

June 2026 | Volume 2

# TNUSS VOICES NEWSLETTER

WHERE WORDS CONNECT WORLDS



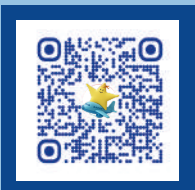
*Students, teachers, and parents coming together in a day of energy, unity, and fun*

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## Sports Day 2026 More Than a Competition

TNUSS came alive with excitement on June 10 as students, teachers, and families gathered for the annual Sports Day at Tsuchiura Municipal Stadium. Many parents came to support the students, creating a lively atmosphere that brought the entire school community together.

Students from across the school were divided into four color teams—Red, Blue, Yellow, and Green—which joined forces as the Red-Blue and Yellow-Green teams for a day of spirited competition. Adding to the excitement, each class proudly wore its own specially designed class T-shirt, filling the school grounds with color and showcasing their creativity and team pride. Throughout the day, students competed in a variety of events, including relays, tug-of-war, and other athletic challenges that tested their speed, strength, and teamwork.

One of the highlights of the event was the cheering dance competition, where students impressed the audience with their energy, coordination, and enthusiasm. While every team demonstrated determination and sportsmanship, the Red-Blue Team emerged as the overall champion. More than a competition, Sports Day was a celebration of friendship, cooperation, and school spirit, creating memories that students will carry with them long after the final whistle.

# GLOBAL LEARNING

## Snapshots



June's enrichment lessons invited students to explore cultural beliefs surrounding luck and superstition in different parts of the world. Through engaging discussions and activities, students learned how traditions and customs can influence everyday life and reflect a country's history and values.

One lesson focused on superstitious beliefs in Kazakhstan, where students learned that some people avoid sweeping the floor at night because it is believed to drive away good fortune. Another lesson explored beliefs about good and bad luck in Cuba, including the tradition of throwing a pinch of salt over one's shoulder after spilling salt to ward off bad luck. These examples encouraged students to compare cultural beliefs with their own experiences and traditions.

This year also marked the introduction of Global Cultures lessons as part of the regular Communication curriculum. Throughout the year, Communication teachers from different countries rotate among classes, sharing traditions, customs, and perspectives from their home cultures. These experiences provide students with unique opportunities to learn directly from people with diverse cultural backgrounds, helping them develop a broader understanding of the world.

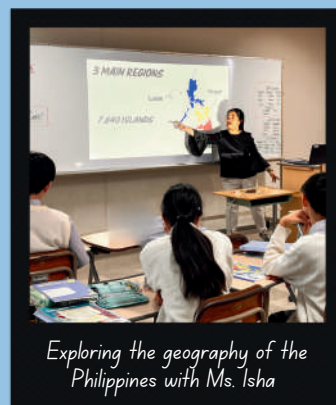
### Global Cultures in Communication Classes



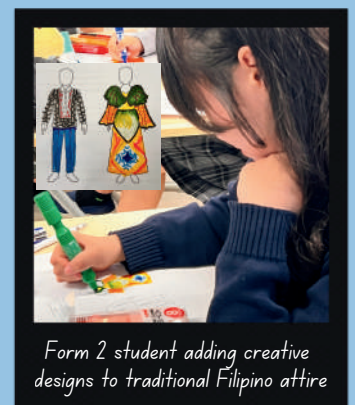
Form 1 students learning about the Philippines with Mr. Engel



Learning traditional games from Madagascar with Ms. Nanta



Exploring the geography of the Philippines with Ms. Isha



Form 2 student adding creative designs to traditional Filipino attire

### Global Cultures in Enrichment Classes



Students exploring Cuban traditions and beliefs about luck with Ms. Ania



Ms. Aruzhan introducing the fascinating world of Kazakh folklore, superstitions, and mythical creatures

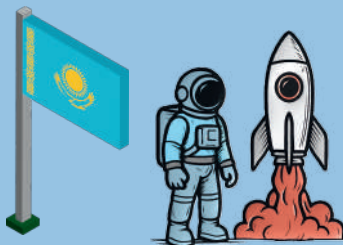
## Kazakhstan and the Space

By Aruzhan Zhumageldina

Have you ever dreamed of becoming an astronaut? When I was younger, I loved looking at the stars and imagining what space might look like. My friends even associate me with the word “alfada” which means “the space” in Arabic. Because of that, I became interested in countries connected to space exploration and was surprised when I learned that one of the most fascinating places was Kazakhstan, my home country. It is home to Baikonur Cosmodrome, the world’s first and oldest space launch center. This is the place where the space age began and where humans first started their journey beyond Earth.

