

The word "April" comes from the Latin word "aperit", which means "to open"

Are you ready for the school year?

Starting the new school year in April is a great chance to begin good habits, or even "turn over a new leaf"! Here are some tips to help you succeed:

- 1. Set clear goals.** Decide what you want to achieve in your studies this year.
- 2. Use a planner.** Note down homework, tests, and important dates. Ipad or notebook.
- 3. Review a little every day.** Short daily study is better than long study once a week.
- 4. Practice English often.** Read, listen, speak whenever you can. Keep an English diary!
- 5. Ask questions.** If you don't understand something, ask your teacher or classmates.
- 6. Keep your desk and bag organized.** It saves time and reduces stress.
- 7. Sleep well.** Getting enough rest helps your brain learn better.
- 8. Eat healthy food.** Good nutrition gives you energy for school.
- 9. Stay positive.** Mistakes are part of learning – so don't worry, and just do your best.
- 10. Enjoy learning.** Be curious! Try new things this year. You will be surprised.

Good habits started now can bring great results!



April 2026: What's happening?

Konan Wisteria Festival (Konan Fuji Matsuri)

Head north for this stunning spring event in Aichi. It takes place **from April 17th to May 3rd**, in Mandaraji Park. This festival is famous for its gorgeous wisteria tunnels, which hang down like curtains. There are small events, as well as – very importantly - food stalls!



76th Higashiyama Zoo & Gardens Spring Festival

Held at Higashiyama Zoo and Higashiyama Sky Tower **through April, until May 6th**. You can enjoy endangered species walks and "animal talks" from zookeepers. At the botanical garden's "Cherry Blossom Corridor," 1,000 sakura bloom. Also, the illumination event "Evening Yaezakura Walk 2026" will be held from **April 4 (Sat)**, so be sure to check it out!



It was cherry blossom time again recently!
But, how do sakura know when to bloom?

Well, cherry blossoms bloom in spring because of **temperature and sunlight**. During winter, cherry trees rest and save energy. When the weather becomes warmer, the trees begin to grow again. This change tells the trees it is time to produce flowers. Cherry blossoms usually last **only about one week**. Warm weather helps the flowers open, but wind and rain can make the petals fall quickly. This short blooming period is one reason why cherry blossoms are so special.

Sakura Science

Vocabulary

stunning 素晴らしい
gorgeous ゴージャスな
wisteria 藤の花
tunnel トンネル
to hang down 垂れ下がる
cherry blossom 桜
blossom 花
to bloom 咲く
petal 花びら



Seirinkan Club News

Our school students have been busy recently. Here are some of the activities they've participated in that you may have missed.



On **March 8th**, our **Pixies cheerleading club** gave support along the **Nagoya Marathon** route! Their energy encouraged the runners to keep going. On the day, many participants waved and thanked them. Of course, the cheerleading team also had fun cheering. **“It was a day when we truly felt the essence of cheerleading”** the team say. **“Cheering for others brings us joy.”**

Also on **Sunday, March 8th**, the **U-18 Women's Soccer League All-Star Tournament** was held at Kariya City General Sports Park. Two students from our school, 2nd students in the General Studies course, **Kii Komori** and **Mizuki Shinobe**, were chosen to participate. They demonstrated dynamism and skill in both offensive and defensive play.



encouraged 励ます
keep going 続ける
participants 参加者

to wave 手を振る
essence 本質
joy 喜び

dynamism ダイナミズム
offensive play 攻撃的なプレー
defensive play 守備的なプレー

Baby Issues in Japan

First year International course students were asked a difficult question in one of Chris sensei's Language Center lessons recently. Using ideas from other countries, **how can we address the problem of low birth rate here in Japan?** They researched the issue and certainly produced some intelligent and well-considered answers! Here are some of their thoughts.



Of course, Finland's baby box is decorated with Moomins!



FINLAND: BABY BOX “There is a solution to help solve the issue in Finland, called a “Baby Box”. Inside the box are 40-50 useful items for raising a baby such as clothes, blankets, diapers and so on... A mattress is in the box, so parents can safely put their baby to sleep in to box... To receive the box, mothers must visit their doctor. This encourages them to get medical checkups..” – K.san

TAIWAN: MONEY FOR BABYSITTING “In Taiwan, parents can receive assistance from the government. They decided to support parents by paying babysitter charges, up to 65,000 yen...this is a great change for society..in Japan, people hesitate to give birth because of money, mainly..however, baby sitters can solve this issue. It's worth spending our tax.. I believe this idea can change Japan's future for the better” – C. san

