

Within this News Flash you will find the latest info student activities, etc.

Kanji Club Celebrates Obon!

During August across Japan as well as in Japanese communities outside its borders, *O-bon* is celebrated. Considered one of the most important annual Japanese traditions, Obon is usually honored between August 13-16th. This celebration comes from Buddhist influence, wherein Japanese families pray for the souls of their ancestors. People believe that ancestor spirits visit family homes during Obon. This Asian tradition is so rich, it was actually illustrated by the Asian influenced Disney movie, *Mulan*. During *Obon* people clean their houses and prepare a variety of vegetable and fruit meals that are set by the familial *abudtsudan*, the small familial altar within most multi-generational Japanese homes. These foods in combination with special flower decorations are "given" to ancestors to simply show respect for those who came before the current generations. Around the 16th century Japanese in some regions began the practice of lighting paper lanterns as a way to light the path for the spirits on their homebound journey.

The *Obon* festival is a part of this reminiscent mood, wherein Japanese dress in *happi coats* and *yukata* and dance to lively music, a mix of *shakuhachi* (flute), *shamisen* and *taiko* (drum). The *Bon-dori* of *Obon* dance is held in every village across the country. Dancing in Japan dates back to stories of *Amaterasu*, the sun Goddess, to whom the Japanese believe they derived from. **In honor of this Japanese tradition, students designed *happi coats*.** Additionally, students were invited to attend a special field trip to the yearly *Bon-dori* held at Ocean World restaurant. KC students as well as Japanese and American bicultural families and Japan hearted friends joined the event where people danced in a circle around the special *Bon* platform which housed the festival music. Our very own Kevin Cole participated, dancing with the best of the kimono clad dancers. The spirits must have been smiling as Mr. E introduced him to the most senior teacher of the Minyo Dancers. He received a mini-lesson as he stepped along to the music, moving hands and feet in unison with the rest of the dancers.

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Top: Kevin-san, Logan-san, Rei-tyan, Alexia-san and Chris-kun show off their happicoat designs. Bottom Left: Kevin-san strives to part a dancing kanji template. Bottom Middle: Rei-tyan and Alexia-san create floral designs. Bottom Right: Logan tries battles the giggles while happily designing his eagle artwork.

WANT TO SPEAK YOUR CHILD'S LANGUAGE?

3 MORE DAYS TO ENROLL!

Adult Japanese Conversation Class begins on Thursday 9/6/07 in Carmel. For more info on the eight (8) week course, visit www.cln.iupui.edu

It's a great way to show your student support or help motivate them to achieve more. Its also a fun way for dads, moms or teen siblings to have another language in which to speak to one another. *The Conversation class is totally relaxed and a fun time...*





LET'S GO!

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Notice: This newsletter is a historic record of the activities of Kanji Camp., specifically the Kanji Club advanced Japanese studies program. All students are encouraged to keep copies for their personal educational records and/or life scrapbooks.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Kanji Club celebrates O-Bon Festival ...and

Hollywed, Credit Achieved, 100 Kanji Certificate Earned, Artistic Project Displayed...

HOLLY-WED

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土曜日・2007年8月18日に

NashvilleのCreek Golf RetreatでKanji

Camp JSPのせいと、ハリーさんは

Garry Oswaldと一緒に結婚しました。



おめでとう

STUDENT RECOGNITION

100 Kanji Certificate Earned

Congratulations to Logan Hill for earning the 100 Kanji Loyalty Certificate on 8/29/07 from disciplined self-study!!!
... We anticipate his study buddy to be one week behind him. But no pressure ... ☺

Happy God Project Awards



Congratulations to Kevin Cole for earning the People's Choice award for his projected being voted by fellow teammates as the most visually communicative rendition and best oral description of his assigned Happy God, Ebisu. The cultural project asked students to take their lesson learning to the next level with individualized internet research on the a Japanese Happy God of choice. Each student gave an oral presentation to share with their teammates information to highlight their artwork.

All students who completed their Happy God projects on time in accordance with the project criteria received a small white Happy God figurine. Additional honor goes to Rei Budzenski for earning the Instructor's Choice award for her artistic and colorful rendition of the leader of all Seven Happiness Gods, Benzaiten.

The student's artwork will be on display in the classroom during the next few weeks for classroom visitors to enjoy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Team Tanjyobi Party
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Japanese Archery Fieldtrip
- Spirited Away Party
- Fall Potluck and more

... Simply Stay Tuned!

CAUSE FOR HAPPI COAT DANCING?

In an email recently received from the WHS Director of Guidance, Clay Stryker received written confirmation of a summer meeting outcome had between his family and the Westfield High School Principal Stacy McGuire.

Although formal letter on school letterhead is still being processed, WHS has agreed to accept two full years (four high school credits) of Japanese from Kanji Camp towards Westfield High School's Indiana Academic Honors Diploma. This is great news for Clay who began his studies in the IUPUI and continued his dedication to Japanese language mastery through the Kanji Club advanced studies program. A valued Kanji Camp team member, Clay studies via individualized instruction.

Credit authorization from an outside educational institution is very rare for Westfield Schools to authorize. Therefore, this result from the June meeting is not without duty, as Indiana State Standards must be met to receive credit. State standards include both language competency, but also demonstration of cultural understanding. Clay must submit all language and culture homework to KC instructors for a grade. Then Kanji Camp must provide the school a grade report, along with attendance records

and instructional hour totals. Instructional hours was a major point of concern during the meeting.

While the Principal generously decided that Clay did not have to pass the international proficiency test as proof of being credit worthy, she recognized that Kanji Camp had the right to set its curriculum and used the individualized certification as the semester end final exam. As KC instructors feel strongly that the proficiency assessment is a true measure of language skill, serious students and particularly those using KC to satisfy foreign language requirements are expected to sit for the exam. As in most meetings, the team that visited WHS did not gain the full goal of our request. Therefore, Clay will have other requirements to meet at his school in order to gain these credits toward graduation.

KC is naturally honored to have receive this academic recognition from such a reputable local school. This situation of teamwork exemplifies why regular communications between student families and KC instructors is so important. As instructors often tell students that one never knows when or where KC studies can benefit their future. And this situation highlights another real world reason why attending KC class regularly and completing all independent study assignments has its advantages.