In 1961, the first human in space, Yuri Gagarin, launched from Baikonur and made history. Even earlier, the world’s first satellite, Sputnik 1, was also sent into space from the same place. For many people, Baikonur is a symbol of human curiosity and courage.

Today, rockets still launch from Baikonur, carrying astronauts and supplies to space. People from all over the world travel to Kazakhstan to watch these exciting launches. It is incredible to think that a quiet area in Central Asia became the starting point for some of humanity’s greatest adventures. Kazakhstan’s role in space exploration makes it a truly special country.



## Season 2-Episode 3: Expectations and Realities of An Advanced Student

What is it really like to be an Advanced English student? In this month's episode, the Form 5 hosts: Mieko, Keisuke, and Yui sat down with newly promoted Form 5 students: Aiko and Yuhi, to discuss the expectations, surprises, and challenges that come with joining the Advanced English class.

Through honest and relatable conversations, students shared their reactions when they learned of their promotion, their expectations for the year ahead, and how their experiences have compared with what they originally imagined. Listeners gained insight into both the rewards and responsibilities of being part of the Advanced group.

The episode offered encouragement to students who hope to challenge themselves academically, reminding everyone that growth often comes from stepping outside their comfort zone and embracing new opportunities.

TNUSS VOICES continues to provide students with opportunities to share their perspectives and develop their communication skills. Students interested in participating in future episodes are encouraged to become part of this growing initiative of the Language Education Development Department (LEDD).



Mieko, Keisuke, Yui  
Hosts



Aiko & Yuhi  
Guests

Listen to the TNUSS Voices Podcast  
anytime on the TNUSS website.



# Creative Spotlight

This month's Creative Spotlight celebrates two Form 5 students whose outstanding performances in English speech competitions brought pride to the TNUSS community.

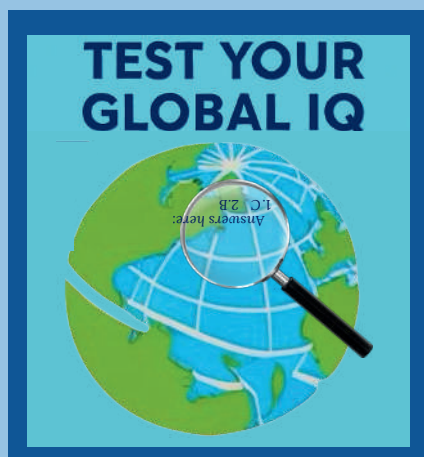
Ayu Watanabe's hashtag submission for the EF Global English Speech Contest was featured in the May issue. Her entry helped her advance to the final round of the competition in June, held in Shibuya, Tokyo, where she went on to win the Grand Prix in the Senior High School General Division through the impromptu speech contest. Her outstanding performance earned her a fully funded one-week study trip to Singapore.

Meanwhile, Asuka Kawada placed third in the 63rd Ibaraki Senior High School International Speech Contest, held in Mito City, Ibaraki, delivering a compelling speech titled "One Small Choice" on child labor and human rights in her debut competition.

Their achievements reflect not only strong English communication skills but also the confidence, dedication, and perseverance developed through years of learning and practice. Congratulations to Ayu and Asuka for representing TNUSS with excellence and inspiring others to find their own voice.



Both Ayu and Asuka credit their success to dedicated preparation and the guidance of their English Communication teacher, Ms. Ania Gonzalez. Congratulations to Ayu and Asuka! Your entire TNUSS family is proud of you!



## Try these fun trivia questions!

1. Where is the world's oldest university located?  
A. India  
B. UK  
C. Morocco  
D. China
2. Which language has the most native speakers worldwide?  
A. English  
B. Mandarin Chinese  
C. Spanish  
D. French



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