

# The Junior Crane

Monthly Newsletter - October 2024

## FESTIVE EVE CAST ANNOUNCEMENT

By Hinano Smith

Are you ready for Festive Eve? Takako Sensei and the directors have led the cast members, now officially finalized, through their first five weeks of rehearsals.

### CAST List

**MARIA:** Nikki Johnson

**TONY:** Ren Barker

**RIFF:** Kenshin Yamagata

**BERNARDO:** Benjamin Ngo

**ANITA:** Hinano Smith

**A GIRL:** Lan Shuku

**ROSALIA:** Marika Hird

**CONSUELA:** Tomoe Miyake

**FRANCISCA:** Lan Shuku (double cast)

**ANYBODYS:** Aria Rose

**DIESEL/SNOWBOY:** Oliwier Kitamura

**ACTION:** SangHyo Lee

**BIG DEAL:** Hyunjun Choi

**A-RAB:** Hyomin Park

**BABY JOHN:** Tsukihiko Nakamura

**CHINO:** Ethan Ngo

**PEPE:** Shion Nishiono

**INDIO:** Shunichi Hirata

**LUIS:** Yuki Fujii

**GRAZIELLA:** Kaai Li

**VELMA:** Anujin An

**MINNIE:** Minchae Kim

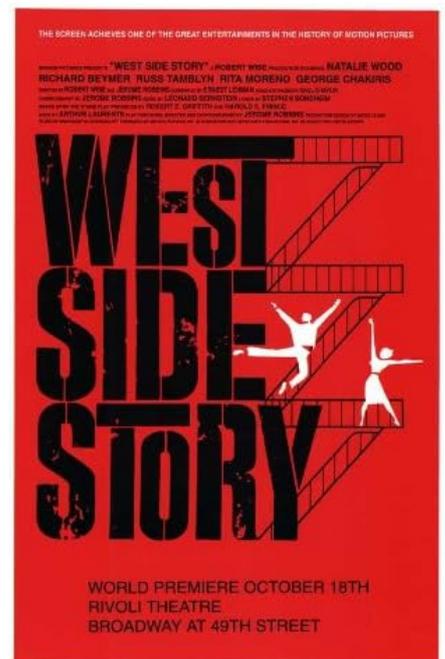
**CLARICE:** Chaewon Park

**SHRANK:** Aria Condi

**KRUPKE:** Yura Watanabe

**DOC:** Hyunho Choi

**GLAD HAND:** Mr. B



The crew members have begun taking action in their roles, following their action plan and communicating with other members to fulfill their duties in the production.

The directors Ayaka Ishii (G10), Yura Watanabe (G11), and Marine Okochi (G11) have been demonstrating excellent leadership skills, running each rehearsal for casts and the afterschool club very smoothly.

We're looking forward to how our production will turn out this year!

Check the next pages for an article featuring an interview with Takako Sensei, our music teacher, to know more about the story of "West Side Story" at HIS and the magic behind Festive Eve.

# An Introduction to Festive Eve 2024: West Side Story

by Hinano Smith

For new members of the HIS community, one of the most important things that may be introduced to them is arguably our grandest annual tradition: Festive Eve. For more than a decade, students at HIS have been dedicating not only their time but their blood, sweat, and tears into this student-led musical production every year from September to the final performance day in December.

