for Kugayama students while in Boston, also stated that “It is important for everyone to look for issues on which he/she can keep having a



strong motivation and there are many opportunities to advance themselves. However as to how you seize your chances depends on your learning habits, I would like you to improve your learning habits.”

Kentaro Ishii, who is in charge of the Comprehensive Inquiry Based Learning class in Kokugakuin Kugayama Senior High School, states that this class plays an important role in hone identity. Rather than just listening to what the teacher teaches, students can share their individual ideas and problems through group work and discussion. As a result, they can discover something new and gain inspiration with their classmates

so that they can find what they want to do, so to speak a guide of life. It seems that the basis of one's identity can be built by the activity. They could find daily trifling problems and deepen their understanding of them, if they have interest in them. Such actions are surely connected to inquiring.

However, this class is just one place to provide the opportunity to deepen one's own thought. Therefore, to develop one's identity in real sense, four elements are needed; thinking personally about attractive things, expressing our own opinions, capturing others' ideas from various perspectives and deepening thoughts. When the someone's willing attitude matches the Comprehensive Inquiry Based Learning class even just a little bit, he/she can broaden their horizons.

By Miyuu Koguchi, Hinata
Aragaki, Momoko Oka

LIFE

Time for “time performance”?

In recent years, it is said that many young people tend to be conscious of “*taipa*”, an abbreviation of “time performance”. “Time performance” refers to the ratio of effectiveness achieved to time spent. “time performance” refers to the ratio of time spent to time gained. With the development of social media, a huge amount of information has become available. Therefore, in order to find the relevant information online, it is necessary to dig through a large amount of unrelated information. When you can make a large profit in a short amount of time, it means you have a good “time performance”. For example, watching videos at double-speed or using short-time goods: meal kits.

The Kugayama Times surveyed 102 first-year junior high school students and second-year senior high school students at

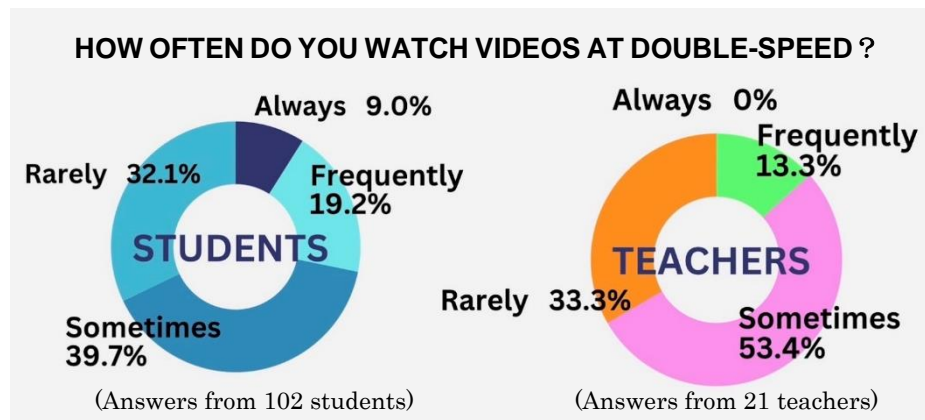
Kokugakuin Kugayama Junior and Senior High School regarding watching videos at double-speed. The results showed that approximately 75% of people had watched videos at double-speed before. It was found that about 30% of them frequently watched videos at double-speed. Also, 80% of people said they are conscious of *taipa* when watching YouTube. The most common reason was “I want to watch a lot of content in a short-time. They

also said “I don't have time” and “I want to watch a movie quickly”, and it is clear that they are looking for benefits of time. Next, a survey of 21 teachers showed that 69% had watched a movie at double-speed, a result similar to that of the students. However, no one regularly watched at double-speed, with “sometimes” accounting for over 80% of the total responses. It was found that young people tend to seek *taipa* more often.

The Kugayama Times asked Rinu Ikeda, a second-year senior high school student in the school, who is often aware of *taipa*. The Kugayama Times asked her what she regretted when she was aware of *taipa*. According to her, watching online lessons at double-speed is good because it helps her to grasp the basics quickly. However, when she doesn't understand the content of the online lessons by herself, it takes even longer time to grasp the information, so there is no point in doing it faster.

What do you think about *taipa*? Whether you are always aware of *taipa* or not, think about it again!

By Yuna Sahashi, Mei Uchida, Konoka Tamura



DyDo's challenge with vending machines

The word "DyDo" is often seen on vending machines but why are DyDo products so hard to find in supermarkets? Why do DyDo vending machines sell sweets and other products in addition to drinks?

