

Kanji Camp

Japanese Language & Cultural Exploration

www.kanjicamp.info

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NEWS FLASH

Special Edition

Fall 2006

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Dear Students and Parents,

Within this News Flash you will find valuable information about program activities and upcoming Fall events. We hope this is helpful in better understanding our programs. Regards, the Tutoring Team

Students Decide to Delay Competency Testing for further Study

Kanji Club students have been focused for the past many months on preparations for the world-wide competency exam in December. As planned, last week we took a pre-test to determine our readiness. Students did very well on the reading and writing section of the practice test. Students selected the correct kanji on the exam and used linguistic reasoning to guess on questions with more advanced words.

During the audio section of the test, students who regularly practice their basic vocabulary did very well deciphering information via grammatical clues once the audio was slowed by the instructor. However, many were concerned with the speed of the audio delivery. Therefore, the students discussed the goal to test in December at length.

They raised concerns about having limited time outside of Club to continue to prepare for the exam. With school responsibilities and sports commitments, students talked about whether or not testing for the experience was a realistic goal. As a group they decided to wait until next year. The advantage of this thoughtful decision is that they would have an addition 13 months to study as a team. Also students preferred the idea of testing together and striving for a higher level. JSP students have also decided to preparing for the exam. So Kanji Camp should have a nice size group for the trek to the test next year.

We are very proud of the progress students have made and the thoughtful decision they have made to study longer and more diligently for the test.

Kanji Club Students Can Be Spirited Away this Quarter

October offers Kanji Club students a chance to be Spirited Away to Japan during October's Spirited Away Dinner. Come to dinner as your favorite Japanese character or cultural interest. Don your best costume highlighting some aspect of Japanese culture or society. From anime to geisha, ninjas to warriors, we expect a visually interesting event. Prize awarded for the best costumes. Dinner will be at Sansui Restaurant at Carmel. Cost will be Japanese dinner and refillable beverage. Please estimate roughly \$20-25/person. Families welcome to join in the fun. Please RSVP to sensei@kanjicamp.info.

Early November Kanji Camp plans to go to the International Festival. Kanji Club and JSP students will don our Japanese program T-shirts and explore the 30th Annual International Festival together. The San Jose Taiko group is expected to perform at the Festival. It's a great chance to see Japanese culture in action.

We have learned that advance discount tickets available at Central Indiana Marsh stores. And AAA membership card holders can save \$2 on adult tickets at the door. We can also order tickets in bulk if families want to join in. The cost per ticket is \$7. Parents interested in helping chaperone and helping with carpooling, please contact the office via sensei@kanjicamp.info.

Kanji Camp Closed on Monday, October 16, 2006

Instructors will be in Chicago at the Japanese embassy. Typically scheduled Monday lessons will receive a make up lesson. Please contact the main office to reschedule your lesson.

Dragon Invasion

In September, the Kanji Camp website received a face lift. We encourage you all to enjoy the "music and fire" on the Japanese studies side of the website.

-Kanji Camp T-shirts

We have finally found some imagery to match our school programs. Students who wish to order a **Weekly Warrior**, **Kanji Club**, or **Adult JSP** program shirt simply email the main office.

Accepting Applications

Kanji Club is presently accepting students for October. Although the Kanji Club Dragons program is full, the Kanji Club Tiger program is welcoming students interested in Japanese fluency. Perhaps, your student has friends at school seeking more educational challenge or Japanese practice. Encourage them to join you on Wednesday nights for Kanji Camp. Interested parents can email us at: Tutoring@Kanjicamp.info

New Payment Options

IBLCl/Kanji Camp program tuition can now be paid by credit card via Paypal. Simply add a modest 3% processing fee to your tuition due and email: Payment@Kanjicamp.info

New School Location

Thanks to your commitment to our programs, on-time tuition payments and student referrals, were about ready for a move to bigger space.

We've even received an Op to move next door to a Japanese restaurant, which could be Yummy. Either way, we cannot wait...thanks for your patience!



LET'S GO!

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INSTITUTE

A BlazeCom program

the founders of:

Kanji Camp
Japanese Language & Cultural Exploration

www.KanjiCamp.info

TO:

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- ☉ Individual & Group Tutoring
- ☉ KanjiCamp Summer Submersion
- ☉ Japanese for Specific Purposes



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Parent Questions & Our Answers

Q: What's the hardest thing about teaching Japanese to non-Japanese students?

Generally, the challenge is getting students to practice Japanese disciplines and consider Japanese protocols in the class setting. For example, students don't becoming good bowers, if they never bow to classmates or instructors. Particularly teen students don't realize that each time they do something a certain way, it creates a habit. And in our experience these habits do not automatically change once they reach a fluency level to have a native instructor. For example, students who communicate "lack of time" as an excuse to not completing independent study don't realize that this is not an acceptable excuse in Japanese educational or professional settings. Additionally, that student quickly becomes the student who doesn't move their language skills forward. In Japanese culture it is the teacher of the art form whose job it is to instruct the student on what is and isn't correct. To second guess or constantly question the instructor is seen as highly disrespectful within Japanese culture and among the most traditional arts like tea ceremony, flower arranging or martial arts. Often this disrespect for rank would be grounds for dismissal from the school. While we do not run things in such an extreme manner, Kanji Camp wants all students to be successful with their Japanese studies based on real world applications. Our Japanese instructors have first hand knowledge of this and we encourage students to take advantage of this consult. Kanji Camp curriculum and class protocols are written to teach Japanese social or cultural etiquette as well as language skills. Students who choose to comply with the simplicities of these disciplines are very successful in managing their relationships with Japanese instructors, friends or future bosses. Students who do not follow simple protocol requests or behavior change requests do not create successful relationships with the Japanese. The simple reason is that they are accidentally applying Americanized individualized thinking to the situation.

New Study Opportunities at Kanji Camp

MANGA SHISHINKI 1 Have some friends that are considering dropping the language at school because Japanese has become "no fun"? Invite them to consider **JAPANESE thru MANGA**, a course for teens with little or no language experience. Students will learn beginning Japanese communication via Japanese comic book examples. Participants dedicated to enjoying the course will be speaking basic Japanese successfully in no time. **The seminar will last for Seven (7) Monday afternoons. NOVEMBER 6, 2006 to DECEMBER 18, 2006** Tell your friends to enroll in **MANGA SHISHINKI 1** by October 21, 2006.

Interested in Culture? Ask about Winter Break Kanji Camp