

TNUSS

VOICES



NEWSLETTER

VOICES

WHERE WORDS CONNECT WORLDS



Trekking side by side, students created new connections and lasting memories

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A Walk of Teamwork and Leadership

On April 30, TNUSS held the 3rd Tohakai, an exciting school-wide event designed to strengthen connections among students across classes and year levels. The activity encouraged stronger friendships within each grade and meaningful connections across the school's six years of secondary education. To create new opportunities for interaction, students were intentionally placed into randomly assigned teams rather than groups based on existing friendships. Using eight different courses based on Tsuchiura City's designated "Health Road" routes, students spent the day walking together, communicating, and supporting one another through distances of 10 to 15 kilometers.

This year's event placed a special focus on the leadership of third-year high school students, who took on the responsibility of guiding their teams throughout the day. Although cloudy skies covered the event, the cool weather created comfortable conditions for walking. Some routes had to be adjusted due to the weather, but student leaders responded calmly and flexibly while leading their groups along unfamiliar paths and sharing new scenery together. Poster and photo contests also added excitement and creativity to the day. By the end of the challenge, students completed the courses with smiles, teamwork, and a strong sense of accomplishment, making the 3rd Trekking Challenge another memorable experience for the TNUSS community.

GLOBAL LEARNING

Snapshots



How do people show respect in different parts of the world? In Global Cultures enrichment class, students learned about the culture of **Trinidad and Tobago** and explored how respect is shown in everyday life.

Trinidad and Tobago is a twin-island country in the Caribbean with a very diverse population and many cultural traditions. People from African, Indian, European, Chinese, and many other backgrounds have helped shape the country's unique culture.

One important lesson students discovered was the value of greeting others politely. In Trinidad and Tobago, it is common to say "good morning," "good afternoon," or "good day" when meeting people. People also often use respectful titles such as "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Miss," "Aunty," and "Uncle."

Students also learned about the country's religious diversity. Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Shouter Baptist traditions, and Orisha beliefs are all part of life in Trinidad and Tobago. Respect for different religions is shown in many ways, including the freedom to wear traditional clothing and religious symbols.

Another interesting point was that important holidays from different religions are celebrated nationally, such as Christmas, Divali, Eid-al-Fitr, and Shouter Baptist Liberation Day. In Trinidad and Tobago, people from different backgrounds often celebrate these holidays together.

The presentation also encouraged students to think about similarities and differences between Trinidad and Tobago and Japan. How do we show respect in Japan? What customs are similar, and what traditions are different? These questions helped students reflect on their own culture while learning about another part of the world.

Through Global Cultures activities like this, students continue to build global understanding, cultural awareness, and respect for people from different backgrounds.



"I like the traditional clothing in Trinidad and Tobago." - Anna, 5A



"I like how the people help each other on holidays." - Miki, 2C



"We are impressed that different religions are taught in schools." - Isha & Zenaida, Teachers

A Culture of Greetings

By Amrita Mahabir



There are many ways in which we show respect, and one way is by greeting people: strangers and acquaintances alike. It is an important part of our culture and is especially important in the smaller more rural communities of the country where most or all of the members of the community know each other.

Much like Japan and other countries, it is customary to greet people, especially the elderly and people you don't know very well, when you enter a room, or when you see someone during the day with "good morning", "good afternoon" or "good evening". You will often hear people saying loudly "Morning, morning!" to an entire room; the repetition carrying the same meaning and respect as the previous expressions. People even say it loudly to everyone on the bus, on their way to school, or to work!

It is also not uncommon for people to greet each other loudly with expressions such as "Good morning neighbor!" when they don't know each other's names. Showing respect by greeting people is more important than remembering their names. If you live in a small village and you forgot to greet an elderly person, you can be sure that your parents will hear about it, and you will be in big trouble! I once forgot to say "good afternoon" to my dentist, and both the dentist and my mother were very upset!

In short, the simplest gesture of greeting people is of great importance to the culture of **Trinidad and Tobago**, just like Japan. What are some other ways you show respect in Japan?

Season 2, Episode 2: Beyond Simple Hobbies

As TNUSS Voices continues its exciting second year, the podcast returns this month with another lively discussion filled with fresh ideas, personal experiences, and meaningful conversations. Following the positive energy of "Spring Buzz," the latest episode invites listeners to explore a topic that many students can relate to—hobbies, talents, and the possibility of turning simple interests into something bigger.

The newest episode, titled "Beyond Simple Hobbies," is hosted by Communication teacher Mathilde together with Mone (3B), and features special guests Lino (3B) and Yuha (3B). Together, they discuss how hobbies today can become more than just free-time activities, especially in a world shaped by social media and online communities. From music and games to online content creation and creative skills, the students share their thoughts on how hobbies can inspire confidence, connect people, and even open unexpected opportunities.

The episode also encourages students to reflect on their own dreams and interests while practicing English in a natural and engaging way. Through personal stories and thoughtful discussion, "Beyond Simple Hobbies" continues the mission of TNUSS Voices by giving students a platform to express themselves, exchange ideas, and share their voices with the school community.



Mathilde & Mone
Hosts



Lino & Yuha
Guests

**Listen to the TNUSS Voices Podcast
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Creative Spotlight

This month features two selected outputs from the Form 5 students' writing assignment in May. They were asked to choose three hashtags that best describe their personalities. These two students shared heartfelt reflections about family, culture, personal growth, and the experiences that make them unique. Through their stories, we can see how identity is shaped by the people around us, the places we call home, and the goals we hope to achieve in the future.

#TwinSister

by Ayu W., 5E

Did you know that I've actually lived with a girl who has my same face since I was born? I'm a twin! My first hashtag is #TwinSister. We are often told that we look alike, however, she's more responsible than me, and she's always helping me. I would be lost without her. My second hashtag is #IbarakiHighSchool Student. I was born in Shizuoka, but I grew up in Ibaraki. For me, Ibaraki has beautiful nature, so I want to live here in the future, too. My third hashtag is #PokemonSticker Collector. I have collected Pokemon Pan Stickers for the past two years. I really like it, and they are my treasures! So, now you see, these three hashtags are what make me unique.

#FromVietnam

by Tomota O., 5E

When I came to Japan at seven, I didn't understand a single word. But somehow, I still found my place. My first hashtag is #FromVietNam. I started school without knowing the language, but I was surrounded by people who supported me. That environment shaped who I am. My second hashtag is #TryNewThings. Because I was accepted, I started to try. Through badminton, piano, and local activities, I stepped into the unknown. Each step expanded my world. My third hashtag is #ChangeMySchool. Now I'm in the Student Council. I want to become someone who creates that kind of life-changing environment, and I believe it starts with the people right in front of me. So, I'm taking my first step by changing my school. One day, I want to be someone who changes lives.

TEST YOUR GLOBAL IQ



Try these fun trivia questions!

1. What is the capital city of Trinidad and Tobago?

- A. Kingston
- B. Port of Spain
- C. Nassau
- D. Georgetown



2. Which famous music style originated in Trinidad and Tobago?

- A. Flamenco
- B. Tango
- C. Reggae
- D. Calypso

Find the answers hidden in one of the images and see how globally smart you are!