

Isesaki School English Magazine

2017  
Spring

# Impress

*April showers bring May flowers*

# IMPRESS

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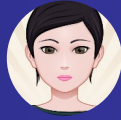
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# Easy as one, two, three

Issue 3  
Spring  
2017

This is the first official issue of Impress. If you read the Yomiuri News or the Jomo News, you can see that we made the news! We're glad that you're with us to celebrate!

What does *impress* mean? As a word, it can mean *to make a mark*, like on paper with a stamp. It can mean *to give someone an idea*. And it can mean *to inspire*.

With this *Impress* magazine, we want to give you new information to encourage and help you to read. We want to tell you about your own culture and cultures of the world waiting for you. We want to give you a place to share your ideas and achievements and talk to each other through the *Impress* community.

Most of all, we want to inspire you. Not just to learn, and not just to grow, but to do things you are proud of.



本出版が正式第1号です。読売か上毛新聞で  
ごらんになった人もいますが、出版を  
祝っていただきうれしく思います。

*Impress*はどんな意味でしょうか。単語の意味と  
してはレポートにつけられた印のように、マーク  
をつけることです。だれかにあるアイディアを  
引き出し、そして感動をあたえることも意味  
します。

この*Impress Magazine*を読むことで、励みや何  
かの手助けになるような新しい情報を提供したい  
と思っています。自身の文化や今後あなたたちを  
待ち受けている世界の文化についてお話したい  
です。*Impress*を通して、考えや達成感を分かち  
合い、互いに話し合う場所として考えて  
ください。ただ学び、成長するだけでなく満足で  
きることをして感動させたいです。

— the Team

# Growing Friendships

by George Liu



Cherry blossoms are an essential<sup>1</sup> part of<sup>2</sup> Japanese culture. Every spring, people all over Japan have picnics and festivals during the *ohanami* season. In fact, Japanese people have practiced flower viewing since the Nara period<sup>3</sup>.

Many people come to Japan just to see cherry blossoms, but flower viewing is becoming more and more popular all over the world.<sup>10</sup>

Last year, some Indian cities started their own cherry blossom festivals. They have planted thousands of native<sup>4</sup> cherry trees<sup>15</sup> that flower<sup>5</sup> in March and November.

In Brazil, cherry trees decorate<sup>6</sup> many roads. There are festivals every year to celebrate the trees<sup>20</sup> that Japanese immigrants<sup>7</sup> brought to Brazil.

Many countries, such as<sup>23</sup> Germany, Canada, and France, have cherry trees and cherry blossom festivals. Most of these trees are gifts of friendship<sup>8</sup> from Japan.<sup>25</sup>

In the US, Washington, D.C. is the most famous place for cherry blossoms, with more than<sup>9</sup> 4,000 cherry trees from Japan. But Macon, Georgia, is the city with the most<sup>10</sup> cherry trees. There are over 350,000 cherry trees there.<sup>30</sup><sup>35</sup>

## Did you know?

*Sakura*, peach, plum, and almond trees are members of the same group of trees. They are used for<sup>11</sup> food, furniture, and medicine<sup>12</sup>.



# Learn about Cherry Blossoms

## Vocabulary

## Summary

1. Essential	重要
2. Part of	～の部分
3. Period	時代
4. Native	減産
5. Flower	咲く、花
6. Decorate	飾る
7. Immigrant	移住者
8. Gift of friendship	親善の贈り物
9. More than	以上
10. Most	最も
11. Use for	～のために使う
12. Medicine	薬

桜は日本文化にとって重要な部分を占めます。春になると、花見が奈良時代から行われてきました。花見は世界でも人気で、去年はインドで、3月と11月に咲く桜の木を植え、お祭りを開催しました。

また、ブラジルでは、毎年、道路が移民が持ち込んだ桜の木で飾られ、祭りを開催します。ドイツ、カナダ、フランスなども桜は親善に役立っています。アメリカのワシントンD.C.の桜は有名で日本から4000本以上が寄贈されました。しかし、ジョージア州のマコン市には350000本もの木があるのですよ！

知っていますか？桜、ピーチ、プラム、アーモンドは同種類で食べ物、家具、薬などで使われています。

## Questions

- 1) What countries have cherry blossoms trees? 1) 桜の木はどこに国にありますか？
- 2) When do Japanese people go flower viewing? 2) 日本人はいつお花見に行きますか？
- 3) What are some famous places for flower viewing? 3) 有名なお花見場所はどこにありますか？

# Easter Traditions

by Rachel Beilsmith



Every spring, many people around the world celebrate<sup>1</sup> a holiday<sup>2</sup> called<sup>1</sup> Easter. The date changes every year, but it is always on a Sunday in March or April.

