

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.26

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ October 27th, 2023



Kiwi Corner



Last month, the first-grade students had a wonderful opportunity to see how voting takes place here in Gunma. Representatives of the prefectural electoral commission came and demonstrated how elections work, and even brought along vote counting machines for the students to try out! I thought this was an incredibly valuable experience for students as it taught them the importance of voting.

Speaking of voting, last weekend New Zealand had its national elections!



Our election mascot "Orange Guy"



National's leader, Chris Luxon

As political science was my major in university, I am always excited around election season. New Zealand has a similar political system to Japan, where there is a Prime Minister (首相), and people vote for a political party (政党). The political party with the most votes wins the election, and forms a government. Like Japan, there are two main political parties who have been in power, the centre-right **National Party** (中道右派: 国民党) and the centre-left **Labour Party** (中道左派: 労働党). However, unlike Japan, New Zealand has

several smaller parties that get a significant number of seats in parliament, and the two main parties usually have to form coalitions (連立政権). Also, New Zealand's elections are held every three years, which is a bit shorter than Japan's four year terms.

In this election, the incumbent Labour party Prime Minister, Chris Hipkins, fought in the election against the National Party leader, Chris Luxon. After six years in power, the Labour Party **lost 28 seats** in parliament, and the National Party **gained 16**, meaning they ended up with **50 seats out of 121**. This means that the National Party will have to form a coalition



Labour's leader, Chris Hipkins

government with other parties to gain a majority in parliament.



Some of the major political parties' logos

Despite being in Japan for the election, I was able to vote! I was able to vote by submitting my voting paper online. With around **twenty percent of the population** of New Zealanders living overseas, this is a very

convenient, but crucial service that the government provides. I wonder if Japan will ever be able to have online voting? What do you think?

I want to introduce a funny song that helps explain how New Zealand's election process works. You can watch it here: <https://youtu.be/AuMy9opKwEY?si=SkgeOTPIJ5C8nzV8> (Liam Campbell)



Lauren's Newsletter



How to Make a Jack-O-Lantern

Happy spooky season everyone! For this month's article, I would like to talk about a fun Halloween tradition. When I was younger, I used to make a jack-o-lantern for Halloween every year. This year, I want to share this tradition with you all!

How to Make a Jack-O-Lantern:



Different types of pumpkins found at a pumpkin patch

Step 1: Pick the perfect pumpkin

The first and most important step in making a jack-o-lantern is finding the right pumpkin. Many people buy their pumpkins from supermarkets and grocery stores. Others will go to a pumpkin patch as they usually have a wider variety of pumpkin shapes, sizes, colors, and textures!



Studio Ghibli themed jack-o-lanterns

Step 2: Choose a fun design

You can make your own design or find a design online. Print out or draw your design on a piece of paper.



Jack-o-lantern designs



Cleaning out the pumpkin

Step 3: Prepare your pumpkin

Cut the top of the pumpkin to make a lid. Then clean the inside of the pumpkin so it is nice and smooth.

Step 4: Carve your design

Tape your paper from step 1 on your pumpkin and use a toothpick to make an outline of the shapes. Then take the paper off and carve out your design.



A jack-o-lantern I made a few years ago

Step 5: Put your pumpkin on display!

Wait until it is dark, put a tealight candle in your pumpkin, and enjoy looking at your jack-o-lantern!

Happy Halloween!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,
(Lauren Taylor)



This month, I would like to share a fun Halloween song from the movie "The Nightmare Before Christmas". Listen to it here!

