



Shoei's *Miryoku*

Peek into Shoei Students' Daily Life!

<Daily Services>

There are many things that you probably wouldn't have imagined doing until you enter Shoei. As a Christian school, we start off our mornings with our daily services. Singing the hymn and reciting the verse for the Lord's Prayer are part of our daily routine. We mainly sing the hymn in Japanese and sing the English versions on Fridays. We also practice singing them in our music classes.

<Lunch Time>

After the 4th period it's finally lunch time. At Shoei there are a variety of options for lunch. Some students bring lunch from their home. Another option is to buy lunch at the cafeteria. The cafeteria in Shoei sells a lot of different dishes and it's very cheap, so it is very helpful for the students. Students who reserved lunch go and pick up the lunch after the 4th period. Some other

students buy snacks at the free lunch sale and students don't need to make a reservation. Some students do not get full eating their own lunch, so they can buy something small to eat. After students finish eating lunch, they are free to do what they like. Some students talk with friends or finish their homework. Other students who belong to the student council or any other committee do their jobs. Most students in Shoei belong to clubs in which time they use the lunch break to finish their work instead of finishing it after school. Although most clubs have club activities only in the afternoon, some students have lunch practice, such as the basketball club and the cheerleading club.

<After School>

Finally, let's peek into Shoei students' after-school life. As we mentioned before, most of the students enjoy their after-school life with club activities. In

Shoei, there are 35 clubs, and each club has its own schedule and places to practice. Furthermore, some clubs, especially athletic clubs, have their activities on Saturdays and even take part in competitions.

Another common way for students to spend their afternoon is to study in the library. On the 5th floor of the White House, there is a library where students can not only borrow books, but also study with friends. Since there are vast spaces for them to

study, students visit here particularly before the examination.

In addition, before Co-Learners' Day, as known for school festival, snacks such as fried potatoes and noodles are sold in the cafeteria after school. Some students were enjoying their after-school life chatting and eating with friends.

By



Morning Service Photo by Shoei

The Secret to Our Lively and Refreshing Environment



Shoei School Building

Photo by Shoei

Focusing on the school building, anyone can see that it is one of the keys to our fulfilling school life.

A little on the vintage side but holding a hint of elegance with the vines gracing the walls certainly brings out the beauty of the building into the picture. The courtyard and hill lined with trees are also refreshing to walk through as we head to our next classes!

Encountering insects from time to time is common and we have embraced it as a "Shoei

Thing." Including all of that, it's interesting to see how our surroundings change in each season. In the summer, the greenery gives off a lively mood. On the other hand, we can see the warm colors of the leaves changing in the fall.

We can't ask for more when we have such a large, beautiful environment that keeps school life exciting, and insects add to the drama too.

By

A Look into the Shoei Cafeteria

Hundreds of Shoei students use the school cafeteria every day, whether it would be to buy a full meal or to buy some bread and side dishes to snack on. The scent of the scrumptious food drifting in the air from the school kitchen to the classrooms captivates the students in Shoei. Not only the students but also within the teachers, the school cafeteria meals are cherished, becoming a beloved part of the entire school community.

As the bell rings, many Shoei students rush through the corridors, eager to get hands on the delicious lunches. Not only is

it affordable with the maximum price for the main dishes being 500 yen, but it has a wide range of foods to choose from. There are options such as Japanese style *obentos*, American style hamburger sets, Italian food such as pasta and even Indian nan and curry. Some of the menus boast imaginative names, sparking the creativity of the students. They constantly do surveys to hear what students would like to see being sold, and they make these menus possible. The popular menus are noodles and hamburgers.

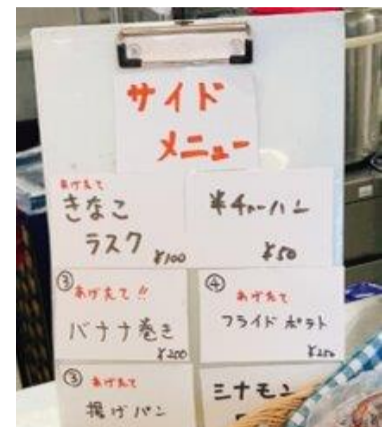
Not only are the main dishes well-balanced and

nutritious, but there are also more than two options for the main dishes to choose from. One for 450 yen, and the other for 400 yen. Although students need to make reservations for a dish beforehand, this is all done to prevent kitchen staff from creating extra food not being put to use or being eaten. When it comes to the set meals, the slots are full every day, making it a challenging task to secure a reservation.

