

# KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.12

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ September 1st, 2022

**- Seize the day and seize each moment in your life! -**



Whenever summer vacation is over, I cannot help feeling time flies so fast. Probably almost all of you might think so. If you feel so, you might tend to look back on the past and regret not doing something; for example, not going swimming in the sea, not going to eat popular shaved ice on a hot summer day and even not studying so much during the summer vacation.

In my case after this summer vacation, I'm now regretting not going to see a movie, not going for a bike ride and not reading a lot of books, but I would like to say to you that it is time to do that when you regret not doing something. So, I have only to try to find an opportunity to see a movie, go for a bike ride or read a book. If you cannot find any opportunities now, I suppose all you have to do now is just keep them in your mind, try to find an opportunity, and then, if you find it, just decide to do it.

Furthermore, you cannot avoid considering which acts you should or shouldn't do so you don't get infected with the COVID-19. Because of it, you have had a lot of events that you should give up doing for a few years, but the situations around us have gradually been changing! You have come to do a lot of things. This is quite a good thing for you!

By the way, I have lived in Iseaki for 26 years. Since I moved there, I have enjoyed the Iseaki Fireworks Festival many times. And the other day, we had the festival for the first time in 3 years even though it was raining heavily. A lot of people enjoyed watching them and had a great time. The fireworks this year have probably been engraved in each spectator's memory, and might stay in their minds for a long time.

During the 2nd semester, you have a lot of events here at Kiritaka; a sports festival, the Tsukuba trip, a school trip and the send-off party for the 3rd graders. Shall we enjoy ourselves and create good memories together? Needless to say, not only these school events but also our ordinary school days have such precious moments for you. Whenever I think of the unforgettable days I spent in my high school days, a lot of scenes come flooding back clearly, even now. Memories of your high school days will be sparkling in your mind forever! As I told you before, cherry blossoms are attractive, because they are so fleeting. This is the same as fireworks! This is also the same as your high school days! So, seize the day, and seize each moment in your life!

## ★ KT's Power Song ★

There are so many songs whose title is "Tokyo" which are created by popular artists. Today, I'll introduce one of them, which was shown in a TV show "Kan-Jam" on August 21st, so some students might have seen it. Contrary to my expectations, this is not a song that shows uneasy feelings when she left her hometown for Tokyo. It captures a precious moment there for her so perfectly. I suppose you can replace "Tokyo" with "your hometown" or "an unforgettable place for you". I also recommend her healing voice to you!

<https://youtu.be/yBRqRAh9vJM>



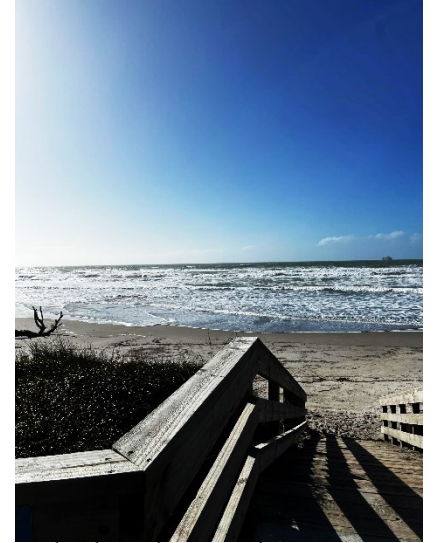
I hope the KIRITAKA English Journal will be accepted by you! (Toru Hoshino)



# Kiwi Corner



Hi everyone! Welcome back to school for the second term! How was your summer vacation? I hope you were able to relax and refresh over the last few weeks. You may have struggled with the heat, and gone to cooler places in the mountains. I, personally, love summer. It is my favourite season of the year, which may surprise you after reading my article for this edition of the English Journal.



The beach in my hometown

Actually, during part of the summer break, I went back to my homeland of New Zealand. This was my first chance to visit since the COVID-19 pandemic began back in late 2019. I had originally planned to visit during Christmas in 2020, but, as you can probably guess, that trip was cancelled. As immigration and quarantine restrictions became relaxed in both Japan and New Zealand, I thought “this is my chance to finally see my friends and family again!”