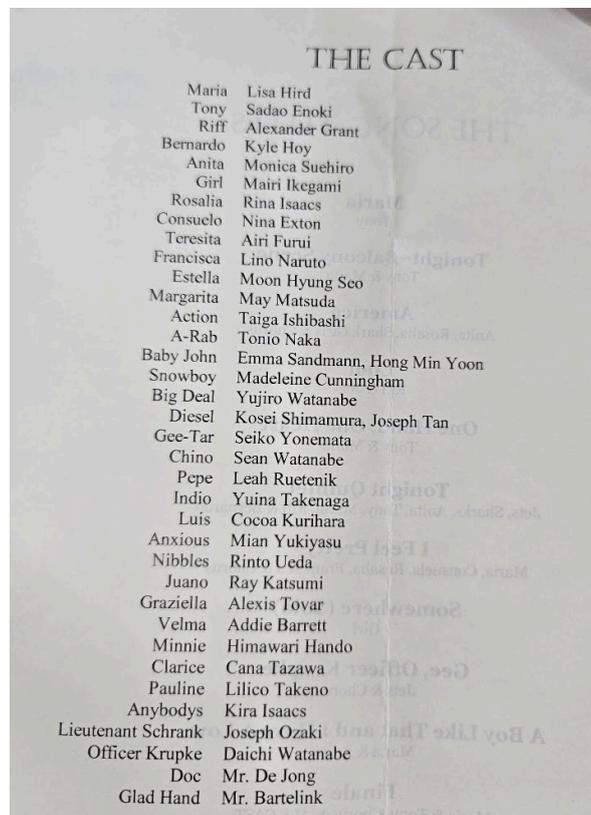
Festive Eve 2024 is "West Side Story". Auditions for cast roles were held in September, and many students have signed up to be a part of the crew backstage as well.

The basic plot corresponds to William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet", except the context has been shifted to 1950's New York City. Takako Sensei, our music teacher and main supervisor of Festive Eve, describes the obstacles of Maria and Tony's love story face from their opposing groups (Puerto Rican immigrants; "Sharks" and the non-immigrants; "Jets") creating conflict against themselves due to their fear and their lack of "understanding" towards each other. As with Romeo and Juliet, Tony and Maria's story sadly ends with tragedy.

"This is non-changing, and is a concept that us human beings bear, no matter how many centuries have passed," Takako Sensei says. Through preserving Shakespeare's original work, this piece challenges us with a question; *Can human beings overcome their fear of the unknown?*

Takako Sensei celebrated her 30th anniversary at our school last month and strongly remembers leading the "original" HIS production of "West Side Story" back in 2014. She recalls that there was no student director back in 2014, and the reason why "West Side Story" was selected was because of the experience in staging methods of the English teacher back then, who was interested in Shakespeare's stand-alone plays. Other differences, such as the total number of crew members, the top leader of the costuming-parents team, and having separate choreographers for each major scene, can be highlighted just by looking at the production staff list. The roles of Maria and Tony were played by Lisa Hird (class of 2020) and Sadao Enoki (class of 2015), alongside many other familiar alumni.

"Bringing this musical back after 10 years is a good marking period. We are looking forward to seeing the differences in the way it will be produced while still having some of the 'survivors' from the first time. It's our last chance."



*The cast list of Festive Eve 2014,  
"West Side Story"*

## An Introduction to Festive Eve 2024: West Side Story

This year, Takako Sensei is personally very excited to see how the orchestra pit will handle Leonard Bernstein's score and allow the cast and everyone else involved to ride along with it. Challenges lie in understanding how the music, already sophisticated on its own, will foreshadow scenes, underscoring is related to the script, and in choreography for complex rhythms. "The orchestra is facing some big-time changes this year- Nanaka and Hinato will be graduating, and we're looking for younger generations to pick up!"

What makes Festive Eve so exciting for the people involved could be how it is always enriched by new student ideas. For example, Mahiro (G10) took on the role of the Front House Manager for the first time last year and developed his own ideas on how that role functions. It is up to the students to give everyone who visits HIS to watch Festive Eve the best of our school by being caring and welcoming, considering things from the "larger" picture.

As HIS itself has changed significantly compared to 10 years ago, what the Festive Eve production team looks like is also incredibly different. There are obvious changes, such as the large increase of staff members and an older age range of the cast, as well as things that could be unnoticeable by audience members, like the speed of scene changes.

However, Festive Eve still preserves what students at HIS have kept doing for such a long time. Takako Sensei describes one of her favorite memories from back in 2014, how the older lead performers would come back to the music room after a large rehearsal to rest, only to start discussions and practice on scenes while she simply observed the students recreating the scenes they went over again.

"I clearly remember how Lisa was debating how to go about that final, tragic scene, where Sean (Chino) shoots, and in the end Maria would grab the gun and aim it at the Sharks and the Jets in rage. She and the people around her thought very deeply about this deep scene expressing Shakespeare's message of 'why can't we human beings overcome this?'" And according to Takako Sensei... we still do the same thing.