For side menus and extra treats, we have both sweet and savory breads that you can choose to buy without a reservation. Most of the time the food gets

consumed seeing as it is popular among all students.

By



The cafeteria menu
Photo by Shoei

Behind the Scenes of Shoei's Vending Machines



Survey and our beloved vending machine
Photo by Shoei

A few years ago, vending machines were an important aspect in many Shoei students' lives, but due to COVID-19, the vending machines were disabled. However, this year, life without vending machines had become inconvenient, which led to the student council and teachers to approve the reinstallation of the vending machines. In reinstalling the vending machines, the student

council took surveys targeting all students to decide whether to install vending machines with plastic bottles or box-type drinks, which were previously used. Although both were close in numbers, the plastic bottles were voted the most.

After the decision was made to install plastic bottle-type vending machines, the student council chose drinks that were

considered healthier and cost-effective. The drinks sold in these vending machines are about 120 to 140 yen, which is one of the many reasons Shoei's vending machines are cherished.

The student council not only decided the drinks, but they also chose charities to donate the money earned from these vending machines. As a result, it was decided to support the pink ribbon

movement. Now, a few percents of the money earned from these vending machines goes to charity and assists the pink ribbon movement. The pink ribbon movement supports spreading correct knowledge about breast cancer and since Shoei is an all-girls school, this will be a good opportunity to enrich our understanding of breast cancer.

Shoei's vending machines have two different types of trash cans lined besides. One is for plastic bottles and the other is for caps. This makes it easier to recycle and support the work on SDGs that Shoei is working on.

Currently, there are three vending machines installed around the school. Two in the White House and one beside the principal's room. According to a student who took part in installing these vending machines, all three of them use less electricity than average vending machines and have been making an effort to be carbon neutral.

By

EDITORIAL

Synergy...Is It Real?

Unfortunately, we may not be taking advantage of the returnee and non-returnee system aimed to achieve harmony between the two types of students. We presumed the greatest reason is the inferiority students feel towards each other. The interviews conducted provide us with interesting insight into the issue.

K... (Algebra),
J... (English),
S... (Japanese)

Q1. How do you feel about the system in general?

K: It's crucial; however, since Shoei isn't the only school adapting the system while demand for global education remains high, a systemic reformation is called for.

Q2. Do you feel there is a significant difference between

returnee and non-returnee students?

S: I understand returnees can be handicapped, but so are non-returnees who grapple with English so frequently for so long.

Q3. Is there anything you keep in mind when teaching two types of students?

K: Word choice and explanation. The progression of classes is

adjusted for returnees as well. Ideally, I want to stimulate students at top levels by giving them the problems that are a bit tricky.

J: I make sure to set clear goals for non-returnee classes and keep an eye on grammar and expression.

S: Everyone shares the same goal – university exams – so I want them to compete on a level playing field.

J22...Class Jr.2-2
S13...Class Sr.1-3

Q1. How do you feel about the system in general?

J22: It's good that new perspectives are introduced by having returnee students in the grade.

S13: It's a relief to spend time with students who have had similar experiences abroad as I have.

Q2. Is there room for improvement in their relationship?

J22: No.

S13: They feel inferior to each other and tend to stick to the status quo, so yes.

By



Photo of Schoolyard Photo by Shoei

CLD ≠ Bunkasai



CLD decoration Photo by Shoei

One of Shoei's main events, CLD (Co-Learners' Day), differs from general school festivals. "Co-learner" means learning and working together, and CLD is a day for students and homeroom teachers to present what they have learned and researched together

through exhibitions, stage performances, and other cultural events.

