

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.23

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ July 21st, 2023



Kiwi Corner



It's the end of July already! It feels like yesterday when the new school year started, but it has already been over three months! You have all worked hard and made it through to the end of term one. Well done everyone! And now we enter the summer vacation, or as we call it in New Zealand, the **summer holidays**. A common thing for people in New Zealand to do during summer is to go to **the beach**. Because of this, I'd like to write about New Zealand's beach culture for this month's Kiwi Corner.



The beach in my hometown, Tauranga.



Piha beach near Auckland, NZ.

Just like Japan, New Zealand is an island nation, and has many beautiful beaches. Typically, the west side, which faces the Tasman Sea, has beaches with darker sand, and the east side, which faces the Pacific Ocean, has beaches with glorious golden white sand. However, as New Zealand is so close to **Antarctica**, the water is **quite cold**, even in the middle of summer! Most people wear "togs" (as swimsuits are called in New Zealand), but some people even wear wetsuits as it is so cold.

Because New Zealand has so many beaches, we are taught how to swim safely at them from a young age. In elementary school, we go to the beach at least once a year to be taught how to swim in the waves and how to recognise potential dangers in the water. This is a truly important part of education in New Zealand.



Surf lifesavers at a beach in New Zealand.

The people who teach students about water safety at the beach are called **Surf Lifesavers**. They are (mostly) volunteers who work at a beach to help protect the people swimming and surfing there. From October until April, you will often see two red and yellow flags placed on the beach. These flags show where it is safe to swim. If there are no flags placed on the beach, it means there aren't any surf lifesavers on patrol, and it could be dangerous to swim in the sea.

Now that summer is here, I'd like to introduce this song. It was used in the famous movie "Finding Nemo," so maybe you've heard it before. You can listen to it here: <https://youtu.be/43GkQcl2ID0> (Liam Campbell)



Lauren's Newsletter



The Great Outdoors: U.S. National Parks

Summer vacation is finally here! The weather is warm, the insects are flying about, and the time is right for adventure. Now that you have all finished first term, maybe you will go camping with your family or visit a place to enjoy beautiful scenery. In the U.S, there are many great places to enjoy nature in all its forms. Some of the best places to go are the famous U.S national parks.



Half Dome at Yosemite National Park



Vernal Falls in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park

This park is actually in my home state of California. I have been to this park a couple of times, and, let me tell you, it is absolutely beautiful! There are waterfalls, deer, and great trails for hiking. Besides this, Yosemite National Park is very well known for Half Dome, a rock formation that looks like a dome cut in half. Many hikers enjoy the challenge of trying to climb to the top of this iconic Yosemite landmark.

Redwood National Park

This park is also located in California and has the world's tallest trees! Many of the trees in the park are over 300 feet tall (about 91.5 meters) and up to 2,000 years old. The trees are so wide that even cars can drive through them! This park is also known to be a great place for hiking. Since it rains during the winter, it is recommended to visit anytime from May to September.

Whether it's camping with your family in the mountains, or a day trip to Disneyland with your friends, or even just staying home and enjoying the nice cool breeze of an air conditioner, I hope you have a wonderful summer vacation! See you next term!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,
(Lauren Taylor)



A redwood tree in the Redwood National Forest

This month, I would like to share this song about enjoying nature. Enjoy!

