

## **Report on the JETAA National High School Japanese DVD Contest 2009**

The JETAA National High School Japanese DVD Contest 2009 was run by JETAA Auckland (The JET Programme Alumni Association of Auckland) which is an alumni association created to serve the bonds of friendship developed by the JET Programme (Japan Exchange Teaching Programme) participants. One of JETAA Auckland's aims is to support and encourage New Zealand high school students in the study of Japanese language & culture. This competition has been running since 2001 with the support of the Auckland Consulate General of Japan and CLAIR (Council of Local and International Relations).

The aim of this competition is to encourage students who are studying the Japanese language to be able to share with students in Japan some aspect of their life here in New Zealand while practising their Japanese oral skills in a fun and practical way using technology which is now widely used in schools and homes.

The competition was advertised through the following website and email list:

- Website for NZAJLT (New Zealand Association of Language Teachers)
- NZJNET

Students who entered the competition were required to produce a DVD in Japanese which was to be approximately 2 -5minutes long. The DVD was to show a piece of their life in New Zealand i.e. daily life, school life/events, sports, their neighbourhood, local history, culture etc.

DVDS were judged on the following criteria:

- Use of Japanese language (range of vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, speed, intonation)
- (based on the level they are studying)
- Content (relevance, interest, originality)
- Presentation (quality of videoing, props, setting, expression of speakers, eye catching qualities.)

The competition was divided into TWO categories:

- Junior Competition (Students studying Years 9, 10 and 11 Japanese), and
- Senior Competition (Students studying Years 12 and 13 Japanese)

Schools had the opportunity to receive a DVD of the prize winners from 2006/2007. Schools were to e-mail their number of entries by June 2009. DVDs were to be sent in by 28 September 2009.

DVDs were judged on 9 October 2009. There were two judges - Caroline Watson from the JETAA Auckland Executive and Grant Taylor – Team Solutions Languages Advisor.

Unfortunately, no entries in the Senior Category followed the criteria correctly and were up to standard, so it was decided that no prizes could be awarded for the Senior Category this year. The standard of the Junior Category entries was high. The DVDs produced were entertaining, had well developed, original story lines, were well videoed and used a high level of spoken Japanese for their year levels. There were

first, second and third prizes and certificates for the Junior Category. Prizes were sponsored by the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education.

**The winners for 2009 are as follows:**

***Junior Category***

- 1st Prize \$300 Kaipara College 'Kiuii no Ryoori' Year 11 Group
- 2nd Prize \$200 Golden Bay High School 'Friday' Year 11 Group
- 3rd Prize \$100 Albany Junior High School 'Who Ate My Fish and Chips?' Year 10 Group

Certificates and cheques were sent to the prize winners by Week 4 of Term 4. The prize winning DVDs were sent in to be compiled and edited onto one DVD by Marquee Enterprises Ltd.

The winning DVDs for 2008/2009 will be sent with the 2010 JET participants who leave for Japan in August 2010, to be used in schools in Japan to educate Japanese high school students about life in New Zealand.

Team Solutions Languages Advisor Grant Taylor, who has a particular interest in the use of video as a tool for learning in the languages classroom, is in the process of producing a promotional DVD of the competition to encourage more schools to enter the competition. This will include interviews with previous winners and step-by-step advice on how to produce a DVD with your Japanese class.

JETAA Auckland would like to express our deep appreciation to the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education for their generous sponsorship of the prizes for this contest for the past four years. Without their support, sourcing suitable prizes would have been difficult.

Thank you very much.

Caroline Watson

JETAA National High School Japanese DVD Contest Coordinator