According to Ms. Morishita of the Public Relations Department of the DyDo Group Holdings Inc (DyDo), “Based on the idea that we want to deliver our products closer to our customers, in the 1970s, when there were no convenience stores, we placed small vending machines to sell canned coffee and received great responses. Our vending machines have grown to become our main sales channels. Since then, we have regarded vending machines as ‘branches’ and our company has sold products there as real shops. Also with supermarkets and convenience stores, we can't control the display and pricing of our products on the shelves.” She said.

The reason why DyDo sells snacks in the vending machines was because partner companies asked if they could sell snacks or something that can replenish sugar for employees who didn't eat breakfast. Thanks to this,

DyDo's vending machines started to sell beverages and chocolate snacks in 2003. They responded to requests from the installing company, and started selling something they can easily eat like (savory) snacks and pouch jelly. These attempts were popular at present, the number of vending machines is expanding into about 12,000 throughout the country. The advantage of vending machines is that they are contactless and can sell products 24 hours a day without manual labor - thus reducing various labor costs - including those associated with sales. According to the vending machine installed JP, Japan has the world's highest vending machine penetration rate in terms of land area and population, but according to a survey by the Economic Analysis Office of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, domestic vending machine production peaked in 2012 and has been on a downward trend. According to the Japan Vending System Manufacturers Association (JVMA), the main reason is the declining population. The popularity of freshly brewed coffee at convenience stores since the 2010s has also led to a decline

in the number of customers buying coffee from vending machines.

In the midst of this trend, however, they are on the rise in one area. According to the JVMA, the number of food vending machines is growing steadily, increasing by about 5,200 units from 2021 to 2022. COVID-19 has been a major factor in this trend. The food and beverage industry, which was gravely affected by COVID-19, has changed its focus on vending machines as a new distribution channel.

The DyDo contributes to society through universal design, disaster relief, and fundraising activities with vending machines. Universal design ones are designed to be easy for everyone to use, with easy insertion and removal of money, low-positioned product selection buttons, and a high product exit. Disaster relief ones function as normal ones on a daily basis but in the event of a power outage due to a disaster, the products in the vending machine can be removed by human operation, and the vending machines can serve as an infrastructure of temporarily providing beverages.

The universal design vending machine



COURTESY OF DyDo

The lower buttons have the same function as the upper row product selection buttons and are within easy reach for children and wheelchair users. The opening of the product pick-up window is wider, making it easier to pick up the selected products..

DyDo's vending machines are evolving in many ways to keep up with the changing times. It is expected that innovative vending machines will continuously come up and make us get expected.

By Marika Igarashi, Koki Nishiyama, Chika Son, Mizuki Arahara

Society

Significance of Preserving



A view of the excavation site at Kinuta Junior High School. A burial mound with strata dating back 3,000 to 4,000 years ago (Jomon-era) has been discovered here.

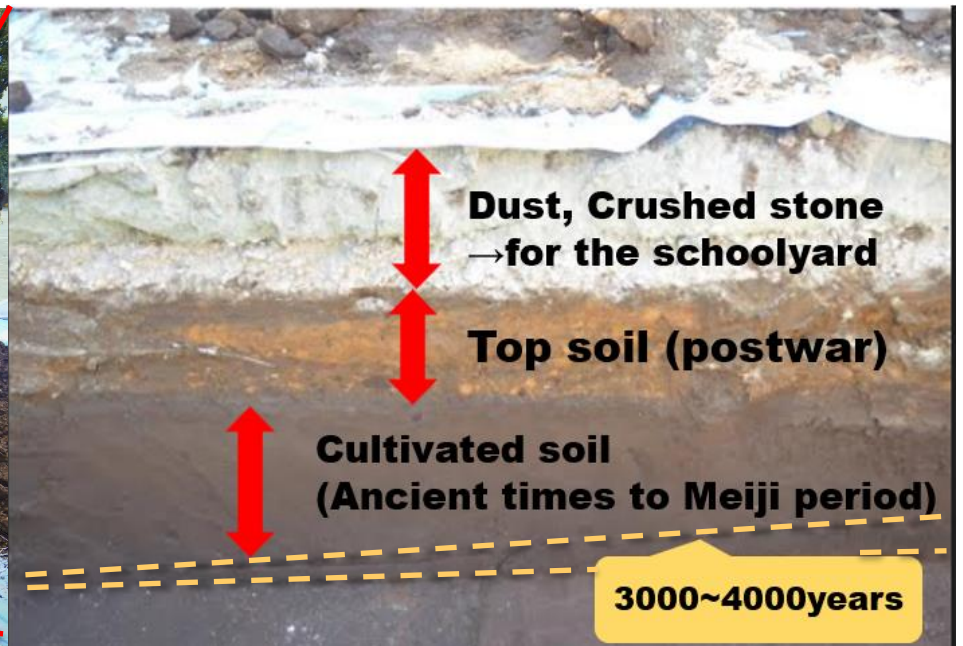


Photo by the Cultural Properties Section of the Setagaya Ward Lifelong Learning Division

