

## Minasan Konnichiwa (Hello everyone)



Last Wednesday, we had Japanese visitors joining in some of our junior class Japanese lessons. The Japanese visitors are from Kawaguchi Kita High School (i.e. Frankston High School's sister school in Japan). At the beginning of each lesson, we had to introduced ourselves to each other in Japanese. Year one students made origami works (such as stars) by getting the Japanese students' help. Year two students worked in small groups with the Japanese students and learnt to write their names in

Japanese by using real calligraphy sets! Although all of us, including Japanese visitors were a bit nervous to start with, through activities we became more relaxed and talked and smiled to each other. I have received very positive comments from the visiting Japanese teachers and Frankston High School Japanese teacher regarding our students. I am really proud of our students' excellent manners as well as their welcoming attitude toward our Japanese visitors.



From the beginning of this term, some students have been practising Japanese speech in order to enter the 2019 Frankston Japanese speaking contest. I was overwhelmed by all these students' excellent Japanese speaking skills, as well as their hard work to win a place to represent our school. Due to the limited entry numbers, unfortunately, I was allowed to select only three students for each division. It was a very difficult choice for the lower primary divisions, since there were more students demonstrating excellent Japanese speech skills and eagerness to come to practise their Japanese speech regularly. I do

hope those who missed out this year will try next year. I would like to congratulate the following students who will represent our school. For the upper primary division, Ashlee (6B), for the lower primary division, Audrey (3D), Sophie (34A), Seb (2C), for the Japanese environment division, Joe (6B), Emilie (56A), and Saya (34A). All these students have already mastered their self introduction in Japanese, and now focus on improving their public speaking skills in Japanese. In addition, those who compete in the Upper Primary and Japanese Environment divisions will continuously practice to recite a summary of the Japanese folks story called *Tsuru no ongaeshi*. *Gaenbatte ne* (all the best) to those students in the Speaking contest on 6th September!

*Arigatoo gozaimasu* (Thank you very much)

Tomoko Yamashita (Japanese teacher)

