

# Land of the Risen Son

## イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

### Interesting Facts

#### School Year...

The Japanese school year starts on April 1st and ends on March 31st. Students get various holidays throughout the school year as well as a summer holiday in August.

#### School Year Length...

(right: an example of school uniforms)

*In Japan the school year consists of about 200 days in class. This is comparable to the Ontario school year, which has a minimum of 194 school days.*

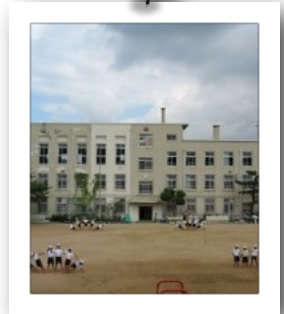


#### Trimesters

(right: a typical school building)

*The Japanese school year is usually broken into trimesters.*

*1st term: Apr - Jul  
2nd term: Sept - Dec  
3rd term: Jan - Mar*



### Update: A Singular Sojourn (Peter & Valerie Limmer)

#### Tales from ESL...

Our Kids' ESL class has only been running for two months, but already we have several exciting stories to share.

Ingrid and Kamilla are sisters who attend Seaside Chapel. Ingrid became a Christian last year at Summer Kids' Camp. Her younger sister Kamilla, however, is not a Christian. They have both been attending the Kids' ESL class, and have invited many of their friends to also come.

One of these friends is a little girl named Hanna, who came on the first week with her parents (we'll call them Hans and Harriet). When they first came, both of the parents were very up-tight. Hans was the most obvious. He was very stiff and obviously didn't want to be anywhere near a church building!

#### Reaching Families

It's been really neat to see how kids can influence their entire families. Over time Hans and Harriet have both loosened up, even coming to a baseball outreach event in February, where they had the opportunity to hear a Christian baseball player speak, and get his autograph.

Hanna and several of the other ESL girls have begun coming to the church mid-week after school to play in the parking lot, mess around with the church's drum



*Two boys at summer camp (2013).*

kit, and generally have some fun. This constant current of children coming into the church seems to be turning the building into a part-time kids' community centre, which is fine by us!

Last month, Hanna's parents allowed her to attend the baptism ceremony of one of the older girls. Along with some of her friends, she also attended a church spring kids' camp which takes place annually between the end and beginning of the school year, in the last week of March. There, she had a chance to hear the good news about Jesus.

Harriet has also started inviting her own friends and their kids out to ESL. We feel very honoured at this, because it demonstrates that she trusts us with her relationships.

#### Back to Kamilla

Kamilla is debilitatingly shy. When she and her family first started visiting our apartment, she would spend the entire two- or three-hour visit with her face buried in her mother's lap. As she grew comfortable with us, she loosened up, and began to act with an eight year old's natural spontaneity and mischievousness.

Then we started ESL class, which focuses on speaking in English. Given Kamilla's shyness, this was a challenge. In teaching, I would always give her the opportunity to answer questions, and pause for a few moments to see if she would say something. We could tell that she desperately wanted to respond, and our hearts would go out to her as we watched her face literally twitching with concentration and effort, trying to make a sound. Each time after the pause, I would crouch down at her level and say the answer, with her whispering along.

Then, during a class in mid-March, Kamilla was finally able to utter not one, but two sentences by herself! I didn't realize the full significance of the event until the next day, when her mother found out about what had happened. She told me that with two weeks left in the Japanese school year, this was the first time that Kamilla had been able to publicly talk in any classroom setting!

焼く

to bake, cook

ヤク

(English: yak)

to talk, chat

I've called our cooking club "Yaku Yaku Cooking Club". The first "Yaku" is the Japanese word for cook or bake. The second "Yaku" is the Japanese approximation of the English word "yak".

## Maple Acorn Squash

*I shared this recipe with the ladies in Yaku Yaku Cooking Club.*

*They all loved it. But, since goodies in Japan aren't as sweet, they weren't sure whether to eat it as part of the main course, or as dessert!*



Cooking time: 20 minutes

Yield: 4-6 servings

### Ingredients

- 1 acorn squash
- 1 apple, cored and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 c. maple syrup
- 2 tbsp. apple juice
- 1 tbsp. + 1 tsp. butter
- 1 oz. pecan halves
- 2 tsp. brown sugar

### Directions

1. With fork, prick acorn squash in several places. Place on a paper towel and microwave on high for 3-5 minutes, depending on microwave power, until skin can be pierced.
2. Cut off ends of squash and discard. Cut squash crosswise into 4 equal rings. Remove seeds and arrange rings in baking pan.
3. Add apples.
4. Sprinkle with lemon and cinnamon.
5. Combine syrup, juice and butter; pour over squash and apples.
6. Microwave on high for 6 minutes; top with pecans and sugar.
7. Microwave for an additional 4 minutes.



*Decorating the classroom for Kids' ESL.*



*We give each child a balloon animal.*

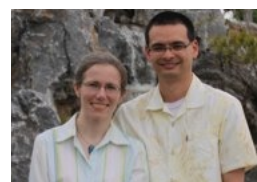


*At the end of each class we enjoy snack time together!*

### Contact Information

#### Thank You!

Thank you for your interest in our work. We send out newsletters every two months. If at any point you decide that you don't want to receive them anymore, just write or email us ([japan@peterandvalerie.com](mailto:japan@peterandvalerie.com)).



#### Correspondence can be sent to:

Peter & Valerie Limmer  
Sunnycourt 207, Apartment C-3  
3-207 Nishizaki,  
Itoman-shi, Okinawa, 901-0306  
Japan

E-mail:  
[japan@peterandvalerie.com](mailto:japan@peterandvalerie.com)

#### GOM Main Offices

GOM Canada  
PO Box 1210  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2R 7A7

GOM USA  
P.O. Box 2010  
Buffalo, NY  
14231

