

March 26, 2008
Volume 2, Issue 1

Boston Latin Academy
Japanese National Honor Society



“Kon’nichiwa” Hello Everyone! THE JAPANESE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY 08 - 09

A total of 14 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 ten 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 09:

Stephanie Tran, Kristian Tran, Ngan Ton, Kim Cuc Ngo, Kim Lien Le, Ginny Leung, Loan Nguyen, Jessica Bellevue, David Liang, Carro Hua, Melissa Ortiz, Cuong Nguyen

Class of 10:

Nneka Adichie, Rehana Rahaman

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

Japanese Events in Boston

- ◆ Anime Convention @ Hynes Convention Center: March 21-23
- ◆ Taiko Drum Concert @ MIT: March 30, 3:30 pm
- ◆ Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival) @ Boston Children's Museum: April 20, 11:00am - 3:00 pm

Holidays & Festivals in Japan

- ◆ 3/3 Doll Festival
- ◆ 3/20 Vernal Equinox Day
- ◆ 4/1 Start of the New School Year
- ◆ 4/29 Showa Day
- ◆ 5/3 Constitution Memorial Day
- ◆ 5/5 Children's Day

2007 SUMMER TRIPS TO JAPAN

Anthony Pan ('08) – This past summer was the best summer that I have ever had. My friend Leah & I were chosen as representatives from Boston and practically the whole United States of America to attend the "International Youth Conference on the Environment" in Kyoto, Japan. Other sister cities of Kyoto including China, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Mexico, and Ukraine sent 2 students to this conference. I attended the Kyoto Municipal Horikawa Senior High School & lived with a host family. We were featured live on television & on newspaper. Next day, we all went on a tour around Kyoto & shopped. This once-in-a-life time experience was truly memorable.

Jessica Bellevue ('09) – I received the Japan American Friendship Scholarship for Understanding last summer. Well, Japan wasn't really what I expected, and that what I liked about it. For two months, I did home-stay with the Ishikawa family in Nara. I lived right next to the rice fields. I went to a lot of places in both Nara and outside of Nara. Most of the places I visited were festivals and shrines. One of the most famous temples I went to was the Todaiji Temple. It's the largest wooden building in the world and holds a bronze statue of the Buddha. I really felt that my host family and I had a good bond with each other.

JAPANESE CULTURE CLUB (J.C.C.)

Stephanie Tran & Ngan Ton ('09) -

For years, JCC has been implementing and facilitating fun and educational programs to educate, inspire, and attract potential students to the Japanese language and culture. Through hands on experiences such as making onigiri and

culture notes jeopardy, students have widened their perspectives on everything Japanese. JCC 2007-2008 has been deferent. We continue to lead, to teach, and to put fun into the learning and recruitment process.



Hanami-Flower Viewing



HARU- Spring

Japanese Proverb

Hana yori dango

"Sweets are preferred to flowers"

The practical is preferred over the aesthetic

Please visit

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

to learn more about Japanese Language and Culture

OSHOGATSU AT BOSTON'S CHILDREN MUSEUM

Ginny Leung ('09) - Oshogatsu, which is Japanese New Year, was celebrated in Boston Children Museum on January 13th, 2008. As a volunteer of the event, I was very fascinated by the activities that had taken place such as paper marbling! There were also performances of the Taiko drummers and the Shishimai lion dance. It was a great experience for me because I was able to communicate with other Japanese students and to enhance my knowledge of the Japanese customs!



Taiko Drumming

3RD JAPAN DAY AT SHOWA BOSTON INSTITUTE

Kim Cuc Ngo ('09) - The skits and presentations at Japan Day were delightful. What some of the students from the other schools did was make a video describing their school, sing an old Japanese song, and put on a puppet show—all of which are spoken in Japanese. The presentations that stuck out to me the most was a comedy-skit-video called "Metal Gear Solid" and the song "Kimi no Hana" sung by the Showa Boston students. What I really enjoyed most though was performing Boston Latin Academy's very own skit, "Mario Skit – Save Princess!" Everyone worked hard on putting the skit together, and I was glad that we got to show all our hard work on stage!

Lisa Chan ('08) – This was my second year attending the Japan Day at Showa Boston and I had a great time. For the presentation, I recited a speech I wrote in Japanese. I was very proud of myself for doing this because in the end I was able to thank my teacher for everything she taught me in my three years in Japanese class.

After the presentations and lunch, we went through a series of workshops where we learned more about the Japanese culture. My favorite workshop was the Origami workshop because I learned a new origami and was able to teach a Showa student how to fold a rose. It was a great experience and I'm glad I was part of it.

JAPANESE STUDENT TEACHER LANGE SENSEI

Kristian Tran ('09) - This year BLA Japanese language students have a new addition to their classes. Please give a warm welcome to Lange-sensei as a new student teacher. She is a Japanese American and currently is a senior at Wellesley College studying to become a Japanese teacher. Lange-sensei is happy to learn and gain new insights from teaching high school youth. Her friendly personality welcomes students to learn from her, so feel free to ask her questions. Lange-sensei's advice to students is to "Always put your best foot forward!"

BOSTON ANIME CONVENTION 2008

Kristian Tran ('09) - During March 21 - 23, some anime lovers waited hours to register for Boston's Anime Convention at the Hynes Convention Center, while others who pre-registered could enjoy the festivities without the wait. Complete with concerts of Japanese artists, Cosplay, anime screenings, and video game rooms this was the event every anime lover was talking about! With all these attractions, the convention was a huge success and sold out quickly. Make sure to pre-register for the next Anime Convention which is being held in May 2009.