

JOTO TIMES

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Okayama Joto Senior
High School News Paper
Club

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Joto is a very active school in Japan.

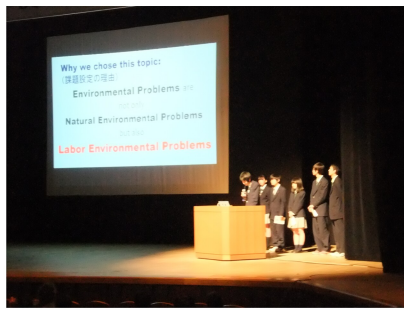


▲ This tower is the symbol of Joto.

Okayama Joto Senior High School was established in 1987. The school is located in the West of Japan. We will celebrate the 30th anniversary next year. We are studying hard every day. We have four courses: Humanities and Social Studies, Science and Mathematics, International Studies, and Music. Each student can choose one out of four courses and start when they become second-graders. We were designated as a Super Global High School (SGH) by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports last year. We are researching about problems in Okayama, Japan and the rest of the world as part of our course. In Joto, many events are held, for example, the first-graders training trip to Awaji Island and Suiryoku-school festival. Everybody loves these annual events. We students love this school. Here is the latest news from Joto.

SGH groups gave their presentations at Okayama Simin kaikan.

On the 9th February, the SGH presentation program was held in Okayama Simin Kaikan. 31 groups presented their research results.



▲ A presentation in English.

They talked about global issues and also problems in Okayama. One of the participating students said "We have had to cooperate to research, using each of our strengths, since last year." Her presentation was about Official Development Assistance.

We are learning how to be independent at Joto.

Every June, first grade students go to Awaji Island in Hyogo Prefecture for three days to form lasting friendships and learn about Joto life. Last year, 360 students took part in this training. They explored the island with a map and had missions to complete in groups. They also took part in sea activities and raced in rowing boats. Students discussed ideas and debated about topics such as "which is more necessary: money or love?" and other important topics. One of the students participating said "It was a busy three days but I enjoyed the experience and got a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment."

Suiryoku-School Festival



▲ Japanese calligraphy by the calligraphy club.



▲ Students in a mock "cavalry battle."



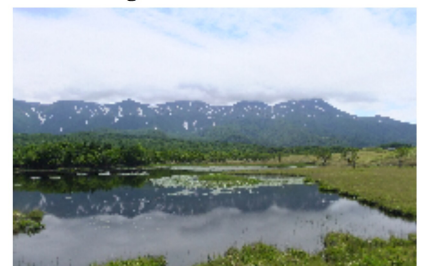
▲ Team leaders showing their respect to the principal.

Suiryoku-school festival is held every September. It always starts with the principal's opening speech. Last year, the first special guest was a comedic duo named "Westland." Their funny dialogue made the gymnasium fill with laughter. One of the first grade classes created a Disneyland inspired tea cup ride that guests could enjoy. It was very popular. Class 2-2 was voted as the best class. They put on a play about a classic Japanese love story called "Kami no manimani." The script was excellent and the actors were wonderful. This festival is not only a cultural festival but also a sports festival. The school is divided into 8 groups and we compete in many events. One example is a traditional Japanese game, called a mock "cavalry battle" is played with a lot of enthusiasm. It involves three people carrying one person on their shoulders as a "general." Each group fights to get caps from the generals on the opposing

group. The group who gets the most caps is the winner. Along side fun activities students decorated their gym clothes with felt and other materials. D-group won this year's festival as they came top in many of the traditional sporting activities. We enjoyed the festival for three days.

We learned about "culture" and "nature".

Second grade Humanities and Social Studies and Science and Mathematics course students went on a school trip to Hokkaido, North-Kanto and Tsukuba in Japan and Malaysia last June. Last November, the students from Music and International Studies visited South Korea. In Shiretoko, Hokkaido, they listened to a talk by Mr. Okamoto from Shiretoko Nature Foundation. He suggested that we should not give human food to wild animals because they would get used to people and cars, which would be dangerous as bears could come down into city and attack people. His talk was very interesting and informative.



▲ Lake in Shiretoko 24 June 2015