

# Kei-Sho Chronicle –

## October 2024

### (2) Keika Festival

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**Hello again! We're back for the second Kei-Sho Chronicle for October. This time we are looking at the Keika Festival, the biggest event at Keika every year. Were you there?**

#### ***Keika Festival:***

On October 26 and 27, we held the Keika Festival. The Keika Festival is held jointly by the Keika Boys' School, Keika Girls' School and Kei-Sho. Because of this, it is the largest event in the year.

Preparations for the Keika Festival mostly began in September, however some groups, like the student council started preparing back in term 1. The Thursday and Friday (October 24 - 25) were also dedicated to setting up the festival, with classes cancelled to allow students to finish making their stalls.

Saturday (and Sunday) started with a fanfare from the Symphonic Band, announcing the opening of the festival. The band also had a parade around Hakusan Street on the second day.



Each class had their own ideas, mostly; 1B and 1C both chose to run a Haunted House. All the other classes had original ideas, with all of them offering different types of food and drinks. 2A's Dippin' Dots were especially popular, selling out very quickly, but while it was a strain on my stomach I did try all of the food our students offered.

Some clubs also got involved in the Keika Festival. The Badminton Club served tapioca tea, and the Manga Research, Photography, Computer, Calligraphy, Tea Ceremony, Science and Model Figure Clubs all had stalls where people could come and see what the club does. The Guitar Club held several live performances during the 2 days, and the Dance Club had a large stage show on the Sunday.

The PTA also opened a bazaar selling various items, including Japanese candy and drinks.

Of course, the event was not limited to Kei-Sho; the Boys' and Girls' schools both participated, and helped make the event a huge success. While I could not experience everything at both of their schools, I did visit the English Club stalls. It was very interesting to see how the other schools ran the festival.





After an eventful 2 days, the festival drew to a close, and ended with a bang! Well done to everyone who prepared something for the festival! It was a huge success. I had a lot of fun looking at all of the different things that the students did. And I'm sure everyone who visited felt the same!

Now, let's see what Brendan has to say about his first Keika Festival. *-Llew*



### ***Brendan's First Keika Festival:***

Recently, Keika Gakuen held its annual 'Keika Festival'. Cultural festivals are a unique part of Japanese school life. You can see them in anime and other media from Japan. I had been looking forward to seeing what it would be like.

In the days leading up to the festival, school classes were cancelled, and the students began preparing. When I walked around to see the work in progress, everyone seemed very enthusiastic, and they were working hard to get ready for the big day.

Finally, the day arrived, and the event was opened with a fantastic performance by the Symphonic Band. After that, everyone was free to visit the different shops and activities being run by the students. Here were some of my favourites:



Yakisoba Shop: I love yakisoba, so this was a treat! The yakisoba was made with some unusual ingredients like sausage, which made it delicious!



Tennis Challenge: This game looked a bit scary at first, with a machine launching tennis balls at you. But it turned out to be very fun, even though I didn't hit any of the targets!

Haunted House: The two haunted houses run by the first-year students seemed to be the most popular activity. There was always a long queue of people waiting to get in. The classrooms became terrifying ghost houses, and the students tried to scare anyone who entered.



Model Club: The model club showed off their plastic models that they had carefully put together. There was everything from a Mita Line train, to Gundam, to anime characters. But my favourite was the warplane!



Keika Gakuen's motto is 'Three Schools, One Campus', and for the Keika Festival, all three of the schools were open for us to explore. I really enjoyed visiting the Boys' School and the Girls' School and seeing what their students had set up. Each school had a very different personality!

***The Keika Festival was a big highlight of my time at Keika so far. All the students put a lot of effort in and worked together to create a very special event for the teachers, students, family and friends to enjoy. What was your favourite activity at the festival?***

***-Brendan***