

# Reflections on a “Nishimachi Education”

from Nishimachi Alumni  
and Their Parents

西町

To share, to live and learn together  
and yet keep a special identity...  
that is Nishimachi.

Tané Matsukata  
(1917-1989)

## A Caring School Community

I came to Nishimachi from the United States in the eighth grade with no idea what Japan was going to be like. I was nervous and scared about going to an international school. Everyone at Nishimachi was very amiable on my first day and treated me like a member of the family. It made the transition to my new life easy and smooth. I am really glad and proud now to be graduating as a Nishimachi student.

*Jason Choi '08 (Korea),  
written in his ninth-grade year*

ともに分かち合い、ともに生き、ともに学びつ  
かつ個人の独自性を育てることが  
西町における教育の基本姿勢です

創立者 松方種子  
(1917-1989)

## • English and Japanese Program

We didn't want a single-language, single-culture education for our children. We chose Nishimachi because we wanted them to grow up as global citizens exposed to people from many cultures. We wanted them to develop two languages to the point that they would be at home in either. My children can read Shakespeare in English and Natsume Soseki in Japanese. It is remarkable to me as a parent that my children are so comfortable with everyone they meet, regardless of race or nationality.

*Norimitsu Tosu  
Father of Rei '87, Fumiaki '92, and Fumitsugu '94 (Japan)  
Professor of Linguistic Anthropology at Keio University*



## Nishimachi International School

(Accredited by WASC and CIS)

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[development@nishimachi.ac.jp](mailto:development@nishimachi.ac.jp)

<http://www.nishimachi.ac.jp>

## Major High Schools Attended by Nishimachi Graduates, Classes 1999–2009

西町卒業生の主な高校進学先  
(1999年から2009年期生まで)

<b>Japan (日本)</b>	<b>68%</b>
ASIJ (アメリカンスクール)	61%
ISSH (聖心インターナショナルスクール)	15%
YIS (横浜インターナショナルスクール)	8%
St. Maur (サンモール・インターナショナルスクール)	5%
Other international schools (その他の国際高校)	5%
Japanese high schools (日本の高校)	6%
ICU High School (ICU 高校)、Tamagawa Gakuen (玉川学園)、Shibuya Makuhari Senior High School (渋谷教育学園幕張高校)、Toho Gakuen (桐朋学園)、Tokyo Metropolitan High School (都立国際高校)、その他	
<b>Overseas (海外)</b>	<b>32%</b>
Andover (アンドーバー校、アメリカ)	
Cate School (ケイト校、アメリカ)	
Ecole d'Humanité (エコール・ド・ユマニテ校、スイス)	
Idyllwild Arts Academy (アイデルワイルド・アーツ校、アメリカ)	
Miss Porter's School (ミス・ポーター校、アメリカ)	
Phillips Exeter Academy (フィリップス・エクセター校、アメリカ)	
St. Paul's School (セントポール校、アメリカ)	
Stevenson School (スティーブソン校、アメリカ)	
Taft School (タフト校、アメリカ)	
Thacher School (サッチャー校、アメリカ)	
The Gunnery (ガナリー校、アメリカ)	
Others	

## • 日本人としての国語

西町の「母国語としての日本語」クラスでは文科省の国語教科書を使っていましたが、国語の教科書を通じて日本の文化や物の考え方を知ったり日本の学校へ行った友だちとも、知識や経験を共有することができ、とても良かったと思います。西町の日本語学習は、日本人としての日本語のしっかりとした基礎を作ってくれ、それが私にとって大きな自信につながっています。

山崎 佐季子 '97

## Universities and Colleges Most Attended by Nishimachi Alumni since 1999

西町同窓生が選んだ主な大学進学先 (1999年以降)

<b>U.S.A.</b>	<b>Boston College</b> (ボストン・カレッジ)
	<b>Boston University</b> (ボストン大学)
	<b>Brown University</b> (ブラウン大学)
	<b>Claremont McKenna College</b> (クレアモント・マッケナ・カレッジ)
	<b>Columbia University</b> (コロンビア大学)
	<b>Cornell University</b> (コーネル大学)
	<b>Emory University</b> (エモリー大学)
	<b>Georgetown University</b> (ジョージタウン大学)
	<b>Harvard University</b> (ハーバード大学)
	<b>New York University</b> (ニューヨーク大学)
	<b>Pomona College</b> (ポモナ大学)
	<b>Princeton University</b> (プリンストン大学)
	<b>Santa Clara University</b> (サンタクララ大学)
	<b>Stanford University</b> (スタンフォード大学)
	<b>University of Chicago</b> (シカゴ大学)
	<b>University of San Francisco</b> (サンフランシスコ大学)
	<b>University of Southern California</b> (南カリフォルニア大学)
	<b>Wesleyan University</b> (ウェスリアン大学)
<b>Japan</b>	<b>International Christian University</b> (国際基督教大学)
	<b>Keio University</b> (慶応大学)
	<b>Sophia University</b> (上智大学)
	<b>Waseda University</b> (早稲田大学)
<b>U.K.</b>	<b>London School of Economics</b> (ロンドン・スクール・オブ・エコノミクス)
	<b>University of Kent</b> (ケント大学)
<b>Australia</b>	<b>The Australian National University</b> (オーストラリア国立大学)
	<b>The University of Sydney</b> (シドニー大学)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>McGill University</b> (マギル大学)

## High School Locations for Nishimachi Graduates, Classes 1999–2009

西町卒業生の国別高校進学先  
(1999年から2009年期生まで)

Japan 67.6%

U.S.A. 23.9%

Europe 3.4%

Australia 3.4%

Other Asian Countries 1.3%

Canada 0.4%

Nishimachi's English-language program prepared me thoroughly for advanced composition in high school. In Nishimachi's middle school, we had the opportunity to read literature that was both interesting and a challenge. I have noticed with satisfaction that some of the books I read while at Nishimachi are used in English classes at my current high school.