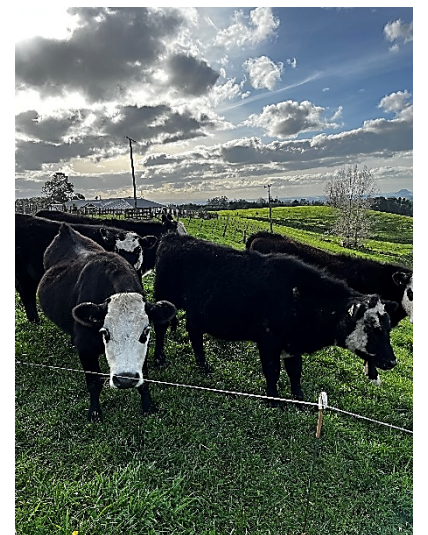


Baby lambs on my family's farm

So I boarded a plane and flew for eleven hours back to New Zealand. You may remember from previous editions of the English Journal that New Zealand's seasons are opposite to those of Japan, due to it being in the southern hemisphere. So while summer is my favourite season, I decided to go back for my least favourite season:

## Winter

When I arrived, however, I was very surprised. Many people were wearing shorts and t-shirts! This is actually very common in New Zealand; even on the coldest and windiest days, New Zealanders are often seen wearing shorts and t-shirts! But winter in New Zealand (at least in my hometown) is much milder than winter in Gunma, so it's not so bad wearing shorts.



Some cows

When I arrived in Narita, I got off the plane and felt the wave of heat crash into my body. As nice as it was being in New Zealand with my friends and family, I was glad to be back in the warmth of the Japanese summer.

For this month's article, I'd like to introduce this song. It's song about the best summer of a man's life, and how much fun he had. I hope you all had a great summer, and that you do your best this term! Give it a listen here: [https://youtu.be/eFjJO\\_lhf9c](https://youtu.be/eFjJO_lhf9c)

(Liam Campbell)



# Lauren's Newsletter



Nice to meet you!

## Get to Know me, Lauren Sensei!

Hi everyone! My name Lauren Taylor and I am the new ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) here at Kiritaka! Please allow me to introduce myself:

### My Hometown

I am from a sunny city called San Diego, California! It is near the southwestern tip of the U.S. and is very close to the border of Mexico. This means that we have many people who speak Spanish and have delicious authentic Mexican food. San Diego is known for its nice weather and beautiful beaches. Disneyland and Universal Studios are also very close by!



California burrito – a popular type of Mexican food in San Diego.

### My Family and Pets



Bailey

I have a mom and dad and one older sister. I also consider my pets to be family! I have a dog and two cats that are back in San Diego, and I often call my parents to see how they are doing.



Spunky



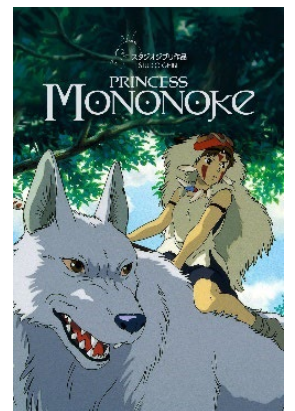
Angel

### My Interests

I love music! Whether it's K-pop (Korean pop), J-pop (Japanese pop), or music from the US, I am always listening to music while studying or working out. I also like to watch movies and anime, and I hope to visit the Ghibli Museum while I am here in Japan.



Do you know them?



My favorite Studio Ghibli film

Thank you and I am looking forward to getting to know you all!

Last but not least, if you see me around school feel free to stop me to ask questions, talk about your interests, or just to say hi! 😊

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,  
**(Lauren Taylor)**

For my first article, I would like to recommend this song:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DykVJI6wr\\_4&ab\\_channel=DisneyMusicVEVO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DykVJI6wr_4&ab_channel=DisneyMusicVEVO)

It is from a Disney movie called "High School Musical", and it is about students working together to make their dreams come true! I hope you all have a great semester!