"Last year was Jundai and Alina's little awkward scene. The music room is in the west end, so these moments occurred right by the sunsets. The script carries the concept, and at first students just receive the dry script. But soon, that value is transferred into each one of them. It becomes a matter of how to express the characters. Those moments became the matter of 'what we do'."

Festive Eve 2024 will take place on December 7th. The CAST and CREW have been decided in the past few weeks. We hope to recreate the same magic enriched with new spirits.



# Secondary Camp

by Hinano Smith

From the 16th to the 18th of October, grade 6-12 students from the secondary school enjoyed their camping trip at the Osorakan camp site. The main highlights of the three days filled with activities were hiking up the mountain, gathering around the campfire, and ziplining at Forest Adventure Park, along with smaller team activities within classes and across different grades. Students had a treasurable experience staying off of their phones in nature, strengthening bonds with friends and creating unforgettable memories. Even little details, like eating meals or chatting in a tent, allow us to recall the magical feeling of camp.

Mr. Wayne Bartelink, our PHE teacher, described the hike to be a quite challenging but valuable experience. "Students probably wouldn't choose to do it on their own, but I think they had fun! At the top [of the mountain] they were having fun talking and enjoying the beautiful view. While going down the mountain, they were singing songs and playing games. They made the most of it, and their positive attitude had a lot to do with it. It was a great experience."



# Ask Lucy...

## An Advice Column

**Q.**

I'm nervous about my science test. What should I do to calm my nerves?

**Sincerely, nervous girl**

**A.**

This depends on how much you have been or will be studying for the test, but if you know you've been studying decently, I'm sure you'll be okay. There are a lot of ways to calm your nerves. One of the methods is to have positive thoughts and think that 'everything will be okay'. Thinking intently about something else is another way. Another method is that you find things that you know can calm you down. For example, if you have fragrance roll-ons that have a smell you like and help you relax, try them on.

I hope your test works out, and even if it doesn't, don't be too hard on yourself!

**With love, Lucy**

---



**Q.**

I think this one person doesn't like me very much. I'm really bad at socializing and accidentally told them some really weird things and made myself look really awkward and weird. I feel bad for them.

**Sincerely, extremely anxious**

**A.**

You don't need to feel too anxious about it. I understand how you feel, and that you want to get along with everyone, but sometimes, some people just don't fit with you naturally. Of course, that doesn't mean you can't get close to them. You just have to stop worrying about how the other thinks of you. Social interactions are almost always perceived differently by different people. Even if you felt that your conduct was awkward or embarrassing, it's entirely possible that they're not even thinking about it anymore.

I'm saying this again, but don't dwell on it too much!

**With love, Lucy**

### You can ask Lucy too!

Write your question on a piece of paper and submit it to the "Ask Lucy" box in the genkan. Keep your name anonymous!

(note that your anonymous question will be published in the newsletter)





# StuCo News

by Moyuru Nakamori, Student Council Treasurer

Hello HIS Community, this is the secondary Student Council (StuCo).

Currently, we are working on our inter-class **Trivia Competition**, a trivia tournament between all secondary grades in areas such as Mathematics, Language, and Sciences as a preliminary academic round. We will move on to other forms of trivia from various areas, including Entertainment, Geography, News and more.

