Japanese Day 2014

The staff and students had a fabulous day on Tuesday, May 20th being immersed in many different Japanese cultural activities and experiences. We started with an assembly in the performing arts room, where students shared some facts they had learnt about Sumo Wrestling and Taiko Drumming. Other students also showed some of the Japanese ‘koi’ (carp) they had made in lessons when learning about Children’s Day (which was celebrated in Japan on May 5th).

Congratulations to the many students who received certificates in recognition for their efforts in Japanese classes.

After recess everyone was busy getting together with their ‘buddy class’ doing their cultural activities. The activities which occurred on the day were:

- Making Onigiri and wax paintings (Ms Brodie Year 4/5 and Ms Laredo Receptions)
- Making Onigiri and chopstick games (Ms Barnes Year 4/5 and Ms De Ravin Receptions)
- Fan decorating and Green tea tasting (Year 8 and Year 2/3)
- Creating ornamental Japanese bookmarks and Sushi making (Year 3/4 and Year 9)
- Making Miso Soup and Japanese paper scrolls (Ms Love Year 6/7 and Ms Waters Year 1/2)
- Cooking Okonomiyaki and origami (Mr Lombardi Year 6/7 and Ms Bruce Year 1/2)

During Pastoral Care a group of 30 students took part in a Taiko Drumming workshop at the Leisure Centre. The students were exceptionally good at learning a Taiko routine which they performed later to the school audience.

After lunch, we all watched the Matsuri Taiko Drumming group perform. Many of us were in awe of the sound and rhythm of the drums, as well as the energy of the performers. The students were an amazing audience and even participated in learning some rhythms for some of the routines in the performance.

At the end of the day, the Sumo Wrestling challenge began. It was fun to watch some of the students wear the sumo suits to try to win their ‘bout’. Ms Bruce won the ‘bout’ against Ms Brodie!

Congratulations to all students for their involvement in the day and thankyou to all staff and parents who helped in making the day a success.

Here are some quotes from students about the 2014 Japanese Day:

‘The Miso soup was really nice. I ate it with chopsticks” (Kaliesha Wilson)
“I really liked how we made the scrolls. I wrote my name in Japanese” (Hayden Mason)
“I liked the seaweed and I liked the rice too” (Alex Vidler-May)
“I liked the Panda bears that we made out of rice and seaweed” (Shylie Mason)
“It was really fun and I liked being in the performance. The Sumo wrestling was really funny” (Lachlan Dodd)
“I think we should have another Japanese Day” (Jackson Davis)
“I liked the part where we tried to use the chopsticks and I also liked being in the performance” (Mary-Jane Strauss)
“I loved the sumo wrestling and sushi” (Daniel Black)
“I loved making the Japanese dolls” (Jorja Male)
School Garden

The Year 8 students have cleared our garden of weeds and have planted some vegetables. We had a minor setback due to some vandalism, where plants were ripped up and stolen but this hasn’t deterred our efforts, so things are still moving along.

I recently attended a workshop run by the NRM and Opal agencies that provided many helpful tips and ideas for gardening at school and at home. The author of the acclaimed book One Magic Square, Lolo Houbein, was the guest speaker. Her book is like the gardening bible. She provided many helpful tips to keep gardens flourishing and sustainable. Not only were her tips helpful for school gardens but they are also great for home, hobby and large gardens.

I will be employing much of her advice into MCC’s garden. Hopefully, students will also bring their newly acquired knowledge home. Growing gardens at home is a great family activity and is a good way to promote healthy eating, getting outdoors and even saving a bit of money on fruit and vegetables.

We are building an insect hotel in our garden. Insect gardens are designed to attract and increase the beneficial insects into the garden. This will also provide opportunities for students to monitor biodiversity and to investigate mini-beasts.

Did you know? There are about 10 million species of insect in the world and the average garden can hold over 2000 different species! Very few of these cause significant damage to our prized flowers, fruit and vegetables.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Temme Bros Hardware store for donating a lot of seeds to the school. Any support we can get from the community is much appreciated. If you think you might be able to help support the school and more importantly the students we are looking for the following supplies: Pea straw, quality soil, manure, plastic yoghurt, cream or ice-cream containers, 1 litre milk cartons, toilet rolls, sleepers, stakes, gravel, pallets, a variety of sizes of plastic pipes/tubes and any thick plastic sheets/liners.

If you can help, please contact the front office and leave a message. I will return your call as soon as possible.

Thank you

Sonny Lombardi