

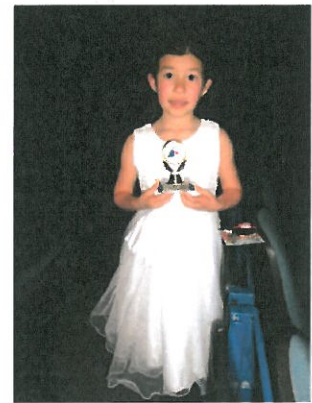
*Minasan Konnichiwa* (Hello everyone)

There is very exciting news from the Japanese program at our school.

Firstly, as you have already noticed, the Japanese garden has begun to form very nicely. Thank you to all the people who came to assist us last Saturday to add more plants to make the Japanese garden look great! Special appreciation to the following students who helped us with weeding, digging, planting and organising the special soils and mulches to the garden: Neria (2A), Seth (5B), Caleb (1B) Jasmine (2A), Gabrielle (5A), Lexus (2C), Lucas (1B), and Lucy (Prep C). Without their help, we may not have completed the work during the working bee!

I would also like to add my great appreciation to Wendy and James Lorimer (Miles 6A, Sara 4B and Damon 2A), Anita Jacobsen (Miquella OPA), and Bill Mallinson (Seth 5B and Maggie 2B) for continuously supporting us to make this wonderful Japanese garden. The Lorimer family has also donated and planted many bamboos and Nandina trees in the Japanese garden.

Last Friday, four students from our school challenged themselves by participating in the Frankston Japanese Speech Contest. The following three students entered in the lower primary school division: Grace 3A, Imogen 3A, and Hannah 3A. Tamzin 6C represented the upper primary school division. Lisa 2B competed in the new special division for the "Japanese environment," and came third to receive a trophy! All the girls had demonstrated excellent commitment to practice their speech regularly, and did their best on the night. I am sure I am not the only one to think "how lucky to be able to accompany these brave fantastic students!" I am truly proud of you all! I would like to also like to thank the students' families for their support them during the evening.



In the previous newsletter, I had mentioned the true story of "Hachiko." Grade three to six students read this story by looking at the Interactive White Board. Our school library has one copy of the "Hachiko-the true story of a royal dog" picture book. This picture book is written in English by Pamela S Turner. It is located on the picture book shelf under "T". The writing of the book is rather small and text is reasonably long, so it would be good idea for junior students' parents/guardians to read aloud to the students and enjoy talking about their own pets. For middle and senior students (especially if you love pets and animals) it is a sad but heart- warming story to read. If you would like to have a copy for yourself, Robinson book store in Frankston should be able to obtain this book for you.

*Arigatoo gozaimasu* (Thank you very much)

Tomoko Yamashita (Japanese teacher)