



#38 with Global Teacher Prize Nominee Kazuya Takahashi – on creating independent learners in Japan

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TX: November 2016

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This week's episode is a goody, covering Finland's education landscape, Angry Bird's educational games development with NASA, philosophy, and launching a new game based around particle physics!

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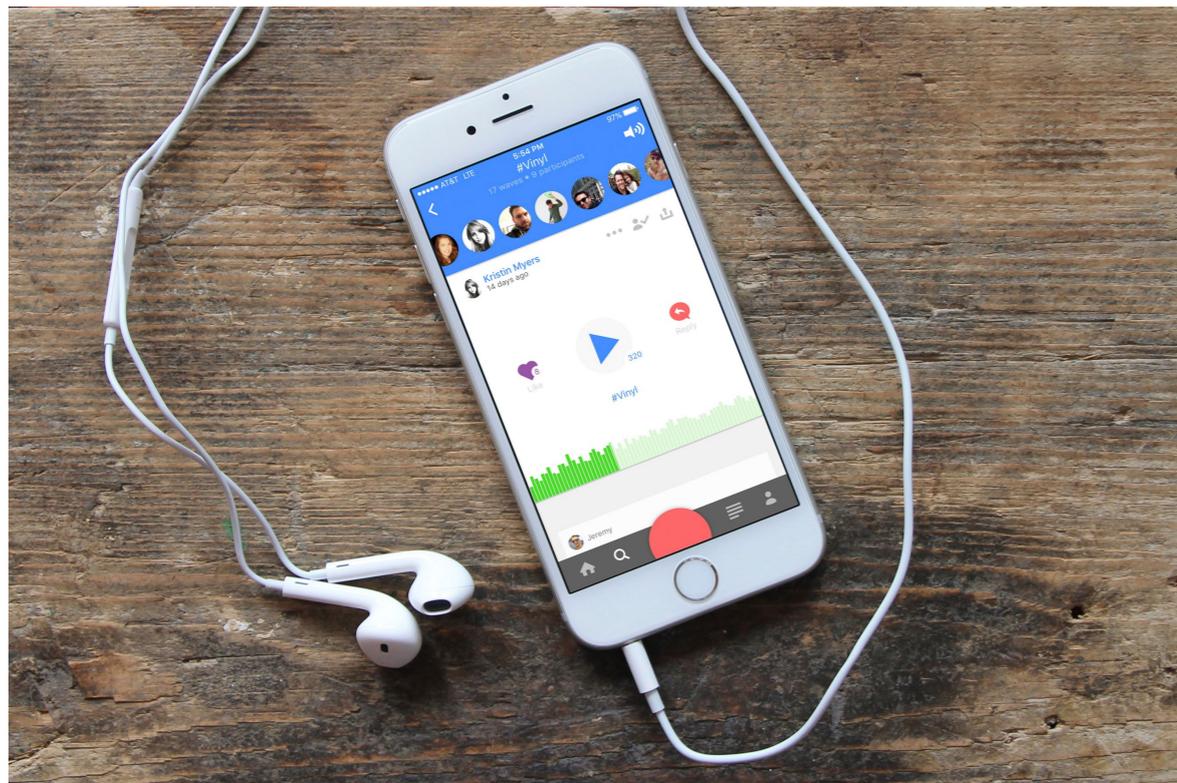
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WHAT'S IN THIS EPISODE?

Intro:

Takahashi was recently nominated for the prestigious Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize, often referred as the Nobel Prize in education, for his work in the classroom and contributions to society.

Takahashi, the first candidate from Japan, is among 50 nominees selected from 8,000 candidates representing 148 countries

Content:

Interview with Takahashi and his students at Kogakuin University Junior High-School, Senior High-school in order to get some insights in his work and teaching methods.

Subjects covered:

Takahashi's journey from PHD studies to teacher and his aspiration to 'pay it forward'

Thoughts on creating more independent learners in a system devoted to 'cramming'

Which theorists in cognitive science and learning design does Takahashi follow

The difference in conditions and opportunities for teachers in independent and state schools in Japan

Working with Lego to promote project based learning and launching his own edtech incubator

Challenging a system of education built on teacher sacrifice to create something more sustainable

An inspirational message to all educators at the end of his interview

SAMPLE QUOTATIONS

- My life has been blessed with good teachers. So I wanted to pay a reward toward the next generation.
- I learned how to teach based on science.
- In Japanese schools the test score is everything. Learning should be tangible.
- Students can express their heart, their thoughts making LEGOs.
- You can learn project management with LEGO.
- Students started to work independently, that's wonderful!
- I.C.T. means I can be connected with students 24 hours.
- Old teaching style is just lecturing students. Sit down, be quiet. I'm teaching you have to be still. But like that it's not fun.
- You should have fun in class.
- Japanese students are very dependent on some things like repetitions, companies' names. They have to follow some kind of specific track.
- Students are always evaluated within the school, but this world is very wide!

QUOTATIONS/ REFERENCES

References:

Firefly Learning Conference Registration

[http://go.fireflylearning.com/
Firefly_Conference_2016_Registration.html](http://go.fireflylearning.com/Firefly_Conference_2016_Registration.html)

Kazuya Takahashi

[http://www.globalteacherprize.org/top-10-finalist/
kazuya-takahashi/](http://www.globalteacherprize.org/top-10-finalist/kazuya-takahashi/)

[http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/12/30/
national/teacher-champions-critical-thinking-
global-perspective-students/#.WCLeEGWO6u4](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/12/30/national/teacher-champions-critical-thinking-global-perspective-students/#.WCLeEGWO6u4)

Global Teacher Prize

<https://twitter.com/TeacherPrize?lang=en>

Varkey Foundation

<https://twitter.com/VarkeyFdn>

Bett

<http://www.bettshow.com/>

Kogakuin University Junior High-School, Senior High-school

<http://www.kogakuin.ac.jp/english/>

Edmodo

<https://twitter.com/edmodo>

Blackboard

<http://uki.blackboard.com/>

Google Docs

<https://www.google.co.uk/docs/about/>

Seymour Papert

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seymour_Papert

Jean Piaget

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Piaget

Joe Fatheree

<https://twitter.com/josephfatheree>

Maarit Rossi

<https://twitter.com/pathstomath>

REGISTRATION LINK FOR THE FIREFLY CONFERENCE

15th November, Birmingham

http://go.fireflylearning.com/Firefly_Conference_2016_Registration.html

12:15 - 13:00	<p>Panel discussion: Are Reports and Parents' Evenings a Waste of Time?</p> <p>Moderator - Sophie Bailey, founder of the Edtech Podcast</p> <p>Panellists -</p> <p>Miles Berry, subject leader computing education, Roehampton University</p> <p>Jon Barker, teacher, Highams Park School</p> <p>John Hewitt, head teacher, Sackville School</p> <p>Is Andrews, parent</p>
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