

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.24

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ August 31st, 2023



Kiwi Corner



Welcome back to Kiritaka, everyone! Did you have a nice and relaxing summer break? I sure did! I may have mentioned this (several times) in previous Kiwi Corners, but, even though it's a **nice and warm summer** here in Japan, back home in New Zealand it is **freezing cold**. Yes, that's right, it's the middle of winter there. However, because it is the middle of winter, sports traditionally associated with winter are currently being played there. Actually, you may have heard in the news, but there was a very famous sports competition being held together by Australia and New Zealand that ended last week. Do you know what it was? It was the:



Part of the opening ceremony.

This competition, like the men's version, is held every four years; the previous world cup was held in France in 2019. However, this is the first FIFA Women's World Cup with more than one host nation, as Australia and New Zealand are jointly hosting it. It is also the first FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in the Southern Hemisphere.

The first match was played in **Auckland, New Zealand**, as the host team played (and won!) against Norway on July 20th. Co-host **Australia** played later the same evening, beating Ireland in Sydney.



Jubilant scenes after Japan's defeat of Spain.



In June this year, FIFA announced the prizes for all participating nations. This edition's total prize pool is

US\$110 million, almost four times greater than the prize pool of the previous tournament! The winning team received over ten million dollars of that, split between each player and their nation's football association.

The highest prize money ever! In the end, the best team always wins, and that title belongs to **Spain**. They played magnificently and the team deserves all the glory (and prize money!) they get. Many Kiwis and Australians have now come to love football even more because of this tournament. I hope our teams do even better in four years!

With this article being all about football, I want to introduce the official theme song from this year's World Cup. It is sung by Kiwi artist Benee. You can listen to it here: <https://youtu.be/c3l3mVeyndY> (Liam Campbell)



Lauren's Newsletter



Summer Events in Southern California: Comic-Con and Anime Expo

Hello everyone! Welcome back from summer vacation. In Japan, there are many festivals and events held throughout the summer. For this month's article, I would like to introduce two of the most popular summer events held every year in Southern California, Comic-Con and Anime Expo.



A picture advertising Comic-Con in San Diego

Comic-Con International: San Diego

From Marvel superheros to Studio Ghibli, Comic-Con has something for everyone to enjoy! This four day convention is the largest comic book convention in the world with around 130,000 people coming from nearby ciites and overseas. Many people dress up as their favorite characters from movies or video games,

and they attend panels where they can get a special look at new seasons of TV shows. This year, one of the panels celebrated the 35th anniversary of My Neighbor Totoro and featured behind-the-scenes art from the movie. How cool!

Anime Expo

At Anime Expo (AX), attendees can buy keychains of their favorite anime characters, learn more about future seasons of popular animes, and get autographs from their favorite voice actors. At one panel for SPY x



ANIME EXPO®
July 1-4, 2023
Los Angeles Convention Center



Official art for this year's Anime Expo

FAMILY, fans were able to hear from and meet Takuya Eguchi, the Japanese voice actor for Loid Forger! Additionally, this year was extra special as Gunma-chan made a special appearance!

I hope you enjoyed your summer vacation and I cannot wait to start this semester with you all! Let's do our best!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,
(Lauren Taylor)

This month, I would like to share one of my favorite anime ending songs. Listen to it here!

