

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.33

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ May 31st, 2024



Kiwi Corner



In the last edition of Kiwi Corner, I introduced my high school, Tauranga Boys' College. For this month's article, I'd like to make an interesting comparison between being a high school student in Japan and New Zealand; this is that **we can drive ourselves to school!**

In Japan, the age from which you can get a driver's licence (or license for our American friends) is 18 years old for a car. In New Zealand, however, you can get a **driver's licence for a car at 16!** However, there are some restrictions.

There are three phases to the licence system in New Zealand. Firstly, to get your **"Learner licence"**, you have to take a multiple-choice written exam. You must get



Learner plates

at least 32 out of 35 questions correct in order to pass. After this,

you will receive your learner licence. With this, you can start to drive on the road! However, many people start to learn to drive in large, empty car parks. Furthermore, you can only drive with someone who has already received their driver's licence; you aren't allowed to

drive on your own. Similar to Japan, though, you must display a bright yellow and black **"Learner Plate"** on both the front and rear windscreen of your car to let other drivers know you are an inexperienced driver.

Six months after gaining your learner licence, you can take a driving exam with an instructor in the car with you. If you pass this test, you can get what is called a **"Restricted licence."** After gaining this licence, you can now drive on your own! However, you must not drive between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.



The green "Full licence"

18 months after passing your restricted licence test (or just one year if you take a special course), you can take a 30 minute driving test to try and get your **"Full licence."** Once you have received your full licence, you can now drive wherever, whenever, and with whomever you like!

Due to this system, current high school students could, at the earliest, get their full licence at the age of 17 years and six months old, so there are actually **many high school students who drive themselves to school** on their restricted and full licences! Could you imagine Japanese high school students driving themselves to school?

This month I'd like to introduce a nice song to listen to while driving. It was used in the popular animated movie, Cars. You can find it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tXh_MfrMe0 I hope you enjoy listening to it!

(Liam Campbell)



A New Zealand "Learner Licence"



Lauren's Newsletter



My High School Club: Color Guard

Hi, everyone! For our thirty third volume of the Kiritaka English Journal, I would like to talk about my club from high school: color guard. I did color for all four years of high school (2010-2014), and it made my high school life very fun and full of adventures!

Color guard is a unique sport that combines performance, agility, dance, and spinning various equipment to tell a story. Coaches create routines to different pieces of music that will be performed in front of an audience and judges. Students will wear costumes and makeup and show off their talents to compete against other schools.

In color guard, there are two competitive seasons. There is an outdoor marching season when they perform with the school band on football fields. This season usually lasts from September until early November. Then, from January to early April, we have an indoor season called Winter Guard. This is where the color guard team can really shine. They perform by themselves in high school gyms, and the routines are much more complicated than the previous season. Some color guard teams even perform at parades!



My high school's marching band and color guard (2016)

During a color guard performance, you will usually see three pieces of equipment: a flag, a rifle, and a saber. Everyone learns how to spin a flag first as it is the easiest and most important piece of equipment. Then, people can learn how to use rifles and sabers. I started to spin a rifle during my first year of winter guard, and by the time I was a second year, I could spin all three! We would practice almost every day after school by the band room, stretching, dancing, and spinning to improve our skills.



A flag, saber, and rifle for color guard.

Joining the color guard team at my school was one of the best decisions I have ever made, and while there is no color guard club at Kiritaka, I hope you can watch a performance someday and enjoy color guard for yourself! If you would like, please watch the videos below of some performances I recommend.

I hope you continue to make precious high school memories in class and during club activities, and cherish your time here at Kiritaka.

Until next time!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,

(Lauren Taylor)



For this week, I'd like to share a performance by a world class Japanese color guard. The show is called "A Thousand Cranes". Please enjoy!

