



*Minasan Konnichiwa* (Hello, everyone)

This year, Library lessons and Japanese lessons will alternate by each semester. In term one and two, Year three to six students are having a Japanese lesson once a week. Japanese lessons for Prep to Year two students are in the second semester.

Our main topic for Year three and four is “about me.” The students will learn how to read, write and say their own name in Japanese. They are encouraged to talk about their favourite things in Japanese. Throughout term one, students are looking at some geographical features in Japan.

Year five and six students will learn to talk about themselves in Japanese. They will look up one of the main Japanese symbols called “Hiragana” throughout this semester. The students will also create a self- introduction poster in Japanese. Some of their excellent work will be sent to our sister school in Japan. During the lessons, the students will look at environmental landscapes in Japan in a slide show and some video programs.

One Year four class is taking an experimental special Japanese program this semester. The focus is food production, harvesting and cooking. The students just undertook the bean seed planting last week after learning what could be required to help the seed to germinate. We hope that the seeds will germinate and grow well to harvest the crispy yummy beans in term two.

I am also organising a weekly gardening activity every Tuesday at lunch time. Students who are interested in helping out watering, weeding and cleaning up the Japanese garden and the vegetable garden are more than welcome to join us. Our Japanese garden captain, and other very responsible Year six students have been working hard every week. As a whole school, we would like to increase our food production. If you have any spare vegetable (or flower) seeds, or plant cuttings to donate to the school, could you kindly contact Ms Frowd, Mrs McGeoch, or me? You could also leave a message at the office. We will get back ASAP.

Finally, I would like to add my appreciation to Mrs. Sidwell (Lucy 2C’s mum) who came to water the Japanese garden during the school holiday. We are very fortunate to have ongoing support from the students and the community to maintain and develop this special garden at our school.

*Arigatoo goziamasu* (Thank you very much)

Tomko Yamashita (Japanese teacher)