

### **Letter Exchange and Amazing Race Treasure Hunt: Rosmini College and Botany Downs Secondary College**

Michelle Lodge from Botany Downs Secondary College (BDSC) and Jennifer Yeh from Rosmini College organised a letter exchange between the year 11 and 12 students at their schools. It was compulsory for all Rosmini students to take part, and voluntary for the students at BDSC as there are a greater number of students studying Japanese.

#### **Aims:**

- To expose students to Japanese language and culture outside a school environment. With the treasure hunt activity, students will be exposed to numerous aspects of Japanese culture and have the opportunity to use spoken Japanese around the Auckland city area with their pen pals and native speakers of Japanese;
- It is also a cultural life experience and opportunity to connect with language students from other schools. Students will be sharing opinions and interacting with others using target language, making it a life skill instead of something used just in the classroom;
- To facilitate learning beyond a classroom setting and encourage students to become life-long learners of a language that they can use in their daily lives, regardless of whether they are living in Japan or New Zealand. By using the language outside the classroom setting it will help them to gain confidence and see the language as a life skill;
- To make learning Japanese more than just a subject at school. The end goal is to bridge the gap between students and all native speakers of Japanese in the restaurants, shopping malls, and streets all around Auckland city. They will also become comfortable conversing with people students never thought they would be able to speak with before.

Students who participated had to exchange letters with their pen pal at least four times a term, starting in Term One. There were no guidelines about what they could write about and the letters were not corrected. The goal was for the students to communicate in Japanese and motivate them to express themselves.

In Week Three of Term Three the students met at Soto Restaurant in Ponsonby. This restaurant has a *tatami* room and a traditional Japanese garden, thereby giving the students an authentic Japanese experience as possible. All instructions were given in Japanese, and the students had to find their partner and sit next to them for the meal. They were given an 'Amazing Race' handout, where the questions were all written in Japanese. This gave the students time to work out what they had to look for once we went into Queen Street. We were at the restaurant for an hour, then we went to Aotea Square, where the students were given 40 minutes to find the answers to the questions by visiting different shops in the area. The students were all given maps with the area that they had to stay in highlighted on it.

The day was a success, with all the students enjoying the day's activities. I would add a greater variety of shops in next time and also call and ask the shops closer to the activity if it is ok for us to use their shop. We had asked shops' permission last term when we designed the task, but one shop forgot and the manager was not too happy.

I would like to thank the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education for their support and interest in this project. Their financial support covered the cost of the buses, relief and prizes. The feedback from the students was extremely positive.

Michelle Lodge

TIC Japanese

Botany Downs Secondary College

Magazine Article from two students:

こんにちは！ (Konnichiwa!)

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August, a group of Year 11 and 12 Japanese students from BDSC went to a Japanese restaurant in the city called Soto. There they met with their pen pals from Rosmini College in North Shore. They enjoyed a delicious meal of teriyaki chicken, teriyaki salmon, or sushi at the award-winning restaurant, while getting to know their pen pals. They then went off in pairs and took part in "The Amazing Race" with all clues in Japanese. This challenged

the students in their reading skills and made them work together with their partner. Overall, the day was very fun as well as beneficial towards their learning. Thanks to Ms Lodge (BDSC) and Miss Yeh (Rosmini College) for organising this enjoyable day.

さよなら！(Sayonara!)

By Soumiya Pushparajah and Kit-Wah Huang

<h1>THE AMAZING RACE</h1>		
	<p>WINNING TEAM</p> <p>NAME OF PARTICIPANT:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Signature _____ Date _____</p>	
		

## VOCAB

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さがして to look for/ search for

めいぐるみ soft toy

おおふく return (ticket)

さがして to look for/ search for

レート rate

ために つかわれて to be used for

ではなく not

せっけん soap

たまねぎ spring onion

におい smell

とる to take (off)- get rid of



Ms Lodge and Miss Yeh would like to thank the Sasakawa Foundation for their sponsorship and helping make this day possible.

## The Amazing Race

Created by M.Lodge and J.Yeh 2009

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## The Amazing Race

BRINGING JAPANESE TO LIFE  
JAPANESE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

HOW QUICKLY  
CAN YOU FIND THE  
INFORMATION  
USING THE  
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THE RACE IS ON!



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