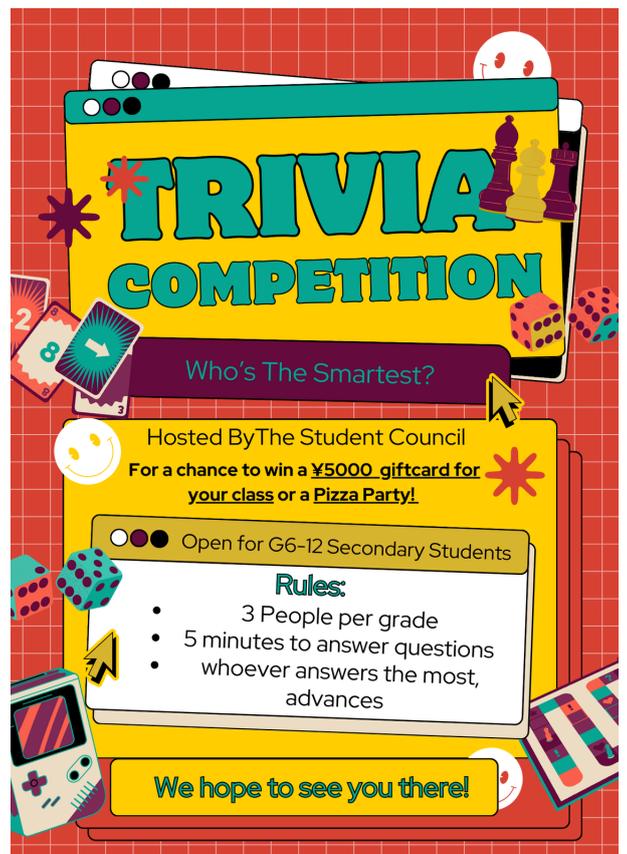
The **morning announcements** continue to signal the start of a school day and have become quite a routine nowadays. We will continue reporting relevant and important information. If you are a club leader or teacher, PTA member, running an activity, etc, and you would like something to be included in the morning announcements, we will include your message, so please send your message and your club name to [stuco-2024-25-mail@hiroshima-is.ac.jp](mailto:stuco-2024-25-mail@hiroshima-is.ac.jp).

On Friday **November 1st**, we will be hosting the inter-class **Halloween competition!** As a homeroom, please come up with **YOUR ORIGINAL** ideas for Halloween, and embellish the ideas in preparation for the competition. Your class will be assessed on criteria such as Originality/Creativity, Participation, and Quality. Keep those in mind as a class as you arrange your plans.

P.S. **Make sure to keep your ideas a secret!**

We have completed our transformation from the G9-12 StuCo to the Secondary StuCo, to represent a wider variety of voices to StuCo, and to make sure **everyone has a say**. Please expect to see more names pop up in daily announcements and other StuCo activities.

As always, thank you to all of the HIS community for your support of our activities as we work on improving the quality of life for all of HIS, which is our one and only mission as StuCo. We are also aware of the busy class activities and the **"summative weeks"** that are currently in progress, and we are taking those into consideration.



## StuCo News

Coming Up:

Soon: StuCo Stand

Continuing: Trivia Competition

Nov. 1: Halloween Class Competition

and more to come!

Please check the announcements for details when they arrive.

Also, check our Instagram page [@his.stuco](https://www.instagram.com/his.stuco)

## StuCo Members

**G12:** SangHyo Lee

**G11:** Minghao Liu, Motrica Tanaka, Jiwon (Lindsey) Park

**G10:** Moyuru Nakamori, Nozomi Nishikawa, Sina Peter

**G9:** Ethan Ngo, Hairin Mizutani

**G8:** Nikki Johnson, Yun Park

**G7:** Enishi Nishikawa, JeongIn Kim

**G6:** OnYoo (Kai) Cho, Subaru Kikkawa

**Supporting Teachers:** Mr. Robert Washington, Mr. Wayne Bartelink

**Thank you for your continued support,**

2024-25 StuCo



StuCo invites you to

**STUCO STAND**

Want us to sell something else? DM us on Instagram!

**CHECK THE MENU ON INSTAGRAM**



**IN THE GENKAN**  
During snack break: 10:50-11:10

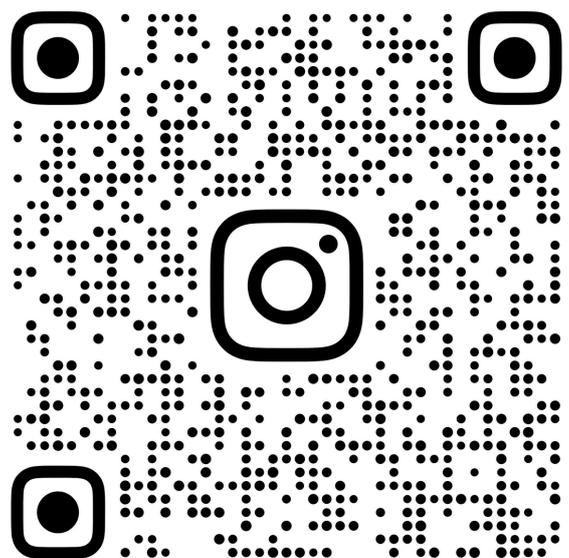
\*STUDENT IS UPPER SECONDARY (GRADE 9-12) CAN BUY SNACKS AT ANY TIME FROM MEMBERS OF STUCO

