



# SHOEI'S SECRETS



STUDENT EDITION, JANUARY 2023

## A green school in an affluent neighborhood... What's happening inside? From Shoei to Sanriku



Shoei Joshi Gakuin in the summer Photo by Shoei Girls' High School

Every year in November, Sr.2 students in Shoei hold a "Recovery-assistance week" to raise awareness about earthquakes and donate money to those affected by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake. During this week, Sr.2 students sell snacks (slightly expensive than the original) from Tohoku to Shoei students. This year, they went around classrooms or used school broadcasting system to

make announcements on various elements of Tohoku during lunchtime and held seminars after school or during lunchbreak to help prepare for possible earthquakes. In addition, there are posters all around the school on this topic, and even quizzes on earthquakes in each bathroom stall!

The following is what we did in a day during the recovery assistance week. First, we took

### A MUST READ FOR RETURNNEES!!

In on the ever-changing world that we live today, students are required to be open-minded and innovative. Shoei, a school which enrolls a significant number of returnees, not seen by other schools in Tokyo. According to the Kikokushijo Academy, while the average number of

returnees in one school grade is about 15 students, whereas Shoei takes in more than 45 returnees annually. As returnees and non-returnees come together in the same classroom, we gain the



English class for returnees Photo by .

four classes in the morning. Then it was the long-anticipated lunchtime! Two Sr.2 students came to our classroom to make a presentation on railroads in Sanriku. Since we had to eat lunch silently due to Covid preventive measures, listening to the presentation was fun and educational. After eating, we went to buy some snacks. The room was filled with students seeking for snacks like us, and Sr.2 students trying to attract customers. All of the snacks were delicious. According to the Sr.2s, more than 110,000 yen worth of snacks were sold! Then we took two afternoon classes before participating in a seminar after school. In this seminar, we learned how to make slippers out of newspaper in case of an

emergency.

Overall, we had a fulfilling day. Later in the week, the teachers announced that Shoei had received an appreciation award from Oofunato city, which was heavily affected by the earthquakes back in 2011.



The delicious snacks we bought Photo by

As Sr.1 students, we hope to continue this tradition of connecting Shoei and Sanriku to build back better.

By . , and

although it has improved in the past few years. On the other hand, non-returnees tend to be more diligent when it comes to schoolwork. Due to having passed the Japanese middle school entrance exam, they have perseverance which influences returnees positively to catch up with them. Despite having tension...

-CONTINUE ONTO PAGE 3

# Forest Alone

Our school lies adjacent to Takanawadai station, between Shinagawa City and Minato City, each of which is one of the most developed cities in Tokyo. In recent years, a new station called Takanawa Gateway was built near Shinagawa Station and caught people's attention. Especially after Japan's bubble boom, many tall buildings and expensive apartments started to show up. To this day, many upper-class citizens live in this area and it is known as an affluent neighborhood of Tokyo.

Our school and its protected forest sits amongst the sprawling



Shoei's forest Photo by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

city. Upon entering the school, one's attention will be drawn to a beautiful green oak tree hedge. On the school grounds, you can see the marvelous nature which is very rare for a school in Tokyo. Also, Shoei's sportsground stands

by a forest which is certified as a protected area by the Minato city ward. You can hear birds chirping or even see the leaves that have turned beautifully red in autumn. In the forest there is a memorial hall designed by Takehiko Okami,

who studied under an architect named Frank Lloyd Wright. As the sportsground is surrounded by nature, frogs and snakes may sometimes be witnessed, but for us students, these experiences remain as good memories. Although the school is located in the middle of the city, Shoei is surrounded by magnificent natural environments and we can enjoy our student lives side-by-side with it.

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By \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Post-COVID School Life



A Shoei student using her laptop Photo by \_\_\_\_\_

### Covid Changes:

From introducing new technological tools into the education system, to unnoticeable changes such as allowing students to drink water during class, our school has undergone many different changes since the Coronavirus first broke out. After almost three years of school life with the Covid-19, what exactly are the changes, and what can we say about them as Shoei students?

