

CHRISTCHURCH JAPANESE IMMERSION AFTERNOON 2009 REPORT

This year the Senior Japanese Christchurch Area Immersion Afternoon was held in the Big Room at Christchurch Boys' High School. Because the event was unable to be held in 2008, it was open to both Year 12 and 13 students, although it is primarily designed for Year 12 students.

Ninety three students registered for the event, the very large majority of these being Year 12 students. Several students however, mostly because of illness, did not attend; however we catered and planned for 93. The following schools were represented:- Papanui High School, Rangitapu Girls' School, Ashburton College, Christchurch Boys' High School, St Andrew's College, Kaiapoi High School, Ellesmere College, Cashmere High School and St Margaret's College.

The good attendance and participation rate of Japanese teachers and assistants meant that the afternoon was extremely successful and a big thanks must go to all teachers who put in such a big effort in pre-organisation, resource making, shopping, food preparation, registration and venue setup and the myriad other tasks they performed.

Taka Kuze once again proved to be an amazing MC for the event, and big thanks also go to Tania Morgan and Masako Mizusawa, Jo Barber, Taka Kuze, Libbi Wood and Virginia Simcock for presenting four great sessions in a row each!

After the teaching and learning sessions, Taka led the students in a singing and dancing session, and then everyone enjoyed an obentoo meal with misoshiru, ocha and fruit. After cleanup the annual Kantabunka competition was underway, as hotly contested as ever, with the native speaker "collect the most *tasukete* cards" additional competition adding extra excitement. After prizes were awarded, tired but happy students went home. Various teachers and students have later mentioned how valuable and enjoyable the event was.

Thanks to Tomooka Sensei, our national advisor and to Reiko Itoh of Canterbury University who both attended and helped out as well in various ways. Also thanks to Sarah Perkins - advisor, Jo Dittfort - St Margaret's, and Takahiro Katoh - Christchurch Boys' High School for also helping out in various ways. A big thank you must also go to Linda Tappenden of Cashmere High School who, even though she had just had an operation, did much of the planning and organisation behind the scenes!

We would like to thank the Sasakawa Foundation for sponsoring this event and making it very affordable for all students. We would also like to thank Christchurch Boys' High School, for providing the great venue, and, all teachers who helped make this event a big success once again.

We hope we can run another such successful event in 2010.

JANET SIRISOMPHONE, ORGANISER



Kanji creation



Owan ready for Onigiri making



Anthony Thomas,
Cashmere High, with his
Kanji creation



Food tasting activity



Kanji creation Mk II



Libbi Wood, Ashburton College,
food tasting