

Contest back to full service

by Koharu Aka

KLI students managed Kadena's annual English speech contest for Kadena's elementary and junior high school students at the town's cultural center on July 13th.

This year regulations for COVID-19 were finally relaxed and it was the first time in four years that the event was held normally, including the entry of the contestants' supporters.

This year's winner of the top prize, the Noguni Sokan Award, was Kadena Junior High's Yurika Makishi.

"At first, I was nervous and worried, but when it came time to perform, I was able to enjoy the performance," she said. "I made some mistakes, but I could show what I had practiced, and I think the result was good."

KLI students were kept busy during the event, managing the stage and reception, taking care of the contestants and providing the masters of ceremony, using both English and Japanese.

KLI first year Mizuki Okuma was in charge of collecting judge sheets. "It was the first time for me to be involved in the management of such an event," she said. "So it was



Students and guests on the stage at the end of another successful speech contest.

a very valuable experience, and I was able to fulfill my tasks from set-up to management while learning from the second-year students."

After all the speeches were finished, KLI second-year student Lishu Kinjo gave a presentation on the TOFU (Thinking of Okinawa's Future in the U.S.) program which is a part of the Kakehashi project, an exchange program to promote understanding of Japan.

Speech contest awards

Elementary school division

Gold: Towa Teruya

Silver: Meru Tamaki

Promising youth award:

Tomotsugu Hamamoto

18th mission support group award:

Sota Shimoji

Junior high school division

Gold: Miyabi Ganaha

Noguni Sokan award:

Yurika Makishi



KLI student Lishu Kinjo gives a presentation.

Fest fun and games



U.S. base volunteers pick strings from a 'mystery box.'

by Lishu Kinjo

On July 21st, KLI held its first ever summer festival. Students played Japanese traditional festival games with volunteers from Kadena air base. "This festival has never happened before and we did our best to prepare," second year student Koharu Aka said. "It was fun like a high school festival." Students showed four games and

wrote the volunteers' names in *kanji* (Chinese characters). They prepared a bottle flip (hooking a ring in the mouth of the bottle to make it stand), a fishing game, a popcorn booth, a game called hitting the can, and fortune strings where people win a prize by pulling a string out of a handful of strings. Volunteers also got prizes and origami medals made by the students.

Lessons in diplomacy

by Koharu Aka

In May, KLI graduate Meg Kamiunten held a diplomacy workshop at the college. The alumna returned to introduce to students how countries work together on international issues. Meg herself participated in a similar workshop with KLI's Lishu Kinjo as part of the international TOFU (Thinking of Okinawa's Future in the U.S.A) program earlier this year.

In the game, the participants were divided into two teams, the Japanese team and the U.S. team, and they tried to find the best way for the two countries to cooperate by communicating information with each other under the scenario of an emergency situation. First year student Nagina Hanashiro said, "There are differences in the way the news is usually reported in Japan and



Meg Kamiunten leads KLI students in a diplomacy roleplay.

overseas, and I learned that what we see on the news is not all there is." Also, second year student Kai Chibana, said, "I realized that it is important not only to receive and send the information, but also to be aware of the importance of communicating with each other.



I would like to talk with people while having an awareness of the skill involved in communicating with each other even in the daily exchanges of small information."