

# MUSTARD ROOT

## The Road to School – Josh Fandel

I recently heard about some students who got into a traffic accident near Daini, so I started to think: How do students come to school? For most you, I know the answer is, “By bicycle.” However, the answer is different for most American students.

Some students in Japan travel very far every day to school, and they go by bus, train, bicycle, or walking. Also, many students go to school alone. Americans don't usually let their children travel alone, and they almost always use a car or a school bus, even if the school is near their house.

I only rode school busses when my classes went on *field trips* (見学), but I had some friends who rode one every day. The busses were big, yellow, and old. If your parents couldn't drive you to and from school, you could ride the school bus. I always thought they were fun because you could sit with your friends!



**School bus. It carries about 50 students!**

Another very big difference between Japan and America is that in high school, students can drive cars. In California, you can start driving a car when you are  $15\frac{1}{2}$  years old. My mom and dad were tired of driving me and my sister to school every morning, so I started driving to school when I was  $16\frac{1}{2}$  years old (you can't drive with passengers for the first year).

There are many differences between students' *commutes* (通学) in America and in Japan. Would you change anything in Japan?

## American Summer Vacation – Valeria Magallan

It is already June. In the US, summer vacation would have already started. In America, the new school year begins at the end of August and ends in early June. This means students usually have almost three months of summer vacation!

You might think, “What do they do with so much free time?” or “Isn't it a waste of time?” But summer vacation is precious time. Usually students are too busy with school work and club activities during the school year. So, summer vacation is an opportunity to pursue (追い求める) personal interests, do volunteer work, or work a part-time job. BUT of course, we also had A LOT summer homework!

I remember, when I was an elementary school student, I would take fun classes like swimming classes. As a junior high school student I would read books and help my parents run their small restaurant, and as a high school student I enjoyed doing volunteer work during my summer vacations. Volunteering is a good way to try different things and figure out what you like to do.

In fact, I volunteered at a hospital for one summer. I would go there 4 hours a day, 2 days a week. I really enjoyed my work there, and it is why I decided that I wanted to work in a hospital in the future!



***This is the hospital I volunteered at.***

***My brother, my friends and I at orientation before beginning to volunteer. 2014***



Students and teachers love the long summer vacation! It is a time to recharge, plan for the coming school year, and try new things!

Your summer vacation is only 1 month away. What do you plan to do? Will you try something new?

## Rebus Puzzles and Riddles #4

Some new puzzles for you! For 1年生: The answers to these puzzles is a simple English word or phrase. *The answers are at the bottom of the page.*

①

1. CHECK 1
2. CHECK 2
3. CHECK 3
4. CHECK 4
5. CHECK 5
6. CHECK 6

②

③

①'s answer is 1 words.

②'s answer is 2 words.

③'s answer is 2 words.

④ What starts and ends with the letter e but only has one letter?

⑤ Joshua-sensei throws a ball very hard, and it comes back to him without touching anything or anybody. How did this happen?

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Next month's Mustard Root (July) will be the last issue from Joshua and Valeria Sensei. We want to make it special so:

### Let's have a Drawing Contest!

**Theme: ALTs, Valeria, Joshua, English**

**Deadline: Monday July 12<sup>th</sup> 2021**

*Please use A4 size paper.*

*Give your drawing to an English Teacher.*



We will choose 8-12 works of art to show on the back of the next Mustard Root. We look forward to seeing your drawings!

We know there are many artists at Daini! ☺

## Idioms



Here is a small quiz. If you get all correct answers, you are incredible!

You can check the answers at the bottom of the page.

What do each word(s) mean?

1. **Ambulance chaser** [直訳: 救急車を追いかける人]

A: police officer 警察官

B: attorney 弁護士

C: serial killer 連続殺人犯

2. **As cool as a cucumber** [直訳: きゅうりと同じくらい冷たい]

A: almost dead 死んでいる

B: being calm 落ち着いて

C: being indifferent to something 無関心で

3. **Elephant in the room** [直訳: 部屋の中の像]

A: big problem = taboo タブー、触れてはいけないこと

B: trouble in the house 面倒な家事

C: awakening trouble maker 余計なことをして問題を起こすこと

4. **Break a leg!** [直訳: 脚を折れ]

A: Good Luck! 頑張れ!

B: Don't get angry! 怒らないで!

C: Don't cry. 泣かないで!

## Rebus Puzzles and Riddles – ANSWERS

- ① Checklist ② High Heels ③ Rainy Day ④ Envelope ⑤ He threw it upwards.

## Idioms – ANSWERS

1. B 2. C 3. A 4. A