Do you know that there are a lot of ancient tombs called *kofun* in Tokyo? There was large number of *kofun* in Japan, and they were built mainly between the third and seventh centuries. They were constructed primarily as the tombs of powerful people and played an important role in indicating power and states. The actual number of these tombs is more than that of convenience stores. According to the brochure of the Gotoh Museum of Art. Almost all of the *kofun* is located in Setagaya Ward Tama River. But not all *kofun* remains nowadays. It's a fact that some *kofun* was dismantled for new construction. These days, there are activities to examine and record the condition of remaining tombs.

The *kofun* to be taken apart have also been preserved as documents. The Kugayama Times visited Kinuta Junior High School on August 6, 2024 to cover the demolition work. The size of the mound should be recorded before the junior high school is built. On that day, the *kofun* themselves were not taken apart, but the ditch around it was dug. According to Hiroaki Shinagawa, a curator in

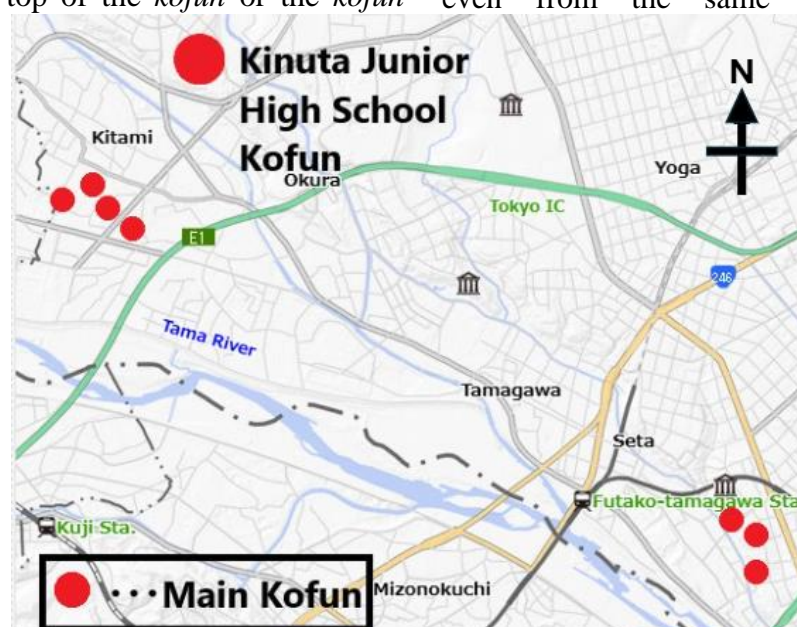
the Cultural Properties Section of the Setagaya Ward Lifelong Learning Division, digging out the area surrounding the *kofun* would give an estimate of the size of the *kofun* itself. In addition, the period when the *kofun* was built can be estimated by the artifacts found in the *kofun* and the color and hardness of the soil. This information will be preserved as document even after the *kofun* is taken apart. According to Yumi Odaira a curator, when building a house, if there is a *kofun* on the site, either the house can be built on top of the *kofun* or the *kofun*

must be taken apart. If the *kofun* is to be taken apart, she said, the *kofun* must be researched examined first. The curator will make a report about what was in the *kofun* and when it was built so that research can be conducted even after the *kofun* is taken apart.

What is the significance of learning about history through *kofun*? The Kugayama Times interviewed Mitsuhiro Asano, a social studies teacher at Kokugakuin Kugayama Senior High School. "History can be interpreted in a variety of ways, even from the same source

material. By its very nature, *kofun* should originally be preserved because it is a witness of history. *Kofun* is the only way for us to see the past, and they are also a way for future generations to see the past. If we take apart *kofun* and record them, they will still remain in the written form. However, if the actual object remains, they will be more powerful physical evidence for our evaluation of history itself. It also makes new interpretations and discoveries."

Although it is not possible to remain all of the *kofun*, those destined to be dismantled still contain artifacts and reports from excavations. In our daily lives, *kofun* is not very familiar to us. However, if you look a little deeper, more than a thousand years of history spread beside us. What modern people can do is not considering ancient history as something unfamiliar, but knowing the purpose of reserving.



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By Kanon Kanisawa, Shunka Uemura, Akira Imai, Takaya Tohma

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