Easter is an old holiday. Some people believe "Easter" was the name of a goddess of spring.<sup>5</sup>

A popular Easter activity<sup>3</sup> is decorating<sup>4</sup> Easter eggs. Some people boil<sup>5</sup> eggs and dye<sup>6</sup> them in many colors. Then, they hide the eggs for children<sup>8</sup> to find. This game is called an Easter egg hunt<sup>7</sup>.

## Vocabulary

1. Celebrate	祝う	6. Dye	染める
2. Holiday	行事、休日	7. Hunt	探し、狩り
3. Activity	活動	8. Christian	キリスト教の
4. Decorate	飾る	9. Church	教会
5. Boil	煮る	10. Beginning	始め、始まり





Easter is a very important holiday for Christian<sup>8</sup> people. It is a day to remember and celebrate the life of a man named Jesus. On Easter<sup>10</sup> Sunday, people usually go to church<sup>9</sup> and enjoy a big dinner with family.

People also give gifts to their family and friends, like chocolate rabbits and candy eggs.

But Easter is not only celebrated by Christians. Other people celebrate Easter as the beginning<sup>10</sup> of spring. Easter is a holiday that many people<sup>15</sup> around the world can enjoy.

## Questions

- 1) On what day of the week is Easter always celebrated?
- 2) What is a popular Easter game?
- 3) Do you celebrate Easter with your family?

- 1) イースターはいつも何曜日に祝いますか。
- 2) 人気のイースターゲームは何ですか。
- 3) あなたは家族とイースターを祝いますか。

## Summary

毎年、春には世界中でイースターを祝います。年によって日にちが変化しますが3月か4月の日曜日です。古くからの行事で春の女神の名前であると言われてています。

人気の楽しみ方は卵を茹で色づけし、その卵を隠します。子どもたちはエッグハントと呼ばれるゲームで隠された卵をさがします。

キリスト教徒にとってイースターはとても重要な行事です。キリストを思い出し、存在を祝います。その日人々は教会に行き、家族と共にごちそうを食べます。また、家族と友達にウサギの形をしたチョコレートと卵の形の飴をあげます。

キリスト教徒だけでなく、他の人々にとってもイースターは春の訪れだと思われています。



# American Spirit: Saving Lives

by George Liu



Japanese students might know the US for hamburgers, the Grand Canyon, and Hollywood movies. But the US is known for many other things as well. One of these is volunteerism<sup>1</sup>.

46% of Americans volunteer. Most American firefighters are volunteers. Many people unofficially<sup>2</sup> volunteer<sup>3</sup> by helping neighbors<sup>3</sup>, teaching children, or helping in soup kitchens<sup>4</sup>.

25% of Americans volunteer in official organizations<sup>5</sup>. They officially volunteer for an average of 50 hours a year. Their volunteering is equal to almost \$175 billion of unpaid<sup>6</sup> work.

One very famous volunteer organization helps save lives all over the world. After the 2011 Tohoku earthquake<sup>7</sup>, this group sent \$350 million in aid<sup>8</sup>. This group sent 23 medical teams<sup>9</sup> and 5,000 blankets<sup>10</sup> to Kumamoto in 2016. This group's purpose is "to prevent and alleviate human suffering<sup>11</sup>."

This group is the **Red Cross**<sup>12</sup>.

What are some other famous volunteer organizations?

- **Habitat for Humanity** (人類の生息地：住宅支援を行うNGO) builds houses for the poor.
- **Doctors Without Borders** (国境なき医師団) and **the International Medical Corps** (国際医療隊) provide medical care in poor countries.
- **The Make-A-Wish Foundation** (「ねがいごとをする」団体) makes the dreams of sick children come true.