One of the most notable changes is the introduction of

technological devices, Surface tablets as well as its software mainly consisting of Microsoft Teams and Loilonote. Students have benefited greatly from this change, for they enable us to contact teachers and submit assignments a lot more easily and engage ourselves in cooperative learning. However, there are many other changes that may seem subtle, but are playing a vital role. For instance, like mentioned above, students are now allowed to drink in class, since wearing masks can easily lead to dehydration without even noticing it. This is especially crucial during the summer in Japan, where dehydration may result in heat strokes. Another change is the silent eating which aims to

prevent droplet transmission during the time students are not wearing their masks. Moreover, the usage of microphones among some teachers in class, enabling online lessons, can all be raised as an overview of post-covid changes.

When thinking of Coronavirus, many people tend to conceive negative impressions and how it has left unpleasing repercussions on our lives. However, covid changes are not only just the distressing matters, but they can also bring about positive change to the education system and achieve the protection of the students at the same time.

### Rising questions in Shoei:

Ever since we got the Surface Go, there has been the

rising question of why exactly the Surface Go was so expensive. Upon conducting a survey, 80% of students agree with this statement, so how did the school come up with the price point of 100,000 yen? The Surface and the keyboard are a total of 60,000 yen, which leaves us with a missing 40,000 yen. On the surface go, it may seem like we paid more than we got but this cost was attributed to the software installed on our Surface Go. The software in question are: I-filter, Microsoft office and Loilonote. The software protects our browser and plays an important role in our school's online education system.

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By \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Change the Norm with the Uniform

## History

The uniform Shoei students wear today was designed in 1984 as a part of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. Shoei is known for the first school in Japan to officially adopt the blazer and the tartan check skirt as the school uniform. Until then, Shoei had a sailor uniform just like other schools. However, at that time, most school uniforms were sailor uniforms and it was hard to depict the difference between schools' uniforms. Nevertheless, the principal at that time, Naoyuki Okami, considered and designed

what Shoei students wear today. He strongly wished Shoei students to be charming and wanted them to have special feelings about the school and the uniform. He inspired a lot of other schools to adopt the new style with blazers and tartan check skirts.

## Features of our uniform

Shoei has two distinct uniforms: for its junior students and senior students. Each has a different uniform for summer and winter. First, for the winter school uniform, we have wraparound skirts with kilt pins

which are unique to have for school uniforms. Junior school has a red tartaned check skirt and the high school has a navy tartaned check skirt. They are very traditional, and the colors and the patterns are one and only. Next, for the summer uniform, the junior school has a light blue pleated skirt, and the high school has a blue and white box pattern



Shoei's winter school uniform

Photo by

skirt. Light blue is an unusual color to be used for a school uniform, but it matches with the school's scenery which has a lot of nature.

## Future thoughts

Over the last few years, there has been a trend among schools in Tokyo to permit their students to choose between slacks and skirts. Over 80% of public schools in Japan has implemented gender neutral uniforms. Will Shoei follow this trend?

By ,  
and

# The Bag Evolution



The new school bag  
Photo by ,

Shoei has recently brought changes to our school bags. From the grade below us, students have started to use the new model. What are the reasons behind this renewal? We interviewed our vice-principle and

have found astonishing facts about the evolution in Shoei's school bags.

The old model has been regarded as an ideal type of bag that perfectly fit with our school uniforms. However, some people started to express doubts in how we carry our bags with zipper unclosed. The new model has solved this matter – it has larger capacity, allowing students to close the zippers – which needless to say, looks better. The other element which brought the change is the aging of the craftsmen. The old model we possess now is handmade one by one; therefore,

the aging and the labor shortage of the craftsman have influenced largely to alter the bag to be made by machines.

Why doesn't the school change the bags to backpacks? This was the question we had for a long time. The interview revealed the answer to this question. Generally speaking, there are mainly two opinions about backpacks. One is that using a backpack is good for health, and the other is that it's not very good for health. Many teachers in our school hold the latter opinion, which is why the school prefer students not to use backpacks.

Indeed, Harvard medical school says too much weight on the shoulder leads to bad posture and excessive slouching. Moreover, the school emphasis on the compatibility between school uniforms and the bags, so it can clearly be said that the new bag is highly suitable compared to a rucksack. Considering all the factors, we believe that the new model is surely the most appropriate for our school.

By , , and

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 A MUST READ FOR RETURNEES!

... when returnees and non-returnees first came together in the

first year of junior high, we all now are very close to one another. School activities such as Co-Learners' Day (CLD), Shoei's school festival, helped us to establish our relationship. Additionally, Shoei provides us

with assignments that are crucial to cooperate, which induce ourselves to communicate and appreciate each other.

