



EDOTORI TIMES

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Edotori captures bronze in national debate contest



The award winning students and their teacher

Photo by Mogi Kanae

The 9th annual all Japan Junior High School Debate Tournament was held late last month on September 22nd 2019 in the host city of Nagoya.

Edogawa Gakuen Toride was represented well with four enthusiastic members from third year of junior high school.

The team consisted of Kamisawa on attack, Tachigami on defense, Tatsumata on constructive and Asahina doing summary.

Despite being the first time for these four to participate in a competition together, the group fought hard and managed to place 3rd out of dozens of schools participating from around the country.

It was only the second time for students from Edogawa Gakuen Toride to participate in this contest. Last year they

placed 9th and were looking to improve upon that result this time. Improve they did, thanks to the hard work of the team and their coaches.

Out of the four members, Tachigami and Asahina participated last year. They noticed a big improvement from last year. Tachigami noted, "The challenge of using English for a practical reason was fun." He said that he wanted to continue finding ways to use his English skills in the future. Asahina was disappointed by last year's 9th place result and was looking "...for a bit of revenge this year." Mission accomplished, as they came away as bronze medal winners. While not winning outright, everyone involved was quite pleased with the third place result. The result came as a bit of a surprise as the

team had a fairly limited amount of time to practice together due to other school commitments.

The debate topic this year was "Japanese elementary, junior high, and high schools should withdraw from school club activities."

The team took part in four matches throughout the day. They handily won two of them, squeaked by with a win in a third and barely lost the final match of the day.

Taking opportunities to use English outside of the classroom is something that all of the members look forward to and will continue to pursue in the future. Each member came away with new knowledge and skills that will benefit them in their lives.

So, while 3rd place is good, it's not good enough for the

team. They were happy with the result but still have a hunger to do better and get first place next time. The next level of debate is at the high school level. The High School all Japan debate competition is a much higher level and harder challenge, featuring some of the country's greatest High School English debaters. It's a challenge the team insists they are up for and will go after as they graduate to Edotori Senior High. Remember our four victors names, we may be hearing from them again in a year from now.

By Kogure Niho, Nakagome Aika, Takagishi Kotoko, Ohno Mariko

Students distribute food during food drive



Photo by Ogawa Makiko

“Insta-bae”, meaning looking good or shiny on Instagram, was selected as one of Japan's top buzzwords for 2017. One thing that may be overlooked with “Insta-bae” and food photography is the issue of food waste. There is a problem that some people throw food after taking photos of it for their Instagram.

Students at Edogawa Gakuen Toride Junior High and Senior High School have been deeply concerned about issues of today, including food waste. The cooking club at Edogawa Gakuen performed a food drive.

In December last year, they collected canned and prepackaged foods from a great number of families of students

at the school. They distributed the food to the community organization called Food Drive Ushiku. This food was then donated to local welfare groups for children around Ibaraki. In speaking to the head of the cooking club, Ms. Kuneda Tamaki, she remarked that the activities of food drive raised the awareness of food loss among the students and their families. Although she was worried that they might not be able to collect much food, it became a great success and over 333 kilograms of food were collected. In Japan, they have the custom to give gifts called *oseibo*, so December is the season they receive a lot of food items. Therefore, it was a good season to have the food drive in December.

World Food Day is held on October 16, 2019. Events are held around 150 countries all over the world to make people aware of those people who suffer from hunger and help

them. While many people like to look at the shiny, amazing photos of food on Instagram posted from shops around Japan, there is more people can do with food than take stylish pictures of it. It's their responsibility as privileged members of their community to think about food not only as “Insta-bae”, but also as a valuable commodity that many cannot afford. Food is not to be wasted, but something they can share with those in less fortunate situations than they are.

 By Takagishi Kotoko, Iizuka Runa, Ono Maria, Kogure Niho, Nakagome Aika, Ohno Mariko, Kimura Kotonu, Morizumi Mako, Hayashida Yuki, Washida Rumi

The Power of SDGs in Ibaraki

SDGs stand for Sustainable Development Goals and are a worldwide initiative created by the United Nations to combat the issues of global warming, environmental destruction, sufficient education, well-being, gender inequality and so on.

SDGs are being tackled not only by individual countries but also by many cities and companies. SDGs have been a theme of study at Edogawa Gakuen Toride since 2018. Students have been learning about why SDGs are important and what they can do to help the world. Ibaraki Prefecture in particular where Edogawa Gakuen Toride is located, is actively working to achieve the SDGs objectives.

Tsukuba City has been designated by the Japanese government as a SDGs Future City and SDGs Model City. In 2017 Tsukuba first proposed their ideas and their designation

was granted as a SDGs Future City Selection by Prime Minister Abe. Tsukuba was selected as the only SDGs Future City in Ibaraki Prefecture, and on June 15, 2018, their SDGs Future City Selection Certificate was granted.

