

Minasan konnichiwa (Hello, everyone)



Last Wednesday, we were very fortunate to have Japanese high school students' visit (through Frankston High School Japanese teachers' assistance) some of our Year one and two Japanese lessons. At the beginning of the lessons, we asked their names in Japanese. Many of us and our guests were a bit shy towards each other, however, after playing games and doing activities (such as origami) together, we were



all laughing and talking in a more relaxed joyful atmosphere. We all (including the accompanying Japanese high teachers) had a wonderful time together. I did hear all the Japanese students saying very positive comments regarding our students and school! I am very proud of all our students for being nice to them at all times! This Japanese high school is a Frankston High School's sister



school and the students comes down to Frankston every odd year. The accompanying Japanese teacher from Frankston High School was also very impressed by our students and is very positive about bringing Japanese students (including other Japanese schools students) to Overport, so I do hope we will have Japanese guests every year.



We also started preparing for the annual Frankston Japanese Speaking Contest. I would like to mention my appreciation to the following students. Alan (4C), Benjamin (4C), Leila (4B), and Nahal (4A). Some of these students came to extend their Japanese learning and the others worked very hard to practise their Japanese speech in order to enter the competition. It was very difficult choice for me to select the limited numbers of students by following the speech contest regulation. I would like to congratulate the following students to represent our school to enter the 2017 contest. Hannah (6B), Ashlee (4C), Jennifer (4B), Joe (4C), Ellie (1A), Jackson (2B), and Saya (1D). All the students are required to present their self introduction in Japanese. Then those who enter Upper Primary and Japanese Environment divisions are required to recite a summary of the famous royal dog story called *Hachiko*. *Gaenbatte ne* (all your best) to these great students in the Speaking contest on Friday 8th September!

There are voices from our students to learn more about Japanese language and cultures. Today I will introduce two excellent Japanese websites.

The first one is **Kids web Japan**" <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/>

In the past, I had already mentioned this website, however, I still believe for anyone interested in Japanese, this is one of the best family friendly webpages.

One of my favourite sections is "What's cool"

This section introduces the old favourite, traditional aspects and up to date pop culture as well. Of course, if you like to improve your Japanese language skills, under "Learn" you will find language section.



Another great web page is "doki doki Japanese" <http://www.dokidokijapanese.org/> made by one of the Frankston High School Japanese teachers.

Our Year six students already had an opportunity to look at this website when we had Frankston High School Japanese teachers visit to find out about their Japanese programs. This site has great study advice, connection to language learning game sites and so many interesting videos. My advice to the families with younger children is to check the content of videos before viewing with your children since this webpage is made for high school students as the main audience.

Arigatoo gozimasu (Thank you very much)

Tomoko Yamashita (Japanese teacher)