

What a Small World

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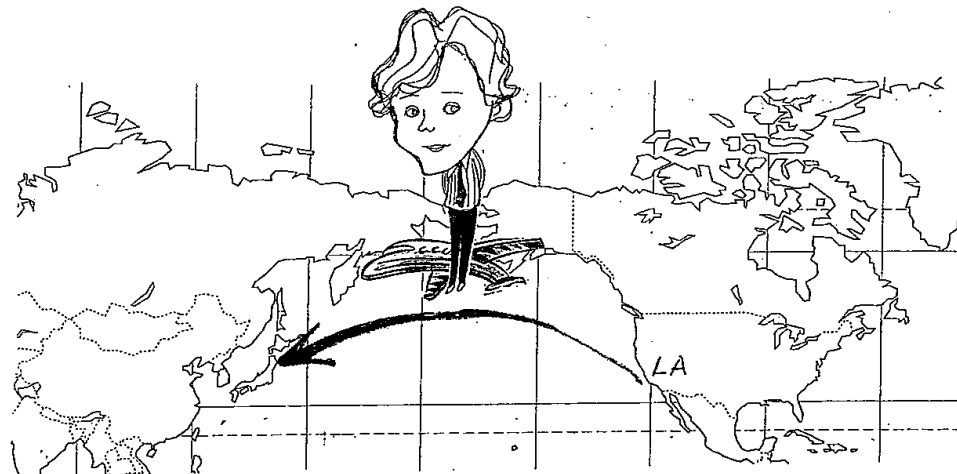
みなさん、こんにちは。ようやく、暑さも一段落。少し過ごしやすくなりましたね。さて、ALTの「A」が秋田南高校へ来て一ヶ月が経ちました。彼から皆さんへのメッセージをもらいましたので、お届けします。

Please enjoy Jeff's message.

Well, I made it to Japan, and it's still hard to imagine a world map with the "You are here" arrow pointing at those islands, so far from everything that's familiar to me, to imagine that I live *there* now, after having grown up thinking it a fact of reality that Southern California is where I lived, live, and always will live, to imagine that I'm going to be here for a year, maybe even longer. I cannot guess what such a tremendous change will mean for me as a person, but I am excited to find out.

Before I came to Japan, my aunt asked me, "Why do you want to leave all your family behind to live in Japan for a year? Why don't you just visit Japan for a summer?" She couldn't understand why I would want live here for so long. "Of course, I will miss my family and friends," I told her, "but I know that I have been given a great opportunity to experience life in another country. I consider myself lucky, because so few people have this chance, to live, work, teach, and make friends with those in a country so different from their own. I could not have this experience if I just came for a summer, to eat sushi and go sightseeing all the time."

In a way, I have been offered a free education. This is the best kind of education, in my opinion, because it is gained through experience. Living here, I can learn firsthand about a culture, customs, and language different from my own. I hope that I will also learn to be a good teacher and a better, stronger person.



The world may seem like a big place, with people from so many different cultures living and interacting differently, but I think we all have similar hopes, loves, and fears. I hope I can gain an understanding of Japan and its people, and that, in turn, I can offer an understanding of America and its people. I believe that the key to this understanding is language. I know that I will probably make a lot of mistakes, but that's okay. Making mistakes is how we learn. So please, don't be afraid to make mistakes. Finally, know that while I am teaching, I am also learning from you. So please be patient with me, and I will try to do my part to make this a great experience for everyone!

日米学生会議「秋田フォーラム」に参加しました。

2年H組の皆さんが、8月8日に秋田で開催された日米学生会議に参加しました。テーマは「太平洋から世界へ～伝統への回帰と私たちの挑戦～」。国連事務次官の「...さんや」「...」さんの講演を聴いた後で、日米学生会議参加者と地元高校生との交流会がありました。βさんの感想を紹介します。

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学生同士の交流会は本当に楽しく笑いながらできました。私は、おばあさんが日本人だというアメリカの方と話をしました。彼女はとても友好的で、普通の友達と話している感じがしてなりません。私は、日米交流というのはこのようなことだと思います。「交流」というとなんだかとてもよそよそしく、他の言語を話さなければならぬというイメージが浮かびますが、ただ言語が異なるだけで、人間どおしが communicate するという点では、友達と会話を楽しむのと変わらないと思います。だから、難しく考えず、とりあえずお互いを知るという意味で一歩を踏み出すということが、これは簡単に見えて難しいものですが、とても大切だと私は思いました。