

The leaves began to change and the first day of fall arrived. This September was lucky with no typhoons in Shiga. This meant that school events were able to stay on schedule. The schedule for the Culture Festival was handed out and preparation for Sport's Day became school-wide.

There were few English classes this month especially during the week before Sport's Day, but the ALT was ready for fun. First years practiced "How Many?" by drawing crazy monsters with many eyes and many legs. The second year classes leveled up while learning how to critically read. They learned to ask "who, what, where and when" when reading stories from their textbook. The third years enjoyed a game of Old Maid (ぼぼぬき) using the grammar, "Do you know how to?"

This month's English board celebrated 50 years of Sesame Street. The newsletter was about the Jim Henson company and all the colorful characters are from famous Jim Henson movies. There was also a special note about the new Netflix "Dark Crystal" series, that has three generations of Jim Henson staff working on it!

Sports Day had beautiful weather all day. The students practiced hard and were well-prepared. This year's original performances were amazing. Students created many props like Totoro's Cat Bus and ocean fish! Every performance was unique and creative. There was a surprise during the relay. During the teachers' run, the ALT joined in the relay! It was a fun day for everyone.

Sport's Day ended and the ALT was able to meet many parents, previous staff and talk with some graduates of Shiroyama from last year. She enjoyed being able to share her Sport's Day experience with the PTA.

After Sport's Day, the English Staff and ALT prepared for the Shiga English Speech Contest. This year Shiroyama had two first-year students for recitation and one second and one third-year students for the speech section. The students worked very hard and were able to increase their English skills in a very short amount of time. The competition was intense with the judges often needing extra time between each section to decide between contestants. Shiroyama didn't win any prizes, but the students received valuable feedback and for many of the students it was a brave moment. They were able to speak English for a long time in front of many people. Their ALT was very proud of that.

As September comes to an end, something is happening at the ALT's desk. There are blinking pumpkin lights, there are ghost stories and monster cut-outs and a large map of Michigan by her laptop. For the American ALT, October means Halloween and she has many plans.