STUDENT COUNCIL

MANG JOSE

*Image from StuCo Instagram*

## ***HIS STUCO INSTAGRAM PAGE***



**HIS.STUCO**

# SPORTS NEWS

By Yuki Fujii

On the 10th of October (Thurs.), the boys and girls volleyball teams departed for Kyoto/Kobe to compete in the WJAA Final Tournament at Kyoto International University Academy (Boys)/Marist Brothers International School (Girls) on the 11th and 12th.

## Boys Final Season Tournament

### Results:

#### First day

(Hiroshima left, opponent right)

- KIUA 2-0 Win
- FIS 1-2 Lose
- HOK 2-0 Win

#### Second day

(Hiroshima left, opponent right)

- NIS 0-2 Lose
- KIUA 2-0 Win

Total stats: 3 wins 2 lose.

**HIS came in 5th place!**

### Team Members & Roles:

Coach: Takako Tokunaga , Masayo Yoshitake

- #9 Yura Watanabe (S, Captain)
- #1 Hyunjun Choi (MB, Co-captain)
- #2 Hyunho Choi (OH) **MVP**
- #3 Aaron Mondoux (OH)
- #4 Shunichi Hirata (OH)
- #5 Yuya Morishita (OP)
- #6 / #13 Mahiro Oride (OP/L)
- #8 Minghao Liu (MB)
- #10 Yuki Fujii (OP)
- #11 Ren Barker (MB)
- #12 Seunggyu Lee (OH)



# SPORTS NEWS

By Marika Hird

## Girls Final Season Tournament



### Results:

#### First day

(Hiroshima left, opponent right)

- MBIS: 1-2 Lose
- HOK: 1-2 Lose
- OYIS: 2-0 Win

#### Second day

(Hiroshima left, opponent right):

- NIS: 2-1 Win
- KIUA: 0-2 Lose
- HOK: 1-2 Lose

Total stats: 2 wins 4 losses.

**HIS came in 5th place!**

### Team Members & Roles:

Coach: Wayne Bartelink, Sayaka Hirata

- #12 Nanaka Fukushima (OH, Captain)
- #5 Sina Peter (S, Co-Captain)
- #2 Marine Okochi (OP)
- #3 Julani Bartelink (OP)
- #6 Shiori Hirata (S) **MVP**
- #7 Luiza Camejo (OH)
- #8 Eva Okochi (OP)
- #9 Nikki Johnson (OP)
- #10 Claire Mondoux (OP)
- #13 Marika Hird (L)

# Human or AI?

By Aria Rose

These two texts tell the same story, except a bit differently... one of them is written by human, and the other is written by AI. Can you determine which one is which?

The answer will be published in our next issue!

The Cheesecake Moon  
By: Aria Rose

Once upon a time there was a rabbit. The rabbit's name was Yolanda. Yolanda has white silky fur, pink long ears, and a pink nose. Yolanda is best friends with Yesasia the brown and orange dog and Yesica the white goose.

Yolanda, Yesica, and Yesasia were laying down, out on the porch looking at the moon. The moon was a bright yellow circle in the sky full of stars. Then a question hit Yolanda. "What do you think the moon is made out of?" Yolanda asks, turning her head to look at Yesica, and Yesasia. Yesica tilts her head, while continuing to look at the moon. "I think the moon's made out of crystal!" She honks. Yesasia shakes her head. "Nah, I think the moon is actually made out of cheesecake."

