

English Journal

March 5th (Tuesday) Sunny

We took the train from Sendai to Tokyo. After that, we went from Tokyo to Australia. It took nine hours by plane. I ate in-flight food for the first time, for example, chicken, bread, fruit, etc. But, it wasn't to my taste. After eating dinner, I tried to sleep, but I could not sleep. I only slept for about four hours. We arrived in Australia at about nine a.m. I was already very tired.

March 6th (Wednesday) Cloudy

Today we came to Australia. First, we went to Bondi Beach. It was very beautiful. We bought postcards to send to our parents there. Next, we went to St. Mary's Cathedral, the Sydney Opera House and Mrs. Macquarie's Point. We ate hamburgers for lunch. It was very delicious. Next, we went to Kellyville High School and met with our host families.

March 6th (Wednesday) Cloudy/Rain

After a long journey of nine hours and thirty minutes, we got to Sydney. We were guided and went to Bondi Beach. It was very beautiful there. We also went to the Sydney Opera House. We enjoyed it. After that, we met our host families.

March 7th (Thursday) Sunny

Today we had English training. The English training was hard work because there were many things that Ms. Margaret said that we did not understand. But, I could communicate even without being able to speak English well. I think that everyone was working hard and were motivated. After that, we met our buddies, enjoyed morning tea together and had classes together. I wasn't able to catch my buddy's words well, but I managed to understand by listening again or writing it down on paper.

March 8th (Friday) Sunny

Four days have passed since I came to Australia. Today, in class, I made lamingtons with my buddy. Lamingtons are a meringue cookie made with fresh cream and fruits. It was very sweet. At lunch time, the students from Kellyville High School gave us Milo ice cream. I once again thought that they were very kind people. I only have three days left to go to school, so I want to actively enjoy it.



March 8th (Friday) Cloudy

We got MILO ice cream at school today. We were all surprised to get MILO ice cream, so we laughed. The foreign ice cream that I ate for the first time was very sweet and delicious. After that, I got a treat from my buddy, I was really surprised and really happy. After that happened, it made me wonder if my buddy and I had become good friends.

March 9th (Saturday) Sunny

Today I went to my host mother's friend's house. The friend runs a supplement and beauty treatment company. I had a foot spa. There were other people coming and the products were being explained. But, it was so difficult that I could not catch much of it. After that, I went to my host mother's daughter's house. There was one Japanese person there, so I spoke Japanese for the first time in a long time. I met my host mother's grandson and he was very cute.

March 9th (Saturday) Sunny

I went to the flea market today. So, I bought souvenirs for my friends and family. After that, I went to "Holey Moley Golf club" at a shopping mall a little while away. It's a mini golf course and bar, and a multi-sense labyrinth with a unique hole for traditional putting. There is an event on each stage. I enjoyed playing golf with my host family. After dinner, I saw the night view of Sydney. I was moved by so much beauty. I was glad to get along with my host family. I had a wonderful Saturday.

March 10th (Sunday) Sunny

I rode a boat with my host family. It was very fast. So, I was excited. I tried driving the boat. After that, I met my host family's cousins. There were a lot of children and they were cute. I had a good time with my host family!

March 11th (Monday) Sunny

We performed a Momotaro drama. We practiced it a lot in Japan. I was a little nervous. But, my buddy said "Good luck. I'm listening carefully." When the narrator started speaking, the Australian students were listening carefully. They gave a big round of applause when we were done. I was relieved. After that, we received a diploma from a teacher at Kellyville High School and everyone took a picture.



March 11th (Monday) Sunny

In the morning, we talked with the girls who we had made friends with at school. Everyone was very active and spoke to us in Japanese, and they brought lots of their friends so it was lively and fun from the morning. The Morning Tea on this day felt particularly long and I was able to feel more relaxed than usual. In the afternoon I saw some of Australia's famous creatures. We were able to touch a range of animals from cute ones to the ones that can be rarely touched such as crocodiles and snakes. There were many curious and scared people and also people who said "How cute!" There were many Japanese manga in the school library, and I felt that maybe manga is popular overseas as well.

March 12th (Tuesday) Sunny

Eight days have passed since I came to Australia. This afternoon's class was art. I listened to Aboriginal stories and drew Aboriginal art. I learnt that each pattern has a meaning and I thought it was very interesting. Other students were taking art classes in the next classroom. They were playing very loud music. I felt envious because that would be impossible in Japan.

March 13th (Wednesday) Rainy

We had a Japanese Culture lesson. We went to the special needs section and taught them how to make paper frogs. Some of the Japanese students taught them how to make paper cranes. Teaching them was very difficult for me. After that I played darumaotoshi with the special needs children. Our next lesson was a Japanese Culture lesson too. We wrote calligraphy and played karuta. First, the Japanese students wrote their buddies' names in kanji. I think that was the most fun lesson. After that, we played karuta. Our buddies were faster than us at taking the cards. I was so surprised. After lunch, we played volleyball with the Kellyville High School students. Our buddies imitated us by saying "ごめん, ごめん" Hearing that made it very fun.

March 13th (Wednesday) Cloudy

Today was the last day of school. I took classes and spent a lot of time taking pictures and talking with my buddy's friends during morning tea and lunchtime. Our last class was volleyball. I don't like playing volleyball, but I had the most fun time. I was sad to say goodbye to my buddy and friends. I had a nice school life at Kellyville High school.



March 14th (Thursday) Cloudy

I was able to meet my buddy, Brent, in the morning. Then, we went to the Blue Mountains, but the scenery could not be seen through the fog. We rode three vehicles. A trolley car with a slope of 50 degrees or more, a gondola that can carry dozens of people at once and a lift with a transparent floor. The trolley car was thrilling like a roller coaster. When I was on the lift, the fog had cleared a bit and I saw the Three Sisters. It was a day when I could once again see the difference between Japan and Australia's environment.

March 15th (Friday) Sunny

Today we went to a koala park. So, we saw animals such as koalas and kangaroos. They were very cute. The koalas were very quiet. Next, we went to Sydney. We did independent training. I bought souvenirs and clothes. Then, we went to Sydney University. It was very vast. Next, we went to the Art Gallery of New South Wales. I saw a Picasso painting. I ate Chinese food for dinner.

March 15th (Friday) Sunny

We went to many places today. First, we went to the Koala Park and saw many animals. We saw koalas, kangaroos, emus and wombats. The Koalas and Kangaroos were so fluffy. I was surprised because I thought Koalas and Kangaroos were not fluffy. After that, we went to Sydney. We went to China Town and into Sydney city. The Queen Victoria Building is so beautiful. We had such a good time. Finally, we went to Sydney University. It was so big and beautiful. We ate Chinese food before we left Australia. It was so delicious.

March 16th (Saturday)

Today we returned. I couldn't sleep well on the plane so I was tired. But, when I remembered the time from departure until today, I felt a little sad without feeling strange or tired. From departure to return really went in the blink of an eye, and I felt like it was yesterday that I left. When I left Haneda Airport, it was full of Japanese people and I thought "I can't speak in English often anymore. How boring." After that, I took the monorail, changed trains, got on the shinkansen and finally arrived in Sendai. I was tired, so I went back home straight away.