The former director (Naoyuki Okami) was dissatisfied with the content of the original school festival. He wanted a school event with academic

content, so in 1975, he abolished the festival and created a new day for research presentations, which he named Co-Learners' Day (CLD). Co-Learners' means teachers and students, and CLD is a day for teachers and students to present what they have learned together. During the school days is the most important and best time for students to absorb new knowledge, so spending time on things that we can just do outside of school is a waste of time, was what Okami thought.

CLD is mainly divided into two parts, the research presentation and the club activities. Many students say that CLD is boring because it has an element of learning, and I was one of those students, too. However, after interviewing the assistant

principal, Mr. Igasaki, and learning about the purpose of CLD, I found that it was fun. For a start, CLD is not just an event to present what students have researched, but an event to learn the joy of making new discoveries. Likewise, Sr. 2s and Sr. 3s can do food sales to put into practice the knowledge they gained in Shoei. In the past, a sweet shop was once opened.

Aside from CLD, there is an event called "Minna-no-hi." This is an event that is completely separate from education and is a day for students to just have fun. In the past, they have shortened all their classes that day and even made pork miso soup.

By

Shoei's Transportation Too Attractive

One of the most valued of the many advantages of Shoei is the convenience of transportation. Takanawadai Station on the Asakusa Line is within a 1-minute walk of Shoei, and Gotanda Station, Shirokanedai Station, and Shinagawa Station are within a 15-minute walk. With a wide variety of options and numerous train lines, students can get to and from school without any inconvenience.

The presence that makes such students feel more secure is the police box positioned just outside Takanawadai Station. In addition to the police box, the security guard of Shoei stands in front of the main gate early in the morning to watch over us students, making us feel even safer.

The only gripe of students attending Shoei, built in a location with great transportation, is the number of stairs at Takanawadai

Station. Takanawadai Station is used by many Shoei students and is overflowing with students on their way to and from school. The station has about 120 steps and several turns, making many students exhausted early in the morning or on their way home from school. However, the high number of stairs also has the appeal of building stamina. It is common for breathing to appear more stable as the year progresses.

Takanawadai Station, the station that Shoei students use every day, opened on November 15, 1968, as a station on the Toei Line 1. It was also renamed the Toei Asakusa Line in 1978. It has a history of about 55 years, but as of the year 2023, Shoei will have been in operation for 139 years. Before the town was developed, students probably went to school by rickshaw or on foot.

Takanawadai Station has

only about 10,000 passengers per day and is also the least busy station on the Asakusa Line. There is no elevator from the ticket gate down to the platform, and passengers with baby strollers or injuries are often seen in trouble. Shoei students use the stairs and escalators when there are few people; therefore we do not need an elevator. However, we always think it would be more convenient if there were one...

Excellent transportation, the watchful eye of the police station and security guard, and the physical fitness of the students. Proud of such an attractive Shoei, students pass through the main gate just outside Takanawadai Station every morning with a glorious future ahead of them.

By



Takanawadai Station

Photo by

SHOEI'S CLUBS



ESS and DANCE CLUB



Photo by Shoei

Joining a club is not just an exciting activity, but an essential part of the junior high and high school experience. Shoei, with its four outstanding and well-known clubs, offers an opportunity to become a part of a community, develop new skills, and build lasting friendships.

1. **E.S.S.** is a club that holds mainly musical performances,

debates, and other activities five times a year. As a team, they practice every day to create dances, music, and theatrical performances. They work together to bring it all to life. Working hard and practicing together for performances are some of the most cherished moments in our youth that we can never replace.

2. In the **Kyudo club**, they have participated in many Kanto Tournaments, Kanto Individual Championships and National Invitational Tournaments as a representative of Tokyo. It is a club with a proven track record and tradition.

3. **The Choir** has recently been acknowledged, both the junior and high school club members being chosen to sing at the prestigious NHK competition. Moreover, the junior choir club members won an outstanding bronze medal. Shoei's choir is different from other schools because they sing hymns daily and are involved in various special school occasions. For the same

reasons, we fellow students can hear their angelic voices often.

4. **The Dance club** is a popular option among junior 1 students. They practice basic ballet and hip hop moves, and once festivities such as CLD approach, they practice with both *senpais* (older club members) and *kohais* (younger members of the club). All club members come together to give the best performance, and they deepen their relationship. They are able to gain the strength to work hard.

By

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