

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/Japanese Dual-Language 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)

2-14-7 Moto Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0046

Tel: 03-3451-5520 Fax: 03-3456-0197

E-mail: admissions@nishimachi.ac.jp

development@nishimachi.ac.jp

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

Admissions & Development Offices, February 2008

Major High Schools Attended

by Nishimachi Graduates, Classes 1997–2007

西町卒業生の主な高校進学先（1997年から2007年期生まで）

Japan (日本)	65.7%
ASIJ (アメリカンスクール)	43.6%
ISSH (聖心インターナショナルスクール)	7.6%
YIS (横浜インターナショナルスクール)	4.7%
St. Maur (サンモール・インターナショナルスクール)	3.4%
Other international schools (その他の国際高校)	3.8%
Japanese high schools (日本の高校)	2.6%
ICU High School (ICU 高校)、Tamagawa Gakuen (玉川学園)、Friends School (普連土学園)、その他	
Overseas (海外)	34.3%
Andover (U.S.A.)	
Bedales (U.K.)	
Cate School (U.S.A.)	
Choate Rosemary Hall (U.S.A.)	
Dana Hall (U.S.A.)	
Diplomatische Akademie (Austria)	
Ecole d' Humanité (Switzerland)	
Kent School (U.S.A.)	
Middlesex School (U.S.A.)	
Phillips Exeter Academy (U.S.A.)	
St. Hilda' s (Australia)	
St. Paul' s Academy (U.K.)	
Stevenson School (U.S.A.)	
Tabor Academy (U.S.A.)	
Taft School (U.S.A.)	
Thacher School (U.S.A.)	
The Gunnery (U.S.A.)	

Universities and Colleges Most Attended

by Nishimachi Alumni since 1997

西町同窓生が選んだ主な大学進学先（1997年以降）

U.S.A.	Berklee College of Music (アメリカ)
	Boston University (アメリカ)
	Brown University (アメリカ)
	Columbia University (アメリカ)
	Cornell University (アメリカ)
	Dartmouth College (アメリカ)
	Duke University (アメリカ)
	Emory University (アメリカ)
	Georgetown University (アメリカ)
	Harvard University (アメリカ)
	New York University (アメリカ)
	Occidental College (アメリカ)
	Stanford University (アメリカ)
	Tufts University (アメリカ)
	University of Chicago (アメリカ)
	University of Southern California (アメリカ)
	Wesleyan University (アメリカ)
	Yale University (アメリカ)
Japan	International Christian University (国際基督教大学)
	Keio University (慶応大学)
	Sophia University (上智大学)
	Waseda University (早稲田大学)
U.K.	University of Oxford (イギリス)
	University of Bath (イギリス)
	University of London (イギリス)
Australia	The Australian National University (オーストラリア)
	The University of Sydney (オーストラリア)

• 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

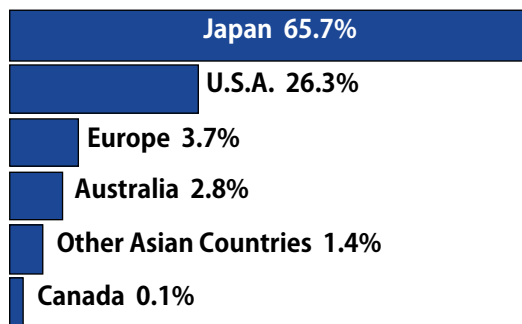
Rebecca was more than ready for the competitive atmosphere of St. Paul's. We were pleasantly surprised at how very well indeed the curriculum she followed at Nishimachi had prepared her, in spite of the skepticism voiced by some British educators.

Trish Thomson (U.K.)

Mother of Rebecca '98, written in 1997

High School Locations for Nishimachi Graduates, Classes 1997–2007

西町卒業生の国別高校進学先（1997年から2007年期生まで）



• 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'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)

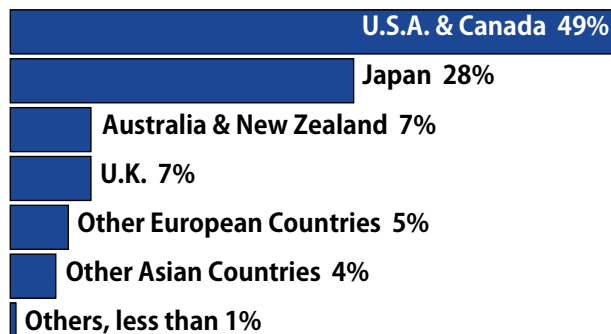
While I really do not miss the work, I do miss the challenge of Nishimachi's academic programs. Thanks to the study skills I learned there, I am doing well in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program here. I could not have done it without the rigorous formation I received while at Nishimachi.

*Tim Wilson '96 (Canada)—written in 1999,
while he was a student
at Ashbury College, Ottawa, Ontario*

Nishimachi gave me a sound academic grounding in English and math as well as a comprehensive understanding of social studies and sciences, all of which prepared me well for high school.

Andrew Ogawa '87 (U.S.A.)

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)

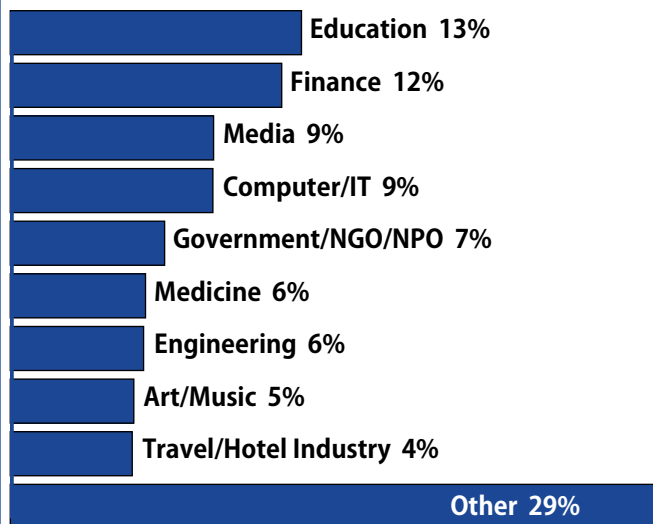
I am the parent of three children who went to Nishimachi. All three grew up to be well-rounded, independent thinkers, open to different cultures and ways of thinking—in other words, just the kind of people the world needs— thanks in great part to Nishimachi .

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)

Nishimachi not only prepared me well for the rigors of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program in high school, but also positioned me to be able to pursue a double degree in college and various professional designations thereafter. Nishimachi's high educational standards contrasted with what we knew of the other international schools in Japan. This was often a topic of discussion among my family and friends.

Tetsuya Sakaguchi '91 (Japan)