

# Japanese Teachers' Association of NSW



JTAN

ABN 94 045 344 808

PO Box 6453 North Sydney 2060

<https://sites.google.com/site/jtanaustralia/home>

## September 2011 Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

Hopefully you are all having a good term and are nearly done with the massive amounts of marking and report writing this term always has.

### **President's Message**

Dear JTAN Members,

We are fast approaching the end of Term 3. It has certainly been a hectic term. We have just had our HSC orals in Week 3/4 with the Continuers trialing the new lap top recording system. Departure has also been proposed by BOS for the Extension course for 2014 onwards. Consultation, through an online survey is due to begin shortly and I encourage all JTAN members to participate in this survey to have your say. Meanwhile, Sally Shimada from DET has created online discussion forum and it would be interesting to share our thoughts and opinions online.

Languages being an elective subject, we are constantly struggling with the numbers game (bums on seat), recruiting students, competing with other subjects that may poach our potential students!!! I sometimes feel as though my job as a teacher is like a little hamster going round and round on a wheel only to crash and burn. Short breaks after each term does provide much needed rest but also allows me to reassess my current teaching practice....am I stuck in a rut? Am I a good teacher? What do students think a good teacher is?

Here is a list of the top ten requirements of good teaching by Richard Leblanc which I found meaningful. I hope that this may interest you too.

- 1) It's about not only motivating students to learn, but teaching them how to learn, and doing so in a manner that is relevant, meaningful, and memorable. It's about caring for your craft, having a passion for it, and conveying that passion to everyone, most importantly to your students.

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- 2) It's about doing your best to keep on top of your field, reading sources, inside and outside of your areas of expertise, and being at the leading edge as often as possible.
- 3) Good teaching is about listening, questioning, being responsive, and remembering that each student and class is different.
- 4) Good teaching is about not always having a fixed agenda and being rigid, but being flexible, fluid, experimenting, and having the confidence to react and adjust to changing circumstances. It's about getting only 10 percent of what you wanted to do in a class done and still feeling good.
- 5) Good teaching is also about style. Should good teaching be entertaining? You bet! Good teachers work the room and every student in it.
- 6) This is very important -- good teaching is about humour. It's about being self-deprecating and not taking yourself too seriously. It's often about making innocuous jokes, mostly at your own expense, so that the ice breaks and students learn in a more relaxed atmosphere where you, like them, are human with your own share of faults and shortcomings.
- 7) Good teaching is about caring, nurturing, and developing minds and talents. It's about devoting time, often invisible, to every student. It's also about the thankless hours of grading, designing or redesigning courses, and preparing materials to still further enhance instruction.
- 8) Good teaching is supported by strong and visionary leadership, and very tangible institutional support -- resources, personnel, and funds.
- 9) Good teaching is about mentoring, teamwork, and being recognized. Effective teaching should also be rewarded, and poor teaching needs to be remediate through training and development programs.
- 10) At the end of the day, good teaching is about having fun, experiencing pleasure and intrinsic rewards ... like locking eyes with a student in the back row and seeing the synapses and neurons connecting, thoughts being formed, the person becoming better, and a smile cracking across a face as learning all of a sudden happens.

See you at Term 4 AGM!

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### Annual General Meeting and **FREE** Workshop

The JTAN Committee have been organising an exciting AGM and workshop, which will be held on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011**. The AGM and workshop is **FREE** for financial members and is sure to be an invaluable professional development opportunity for our members. We are sure that all attendees will leave the workshop with a much greater understanding of how to incorporate useful teaching and learning strategies in their teaching and learning programs. Planned sessions include: Learning Language and Culture through Manga and Anime; Incorporating ICT in Language Teaching; and Effective Teaching in a Mixed Ability Stage 6 Classroom.

JTAN's AGM will also be held on the day and we are excited to announce that all attendees will receive a gift bag which is full of goodies, including a \$50 gift voucher for Intext.

We have provisions for country members, so that ALL JTAN members have the opportunity to attend this worthwhile event.

Registration for the AGM and Workshop is online and members can apply using the following link: [http://www.jtan.org.au/eventsshow.php?id=45\\*](http://www.jtan.org.au/eventsshow.php?id=45*)

Applications close on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011**. Unfortunately we will be unable to accept any registrations after this date due to planning. So to avoid disappointment, it's best to register ASAP.

### JTAN Resources For Sale

We are pleased to announce that we have two outstanding resources for sale.