## Vocabulary

1. Volunteerism	ボランティア活動
2. (Un)official	(非)公式
3. Neighbor	隣人
4. Soup Kitchen	無料食堂
5. Organization	組織
6. Unpaid	無給
7. Earthquake	地震
8. Aid	援助・支援
9. Medical Team	メディカルチーム
10. Blanket	毛布
11. To prevent and alleviate human suffering	人間の苦しみを予防し緩和する
12. Red Cross	赤十字社
13. Medical Care	医療
14. Average	平均(的)
15. Donate	募金
16. Stranger	知らない人

## Summary

アメリカといえば、ハンバーガー、グランドキャニオン、ハリウッド映画を日本の学生は思い浮かべるでしょう。ほかにボランティア活動も盛んです。2016年の「World Giving Index」でこの活動が2番目でした。このランキングは募金、見知らぬ人への援助、あるいはボランティアの平均のパーセントを見ます。

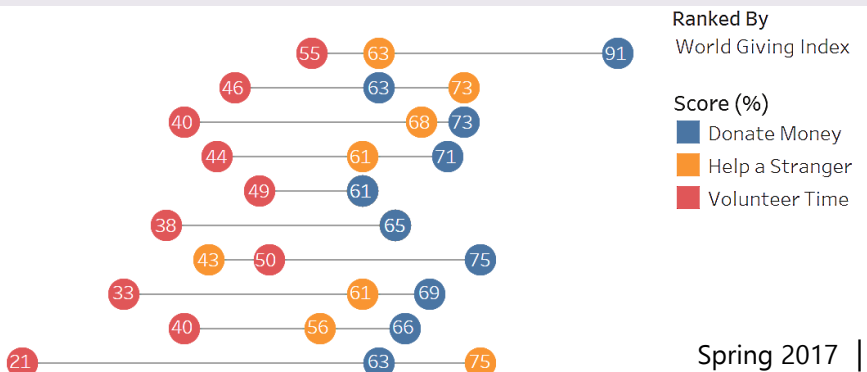
46%のアメリカ人はボランティア活動をしています。25%は公式な組織でしています。彼らの無給での奉仕額は1.75兆円に値します。

ある有名なグループは東日本大震災の後、3.5億ドルの支援募金をおくりました。また、熊本地震後には23のメディカルチームと5千もの毛布をおくりました。このグループの目標は「人間の苦しみを防御、緩和することにある」です。このグループは赤十字です。

# The World Giving Index

American volunteerism is famous around the world. Last year, the US was ranked number two in the World Giving Index. This index looks at the average<sup>14</sup> percent of people who donate<sup>15</sup>, help strangers<sup>16</sup>, or volunteer.

Rank	Country
1	Myanmar
2	United States of America
3	Australia
4	New Zealand
5	Sri Lanka
6	Canada
7	Indonesia
8	United Kingdom
9	Ireland
10	United Arab Emirates





In America, I didn't know much about kendo. After I came to Japan, I became interested in kendo. Now, I am happy because I learned this very special Japanese sport. I think kendo helps me understand art, beauty, manners, and consideration for other people. I learned about confidence, determination, and friendship. I hope more people in the world can learn about kendo. I think they will become happier than before. I am happy to have learned kendo from Mr. Yanagisawa.

- Martin Campbell

# Building Character: My Culture

by Soh Yanagisawa  
a student of Yotsuba Gakuen



Kendo is a historical<sup>1</sup> sport in Japan. It is<sup>1</sup> said that kendo is a way of building character<sup>2</sup>. Through kendo, we develop<sup>3</sup> many useful<sup>4</sup> abilities<sup>5</sup>: concentration<sup>6</sup>, respect<sup>7</sup>, manners<sup>8</sup>, cooperation<sup>9</sup>, and so on.<sup>5</sup> I believe that kendo can make our minds<sup>10</sup> strong and clear.

