

## Letters to Host Families/手紙へホストファミリー

寺山家へ、

日本に来た前は、「何が起こるだろう...」と本当に緊張しました。でも、家族が私によろこしたたので、緊張なくなりました。毎日楽しいことと美味しい料理がありましただから、心がいつもありがとうございます！見知らぬ人ーアメリカ人特にーによろこしたもありがとうございます。私に家を開けただけではなく、家族気持ちさせました。それも、ありがとうございます。

仙巖園に行くとか着物を着るとかシロクマデザートを食べるでもコンビニに行く、そんな思い出が思い出して嬉しいいつもさせます。またいつか、Baskin Robbinsと一緒に行きましょうね(次回はアイスを実際に食べましょうww)！でも家にいるだけでも楽しかったです。

(アヤ特にありがとう、プリクラを紹介してくれたからww)

メリークリスマス&ハッピーニューイヤーお願い！

早くまたね！

エイデン

P.S. ヨ、来年の1月頑張ってね！

To the Terayama family,

Before coming to Japan, I was so incredibly nervous about what to expect. But after being welcomed into your home, I knew that there was nothing to be nervous about. Everyday was filled with fun times and delicious food, and for that I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I also want to thank you for welcoming a total stranger into your home; especially an American stranger. But not only did you open up your home to me, but you also made me feel as if I was a part of your family too. So thank you for that.

The memories of our adventures from going to places like Sengan-en and wearing Kimono and eating Shirokuma to going to the local 7-11 will forever be cherished. Also, one day I hope to go to Baskin Robbins with you and actually be able to eat the ice cream together! But even the moments of us just hanging at home is still valuable to me.

(I also want to thank Aya especially for introducing me to プリクラ lol).

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

See you again soon!

Ayden C. Harold

P.S. Good luck to Yo next January!

亀井家へ、

新しいホストファミリーへ行くことが難しかったけど亀井家に会ったので行ってよかったです！みんなが本当にやさしい私が気持ちよそがありました。風邪をちょっと引いた時、私お世話になりました特に。

その一緒日曜日、十分なありがとうと言わなかった思います。いつもありがとうございます！けん玉(全然上手じゃないでも)とか茶道(この抹茶があまり好きじゃないのに、茶道は美しい式としますよ！が大好きです！)をした本当に楽しかった！

寺と信念について教えてくれたありがとうございます！面白かったです！早くいつか、もっと教えてくれませんか？

メリークリスマス&ハッピーニューイヤーお願い！

いつかまたね！

エイデン

P.S. カノン、勉強し続けてね！頭が本当にいいからできると分かった！

To the Kamei family,

Moving to a new host family was difficult, but I'm glad that I did because I was able to meet you! Everyone was so lovely to live with and I truly felt welcomed! Especially when I got a bit sick and I was taken care of.

I don't think I ever shared my thanks well enough for my Sunday with you, but I truly thank you! It was so much fun doing things such as kendama (even if I wasn't good at it at all) or participating in Sadou (though I'm not a big fan of the matcha tea, the ceremony itself is so beautiful, I love it!).

I'm also grateful that you taught me about your beliefs and temple! It was very interesting and I hope sometime I could learn more about it too!

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Until next time,

Ayden

P.S. Keep studying, Kanon! You're incredibly smart, so I know you can do it!

## Letter to School/手紙へ学校

れいめいときいれ中学へ、

日本の学校についてもっと学ぶのが私によろしくしてくれたありがとうございます！先生たち特に、毎授業を分かった手伝ってくれましたのでもっと日本語を学びたで日本語で他も学びました。各学校の先生たちと生徒たちと職員が私によろしく自分もメンバーような気をしました。各生徒が私にいつもおしゃべりしました、私日本語上手あまりじゃないでしたのに。それなので、日本語がだんだん上手になっていました。暖かさと親切にしてくれてありがとうございます。時間と気でいつもありがとうございます。いつか、恩返しをしたいです。

いつも感謝しています、

エイデン

To Reimei and Kiire Middle School,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to visit your school and learn more about the Japanese school system! I also would like to specifically thank the teachers for, though they didn't have to, helping me understand the lessons in each class; as because of this, not only did I learn more Japanese, but I also was able to learn more about other things through Japanese! The members of each school; teachers, students, and staff alike; all helped me to feel welcomed and like a member myself. I also thank every single student at both schools, as so many of them made an effort to actually talk to me, though my Japanese wasn't very good, and get to know me! All in all, thank you for giving up time and energy to welcoming a foreign stranger with warmth and kindness. I hope to someday be able to repay it forward!

Forever grateful,

Ayden C. Harold

## Letter to Volunteers/手紙へボランティア

ボランティアへ、

2週間で、人生が本当に変わりました。ボランティアから勤勉でありがとうございます！なければ、そんな素晴らしい経験は絶対にできなかったでしょう。多く新しい人に会ったと場所に行った絶対忘れません、ボランティアにありがとうございます。気持ち感謝、十分な言葉分かりません。いつか、私もしますだから他の学生が日本に行けます！

お疲れ様でした、

エイデン

To the volunteers,

Within these past few weeks, my life has changed so much. And it's all thanks to you for all of your hard work! Without it, I definitely never would've gotten the chances and experiences that going on this trip gave me, especially when it comes to learning the cultural differences between American and Japanese student life. Truly, from the bottom of my heart, there are not enough words in the English vocabulary that can allow me to fully express my gratitude to you.

One day, I hope to repay your kindness forward by doing the same for a future student!

Thank you again for all of your hard work,

Ayden C. Harold