I am grateful to Nishimachi for the many community service opportunities the school offered. As a member of the choir, I participated in such events as benefit concerts at the Franciscan Chapel for the Because We Care Foundation and sang Christmas carols at Tokyo Station to support the "Light up the Life of a Refugee Child" campaign sponsored by Refugees International Japan.

*Tomoko Aratake '05 (Japan)*

### • Holistic Educational Program

I believe every teacher I had at Nishimachi expected excellence, whether it was for a core class or an elective. Though achievement varied from student to student, each of us was expected to try our best and each was graded accordingly. The bar was high, and exceeding expectations became the norm, even when we were completing simple tasks. This pattern of excellence stays with me in everything I do.

The sports program at Nishimachi had the biggest impact on me when it came to preparing me for my move to high school. Sports are the universal language. They bring people together, and barriers tumble. Wherever you are, no matter where you come from, you make friends. Now as I commit to playing volleyball for a Division 1 school in the U.S.A., I thank the coaches at Nishimachi for introducing me to volleyball and to basketball.

*Anne Ellenberger '05 (U.S.A.)*

Nishimachi encompasses ALL the important ingredients to make an excellent school. The academic standard is challenging, the students are all disciplined and eager to learn, the teachers are experienced and diligent. It takes a very special dynamics and school culture to make all these three ingredients to work together well.

*Lily Ferry (Japan/U.S.A.)*

*Mother of Lucy '12 and Oliver '14*

While I really do not miss the work, I do miss the challenge of Nishimachi's academic programs. Thanks to the study skills I learned there, I am doing well in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program here. I could not have done it without the rigorous formation I received while at Nishimachi.

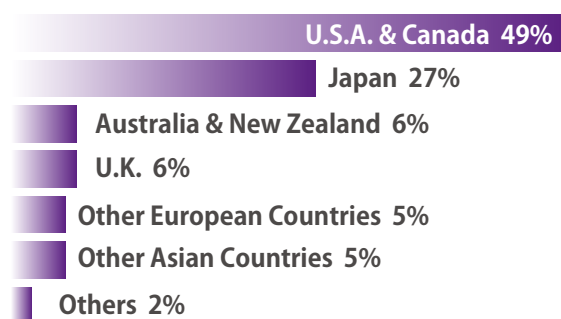
*Tim Wilson '96 (Canada) — written in 1999,*

*while he was a student*

*at Ashbury College, Ottawa, Ontario*

## A Nishimachi Education: Covering the Globe

Alumni by Region (同窓生の居住地域)



### • Independent and Critical Thinkers

The greatest contribution Nishimachi made to my early education was to open my eyes to diversity and to the joys of an international perspective.

*Matt Forrest '83 (U.S.A.)*

At Nishimachi I had friends from India, Bangladesh, Australia, Sweden, and the U.S., and we all got along. There are very few schools where you find such a mix. Exposure to many different cultures at an early age cannot be underestimated. I have worked with people from all over, from New Zealand to the Middle East, and found it very easy. But you would be surprised how many people have trouble with this, in spite of their otherwise excellent credentials.

*Steven Lynum '84 (Norway)*

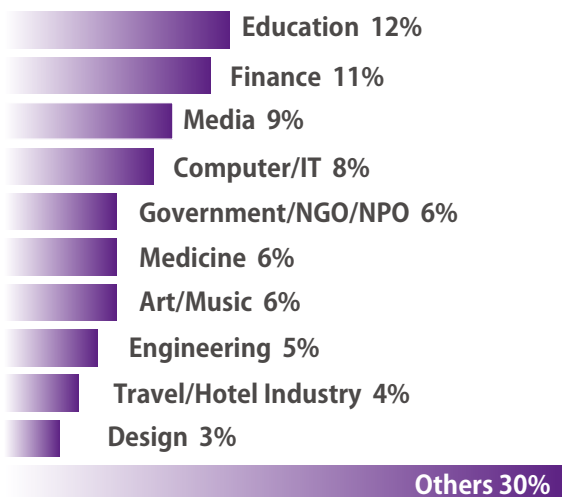
I am the parent of three children who went to Nishimachi. All three grew up to be well-rounded, independent thinkers, open to different cultures and ways of thinking—in other words, just the kind of people the world needs— thanks in great part to Nishimachi .

*Amy Flint (U.S.A.)*

*Mother of Gavin '75, Cameron '77, and Galen '79*

## A Nishimachi Education: Taking Alumni Wherever They Want to Go

Alumni by Field (同窓生の選択業種)



### • Preparing for the Future

Nishimachi gave me the strong foundation in Japanese I would need to pass the Japanese bar exams. The solid skills in both Japanese and English that I acquired through years of study at Nishimachi serve me well in my career as an international corporate lawyer.

*Izuru Kato '90 (Japan)*

To this day, our family continues to reflect on Nishimachi as the best school and educational experience that we've ever had. The uniqueness of the school is an experience that cannot be duplicated. Being a part of Nishimachi for me was the dynamic core of what was the life-changing experience of living in Japan, leading, for example, to my work in foreign exchange trading for years. I truly gained invaluable perspective and knowledge at Nishimachi that continue to serve me today and shape who I am.

*Cathy Vinciguerra '80 (U.S.A.)*