Yolanda perked up, wiggling her pink nose. "Cheesecake?" she says. "I LOVE cheesecake!" Yolanda hops up on her feet, and looks Yesasia dead in the eyes. "We HAVE to go to the moon since it's made out of cheesecake!" Yesica honks and flaps her feathery wings. "But how are we gonna get there?" Yesica asks, but then Yesasia nudges her with her elbow. "By a rocketship of course!" Yesasia barks, wagging her tail. "Oh right!" Yesica says. "But how do we make one?" All of them sit there, thinking for a moment, until Yesasia has an idea. "Yolanda! You are a magician right? Can you make a rocketship?" Yolanda grins. "Oh yeah! Wait here for a sec, I'm gonna go grab my magic stick!" So Yolanda hops off.

10 minutes later, Yolanda returns, with a magician's hat and wand. "I've gotten it!" she exclaims. Yesica and Yesasia cheer in excitement, as Yolanda is about to make a rocketship appear. Yolanda sets the hat down, and hops over to it. "Here I go..." she says, nervously. She lifts the wand up into the air. "ABRACADABRA!!!" Then, a huge rocketship came out of the hat. "Whoa!" they all exclaim. "Ok. I'm gonna go inside of it now!" Yolanda says. "Ok. Good luck, Yolanda!" Yesica and Yesasia say. As the rocket's door closes, Yolanda sits in the captain's chair, and presses the ignition button. "5...4...3" The rocket says. "See you soon, friends!!!" Yolanda exclaims, waving. "Bye Yolanda!!!" Yesica and Yesasia say. "...Blast Off" the rockets says. BOOM! The rocket takes off.

Soon, Yolanda lands on the moon. "Here I am!" She says, as she steps onto the ground. "Wait..." Yolanda says, frowning. She looks at her feet, for some reason the ground is sticky and Yolanda seems to be... sinking. "The moon isn't made out of cheesecake!" She worriedly says. "...It's made out of mochi!" Yolanda wiggles, and squirms, trying to get out of the quicksand like mochi, until the mochi has engulfed her completely. Yolanda sunk deeper, and deeper, until...THUNK! They fell into a room, in the center of the moon. The room was brightly lit, with a huge window facing the earth. In the center of the room, was a huge wooden mortar, with a wooden mallet next to it, and the mortar was filled with mochi. Yolanda hopped over to the mortar, and saw a note. She picked up the note, and it read:

"Dear, Yolanda.  
Please make mochi for the rest of September and October.  
Thank you"

Yolanda frowns. "What's this supposed to mean? It must be from the god of the moon," she thinks. She then looks at the mortar and wooden mallet. She then picks up the mallet and hits the rice inside of the mortar. Then, she does it again, and again. Meanwhile back on earth, Yesasia and Yesica are just chilling on the porch. "Look!" Yesica exclaimed. "The rabbit on the moon is making mochi!" The 2 of them stare at the moon in awe.

And that is the story of how the rabbit on the moon making mochi started. All in thanks to Yolanda.  
THE END!!!!



The Cheesecake Moon  
By: Aria Rose

Once upon a time, there was a rabbit named Yolanda. With her silky white fur, long pink ears, and adorable pink nose, she was quite charming. Yolanda had two best friends: Yesasia, a brown and orange dog, and Yesica, a white goose.

One evening, the three friends were lying on the porch, gazing up at the bright yellow moon surrounded by twinkling stars. Suddenly, Yolanda had a thought. "What do you think the moon is made of?" she asked, turning to her friends. Yesica tilted her head thoughtfully, still staring at the moon. "I think it's made of crystal," she honked. Yesasia shook her head in disagreement. "No way! I believe the moon is made of cheesecake!"

Yolanda's eyes lit up as she wiggled her pink nose. "Cheesecake? I LOVE cheesecake!" She jumped to her feet and looked intently at Yesasia. "We HAVE to go to the moon if it's made of cheesecake!" Yesica flapped her wings excitedly. "But how are we going to get there?" she asked. Yesasia nudged her playfully. "By rocket ship, of course!" she barked, wagging her tail. "Oh, right!" Yesica replied. "But how do we make one?"

