

September 14, 2006
Volume 1, Issue 1

Boston Latin Academy
Japanese National Honor Society



“Kon’nichiwa” Hello Everyone!

The Japanese National Honor Society 06-07

A total of 13 students from Japanese II and III in spring 06 became members of the Japanese National Honor Society this year. The JNHS is affiliated with the National Honor Society, sponsored by the National Council of Japanese Language Teachers and was founded at Boston Latin Academy eight years ago.

The JNHS recognizes and encourages scholastic academic achievement and excellence in Japanese study and promotes international understanding between the United States and Japan. To become a member, students must maintain a 3.5 GPA in Japanese and 3.0 GPA in all subjects at the midpoint of their 2nd or 3rd year of Japanese study.

Membership is voluntary and members make a commitment to contribute to Japanese education as peer tutors,

student activity leaders, teacher's aides and volunteers for various Japan-related events in the Boston area.

Congratulations New Members!

Class of 07: Uyen Nguyen, Jeannette Lin, Emily Tran*, Vung Tran, Annie Wu* and Tanya Young

Class of 08:

Mei Zhen Cao, Connie Chan, Lisa Chan, Jonathan Collado, Anna Hoang, Bi Yu Li and Anthony Pan*

*Officers

Our Community Activities

Japan Day in Boston at Showa Boston Institute

Volunteer work at Boston Children's Museum

Cultural Day Festival at the Japanese Language School in the Grader Boston

Upcoming Events

- ◆ The Japanese Autumn Moon Festival @ Boston Children's Museum: September 29, 6:00-9:00 pm
- ◆ The Japanese Cultural Day Festival @ Japanese Language Schools of Greater Boston: October 21, 1:00-2:00 pm

Holidays & Festivals in Japan

- ◆ 9/18 Respect-for-the -Aged Day
- ◆ 9/23 Autumnal Equinox Day
- ◆ 10/9 Sports Day
- ◆ 11/3 Cultural Day
- ◆ 11/15 Shichi-go-san Festival
- ◆ 11/23 Labor Thanksgiving Day

Congratulations to YFU Scholarship Recipient! Summer Study Abroad in Japan

Emily Tran ('07) - When I first found out I received the Japan American Friendship Scholarship from Youth for Understanding, you'd be surprised to know I didn't jump for joy. Instead, I had mixed feelings. I was worried about having to take finals early, to leave my comfort zone behind, and be on my own for a whole 6 weeks. But with a little push and shove from my sister and words of encouragement from my Japanese teacher, a life-changing trip happened.

It wasn't until a week or so before I had to leave that I found out where I would be living in Japan. YFU mailed me my host family information and I found out I would live in Mihara-city in Hiroshima

Prefecture with a single mother and two host sisters. So I googled Mihara-city, and nothing came up except information about the bomb memorial cites. There was nothing I could do but wait in complete curiosity about my home for the next 6 weeks.

Before I knew it June 10th rolled around, and I said see you later to the people and places I knew best. I took an airplane for 5 hours to San Jose, California where I met all the other scholarship recipients. We all spent an exhausting, but worthwhile 3 days brushing up on Japanese, doing some cool activities, and becoming good friends.



Autumn Moon Viewing

秋

AKI

Autumn

Japanese Proverb

*"The mature rice plant
lowers its head"*

*Maturity brings humility and
respect for others*

Please visit

<http://geocities.com/senseibla/>

to learn more about Japanese
Language and Culture

Summer Study Abroad - Continued

After orientation was over, we all got ready to leave for an exciting 12 hour ride to Tokyo! The ride was long, but so worth it. Tokyo was beautiful, but a little too busy for my taste.

After staying in Tokyo for 2 nights, I rode the Shinkansen, a bullet train, to Hiroshima! When I looked out the window after a nap, I was a little shocked (okay, REALLY shocked) to see an unbelievable amount of rice fields. To be honest, I was kind of worried there was nothing else Mihara had to offer me besides rice fields. But after meeting my host mother and host sisters, I knew this would be an amazing 6 weeks. My host sister played the piano like I do, so we listened to each other play a lot. They were so kind and inviting. Plus, my host mom was an AWESOME cook. I couldn't have asked for a better host family. From the very beginning, they made me feel so comfortable. I'm surprised sometimes to think back to how such good friends we became. They took me to so many cool places, such as Hiroshima city, Japanese garden, and so many more.

Besides hanging out with my host family, I went to school for 4 weeks! I went to Josuikan High School. My homeroom was so friendly and they always tried to speak to me in English. I became really good friends with some of the students, and we'd always go to karaoke or to the arcades on the weekends.

Saying goodbye was so hard. I would have never imagined 6 weeks could have changed me so much. I grew so much more independent, and came home with the motto to *yattemite* everything, which means to try everything. I also would have never imagined how attached I would be to my host family and to the place itself. I can't believe how much I fell in love with Mihara, and everything it has to offer. Although this trip was just 6 weeks, its memories and my relationship with the people I have met will last forever.

Star Festival & Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Festival at Boston Children's Museum

Mena Lam & Kristian Tran ('09) -

During the summer, we had the opportunity to volunteer at the Boston Children's Museum for two different events: Tanabata (Star Gazing Festival) and the Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Memorial, which commemorated both Japan and America's history.

We helped with many activities, but had lots of fun ourselves. During the Tanabata, we were able to help kids try on cute yukata (summer kimonos) and geta (wooden shoes that people wear with yukata). There were a lot of really cool projects throughout the museum such as making round fans, summer greeting cards, and many others. The Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Memorial event was a fun and interesting way to learn about our and Japan's history. We helped out with activities such as

making paper cranes that symbolize peace and painting lanterns.

Both events this summer were very successful and we had lots of fun volunteering for them. It was a great opportunity to learn about history, meet new people, and practice our Japanese!

