



土浦日本大学中等教育学校  
Tsuchiura Nihon University Secondary School



校長室訪問 Podcast: Journalist Ota Toshimasa meets Principal Koichi Horikiri

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## TNUSS Principal Shares Vision and Stories on '校長室訪問' Podcast

In an engaging conversation with cultural broadcaster Ōta Toshimasa this August, **TNUSS Principal Koichi Horikiri** shared his thoughts on education, leadership, and what makes 土浦日本大学中等教育学校 (TNUSS) unique.

### Key Highlights:

- **Educational Philosophy:** Mr. Horikiri spoke about the school's dedication to creating a nurturing environment where academic excellence goes hand in hand with personal growth.
- **Community Engagement:** Highlighting the importance of community, he shared initiatives that encourage students to participate actively and collaborate with one another.
- **Vision for the Future:** Looking ahead, Mr. Horikiri outlined plans to further strengthen the school's programs and its role within the wider community.

For a deeper look at the school's direction and leadership, you can listen to the full interview with Principal Horikiri on **Spotify: 校長室訪問**.



# SUMMER SPARKS AT TNUSS



## A Season to Learn, Experience, and Discover

School might have been out in August, but TNUSS students were still in action—laughing, creating, and discovering all summer long. From podcasting and poster-making to movie marathons and English games, the campus buzzed with energy. Teachers from different departments brought their A-game, offering workshops that felt more like summer camp than school.

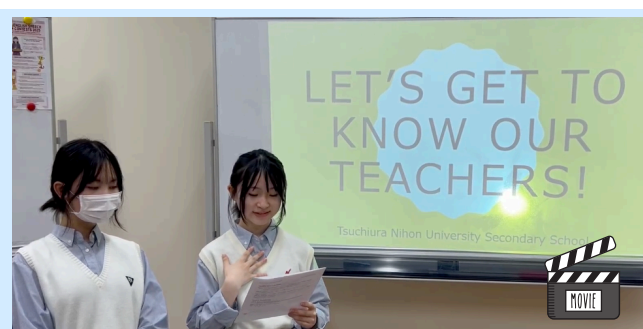
The Language Education Development and Oral Communication Departments led the charge with sessions like Podcasting 101, Creative Writing, Poster Making, Movie Watching, English Board Games, and more.

And it wasn't just about language. Science experiments, sports, and arts activities gave students a chance to explore new interests and build skills in a relaxed, low-pressure setting. These workshops weren't mandatory—but they were magnetic. Students showed up with curiosity and left with new ideas, new friendships, and a fresh sense of what learning can be beyond their usual subjects.

At TNUSS, summer isn't just a break—it's a chance to grow, connect, and discover. And judging by the smiles and stories that filled the halls, this year's workshops were a hit.



*Mic check, 1-2-3! Future podcasters in the making.*



*Lights, camera, interview! Students turned filmmakers.*



*Lights, popcorn, action! Learning through film.*



*Bonjour, TNUSS! Students dipped into French with flair.*



*Roll the dice, make a move – flex those English skills.*



*Plot twists and poetic lines—summer creativity.*



# Open Minds Open Doors



## Exploring AI and Reading Strategies in PD Sessions



The Language Education Development and Communication Departments continued their Professional Development (PD) program this summer, with teachers engaging in rotations to explore timely topics shaping education today. Each rotation allowed teachers to choose a topic of interest, join a small group, and exchange ideas in focused discussion.

One session centered on “The Use of ChatGPT as a Teaching Tool: Benefits and Downsides.” Teachers weighed the opportunities AI offers for creativity and efficiency against the challenges it poses, linking their insights to the current MEXT policies on AI in schools for responsible practice.

Another session highlighted reading strategies, where teachers shared approaches for engaging students and improving comprehension. From interactive activities to effective text selection, the discussions sparked practical ideas to enrich classrooms.

By moving through these rotations, teachers not only deepened their understanding but also strengthened a spirit of collaboration at TNUSS.

*"An investment in knowledge  
pays the best interest."  
— Benjamin Franklin*

# TNUSS Students Take the Stage at WYCCI

Three students from TNUSS — Momoka Shibata, Karen Yamada, and Himari Saito — joined the **WYCCI** (World Youth Communication Club of Ibaraki) **Speech Showcase**, organized by the **Mito International Association**—a lively celebration of English in summer.

Students shared speeches on topics they were passionate about. Judges asked questions, sparking curiosity and giving students the chance to explain their ideas with confidence. TNUSS students received great feedback and encouraging comments from the judges for their efforts and ideas.

The day wrapped up with an interactive discussion, where students and judges chatted about favorite foods, sports, and hobbies. These conversations helped students practice speaking naturally while having fun and exchanging ideas.

All participants received a bookstore coupon to celebrate their efforts and encourage continued learning. The event highlighted WYCCI's mission of promoting language development, confidence, and cultural exchange.



Summer was full of global adventures at TNUSS. Through the ongoing **Global Cultures and Global Voices enrichment classes**, students and teachers didn't just learn about other countries—they danced, spoke, and explored their way through them.

First stop: Cuba! With music pumping and feet moving, everyone jumped into the lively world of **Cuban Salsa**. Students learned basic steps and picked up dance terms like **Dame** (partner switch) and **Enchufa** (a turn move). The best part? Watching students and teachers groove together and laugh through the steps.

