

Kei-Sho Chronicle – March 2023

This is the last G'day for the school year. We have finally reached March. March is not a busy month, but it is a very important one. The month started with Kei-Sho's Graduation Ceremony, where we said farewell to our 3rd year students. Shortly after, the 2nd year students went on their Okinawa Study Tour, while the 1st years finished their end-of-year tests. Finally, on the 20th, Kei-Sho held the final Closing Ceremony for the 2022 school year. See you next year!

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Graduation:

As is tradition, on March 2nd Kei-Sho held our annual Graduation Ceremony. With the other Keika schools holding their ceremonies on the 1st and 3rd, the start of March is a very important time for Keika. The day started slowly for students but as the ceremony got closer, students started feeling both excited and nervous.



The ceremony itself started with a simple greeting and an introduction of the graduation students, followed by awards for students' achievement and effort. The second half of the ceremony included heartfelt messages from the graduating students, the remaining students, and the PTA chairman.



The speeches were moving, as they all conveyed their strong emotions from their time at Kei-Sho.

The ceremony ended with the students being sent-off with warm applause. Afterwards, they took class pictures, and spent the afternoon enjoying their last day at Kei-Sho. **And with this, we said goodbye and good luck to the graduating students.**



Okinawa:

On the 4th to the 7th of March, the 2nd years at Kei-Sho went on an Okinawa Study Tour. While this is an annual event, it has not been held for the last 3 years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though it was the first time in several years, it was a very busy trip.

After an early morning flight, students reached Okinawa, and quickly began a guided tour of several parts of the island, including a former military base, Himeyuri Tourist Centre and Okinawa's Peace Park. The first day ended with tired students and teachers sleeping at Pacific Hotel Okinawa.



The second day started with free time for students to explore the town centre in their groups, before they went to the beach to experience several beach activities. First, they undertook an SDGs lesson on nature, and helped clean rubbish off the beach.

Afterwards, they had fun, with activities including snorkelling and riding banana boats. This day ended with checking into a new hotel, Kanucha Bay Hotels & Villas, before students ate dinner and ended another tiring day.

The third day was more relaxed, starting with a trip to Churaumi Aquarium where they saw many sea animals, including a dolphin show. Afterwards, everyone ate lunch at Onna and experienced Okinawan arts and crafts at Onna Village Learning Centre. The day ended with everyone returning to the hotel to prepare for their last day and their return to Tokyo.

The last day began early, with students preparing their luggage and eating breakfast, before heading out for the last location, Koza Music Town, where each group explored the town with a guide.

After eating lunch, the trip finally ended with everyone taking a plane back to Tokyo in the afternoon.



While it was a very busy 4-day trip, the students (and teachers) had a very fun time with the school trip. Hearing how fun it was, I hope I can go next year!



Closing Ceremony:

On the 20th we closed out the school year with the final closing ceremony. This marked the last day that students would be at Kei-Sho in the 2022 school year. The ceremony was held as usual, with a speech from the principal and guidance officer telling students to be careful over the Spring holiday. There were also some awards handed out to students who achieved great things throughout the year such as, academic excellence, perfect attendance and getting first grade in external exams.



This final Closing Ceremony felt very different to previous ones during the year. The speeches and awards were similar, but the hall felt very empty because the 3rd year students were no longer there.

School has ended at Kei-Sho, and a long year has come to an end. There have been many exciting events throughout the year, both big and small. I want to wish students who have graduated luck in their futures whether it be work, school or university, and I hope to see you all next year!

- Lew