



湯屋あかねさん

立教女学院(東京都杉並区)



ず続いていきます。韓国と香港から来た仲間と3人で、相互訪問の計画も立てています。

湯屋さんは、中学から立教女学院に入学し、5歳になるまでテキサスで育ちましたが、英語は帰国後自分の努力で身につけたものです。授業を中心とした学習で着々と力を磨き、英語も含めた厳しい選抜試験を経て交換留学生に選ばれました。留学前にしっかりとした基礎を確立していた湯屋さんの英語力は留学を機に一気に開花し、帰国後すぐに受けたTOEICでなんと910点をたたき出しました(実践的な英語力の目安が750点といわれる)。

数々の心の学びと世界中のたくさんの友だち、そしてトップクラスの英語力。計り知れない成果を得て湯屋さんの留学は終わりました。それはトッド先生が手紙で述べてい

るように、まさに「真の世界市民」の誕生の時でもありました。

取材の最後に、湯屋さんは留学という夢を叶えてくれた学校への限りない感謝と、今回の留学の成果をできるだけ多くの人に還元し共有したいとの強い思いを語ってくれました。

トッド先生と



一緒に学んだ仲間たちと。アメリカ、イギリス、メキシコ、フランス、韓国、香港、インド、インドネシア、そして日本。まさに「世界」を体験しました。

# 交換留学で触発された「世界の中の自分」

立教女学院中学・高等学校 湯屋あかね

第10回は、東京都杉並区・立教女学院、湯屋あかねさんが、アメリカ(テキサス州オースチン)セントステイーブンスエビスコパルスクールで、交換留学生として過ごした10ヶ月間に得た、たくさんの「学び」がテーマです。

紹介する2通の手紙は、留学時に何かとサポートしていただいたトッド先生への感謝の手紙と、それに対する先生からのお返事です。世界中あらゆる地域から集まった留学生たち。そこにはまさに「世界」がありました。先生は、生活習慣の違いや新しい人間関係、あまりに多い宿題などで、留学生活になかなかなじめなかつた湯屋さんが、徐々に順応していくために大きな力になってくれました。いわば湯屋さんを「世界」にナビゲートしてくれた人に違いありません。

順応した後は、食欲に学び、吸収していく充実した日々が始まりました。意識の高い仲間たちと大いに刺激を受け、多様な「世界」の中の日本人である、という強い自覚が生まれました。「自由に伴う責任」にも目を開かされ、自立・自律への大きな一歩を踏み出しました。せっかくな出会えた世界中からの仲間たちとの絆を深めることにも心を配り、親しい関係は今も変わら



ハロウィンのパーティで浴衣を着ました。

Dear Akane:

What a pleasure to get a letter from you, and hear how you are doing since your return to St. Margaret's Girls School in Tokyo. We so enjoyed having you with us as an exchange student at St. Stephen's Episcopal School during the 2007-08 academic year. The partnership between our two schools is very important to us, and you were a fine representative of the values of global friendship and understanding of that program.

It was my special pleasure to get to work with you in both FACES, the multi-cultural student discussion group, and Model United Nations. In both of those activities you were thoughtful and presented your points of view in an interesting and respectful manner. It was wonderful to have you as a member of the world history course during the winter and spring terms. I think your writing in English essays and your ability to support your ideas with facts grew stronger as the year went on. It was especially helpful to have you in class during the unit on the Edo period in Japan and then the Meiji Restoration. It is good for all of us to learn different perspectives and we appreciate the fact that you shared some of your background and knowledge with us.

We wish you all the best as you continue in your important junior year at your school. I was glad to see you last week in Tokyo and your help at the boarding school fair was invaluable. I am glad you got to see some of your friends from St. Stephen's School there, and I hope we can keep up with these friendships over the coming years. You are truly a global citizen, and I am proud of you and your accomplishments. Thank you for helping our exchange student, Jacobi Alvarez, as she spends her year at your school.

Best wishes to you and please stay in touch with us.

Sincerely,

*Sarah D. Todd*

*Dear Mrs. Todd,*

Today, I want to thank you for all your kindness. I am deeply grateful to you for giving me so much care for my pleasant stay in America. I realize that the task must have taken a great deal of your precious time. When I first landed in Texas, I was nervous and just could not believe that I was going to study abroad. However, when you and my host family picked me up at the airport and first met you, I felt so relieved. I still remember that moment and I was glad that my dream of studying in America had finally come true.

It had been such a wonderful experience for me to live and study in America. Last year was definitely one of my best years in my life. I am truly sure that I could not have made it through without your help. I had a lot of fun participating Faces and Model U.N. which you organize every week. Also taking world history class was very interesting and challenge for me. What I liked best was the class in which we were learning Japanese history. Although I had learned Japanese history before, I was able to learn Japanese history from the different perspective. I was lucky to be in your class.

You have no idea how much I appreciate your kind attention given to me during my stay in America. I was very fortunate that I could experience the life of a wholesome American high school student at St. Stephen's. I would like to visit Texas again in the near future, so I will see you soon. I heartily hope that everything is going well with you. With many thanks again for all you did.

Sincerely yours,

*Akane*

テキサス・ロングホーンの前で。

