



## The Four Seasons at the Hadano Campus

NO.4

The Hadano campus of the Sophia School Corporation is located on hills about 1.5 km south of the center of the city of Hadano, in the western part of central Kanagawa



Prefecture. Several facilities are to be found here and there on the Hadano campus property. These include the Sophia Junior College buildings, the Sophia Hadano Seminar House, Clubhouse, and multiuse sports fields. From the campus, if you look west, you can sometimes see Mt. Fuji; if you look north, you can see downtown Hadano city and the Tanzawa Mountain

Range; if you look south you can almost see Sagami Bay. Our Hadano campus is blessed with luxuriant natural greenery. The students can come into close contact with all four seasons, making the campus an ideal environment for education.

### 1. Spring

Spring comes early to Hadano. Even when recently fallen snow is still visible on the Omote face of the Tanzawa mountains, the cold wind blowing down from Mt. Oyama somehow seems to grow milder. Day by day, even the sunlight becomes more spring-like. Various kinds of ornamental



trees: Japanese allspice, white plum and red plum, begin to flower. Magnolia trees and forsythia make the campus more colorful. The preparations of nature to welcome the new semester are beginning. The cherry trees planted here and there on the campus inform us of the advent of spring, the season to welcome new students. Flowering trees bloom in profusion. Presently, the glorious cherry blossoms, as heralds of gaudy spring, transfer to the fresh verdure of the trees of the campus, to which the colorful voices of the students are returning.

## 2. Summer

The city of Hadano is famous for the sources of ground water in the low-lying areas. At the same



time, the gateways for climbing in the Tanzawa



Mountains are nearby. The green

hills of the campus normally do not receive any noise from the area, but there is one big exception, when cries of joy mingle with gasps of exhaustion. This is the annual Junior College Sports Day. The green color of the trees



and the plants gradually becomes deeper. If one looks up at the sky from the green lawns below, one sees a variety of cloud formations worthy of a museum. When the hydrangeas begin to bloom and the clouds scud vigorously across the sky, we know that the rainy season is close at hand. During the bright intervals of the rainy season, Mt.

Fuji shows its early summer face; as the remaining snow melts away, the mountain dons its summer finery. The trees on the campus cast shadows of a deeper shade. The cicadas sing during the twilight. When the students using the playing fields catch a breath of the southern breeze blowing in from the Sea of Sagami, they become more energetic. The clubhouse lights stay on long into the evening darkness. This is the season for hearing the chorus of singing insects, featuring large brown cicadas and robust cicadas.



## 3. Autumn



Even in the middle of the warm weather, autumn is sneaking up on Hadano. The sounds of the autumn insects, the crickets, replace the sounds of the summer insects, the tsukutsukuhoshi cicadas. The aroma of the olive-like kinmokusei floats over from somewhere nearby. The Junior College campus

becomes busy with the preparations for the annual school festival. The campus that had been colored by the cherry blossoms during the spring now is bright with reds and

yellows. Red leaves cover the trees on the Kobo Mountain down from the crest to the skirts, where the far-famed hiking course is visible, just to the north of the campus. Someone has gathered fallen leaves and started a small fire. One autumn day the sky is so high that it reaches

beyond our sight. The quiet songs of the shrike echo around the campus. One morning, as the school bus comes up the slope of the campus, Mt. Fuji suddenly appears newly covered with snow. Although the colors around the town are still autumnal, one feels that the visit of winter is close at hand.

#### 4. Winter

The winter in Hadano appears quietly. The campus is covered with frost most mornings. The winter sunlight shines weakly, but still

is  
blessed  
with  
enough  
power



to cast the shadows of the now-leafless trees. In and among the usually green plants that have recently

become darker, the ginkgo trees with leaves colored in yellow can still be seen. Even so, the cold wind changes the colors into those of winter. The thrushes fly low over the browned grass, keeping an eye out for their surroundings. When the bright days continue, sometimes Mt. Fuji is covered with bright white snow all the way down to the skirts of the mountain. The chapel



on the third floor of the administration building is decorated with poinsettia. One can clearly see from the third floor of the classroom building the snow-covered parts of the nearby Omote Tanzawa face: Ninoto, Sannoto, and Tonogatake. The mountains wrap themselves with magnificence under wintry conditions. Now the weather is quite cold. The fir tree on the campus reflects the Christmas illuminations. The lights of the Service Learning Center on the second floor of Sophia Hall increase their brilliance, as the Hadano campus sinks into the winter twilight.