

Minasan Konnichiwa (Hello, everyone)

In this newsletter, I would like to introduce one type of Japanese symbols, Japanese numbers, and a very useful Japanese website for students and family.

At Overport Primary School, we will mainly focus on learning *Hiragana symbol*. These symbols are widely used in Japan. You will see these in stations, road signs, newspaper, and of course, children’s books.

	a	i	u	e	o
	あ	い	う	え	お
K	か	き	く	け	こ
S	さ	し	す	せ	そ
T	た	ち	つ	て	と
N	な	に	ぬ	ね	の
H	は	ひ	ふ	へ	ほ
M	ま	み	む	め	も
Y	や		ゆ		よ
R	ら	り	る	れ	ろ
W	わ				を (wo)
nn	ん				

The first row shows the vowel and the first column represents consonant. The vowel “a” あ represent the sound of “a” for “umbrella”, vowel “i” い represents “i” for igloo,” vowel “u” う represents “u” for boot, and vowel お represents “o for orange”.

か is pronounced “ka”, and き is “ki” so forth.

The consonant “r” is actually pronounced more likely “L” sounds.

Japanese numbers

1	Ichi	一	21	Ni juu ichi	二十一
2	Ni	二	22	Ni juu ni	二十二
3	San	三	23	Ni juu san	二十三
4	Yon/shi	四	24	Ni juu shi/yon	二十四
5	Go	五	25	Ni juu go	二十五
6	Roku	六	26	Ni juu roku	二十六
7	Nana/shichi	七	27	Ni juu nana/shichi	二十七
8	Hachi	八	28	Ni juu hachi	二十八
9	Kyuu/ku	九	29	Ni juu kyuu/ku	二十九
10	Juu	十	30	San juu	三十
11	Juu ichi	十一	31	San juu ichi	三十一
12	Juu ni	十二	42	Yon juu ni	四十二
13	Juu san	十三	53	Go juu san	五十三
14	Juu shi/yon	十四	64	Roku juu shi/yon	六十四
15	Juu go	十五	75	Nana juu go	七十五
16	Juu roku	十六	86	Hachi juu roku	八十六
17	Juu shichi/nana	十七	97	Kyuu juu nana/shichi	九十七
18	Juu hachi	十八	98	Kyuu juu hachi	九十八
19	Juu kyuu/ku	十九	99	Kyuu juu kyuu	九十九
20	Ni juu	二十	100	hyaku	百

Japanese numbers are quite systematic. For example, if you want to say 35, you will say “three ten five” in Japanese. 68 is “six ten eight” in Japanese.

Highly recommended website for the primary school students and their family.

“Kids web Japan” is developed by the Japanese government, and full of Japanese information. You could learn some Japanese language as well as Japanese culture. Information for the cultural aspects (under “What’s cool: popular culture for young” and “High Tech”) are regularly updated. This website has an excellent link to other topics such as “animals and plants,” “transportation,” “sports,” “entertainment” and of course, “general information of Japan.” I found very interesting places to visit with my primary school age kids by looking up the link from this wonderful webpage.

Finally I would like to add my appreciation to our two Year five students. These students asked me to teach more Japanese symbols outside their Japanese lessons. If there any Japanese aspects that you would like to learn or find out (outside normal Japanese lessons), please let me know. I would like to share the Japanese information in the school newsletter.

Arigatoo gozaimasu (thank you).

Tomoko Yamashita