Kendo can be tough<sup>11</sup>. For example, it is very cold during winter practices and very hot during summer practices.<sup>10</sup>

These days<sup>12</sup>, I sometimes<sup>13</sup> see some TV programs that introduce<sup>14</sup> or show kendo matches<sup>15</sup>. You may have seen a kendo match. In a match, our mind, sword, and body must be focused into a single point.<sup>15</sup> The mind is particularly<sup>16</sup> important. We say that victory<sup>17</sup> or defeat<sup>18</sup> depends on it. Having a strong mind is difficult, but it leads us to victory.

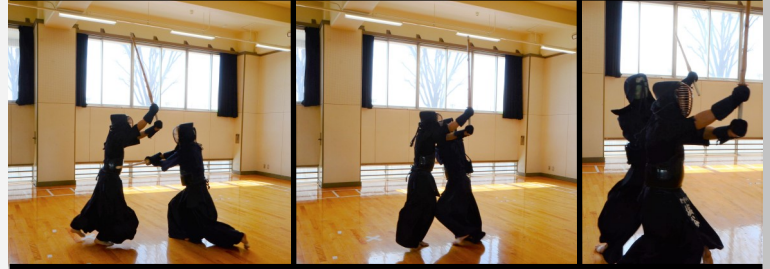
Kendo is an important part of my life now.<sup>20</sup> It gave me many experiences. I met many people and learned many things from them. So let's be proud of Japanese culture's great points and learn many things from it.<sup>24</sup>

## Vocabulary

- |                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Historical         | 歴史的な        |
| 2. Building character | 人を創る、性格を育てる |
| 3. Develop            | 育つ、習得する     |
| 4. Useful             | 役に立つ        |
| 5. Abilities          | 能力          |
| 6. Concentration      | 集中          |
| 7. Respect            | 思いやり、尊敬     |
| 8. Manners            | 礼儀、作法       |
| 9. Cooperation        | 協力          |
| 10. Mind              | 心、精神力       |
| 11. Tough             | 困難な、辛い      |
| 12. These days        | 最近、近頃       |
| 13. Sometimes         | 時々          |
| 14. Introduce         | 紹介する        |
| 15. Match             | 試合          |
| 16. Particularly      | 特に          |
| 17. Victory           | 勝利          |
| 18. Defeat            | 負け          |

## Questions

- 1) Why is the mind important?
  - 2) What ability can we get from Kendo?
  - 3) What is your club activity's tough point?
  - 4) What Japanese culture do you want to introduce to the world? Why?
- 
- 1) なぜ精神は大事なのですか。
  - 2) 剣道からどんな能力を得られますか。
  - 3) あなたの部活で辛いことはなんですか。
  - 4) どんな日本文化を世界に紹介したいですか。その理由は？



# Learn about Kendo

Word Search: How many words about kendo can you find?

## Word List

1. ~~KENDO~~
2. HEART
3. MIND
4. VOICE
5. MANNERS
6. HELMET
7. ARMOR
8. GLOVES
9. HAKAMA
10. SPIRIT
11. SWORD
12. BODY
13. CONCENTRATION

J	X	D	K	I	B	O	D	Y	T	T	D	Y	B	B
N	O	F	S	A	R	M	O	R	V	Z	O	I	W	E
Y	J	O	U	O	N	G	Y	L	Y	H	P	R	M	Y
N	W	H	L	P	S	O	M	H	V	E	I	Q	R	K
C	O	N	C	E	N	T	R	A	T	I	O	N	Z	E
U	U	H	E	L	M	E	T	K	N	R	A	H	C	N
T	R	S	U	F	E	E	R	A	E	N	S	U	R	D
V	M	D	W	C	K	R	Y	M	J	S	E	H	T	O
F	N	D	I	H	S	J	A	A	O	W	W	R	S	P
Y	Z	O	U	R	Q	P	S	G	L	O	V	E	S	D
A	V	A	M	H	K	M	I	G	B	R	Q	I	B	S
M	I	N	D	H	M	D	H	R	O	D	Q	B	T	V
V	G	W	S	V	M	P	B	F	I	L	P	Q	E	L
J	M	N	H	R	X	H	E	A	R	T	T	W	C	V
A	V	H	O	R	C	M	Z	R	Q	T	V	M	I	A

## Words related to Kendo:

KENDO 剣道  
 HEART 心  
 MIND 精神  
 VOICE 声  
 MANNERS 作法  
 HELMET 兜  
 ARMOR 防具

GLOVES 小手  
 HAKAMA 袴  
 SPIRIT 心  
 SWORD 刀、竹刀  
 BODY 体  
 CONCENTRATION 集中力

# Changing Lives

I worked as a nurse in a public hospital before coming to Japan. When I had my own family, I worked as an online English teacher. Teaching was very fulfilling because I could see how my students got better each time we meet. I started dreaming of becoming a teacher someday.