It is obvious that Shoei students stimulate each other to improve our skills that our crucial

when we go into society. As Shoei students, we can safely say that those who enter our school would be welcomed with hospitality.

DO YOU STILL NEED ANOTHER REASON TO ENTER SHOEI? READ ON TO FIND OUT!

# Common Prejudices

According to the outsiders of Shoei, there are many prejudices against this school such as lady-like school, elegant school environment, and pretty school grounds. In fact, this girl's school is famous for these images with high quality education which helped them gain recognition. Nevertheless, prejudices always don't turn out to be true no matter how numerous people are convinced by them. So, what exactly is the difference between

preconceptions and reality?

## Lady like school & Elegant environment

To give an example, the image of having a lady-like school enclosed by an elegant environment is slightly different in real life. For there are many active and energetic students, they are surrounded by not only many strict rules but also with an enjoyable environment that is still comfortable to spent time in. So as a result, although it has some

element of a lady-like school, it is filled with a well secured and pleasurable school environment for the students.

## Pretty School Building

On the other hand, the image of a pretty school building is quite different from what



Main entrance Photo by Shoei

everyone expects it to be like. Some of the building floors have cracks and are worn out since the school was originally established in 1884. However, this is a significant fact since it proves that no matter how many decades have passed, the buildings are still loved by the people who go to this school, which leads to not having them rebuild.

By  
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# Motivation of the Day

At Shoei, you are either allowed to bring your own packed lunch or to buy lunch at school. Due to Covid-19, we are not allowed to use the cafeteria but instead, we can eat the lunches made at the cafeteria and eat them in our homeroom. We have focused on the school lunches and hopefully we can tell you about the delicious foods!

All the students can buy their lunch from two main menus and two side menus. There are 350-yen foods and 400-yen dishes in the main menu. First main menu has hot dishes using roux which is 350 yen. For instance, there are Curry Rice, Hayashi Rice (Hashed beef with rice), and

Cream Stew. The same items are sold every week and keeping a stable popularity. The second main menu costs 400 yen, which has a variety of lunches including international dishes which makes students excited every day. In addition to these main menus, there are side menus too. The side menus also have two types of prices 200 yen and 250 yen. There is no clear difference between these but many of side menus have so many fans that they are sold very quickly. Sometimes students cannot buy what they want, but no worries. The side menu that is sold out quickly has a hidden menu and you can find

new favorite, which makes the students happy.

There is a wide variety of menus from Hamburgers to Korean food. It is exciting to see the menu of the week since none of the foods are repeated in the week! Some examples are, Yulinchi (Chinese style deep fried chicken), Lasagna, Bibimbap (Korean rice dish), and many

more. Some handmade snacks are also sold at lunch time. Some examples of the snacks are *Agepan* (Caramel sugar flavored, *Kinako* flavored...), Custard pudding, Yangnyeom chicken (Korean style fried chicken). All the dishes sound delicious and they are actually very tasty!

By  
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食堂お弁当メニュー 1月23日～1月27日		
お弁当 ① ¥350	お弁当 ② ¥400	サイドメニュー
23 (月) ハヤシライス	オムナポリタン	バナナマフィン 五平餅(ごへいもち)
24 (火) チキンカレー	十五穀米ピザ	メロンパン スイートポテト
25 (水) シチューライス	タコライス	サーアタダギー ハニースタードチキン
26 (木) ハヤシライス	ユウリンチー (鶏のから揚げ)	チョココロネ 大学芋
27 (金) ポークカレー	ロコモコハンバーグ	ゴマ団子 鶏のから揚げ



The menu,  
Hayashi Rice,  
Yulinchi, and  
*Agepan*

Photo by

## SHOEI'S SECRETS

Published by a group of 13 students of Shoei Girls' Senior High School, a private high school in Minatoku-Tokyo, Japan, in cooperation with the not-for-profit Global Education Information Center(GEIC).

**Publisher:** Shoei Girls' Senior High School

**Project Supervisor:** Erika Nakajima and John Healey, English Department

**Editor:**

**Staff Writers:** ]

**Contact:** 2-chome-26-5, Shirokanedai, Minato City, Tokyo, 108-0071

**URL:** <https://www.shoei.ed.jp/>