

Minasan Konnichiwa (Hello everyone)



Huge *arigatoo* (thank you) for Year three, four, five and six students for giving me a memorable time through teaching you all during semester one. I vividly remembered making sticky rice dumplings with Year three students as a part of a chemical science experiment, Year four students' beautiful cherry flower drawing as a plant biology learning in Japanese (many



junior students adore Year four students' drawings and keep asking "when can we do this?"), Year five students' ninja theme learning, and sushi making with some year six students. Speical *arigatoo* (thank you) to the Year six



students. During term two Japanese lessons (in conjunction with their Business and Economy learning through Japanese), they have worked hard to create shops for Year one students. It was a great joy for me to watch Year six students inviting Year one students to their shops by saying, "*irassyai irassyai*" (please come to have a look at our shop), showing their products, or explaining how to play games in the shops in a very kind caring manner. I saw many Year one students' big smile while going around shops, purchasing many goods with the



pretend money created by the year six students, trying out games in a variety of Year 6 students' original shops.

During semester two, Prep, Year one and two students learn Japanese. I kept saying to the students "I am so happy to see you all" because many students participate enthusiastically and constantly showed great care to each other.

During this term, the focus for the prep students is development of Japanese listening, speaking, motor coordination, and social skills. The students will learn basic Japanese greetings, numbers, and classroom instructions by singing Japanese songs, playing games, and interacting with our Japanese puppets. They will be also exposed to Japanese culture and language by watching, listening, and reading aloud Japanese picture books and folk stories. They will also have opportunities to deepen their comprehension of the stories by doing related craft activities.

The theme for year one and two is based on their geography integrated studies. The students will learn some geography knowledge and concept by partially using Japanese. The students will increase their skills to locate Australia, Japan and other countries of interest by looking up various types of world maps and using the direction and distance words such as up, down, near and far. Year two students will learn Japanese words for north and south, and the reasons why sometimes we need to use north and south instead of up and down to describe location of their places of interest. The students will look at various national flags and talk about the meanings behind some of the flags. The students will also discuss about geographically, culturally and personally important places.

If there are any questions and request, please feel free to contact me, or leave a message at the office. I will be working on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Arigatoo gozaimasu (Thank you very much)

Tomoko Yamashita (Japanese teacher)