

PGL INSPIRATION

One Connection Can Change Everything | JETPrep Japan Voices & Simple Actions



DEAR PGL COMMUNITY,

Connection is at the heart of our work. It's what turns preparation into possibility — and a new place into a sense of belonging. Whether across oceans or across a table, connection doesn't happen by accident; it's built through presence, trust, and small everyday choices.

This month, as we highlight JETPrep Japan, we're listening for the moments where connection changes the trajectory: a mentor's story, a classroom welcome, or a simple invitation to participate. Let's keep nurturing those moments by reaching out with curiosity, listening deeply, and building bridges that last.

With open hands and heart,

Marti Deyo, Founder & CEO

WHY THIS MATTERS.

PGL Inspiration is more than a newsletter—it's a monthly rhythm of reflection and connection. Each issue explores part of the journey toward becoming the fullest version of ourselves—**together**.





“Connection is why we’re here. It gives purpose and meaning to our lives.”

— Brené Brown

Global Spotlight (Japan)

Steven MacWhinnie, Associate Professor at Hirosaki Gakuin University in Aomori, Japan, shares how connection inside the JET community turns showing up into belonging — for students, schools, and new JETs alike.

*“In Japan, teachers are often reassigned to new schools every few years, and starting fresh can be challenging. Each transfer also carries unseen threads of connection. When familiar teachers from past schools appear in a new staff room, those shared experiences create instant belonging. It’s a reminder that **connection isn’t limited to a single place: It moves with us** and helps new communities take root.”*

Why it matters: Connection is the bridge between preparation and thriving. It’s how applicants become community members, and how classrooms become places of shared growth.



Practical Wisdom

Our growth is shaped not only by what we learn, but by what we apply. Try one of these quick practices this week to strengthen your sense of connection.

3-2-1 Reach-Out: Send 3 quick check-ins, 2 thank-yous, and 1 ask for advice (2-3 sentences each).

Micro-Belonging Moves: Use names, share one win, and share one need in your next meeting or study group.

Learn → Debrief: Attend a consulate/USJETAA webinar, then 15-minute debrief with a peer. Capture 3 insights + 1 next step.

WHAT'S NEW AT PGL?

Foundations for Success — Free “Step-In” Access:

Explore our gamified introduction to JETPrep — a short, self-paced experience that helps you clarify your purpose, connect your strengths to new opportunities, and design a personal action plan for Japan and beyond. ✨ Discover your Why. Build your Career Compass. Create your Action Plan.

[Get Access Here!](#)

JETPrep Japan — Travel Gatherings:

Join upcoming in-person experiences that bring JETPrep to life through culture, connection, and community. These short, seasonal gatherings complement the virtual course — they don't replace it — and offer a chance to meet peers, practice skills, and celebrate your journey.

[Explore JetPrep](#)

Final Note: One Connection at a Time

We believe global change begins with local courage: a conversation, a question, a choice to connect. Wherever you are, you're part of this community — and you matter today and every day.

Explore More

Ready to go deeper? Below you'll find one curated resource in each category—watch, listen/read, and do—to deepen your reflection and bring connection into action. These are designed to expand your thinking, coordinate your opportunities for communication, and help you reconnect with what matters.



WATCH

[The Art of Gathering \(TED Talk\) by Priya Parker](#)



LISTEN/READ

[Greater Good Science Center — Social Connection hub \(science-backed articles + short podcasts\).](#)



DO

[Connection Map \(10 min\) — spot one thin area and choose one small bridge step!](#)

Share this issue with someone who reminds you what connection can do.

Next Issue Preview: Courage in Action

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With purpose and possibility, The PGL Team 🌍💚