(September 22)

On most days, I can tell what we are going to do by the day of the week. On Mondays through Fridays Alex and I go to Hoikusho, which means day-care in Japanese. On Thursdays we go ice-skating, and on Fridays I have piano lessons.

We used to go to school by bus, usually with Mama, and then Daddy picked us up after snack and play time. A few days ago Daddy got a bicycle with seats for both Wally and me, so we zip along to school and back by bike! We bump and swerve on the sidewalks and by canals with Wally in front and me behind.

These days I am getting so big that I don’t need to ride around in a carriage any more. Alex got his own little stroller in July, and I walk along side. When I go to school I carry my special yellow school bag.

We’ve been spending a lot of time with the Suzuki family. They own a restaurant/café next to the Kamo river. Hikaru-chan is 7 years old, and has lots of fun hobbies like scooping fish, playing with a pet turtle, drawing, and skating.
Daddy teaches her violin twice a week. We all come along to the café, and play together when they are done.

Suzuki-san, Hikaru-chan’s grandmother, is always there with lots of suggestions for activities and food. We also go ice-skating once a week with Hikaru-chan and her mother Harue-san. I was scared at first, but on the second try, I skated around holding hands with Mama, and on the third try I skated on my own a little! Alex likes to pretend to skate on his truck, and we both practice gliding on Hikaru-chan’s scooter.
A couple of weeks ago Bea and her parents visited us and we went to see some temples together.

After a long walk down a mountain path, full of roots that made me almost trip, we stopped at a restaurant where they had nagashi-somen, which means floating noodles. The noodles come down a tube, and we have to catch them with our chopsticks! I concentrated so hard on scooping up the noodles that my bowl got completely full and Mama told me I had to eat as well as catch! The noodles were cool and yummy.
It's still very hot and humid in Kyoto. Although there was no rainy season this year, there have been lots of typhoons this summer and many tremors, which are small earthquakes that make the whole building shake and shudder.

This Monday was a school holiday, and we all went to Nijo-castle. It had a large garden, and lots of pebbles. Inside were long corridors with squeaky floors. In front of some of the rooms, you could push a button to start some music and hear some talking.
Oji-chan and Oba-chan visit every now and then. Obachan bought us some nice fall outfits.