

Report on the JETAA National High School Japanese DVD Contest 2008

The JETAA National High School Japanese DVD Contest 2008 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 JET Programme (The 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 was 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 practicing 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 websites and mailing lists:

- Website for NZAJLT (New Zealand Association of Language Teachers)
- NZJNET
- Mailing list for Japanese teachers in Auckland
- Letter posted out with Monbusho information by Auckland Consulate General of Japan

Students who entered the competition were required to produce a DVD in Japanese which was to be approximately 2 -5 minutes long. The DVD was to show a piece of their life here 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)

Senior Competition (Students studying Years 12 and 13 Japanese)

Schools had the opportunity to receive a DVD of the prize winners from 2006/2007. 27 schools requested and received a copy. Schools were to e-mail their number of entries by 6 June 2008. DVDs were to be sent in by 29 September 2008.

DVDs were judged on 16 October 2008. There were three judges- two were from the JETAA Auckland Executive and one was a Japanese teacher (native Japanese speaker) at an Auckland High School.

There were first, second and third prizes and certificates for each category. Prizes were sponsored by the Sasakawa Fund for Japanese Language Education. Unfortunately there were not enough entries for three prizes in the Senior Category.

The winners for 2008 are as follows:

Senior Category

1st Prize	\$300	Tauranga Girls' College	'Pavlova'	Amy Hill & Holly Woulfe
2nd Prize	\$200	Home School Nelson	'Life as a Homeschool Student'	Sam Bennett

Junior Category

1st Prize	\$300	Massey High School	'A Ninja in NZ'	Yr 11 Group
2nd Prize	\$200	Massey High School	'Life at Massey High School'	Yr 10 Group
3rd Prize	\$100	Tauranga Girls College	'Life in NZ'	Catherine Milson

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 will be sent with the 2009 JET participants who leave for Japan in August 2009 to be used in schools in Japan to educate Japanese high school students about life in New Zealand.

Over the past eight years there have been many high quality DVDs created which have not only informed Japanese students about many different aspects of New Zealand society, through watching New Zealand teenagers on screen, they have inspired and empowered students throughout New Zealand to talk about their lives in Japanese

Despite 27 schools showing an interest in the 2008 contest, only a small number of schools completed a DVD to enter into the contest.

It is the dream of JETAA Auckland to see the competition grow and have more Japanese teachers and students throughout New Zealand gain the courage to use the now readily available technology to create a short DVD on some aspect of their life in Japanese. It is a great opportunity to incorporate technology into Japanese lessons and to give students some reality, meaning, enthusiasm and fun into the learning of Japanese and to practice their oral skills.

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

Thank you very much.

Caroline Watson
JETAA National High School Japanese DVD Contest Coordinator