

Kei-Sho Chronicle –

March 2025

End of the (School) Year

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- **Graduation Ceremony**
- **Closing Ceremony**

Hello and Welcome to the last Kei-Sho Chronicle for the school year! March is approaching its end, and so is the school year at Kei-Sho. With the 3rd year's Graduation Ceremony, term 3 tests, and the Closing Ceremony, the school has finished all plans for the year. The weather is warming, and we are ready to welcome a new year at Kei-Sho!

Graduation Ceremony:

Still facing the cold of winter, Kei-Sho held our Graduation Ceremony on the 2nd of March. After a slow morning of preparation, this year's graduating students entered the hall at 1 to welcoming applause. After they all entered, the Graduation Ceremony began at 1:30.

The ceremony started with all of the graduating students having their name read out, and the representative receiving their graduation certificate. Certificates were also awarded to other students who performed well in classes and club activities.



Next, there were speeches from the principal, the PTA chairman, the remaining student representative and the graduating student representative. The speeches from the students were especially moving, as they talked about how special their time at Kei-Sho has been.



After the speeches and awards, the ceremony concluded. The students walked out of the hall accompanied by applause and congratulations. They then returned to their classrooms for one last homeroom, and to receive their graduation certificates.

After this, the only thing that remained for the graduating students was take some pictures with their friends and say goodbye to Kei-Sho.



Like every year, the Graduation Ceremony was a very emotional event. It's a special feeling seeing students you have taught for 3 years leaving the school for the last time. I am very proud of all of our graduating students, and I wish them all the best in their futures.

This was also Brendan's first look at a Japanese Graduation Ceremony, so I asked him for his opinion. Let's see what he had to say. - Lew



Brendan's Impression:

This was the first graduation ceremony I had ever attended in Japan. I was looking forward to seeing what it would be like, and to comparing it with memories of my own high school graduation in 2010.

The first thing that surprised me was the venue. The school gym was decorated with red and white striped curtains, carpet and flowers on the stage. It looked completely different to normal. All of the teachers were dressed in black and white, which added to the formal atmosphere. In Australia, graduation ceremonies are often held away from the school, at a theatre or hall. The teachers and graduating students wear nice clothes like suits, but they can choose any colour.



The ceremony began and the students entered the gym in their homeroom groups. It was clear that they had practiced a lot for this event. I could also see that many of the students were feeling quite emotional about leaving Keika.

During the ceremony, something else surprised me. At Australian graduation ceremonies, the parents and families clap when their children's names are called. In particular, there is lots of clapping when students get awards. But at Keika, there was barely any clapping at all. In fact, everyone was silent for most of the ceremony. It felt very serious.



The graduating students have now said farewell to Keika and are beginning their adult lives. I'm sorry to be saying goodbye to the third-year students after only having taught them for a few months. **To our graduating students, whether you are going to university or finding a job, do your best! I wish you every success in the future!**

- Brendan



Closing Ceremony:

The last day of the school year at Kei-Sho was the Closing Ceremony on March 19. The final Closing Ceremony of the year always feels different, as the 'whole school' is only the 1st and 2nd years. With the hall feeling emptier than usual, the Closing Ceremony began.

The ceremony was held simply, with a speech from the principal reminding the students that they will still need to study hard next year, and from the guidance teacher telling students to be safe over their holidays.

The ceremony also included giving awards to students who had achieved things like, good grades, no absences, and success in competitions and tests.

After the ceremony, as students were on their way back to their homerooms, we could see snow outside the windows. **The sudden snow seemed like a reward for the students, congratulating them on finishing the year. I will see all of you again next (school) year!**

-Llew