*“English is not just a language. It is also a bridge to connect with different people from different countries.”*

I am not a native speaker. English is my second language. I made a lot of mistakes when I was learning English. I didn't get perfect test scores and I got too nervous when I spoke in class. All of those

mistakes and poor test scores were important to me because I saw where I needed to improve. I worked hard to correct my mistakes. I practiced speaking in front of a mirror. I built my confidence by joining contests and debates.

I want my students to know how important it is not to be scared of making mistakes. English can give them new horizons and better opportunities in the future.



## *First Impression of Japan*

*“The moment I got off the plane to Japan, I saw people wearing masks. As a nurse, I thought there was an outbreak of some disease. It scared me a lot. I later learned that it was normal for people to wear masks both for fashion and disease prevention.”*

Marie Toni Jean Kobayashi is a teacher at Sakai Nishi Junior High School. She can speak five languages: Japanese, English, Filipino, Ilocano, and Portuguese.



# Showcase: Kezoji Park

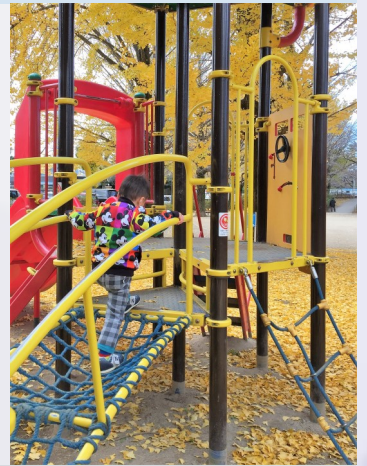


My city is famous for the Kezoji Amusement Park. Its main attraction is a Ferris wheel. There are many other attractions, too. I recommend the big roller coaster. Please visit Kezoji Amusement Park.

- Nanami Katayama

The amusement park at Kezoji, completed in 1911, has the largest Ferris wheel in the Kita-Kanto region. There is also a rollercoaster, a log flume, a large train, and more. People of all ages enjoy the sporting venues, the playgrounds, and the scenery at Kezoji Park. It's my son's favorite place to go.

- George Liv



I see the Ferris wheel at Kezoji Park everyday. I think this Ferris wheel and this park are very beautiful. Sometimes I travel to Tokyo, Kyoto, America, or other places. When I return, I ride the train to Iseaki. Then I see the Ferris wheel in Kezoji Park. When I see it, I think, "I am home in Iseaki."

- Martin Campbell

On clear days, the top of the hill in Kezoji Park has great views of Iseaki and Mount Akagi. I like to go there in the early morning, after running. The cool breeze and peaceful atmosphere are very relaxing.

- Rachel Beilsmith



# Things in Spring

Every year, people around the world start cleaning their houses in the spring.



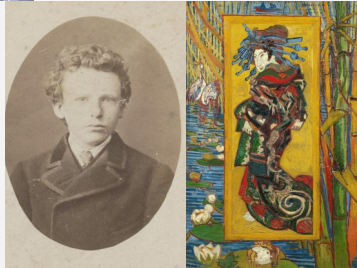
Nelson Mandela becomes president of South Africa on May 10, 1994.



The samba parade of the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, starts in 1929.



Vincent van Gogh moves to Paris and is influenced by *ukiyo-e* prints in 1886.



Napoleon Bonaparte becomes Emperor of France in 1804.



William Shakespeare is born in England on April 23, 1564.



The first Carnival in Venice starts in 1162.



# Credits

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## Easter Traditions

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## American Spirit: Saving Lives

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