

かんじ  
漢字  
キャンプ

# Kanji Camp

Japanese Language & Culture Exploration

www.kanjicamp.info

Tutoring@KanjiCamp.info

NEWS FLASH

August 2007 2007年8月  
Regular Edition

Within this News Flash you will find valuable information about programs, activities and/or upcoming events and even Japanese culture.

## *Kanji Club Makes Music!*

Kanji Club continues its monthly cultural studies with exciting projects. This month our cultural studies involved the use of technology. Students were given the link to a website where they could use the computer to play their own music on an web-based, "E-shamisen". Additionally, students were encouraged to visit the Kanji Camp You Tube website to access six to seven, short—three to four minute video links illustrating the traditional *Shamisen*.

One Japanese video took an investigatory look into how the 3 string instrument is made in Japan. Students could also practice their Japanese listening skills with this link. Supplemental film clips focused more on traditional musical arrangements and therefore the sound of the Shamisen. Two films in particular allowed students to compare the melodies of the shamisen in two different parts of Japan.

Other clips were provided for fun teen appeal. The famous Yoshida Brothers produced a contemporary rock style video to traditional *Shamisen* musical piece. And students viewed the musicians performing "musical battles" against other musical instruments like the Taiko or against unique sounds like the rhythm of tap dancer. Students watched master performers of different sound generations keep up with one another on very difficult songs. According to Chris-san found the Yoshida Brother's music video was "really kool". His own exploration suggested students watch a *Shamisen* musician battle against rap turn-table artists. Mr. E also enjoyed that one.

Using the information we learned in class combined with the visual information gained from the variety of videos, students were to use their creativity to make personalized *shamisen*. After thorough team investigation of the shamisen that were submitted, Kevin-san won the best *shamisen* rendition award, with Alexia-san trailing only a few points behind.

Below left enjoy the photo wherein students show off their incredible creative craftsmanship—a few rock stars available. © The right photo captures peer inspections of



Musicians & Craftsman & Rockers from left to right:  
Chris-san, Kevin-san, Alexia-san, Rei-san & Logan-san.

one another's instruments during Round 1 of the team evaluations.

Round 2 peer evaluations will occur this Wednesday, when forgotten or revised Shamisen will be reviewed . . . a-hem....

日  
本  
語  
塾

**Did you know?** Completing cultural assignments and projects is a standard part of the KC "Code of the Samurai" curriculum, authored by Mr. E in use at KC. On top of this, since most of the advanced students are studying for academic purposes, it's probably important to acknowledge that most State foreign language standards, including those in Indiana, have a culture studies requirement. Therefore, just like students receive either grades or credit for language homework completion with us, they are also expected to submit cultural projects or geographical studies to keep students on task throughout the year.



LET'S GO!

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INSTITUTE

A BlazeCom PROGRAM

the founders of:

**Kanji Camp**

Japanese Language & Cultural Exploration

www.KanjiCamp.info

Notice: We hope these newsletters and individualized photos shot by the Ninjaographer will be helpful to students studying in our program. Each student is responsible for keeping a plastic page portfolio to safeguard certificates, awards and imagery of their time in the program. Photos are helpful to negotiating language credit or international certifications.

TO:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Kanji Club Makes Music*

Events & Fieldtrips

July 29, 2007 at 3 p.m., Sensei taught a crash course in Japanese martial arts for students departing to grad school. The hour and half seminar focused on preventive maintenance strategies for self-protection from awareness to grabs, kicks, stomps, etc. Since Mr. E hasn't taught martial arts in many years, we bet he'll be a bit soar this week. Heh! Heh! As true to the happy philosophy of our program we chuckle with appreciation of course. In the end, no one got hurt. よかった!

On August 1, 2007 UPS willing we hope to be designing our Happi Coats in celebration of the coming Obon weeks. Students should prepare their artistic skills and think about traditional scenic imagery they plan to design on their happi coats.

On August 5, 2007 is our trek to the Obon Dori. We hope Ocean's parking lot reconstruction will be done in time for dancing. **Parents please RSVP this week with your numbers.** And help ensure your student's club t-shirt gets in the family wash in support of our team fashion.

Departures

2007年8月1日にJessicaさんはイリノイ州のEastern大学に入ります。大学員になります。

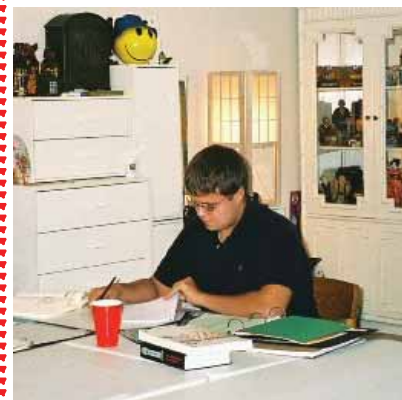
2007年8月2日にMeredithさんはオハイオ州のマイアミ大学に行きます。大学員になります。

2007年8月23日にShaneさんはフロリダ州に行きます。大学二年生になります。

三人はEmailでコミュニケーションします。



Miami of Ohio calls Meredith-san!



Until Xmas time, Sayonara Shane-san!