

Japanese Teachers' Association of NSW



(JTAN)
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Belrose 2085
<http://www.jtan.org.au>

November 2010 Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

We hope you are all keeping well and enjoyed your well-deserved break.

President's Message

In the recent September break many teachers took students to Japan, and there has been 'where-to', 'what-to' and 'how-to' of school trips with some interesting topics being debated among us.

I, too like many teachers, spent 2 weeks in Japan with 21 boys following the usual route of Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Hiroshima and finally Nagoya (sister school city). This year, I incorporated more lesson/workshop based activities and tried to keep students away from shopping as much as possible. We attended the earthquake experience centre, Tea ceremony followed by a Zen lecture and a meditation session with a head monk at a temple and a wagashi-making workshop. So, inevitably (also due to bad weather) we skipped Harajuku. What a great decision that was!

Harajuku seems no longer a safe place for our students to be wondering/exploring about. They are an easy target for spruikers and can end up in a very scary and dangerous situation. I am hearing, more and more, the same stories about Harajuku from different school groups. I cautiously ask any teachers with Harajuku in their itinerary for their up-coming trip to reconsider it carefully.

Finally, a big congratulations to all teachers of HSC Japanese as the curtain closes for the year with the extension paper being completed on 10th November. We may not always get the support we need from the school, but your endless enthusiasm and passion for Japanese and how you inspire and encourage your students is highly admired and valued by the JTAN community.

Treasurer's Message

Would all those teachers with outstanding cheques paid as honoraria for the work you have done, be banked as promptly as possible. There is a bank charge of \$12 which must be deducted when a request for the issuance of any new cheque.

JTAN AGM

The AGM was held on 23rd October, at MLC School, Burwood, where JTAN's direction for 2011 was discussed and the new committee members elected. The new committee members are as follows:

President: Cathleen Jin (Cranbook School)
Vice President: Naoko Henschke (Kambala)
Secretary: Elizabeth Sugimoto (North Sydney BHS)
Treasurer: Ken Gillespie (Fort Street High School)
Accounts Receivable: Teruko Sharif (Wenona)
Exam Director (Beg): Kyoko Kusumoto (Santa Sabina College)
Exam Director (Cont & Ext): Liberty Campbell (St. Pauls)
Communications Officer: Aaron McLuckie (MLC School)

The new committee and all JTAN members would like to sincerely thank the 2009-2010 committee members for their dedication to JTAN and Japanese teaching.

The new committee is looking forward to working with all members in the coming year. If you have any questions, requests, ideas or enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact the Secretary at PO Box 419, Belrose 2085 or email enquire@jtan.org.au.

The minutes of the AGM and contact details of the new committee members will be uploaded to the website (www.jtan.org.au) shortly.

A big congratulations to Ken Gillespie who won the fantastic return airline economy class ticket to Japan. Enjoy!!

AGM Workshop

A fantastic workshop was held in conjunction with the AGM on Saturday 23rd October. This was an outstanding professional development opportunity for all 45 participating teachers.

JTAN would like to sincerely thank all presenters for their expertise and the innovative ideas presented. Sue Xouris presented a session on the integration of all 3 scripts from a beginning level. Cathleen Jin presented some technology resources to enhance student engagement and motivation. Rosslyn English and Sally Mizoshiri presented an informative session on effective strategies to teach speaking and Françoise Reeves-Smith presented on preparing students for the monologue section of the Extension course. There was also a resource sharing session and these resources will be uploaded to the JTAN Website shortly.

It was great to see some regional members attend the workshop as well. Regional members are reminded that JTAN will pay for your travel and accommodation expenses for you to attend ONE workshop each year. If you would like more information about this, please don't hesitate to contact JTAN at: enquire@jtan.org.au.

JTAN Examinations

Hopefully you all found the examinations that are produced by JTAN to be useful. We would appreciate any feedback that you have about the exams. We encourage you to send us your feedback, both positive and negative, so that we can amend the process, which will ensure that the exams continue to remain at a high standard.

Japanese Beginners HSC Examination

At the AGM, some members expressed concern regarding the length of the Japanese Beginners HSC Examination paper (i.e. the amount of questions) and the limited amount of space provided for candidates to answer the written section of the examination. We are interested in receiving your views and opinions on the above matter before we draft a letter to send to the Office of the Board of Studies. Please send your comments to amcluckie@mlcsyd.nsw.edu.au

Expression of Interest – 2011 JTAN Examination Writers

JTAN is currently seeking people who would be interested in assisting the Examination Directors in the writing and preparation of 2011 JTAN Examination Papers. If you are interested, please contact JTAN at enquire@jtan.org.au.

2011 Teacher and Student Workshops

The JTAN committee is currently planning for 2011 Teacher and Student workshops. It is essential that these workshops cater for our members and their students' needs. If you have any in-servicing needs or ideas for student or teacher workshops, please don't hesitate to send them to us at enquire@jtan.org.au.

Incursion Idea

As the year slowly comes to an end, we are often looking for ways to keep our students engaged and learning. One way to do this, as you all know, is through food!!! Thank you for Sally Mizoshiri for the information below.

JTAN teachers may be interested in getting obentoo from Mr Kondo.

Contact Details

Excellent Group Pty.Ltd.
Arioki Kondo
Managing Director
www.exg.com.au
0413 888 616

Great idea for an incursion!

If members have any other ideas that they feel would be good end of year activities send them through to enquire@jtan.org.au and I will circulate them to all members.

Enjoy the term!!

Regards,

Aaron McLuckie
JTAN Communications Officer

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