Next, Spain. Students discovered how fascinating Spanish culture is. They also explored basic grammar and enjoyed finding connections that made learning Spanish fun and accessible.

The journey then continued to **Kazakhstan**, where students explored the unique history and sound of the Kazakh language. They compared it with Russian, noticed how Kazakh and Japanese share some similarities, and listened to real Kazakh speech.

Every global adventure at TNUSS reflects the LEDD vision: **Learn, Experience, Discover**.

## Episode 4: Summer Memories

Summer vacation may be over, but the memories are still fresh! In this episode, hosts Sana and Ms. Gem team up to chat with Honoka, Chiaki, and Ms. Zenaida about their summer highlights—from exciting travels to cozy days at home. Each guest brought their own summer vibe to the mic.

Summer homework made an appearance too, with guests sharing how they handled it and what they'd do differently next time.

Everyone offered advice to their future selves—and to other TNUSS students—about how to make next summer even better. Their tips were honest, funny, and full of heart.

Listen to the full episode on the TNUSS school website to hear every story, giggle, and tip for next summer.



Hosts



Guests

Listen to the TNUSS Voices Podcast anytime on [www.tng.ac.jp/sec-sch/](http://www.tng.ac.jp/sec-sch/).



"I had a lot of fun dancing salsa with my friends."  
- Kazuki, 1D



"The lessons were practical and we learnt the steps and twirls that make salsa fun."  
- Olivia, Teacher



"I enjoyed watching the traditional Kazakh poetic contest, Aitys."  
- Soma, 3E

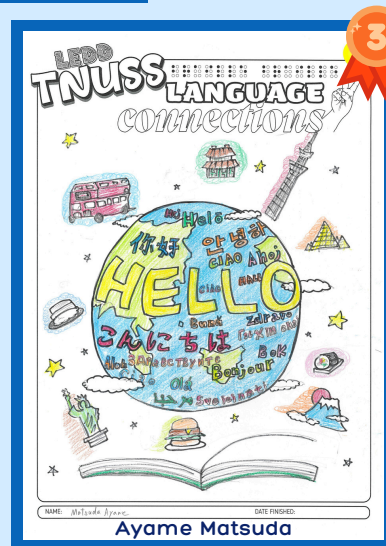
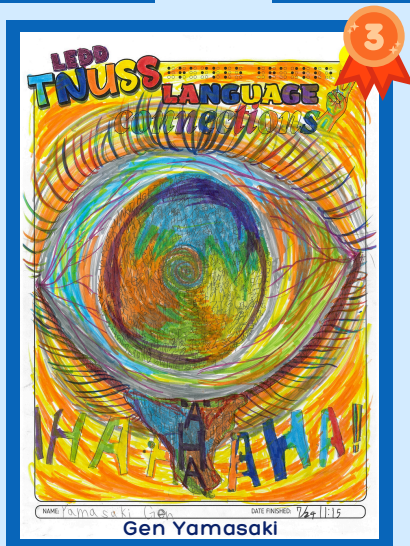




# Creative Spotlight

This month's featured creativity comes from the summer poster-making activity spearheaded by the LEDD Department, where students were asked to illustrate ideas about Language Connections. Students expressed their thoughts and imagination freely.

The winning posters were selected for their originality, detail, and clear personal expression. Each piece offers a unique perspective on how language connects ideas, people, and cultures, highlighting the creativity and insight of the participants.



Bringing ideas to life through colors and drawings.



Colorful designs take shape as students illustrate their thoughts on language connections.



Judges carefully review each poster for creativity and impact.



## Try these fun trivia questions!

Ready for a trivia challenge?

Since April, we've been sprinkling fun questions in every issue. For August, they're all here in one big quiz – with two extra questions just for this month!

Think you've got the answers? Check the TNUSS website to look back at past issues and see how many you got right.

**Discover more!  
Scan and follow!**



1. In Australian slang, if someone says **“I’m feeling crook,”** what do they mean?  
A. They’re really angry.      C. They’re broke (no money).  
B. They’re feeling sick.      D. They’re tired.
2. Which of these foods comes from France?  
A. croissant      C. sushi  
B. pizza      D. tacos
3. What dance originated in Cuba and became famous worldwide?  
A. Samba      C. Flamenco  
B. Salsa      D. Tango
4. How many languages are spoken in the Philippines?  
A. Around 20      C. Around 120  
B. Around 70      D. Over 180
5. Baikonur Cosmodrome was the launch site of the first human in space, Yuri Gagarin! Where is this historic spaceport located?  
A. Kazakhstan      C. USA  
B. Russia      D. Germany
6. What is Nigeria’s movie industry called?  
A. Bollywood      C. Nollywood  
B. NigerFlix      D. Africine
7. Which two languages are official in Canada?  
A. English and Spanish      C. Italian and English  
B. French and German      D. French and English
8. What is the traditional Hawaiian greeting that means both “Hello” and “Goodbye”?  
A. Aloha      C. Hula  
B. Mahalo      D. Ohana
9. How many time zones are there in Canada?  
A. 3      C. 6  
B. 5      D. 7
10. Which famous astronomer who proposed that the Earth orbits the Sun was born in Poland?  
A. Galileo Galilei      C. Isaac Newton  
B. Nicolaus Copernicus      D. Johannes Kepler