

TNUSS VOICES

NEWSLETTER

WHERE WORDS CONNECT WORLDS



From desert safaris to English lessons, Form 2 students turned the Australian coast into a dynamic classroom of culture and discovery.

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HAPPY
Holidays

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Form 2's Adventure Down Under

In a 15-day journey of discovery this December, Form 2 students swapped the **Japanese winter** for the warm **Australian summer**. During the trip, students visited the coast to learn about marine life and the surrounding natural environment.

A big part of the trip was staying at **The Southport School (TSS) in Brisbane**. Students lived in the school dorms to learn how to be independent and live together. Their schedule included special English lessons and fun activities on campus. They met native animals like pythons and koalas, and had an "Aboriginal Culture Day" where they watched traditional dancing. Their stay at TSS ended with a special ceremony in the school chapel to celebrate their hard work.

Another exciting part of the adventure was visiting Moreton Island. Students saw many unique animals and even got to feed wild dolphins in the evening. They also went on a "Desert Safari" and took an "SDGs Walk" to learn how to protect the environment. From visiting the University of Queensland to shopping at local markets, the students saw many sides of Australian life. They came back home with more confidence in their English and a better understanding of the world.





Tune in this month to hear real stories from the TNUSS community and discover surprising facts from around the world.

Episode 8 explores the secrets to staying fit and focused. Olivia and Anna sit down with Form 4 guests to uncover their daily healthy habits. Students discuss everything from favorite nutritious snacks to how they manage stress with music and sports. Listen now to hear personal advice on building a routine that works for a busy school life!

Episode 9 takes you on a festive world tour! Juliet and Hikaru delve into the history of Christmas, sharing fascinating trivia inspired by recent English "definition paragraph" lessons. The episode features Oral Communication teachers sharing cherished traditions from their home countries, covering everything from the loud "crackers" of Great Britain to mysterious customs in Norway and Germany.



**Listen to the TNUSS VOICES Podcast
anytime on the TNUSS website.**

Open Minds Open Doors



The Oral Communication and Language Education Development Departments continued their Professional Development (PD) program this month with the topic on **The Importance of Pronunciation Training**.

The session highlighted that since Japanese and English are phonetically distant, it is uniquely challenging for Japanese EFL learners to acquire English phonetics independently. Research presented during the session showed that a student's native language (L1) has a much stronger effect on their pronunciation than their musical aptitude. Therefore, teachers were encouraged to dedicate at least 5 minutes per lesson to targeted pronunciation practice, such as shadowing, to help students build articulatory habits.

Crucially, the training aligned with modern CEFR standards and the concept of World Englishes, emphasizing that the goal is intelligibility (being clearly understood) rather than achieving a "native" accent. However, proper pronunciation remains vital for success in exams like TOEIC, IELTS, and Eiken, where delivery and clarity are key assessment criteria.

By mastering prosody and sound articulation, TNUSS students can better engage their audience effectively and ensure their message has an impact.

GLOBAL LEARNING

Snapshots



The Language Education Development Department (LEDD) continued its **Global Cultures** enrichment classes, where students took an immersive look into the daily lives and festive traditions of different nations.

The topics this month explored the unique parallels and differences between East and West. Students learned about "**A Day in the Life of a Nigerian Student**," discovering that many students wake up as early as 5:30 AM to prepare for a 10-hour school day. Students compared school uniforms and routines with their own, while exploring popular Nigerian extracurricular activities such as technology and dance clubs.

The journey continued to the Caribbean with "**Christmas (Navidad) in Cuba**". Students immersed themselves in the festive spirit by learning the famous song Feliz Navidad. To make the language learning interactive, students played a Christmas-themed game where they could apply Spanish expressions. They practiced phrases like "**¡Felizades!**" (Happy Holidays), "**¡Buen provecho!**" (Enjoy your meal), and "**¡Disfruta!**" (Enjoy!), allowing them to build practical language skills while discovering the vibrant traditions of Cuba.



"I like the uniform styles of Nigerian students." – Airi, 3C



"Nigerian students join many interesting clubs." – Sena, 1A



"Nigerian students are studious." – Zenaida, Teacher



"The Christmas game was fun. I liked the **Accion** card." – Mitsuki, 2A



"I'm happy because we won the game. **Bono** card was my favorite." – Soma, 3E



"I learned many Spanish expressions like **Buen Provecho**." – Misaki, 3C





Creative Spotlight

This month's featured writing comes from a Form 3 English writing test. Following a series of lessons on **definition paragraphs**, students were challenged to apply their skills to the topic of **Bunkasai**.

For this task, students were provided with formal definitions from various sources; they had to choose one to cite and then expand upon it using personal reflections and supporting details. Completed without the use of dictionaries or digital tools, these selections stand out for their clear academic structure and authentic insights.

Bunkasai

Edition by Ai T., 3E

According to Web Japan, "Bunkasai is defined as a school culture festival where students present food, performances, and exhibits." Almost every school is doing this festival because we can learn about Japanese traditional culture. For example, we can eat some local food such as "somen" "ocha", and "wagashi" made by students. It shows feelings, values, and ideas like team work, knowing the culture, and enjoying Japanese activities or other countries' activities with students, teachers, and families. We have some misunderstanding of this festival. For example, some think that this festival only means to enjoy, but it shows traditional things. It is very important for young people to learn about local cultures and make something with a team, and not just depend on asking the Internet for ideas. If you want to know more about local cultures and experience Japanese activities, you should join Bunkasai.

Bunkasai

by Emily S., 3C

According to Web Japan, "Bunkasai is a school culture festival where students present food, performances, and exhibits." At our school Bunkasai, we have an English speech contest. Other schools have their own kind of competitions. We do this because it will make students have better friendships. Bunkasai is a very busy day, so students have to do it all together. It can show us the hardness of work that adults always do. We need to make sure that the customers are having a nice time. Other people can participate in this event by coming to our school. Most of the time, only parents come to participate our Bunkasai. People think that it's just a day that we don't need to study, but I think it's a day to make good memories. School days will never come back after we grow up. It helps students and people around us to feel supported. For all these reasons, I believe that Bunkasai is an event that Japanese students definitely need.

TEST YOUR GLOBAL IQ



Try these Christmas trivia questions!

Listen to the TNUSS VOICES Podcast Episode 9 to find out the answers!