They all paused to think until Yesasia had a bright idea. "Yolanda, you're a magician, right? Can you create a rocket ship?" Yolanda grinned. "Of course! Just wait here; I'll get my magic stick!" And off she hopped.

Ten minutes later, Yolanda returned with a magician's hat and wand. "I've got it!" she announced. Yesica and Yesasia cheered in excitement as Yolanda prepared to conjure the rocket ship. She placed the hat down, hopped over, and took a deep breath. "Here I go..." she said nervously, raising her wand. "ABRACADABRA!" A huge rocket ship sprang out of the hat. "Whoa!" they all gasped.

"Alright, I'm going inside!" Yolanda said. "Good luck, Yolanda!" Yesica and Yesasia called out as the rocket's door closed behind her. Yolanda settled into the captain's chair and pressed the ignition button. "5...4...3," the rocket counted down. "See you soon, friends!" Yolanda exclaimed, waving. "Bye, Yolanda!" Yesica and Yesasia shouted. "...Blast Off!" the rocket announced. BOOM! Off it went into the sky.

Soon, Yolanda landed on the moon. "Here I am!" she said as she stepped out. But then she frowned. "Wait..." Looking down, she noticed the ground was sticky, and she began to sink. "The moon isn't made of cheesecake!" she panicked. "It's made of mochi!" She wiggled and squirmed, trying to escape the mochi's grip, but it engulfed her completely. She sank deeper and deeper until... THUNK! Yolanda landed in a brightly lit room at the center of the moon. A large window showed Earth outside. In the center of the room stood a big wooden mortar filled with mochi and a wooden mallet beside it.

Curious, Yolanda hopped over to the mortar and spotted a note. Picking it up, she read:

"Dear Yolanda,  
Please make mochi for the rest of September and October.  
Thank you."

Yolanda frowned, pondering the meaning. "What does this mean? It must be from the moon god," she thought. She picked up the mallet and began pounding the rice inside the mortar, over and over again.

Meanwhile, back on Earth, Yesasia and Yesica were relaxing on the porch. "Look!" Yesica exclaimed. "The rabbit on the moon is making mochi!" They gazed at the moon in awe.

And that's how the tale of the mochi-making rabbit on the moon began, all thanks to Yolanda.

# Fundraiser for Sadako Statue

By **Hinano Smith**

How many HIS students are familiar with the story of Sadako Sasaki? Hopefully, most of us know that she was a girl who tragically died at the age of 12 due to radiation poisoning from Hiroshima's atomic bombing. Sadako's story has been told around the world and there are various tributes to her memory. Unfortunately, there has been a recent crime against one of her statues.

Sometime between July 11th and 12th, the statue of Sadako in the Peace Park of Seattle, WA was stolen. While the exact reason is unknown, investigations suggest the statue was likely stolen for its value in material (bronze).

I'm from Seattle and was very shocked and disturbed to hear how this had happened. Personally, I looked upon this statue to be the direct "link" between both of my hometowns (Seattle and Hiroshima). This symbol of peace is just as important to the other citizens of Seattle AND Hiroshima.

I am contributing to a fundraiser organized to restore the statue. A donation box was placed during the Parent Teacher Student Conferences this month, and we are still seeking donations by homerooms and during events like Halloween and possibly the bonfire. The donation box is currently still in the genkan. Further information will be provided soon. Thank you!!



(Sanders, 2024)

## We look forward to hearing from you!

**Editor:** Hinano Smith

**Sub-editors:** Mayumi Tan, Marika Hird,  
Ayana Sinton

**Artist:** Aria Rose

**Sports editors:** Mahiro Oride, Yuki Fujii

**Supervisor:** Ms. Rose

We hope you enjoyed this new issue and am looking forward to keeping the newsletter going throughout the year.



**Want to post something too?** Email [newsletter@hiroshima-is.ac.jp](mailto:newsletter@hiroshima-is.ac.jp) ! Promote the work of a club/student organization, or share individual activities like CAS or competitions outside of school!

**We want YOU for our newsletter!** If you're interested in writing (school journalism) or have ideas on contributing to the newsletter, message Hinano (the editor) or talk to her face-to-face!