

**Sports and Angry Parents** – Michael Henderson

Lately, I have been watching many Daini sports games. Basketball, water polo, baseball, and of course the class match. I've had an amazing time cheering with students, watching them play, and learning a little more about sports than I did before. However, during all these sports games, I have noticed one big difference between America and Japan. While people in both countries cheer loudly for their teams, Japanese spectators never argue with the referees or coaches about the game's result. However, at youth sports games in America, it's not uncommon during a game to see an angry parent begin yelling and disagreeing with the referee. Often they are told to either be quiet or leave, but these incidents continue.

I think this happens for a few reasons. One, in America, we often question things and express our opinions freely. Americans believe that talking about things to resolve them is important. So in cases like this, the parent may think the referee or coach is wrong and they want to tell them so. Two, parents are often very involved in their child's sports. Parents will often drive their kids and teammates to and from games and practices. So maybe they see their child not doing well, and feel angry about it because it feels very personal to their own efforts as parents.

On the other hand, I talked about why Japanese people don't argue with the coach or referees with my ALT friend in Kumamoto. His dad used to be a PE teacher in Kumamoto, and he said that people in Japan acknowledge that coaches and referees do this as their jobs, so spectators respect their authority and the decisions they make. I thought about how in Japan people don't want to disturb the peace of a situation, even if they think differently.

If you ever go to America, you may notice people loudly disagreeing with the referees! Why do you think this difference in culture exists?

(裏にある単語リストをご覧ください！)

**Homesickness** – Katelyn Sondereker

Lately, I have been feeling very homesick (ホームシック) for Ohio. Homesickness is a feeling of longing (切望) for home when you are far away. Even though I enjoy my life in Japan very much, there are some things that are irreplaceable (かけがえのない).

One of the things I miss a lot is hugs! In Japan, people don't really hug each other, even if they are close friends. Back home, I would get hugs from my mom and dad every day. Also, I usually hug my friends as a greeting when we meet up to hang out (遊ぶ). In Japan, I don't get as many hugs, so I miss them!

Another thing I miss is the variety of food at grocery stores. Because people of many different cultures live together in America, there is a really unique mix of ingredients that are available to buy at the store. For example, sometimes grocery stores have whole aisles (通路) just for cheese from different countries! On the other hand, in Japan, I have to go to specific stores like Kaldi or Costco (or even Amazon!) to find some of the food that I want to cook.

I also miss not standing out (目立つ) in public. Because so many different people live in America, everyone's appearance (外観) is different. But in Japan, everyone can always tell that I am a foreigner. Even though Japanese people are very polite and kind and usually don't treat me differently because of my appearance, I miss blending in (溶け込む) and not being noticed all the time.

Of course, what I miss the most about America is my family. I have never lived away from home for this long, so sometimes it is hard for me not to be near my family. For instance, my youngest brother and his wife just had a baby on 七夕! She is so cute and wonderful, but I was a little bit sad that I couldn't be there when she was born.

I love living in Japan, but sometimes it's difficult to be so far away from home. If you lived in another country, what do you think you would miss about Japan?

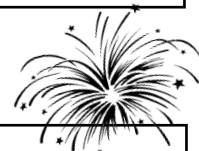
## Vocabulary List (Michael's Article)



Cheer - 応援する  
Spectators - 観客  
Argue - 論議する  
Referee - 審判  
Coach - 監督、コーチ  
Disagree with someone - 人と揉める  
Incident - 出来事

Question something - 何かを疑う  
Resolve - 解決する  
Involved - 関わる  
Acknowledge - 認める  
Respect authority - 権威を尊重する  
Disturb the peace - 和を乱す  
Exist - 存在する

## S'mores in the Summer!



Have you ever heard of a “**s'more**”? It's something that every American knows and has probably eaten. It's a very popular summer snack that we make when we have bonfires (焼き火する) or when we go camping (キャンプする). You roast a marshmallow on the fire (火でマシュマロを炙る) using a stick, and make sandwich using **chocolate** and two pieces of **graham cracker**. That's it! Only three ingredients. You can try it at home by using a microwave instead of a fire!

## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!



Have you heard of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? It's a major holiday in America. It's the day America became independent from Britain, and became its own country! (イギリスから独立し、独立国となった日) That's why the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is also called “Independence Day” (独立記念日). On this day, we light many fireworks, and have parties and barbeques. It's one of the best parts of summer!