



St. Paddy's Day – Michael Henderson

On March 17th, there is a holiday celebrated not only in America but in many other countries around the world! It's called St. Patrick's Day, and is a day to celebrate Irish people and culture. It first started in Ireland hundreds of years ago as a religious (宗教的) holiday, when Christianity first came to Ireland. Nowadays, it is pretty non-religious (非宗教的) holiday, especially in America. But why is this celebrated in America if the holiday is about Ireland?

America is a country filled with immigrants (移民) and that includes Irish people. About 10% of Americans consider themselves to be Irish or Irish-American (アイルランド系アメリカ人), so St. Patrick's Day is a way to celebrate themselves, their families, and their culture! Usually people wear green, have parties, go to parades, and drink a lot of beer. A common meal on this day is corned beef and cabbage, which people will eat at parties and dinners. Many cities decorate themselves green as well; with lights, paint, and dye! In fact, Chicago turns its river entirely green using dye on St. Patrick's Day. People may also wear Leprechaun costumes or decorations with shamrocks. But beware! If you don't wear green, other people can pinch you (つねる)!

Nowadays, there is some criticism about St. Patrick's Day. Some people think it lost its original meaning, and is just a day where people drink too much beer and party. I think this is a little true, especially in America, but there are still many people who go to church, listen to traditional Irish music, and do Irish dancing. Next time you're abroad on St. Patrick's Day, make sure to wear green!



A Leprechaun sitting on a pot of gold, with shamrocks and a rainbow.

March comes in like a lion – Katelyn Sondereker

After a cold winter, the world holds its breath, waiting for the warmth of spring. Earlier this month, I learned the phrase, “三寒四温” from Naetoko-Sensei, which means that as spring begins in Japan, there are three cold days and then four warm days. This repeats until, finally, it stays warm.

But in English (especially in Ohio), we have the phrase, “March comes in like a lion (ライオン)”, which means that the beginning of spring is aggressive – it roars like a lion, it is cold and snowy and harsh. This made me think about how difficult change can be. Lots of things change in the spring – students graduate, teachers leave, your classmates change. These changes can be sad and difficult to go through. As change happens – as winter is ending – it can feel like we are being pulled apart.

But then I remembered that there is a second part of this phrase: “March comes in like a lion and *out like a lamb* (子羊)”. This means that if the beginning of March is cold and aggressive, the end of March will be soft and gentle, like a baby lamb. Rain will make the flowers bloom. The breeze will become warm and comforting.

So, even though change is difficult at the beginning, the warmth that comes after is always worth it. Change helps us to become who we are. If we didn't go through change, we would always stay the same. Sometimes, because we cannot see what is on the other side of change, it scares us.

But nature tells us exactly what happens when things change. Flowers bloom and the warmth comes. Spring reminds us that endings are also new beginnings. Being afraid of change is natural. But it is also natural to have hope. In the Daini yearbook this year, there was a quote that made me feel this hope: “If winter comes, can spring be far behind?”.

A picture of the plum blossoms at Kengun Shrine.



SPRING WORD SCRAMBLE!

1. MSSOLOB RERYHC



4. RMUBLALE



2. WRESLFO



5. NIAOATCR



3. INWOBAR



6. NDYWI



ANSWERS: 1)CHERRY BLOSSOM 2)FLOWERS 3)RAINBOW 4)UMBRELLA 5)RAINCOAT 6)WINDY

English Phrase:

“The grass is always greener on the other side”

Or “The grass is always greener”

EXAMPLE:

Rebecca: “Ugh, I wish I stayed at my old job. I thought it would be more fun here at McDonalds!”

Alex: “I know, it’s always so busy, I’m surprised you quit your quiet job at the library to come here.”

Rebecca: “Even though it was quiet, it was easy work. Well, the grass is always greener on the other side.”

Meaning: Other people, places, or situations always seems better than yours, even if it’s not actually true!



What do you think this comic means? Come talk to us about it!