Many students attending Edogawa Gakuen Toride live in Tsukuba, feel a strong connection with the city and the goals that SDGs promote. During the school's cultural festival in 2018 and 2019 students turned their classrooms into SDG exhibitions. They researched key aspects of the SDGs initiative and tried to teach everyone who visited why SDGs are important.

Students wanted to delve deeper into what was being done in their home prefecture. Tsukuba city, being the closest model city seemed like the logical choice to explore. As many students discovered upon

research for their culture festival, Tsukuba's efforts are considerable.

Tsukuba in particular wants to address SDGs initiatives number 1, 2 and 4. These are the goals of ‘No Poverty’, ‘Zero Hunger’ and ‘Quality Education’. These goals affect children's wellbeing, so students feel a connection to these issues directly.

Tsukuba created the “Children Welfare Office” in 2017 as a group set to address the issue of children living in poverty. In addition, they are also currently working on their “Children's Future Plan” which will promote assisted learning and create new spaces for children in need.

Relating to their plan, Tsukuba mentions that they must have meetings and listen to experts, guardians, children and others directly involved with the situation. This is vital to truly

improving these goals of poverty, hunger and education. It's one thing to comment or write about issues in a newspaper, but it's far more important to physically get involved. This means talking and working with people directly affected by issues relating to poverty, hunger and education and then lending a helping hand. This is something students plan to do as a small group at Edogawa Gakuen Toride and hope their initiative can inspire others to do the same.

 By Ikeue Sakura, Fukute Ayano, Okayasu Junna, Endo Kyoko

Bruins cheer dance work magic on people



Photo by Sumi Yoshiki

Edogawa Gakuen Toride is famous for its elite level cheerleading team, The Bruins. And for good reason. They won first place in Miss Dance Drill Team USA International. They also received an award of excellence in the same competition in 2017. This is just one example through the many years for the club. The Bruin's hard work has translated into success at cheer championships around Japan and the world. Not only that, a few years ago the team was featured on TV, performing in the popular

Japanese drama, "The Girl Who Leapt Through Time."

This year the Bruins are practicing hard for the upcoming Japan national cheer tournament. They motivate each other and train hard to achieve their goal to be world champs again. In addition to a demanding school schedule, the team members must fight through both mental and physical fatigue to rise to the top. Before school festivals or cheer competitions there are no days off. They have practices seven days a week.

Mr. Sumi, the teacher who supervised the Bruins in 2015 advises the current group, "...to remember the process and the hard work that has led the team to success over the years." It is this dedication to hard work and cooperation together that will not only help in cheer competitions but will become a valuable life skill to many of the members, long after they are finished with cheerleading.

Former member Sachine Takagi fondly recalls representing her country on the world stage. To build a strong team you "...must have a burning desire to improve yourself for the better of the group and to respect all your team mates like a family." When thinking back to The Bruins appearance in the drama "The Girl Who Leapt Through Time", former members Kumi Sugamori and Erina Watanabe mentioned that there were dozens of staff working tirelessly to produce the best drama they could for demanding television audience, so they felt The Bruins owed it to

themselves and everyone involved with the drama to give the best performance they could deliver; to make it a moment no one would ever forget.

Current team captain, Shion Iwata, knows she sacrificed a lot of her school life and free time to cheerleading, but doesn't have any regrets. She says, "...there is a magic feeling and a bond that is created not only between members but also between the audience and the team." School and club life are tough at Edotori, but if you every feel like giving in, just look to the Bruins, who do it all with a smile and a cheer. Don't miss the chance to watch the bruins when they perform next, we think it's an experience you won't soon forget.

By Ueno Maria, Kannabi Yuka,
Hinamoto Koharu, Kawamata
Akino, Murata Shiori

Fujimaki aims for first prize in art competition

The annual Edotori art competition will be held later this month. Last year's winner Fujimaki is excited for a chance to enter again. The competition is open to the students and teachers. All genres of art are welcome, from traditional drawings and paintings to more abstract sculptures and CGI created works. Last year there were more than eight finalists. These works were displayed in the halls of the school prominently.

The student who walked away with the first prize last year was a great visual artist named Fujimaki Koki.

Fujimaki is clearly a unique talent and his winning piece is not easy to describe. He created something spectacular. The title of the work is "Kachaca, Chakachaca" and its size is F100(1620 × 1303mm). People who saw it were quite blown away with the piece Mr. Fujimaki created. Students and teachers alike are impressed with his work.

Speaking about his artistic creation for last year Fujimaki recalls, "I did not want to draw a boring picture. I kept the work interesting because many have already created dull pictures in the past."