#### *Stage 5 Listening Items Resource*

This resource has a total of 71 listening items that have been professionally recorded. The content is based around Stage 5, however they can also be used for other stages as well. The cost of the resource is \$80.00, which is pretty cheap considering the fantastic quality of its contents. Just think how easy it could be to create a listening assessment task! You will never have to stress about finding authentic listening texts again!

Contact: Aaron McLuckie [enquire@jtan.org.au](mailto:enquire@jtan.org.au) (02) 87413193

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### *Year 11 Semester 1 Beginners Assessment Kit (Published 2008)*

A great resource, which includes a range of reading, writing and listening tasks. The tasks are fully editable and are of varying difficulty levels. The cost of the resource is \$110.00.

If you would like to order either of the above resources, please email Teruko Sharif at: [pobox6453@jtan.org.au](mailto:pobox6453@jtan.org.au)

### **Year 10 Day**

The JTAN Committee would like to sincerely thank Donna Desiatnik for her outstanding organisation and execution of a fantastic Year 10 Day. Below is Donna's report on the day.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 300 students from 15 different schools braved the rain to participate in our inaugural "Natsu Matsuri" themed Japanese day at Sydney University. The day opened with a guest appearance by the famous J Pop band – The Whiteberrys, setting the scene and engaging the audience with their catchy video clip "Natsu matsuri". This was quickly followed by an informative presentation by the Japan Foundation staff and a spokesperson promoting the JET Program with some insight into his Japanese learning journey. (An attempt to inspire and tempt them as they contemplate their future plans.)

The next 4 hours were spent in mixed groups of 25, with students participating in three 75 minute sessions on a rotation including:

1. The amazing Race: where students needed to complete a range of language activities in small groups including listening to announcements, asking for directions, writing notes, origami, karaoke and more.
2. Theatre sports: students were given a scene at a matsuri to act out in front of the rest of class. Students were provided with a photo, key vocabulary, suggested sentence patterns and a sample script for support.

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3. Entertainment: Students gained an insight into aspects of a festival including a wonderful interactive Taiko performance by the Rhythm Hunters as well as an energetic performance of Soran dancing with opportunities for students to dance along with them.

From the feedback received thus far, it would appear that the day was a success in that it offered students:

- An opportunity to network with others who share an interest in Japan – a sense of community
- An opportunity to consolidate and further develop their language skills – build confidence
- Enrichment through various authentic cultural experiences including obento lunch
- Information on services available at Japan foundation as well as future opportunities/programs
- A chance to interact with and be taught by other experienced and enthusiastic Japanese teachers

I would like to thank the 20 staff for their active participation and enthusiasm. They all embraced their allocated role – as session leader or chaperone, with a high level of professionalism and commitment. It is also appropriate to acknowledge the ongoing support of the JTAN Committee members. I look forward to seeing more schools attend on 19 July 2012 – bigger and better!

Donna Desiatnik  
Year 10 Day Convenor

### **Expressions of Interest – JTAN Committee Members 2012**

At the AGM we will vote for new Committee Members. JTAN encourages all members to consider becoming a Committee Member, as it is a most educational and rewarding experience. If you are interested in becoming a JTAN Committee Member in 2012 or would like to nominate someone else, please see the attached application form.



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### **Draft Japanese Extension Film 2014 – 2018**

As you may be aware, the proposed film for the Japanese Extension Course 2014 – 2018 is 'Departures'. The Office of the Board of Studies will be releasing an online survey as part of the consultation process shortly. JTAN encourages all members to respond to this survey.

Sally Shimada has also started a discussion post on the Japanese Ning at: <http://jteacher.ning.com/forum/topics/your-thoughts-on-the-proposed-new-text-for-hsc-extesnion> where teachers are encouraged to post their thoughts.

### **Letter Exchange Activity**

Angela Radich is currently teaching English in Japan on the JET Program and has asked whether anyone would be interested in starting a letter exchange activity with her students.

She has about 240 year 11 (equivalent) students who do a weekly English writing class and 7 students in the English Club. She is thinking that each student could write a message in both English and Japanese so that the students in Japan and in Australia could practice writing in their second language.

If you are interested in this activity, please contact Angela directly at: [lawtalkinggirl@hotmail.com](mailto:lawtalkinggirl@hotmail.com)

Happy Marking and Report Writing!  
Aaron McLuckie  
JTAN Communications Officer