

Kanji Camp

Japanese Language & Cultural Exploration

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NEWS FLASH

Edition

May 2007

Within this News Flash you will find valuable information about program activities and/or upcoming events. Regards, the Tutoring Team

Yummy, Yummy Yaki-Soba!

In April, Kanji Club students began a geography study of Japan. Starting at the top of our Japanese "ice cream float", Kanji Club members have been learning about the country side and cool temperatures of northern Japan. Amongst the staple foods of northern Japan, includes specially flavored ramen and various noodle dishes.

On Wednesday, April 25, 2007, Kanji Club members learned to make Yaki-Soba. Typically, a spring festival and party dish popular throughout all of Japan. The dish is commonly made in April and May during outdoor Cherry Blossom viewing. Students peeled, chopped, scissor cut and stir-fried. As each student devoured two or more helpings each, its safe to say students loved this flavorful dish. And clearly from the pictures below, teamwork made the delicious dream work. ☺



Top Left: Chris-kun rescues niku from the veggies, using a non-traditional chopstick hold. **Top Center:** Kanji Club students work together to sautee carrots, while cutting and stirfrying meet for YakiSoba. **Bottom Left:** Alexia-san is crying about cutting ねぎ wedges, while finally we capture resident Ninja, Taylor-san on film putting pease in the pod. **Bottom Center:** Kevin-san proves guys can "fry it up in a pan." **Bottom Right:** Toshiko-sensei gives pointers on how to handle meat special ordered from the butcher shop. ☺

Connect the Japan IV, stat. . .

Kanji Camp short educational videos and cultural film clips can be found on-line via YouTube Join the KanjiCamp forum. ☺

Night at the Museum

Although its doubtful Ben Stiller will be wandering the halls, we have scheduled a night at the Indianapolis Art Museum to view the Japanese art exhibit as a special fieldtrip on Thursday evening, May 24, 2007.

Parents and siblings are welcome to join us, so please RSVP as soon as possible, so we have a final head count of those who can commit to this date. Our numbers affect the number of dosents who will be on duty to educate us and answer questions.

We will meet at the classroom at 6 p.m. to caravan to the art museum. Volunteers are welcome for helping to transport the students. Museum closes at 8 p.m.

Japanese Décor

Like the cool new tall statue next to the large tiger *kakejiku* in the classroom, Looking for a cool Japanese Shoji Screen for your room, save your pennies and then find some hand painted Hokusai like screens for your room? Check out TJ Max in Castleton and Noblesville.

If cooking is more your kitch stuff and you're interested in some contemporary rice bowls or tea pots, visit Pier 1 Imports in Castleton. Thankfully they seem to be going back to their roots in oriental style. And check out the 3 tier wood carved statue, See, Hear & Speak No Evil that Mr. E is drooling over. ☺



LET'S GO!

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Kanji Camp
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STUDENT NOTIFICATION

*Please no Cows in the
KC Classroom!*

ガムはだめです!!!!

だめ!! だめ!!

GGRRRUMBLE!!



In Japanese culture it is extremely impolite to chew gum in business or school settings. While gum does sell in Japan, chewing it in front of others is thought in society of as "cow chewing its cud".

Just FYI, it is a major pet peeve of all the KC instructors, both American and Japanese. Gum interferes with your ability to pronounce words correctly and speak fluid sentences. Therefore, while it should go without saying, absolutely no gum chewing is allowed in the Kanji Club classroom! So please dispose of it in your own home garbage cans before coming to class, some of the instructor's gag reflexes cause hurling on the site of it. Repeat offenders should note that the Japanese dropped some important Japanese words like...Ninja, ginzu, kamikaze...

Let's just say, **こわい は !**

Parental Questions

Will my student be ready for the proficiency exam?

Progress in Japanese varies according to each student and is demonstrated by the student's:

- ① willingness to cooperate with instructor.
- ② practice outside of tutoring sessions.
- ③ student interest and self-motivation.
- ④ positive parent support for instruction and tutor.

Any motivated and disciplined student who is independently studying what instructors teach during lessons outside of class, such as proactively practicing pronunciation, vocabulary and characters at home 4-5 days per week has a great chance of passing the exam.

How many sessions per week facilitate the best academic purposes?

Daily Japanese is a great program, but a bit out of reach for most students' time management schedules. Therefore, while well disciplined students, can make progress with 1 session per week. In all sincerity, we are documenting students who study twice per week making significant progress.

What's the rumor about double sessions in the summer?

Yes, we may offer double sessions at a greater value to loyal KC students. We still thinking through the timing.

What is the story on Kanji Camp?

Camp is what started the year round program. It's really for students who just want a week of cultural exploration. Open to students 10-17, it's a good opportunity to experience Japanese culture right here in Hamilton County. Students do drive from outside Indy to attend.

What can we do to help grow the program?

Thank you for asking. We appreciate any referrals of thoughtful students who are interested in preventing brain drain this summer. At the same time, we will beginning some home school foreign classes in the summer, so please feel free to share that information with anyone who fits this category. Stay tuned for upcoming Culture & Travel Classes . . .