His view of the world is that of a fantasy such as Disney or Ghibli and so on. He was obsessed with Tim Burton in the past. Speaking to Tim Burton, Fujimiki says, "The work he drew when he was young was exhibited a few years ago in Tokyo, it really inspired me." He was heavily drawn into Burton's early work. When Fujimaki was in the 5th grade of elementary school, he started a portfolio of similar works so that "...one day someone may look back to my early work in a similar fashion." One is quickly drawn into the large inviting painting Fujimaki created for the submission and can only wonder how he will follow it up this year.

Speaking to last year's work, Fujimaki recalled "It was the first

time doing an oil painting. It was hard to paint on the huge canvas, but the color seemed to come through well."

The piece was vibrant, expressive, and colorful. People walking the halls through Edotori often stopped to take in his creation in person to feel the true impact of the wonderful oil painting on such a huge canvas.

This year art has been promoted and encouraged from the students more than ever. Submissions are higher than ever. So, while Fujimaki want to keep this year's entry a bit of a secret until it's

ready, he does promise "...something unique and special." Don't miss Fujimaki's entry and many more at The ASE 2019, which is held October, 12th and 13th.

By Ryota Takamatsu, Ito Meitaro,
Ogura Koki, Ogasawara Yu



Photo by Fujimaki Koki

To Tsukuba and Beyond: JAXA Space Center

Edotori students recently visited JAXA Space Center in Tsukuba, Ibaraki. The reason for the trip was to further enrich the students understanding of space sciences and see some practical example of science in the field.

The center is less than an hour from Edogawa Gakuen, which is also situated in southern Ibaraki. Many students at the school live in Tsukuba and commute to Toride each morning. Upon the visit to JAXA students discovered and photographed an abundance of information to share with fellow students and readers. Of particular interest is space satellite and rocket technology. The very first Japanese launch vehicle is the "Pencil" rocket. It

was launched in 1955. It is a small one with a length of 23 centimeters and weight of 200 grams. After that, "N-I", "N-II" continued. Next, "H-I" was developed. It incorporated Japanese domestic technology, which was technically advanced for the time. Driving the rocket was a liquid oxygen/ hydrogen engine. The 5th generation launch rocket was the "H-II", which was similarly developed with domestic technology. Following this was the "H-IIA", then the "H-IIB", which was a modification of the "H-IIA". Next in succession is the "H-III", which is scheduled to be launched in 2020. While this may seem a bit dry to read about this technology is among the top

in the world and a wonder to behold in person. JAXA isn't solely known for its rockets however. Technologies of JAXA's space development are used by many countries, both around the world and in space. For example, heat insulating materials are used for numerous satellites. A laboratory named "Kibo" was made in Japan and used in the world famous ISS. As many may already know, the International Space Station (ISS) is an international cooperations between numerous countries around the world and has groundbreaking possibilities into the future of our understanding of space technology. It is 400 kilometers in the sky and it is the same size

as soccer ground. "Kibo's" traffic control room is also located in Tsukuba. While in JAXA visitors can experience a scale model laboratory that exists on the ISS. The Edotori students were taken back by all the practical applications they could see and touch at JAXA and urge readers with similar interest in sciences and space to take a visit to Tsukuba and JAXA.

*By Kosuke Ikeda, Fukao Masaki,
 Tani Kotaro, Fukuoka Yudai,
 Tsuji Kenta*

Students join international water rocket competition.



Photo by Abe Tetsuya

Edogawa Gakuen Toride third year junior high school students went to Singapore this past summer to compete in the annual Asia-Pacific water rocket competition. The competition is part of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). There is a science and technology education stream at Edotori, so this competition was one way to further enrich the student's

learning. Team "Edotori3" participated in the water rocket world competition for the first time in the school's history. Although the team didn't place in the competition, the experience to travel abroad and to converse with students around the world more than made up for the slight disappointment. The qualifying for the water rocket competition is organized by JAXA and is a major accomplishment in itself.

The first stage is a document selection, where a team must coherently plot its goals and ambitions for the competition. If a team makes it past this stage, they move to the second selection. This is where teams put their plans into action and compete at the national level. In the second selection, the Edotori team assembled a PET bottle rocket at the venue in Tsukuba, Ibaraki. The "Edotori3" rocket soared in the air and successfully hit a target 50 meters away. To complete the qualification, a thorough interview in English is then conducted before the representative teams are then chosen. Four teams in total were chosen to represent Japan. In the international competition, pressure restrictions became severe, while the distance increased and a higher level

result was sought. The challenged for the "Edotori3" rocket proved to be too much. The main objective of the international convention was more than achieved however. The Japanese team representative Hayakawa confirmed cultural exchange and communication was the main draw for Japanese students interested in science. "In talking with people from other countries, the important thing is not English ability but mind. Language means what one can communicate with. (Much like science) it crosses international borders and brings the world together."

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