

Auckland Central Japanese Cluster (ACJC)

Pop-Up Lunchtime Culture Event

Event Report with photos 2018

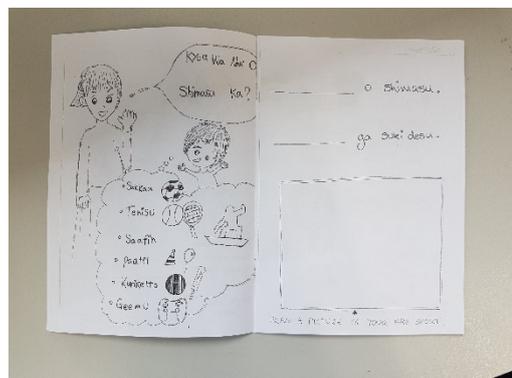
Description of the Event:

A group of 13 volunteers, consisting of five Oberlin students, a Japanese teaching assistant from Yamaguchi university and 7 students from the AUT Japanese language programme travelled 20 minutes by UBER to Balmoral School. All the volunteers had spent many hours in the weeks leading up to the event purchasing materials for creating the booklet that outlined basic and key Japanese greetings and phrases, designing the poster that advertised the event, practising the origami in order to be able to demonstrate how to fold origami shirts, and also collating the colouring-in sheets with Japanese themed pictures for the younger pupils to colour in.

Compared to last year, where it was an origami centred event, we attempted to make it more diverse, and more focus was placed on using what the older pupils have learnt in the classroom.

The group arrived 30 minutes before the start of Balmoral School lunchtime and set up 6 large tables outside the school auditorium with the colouring sheets laid out on one side for the younger students, with the origami shirts and booklets that the volunteers prepared making for the older pupils to fill in Japanese.

The Japanese themed colouring in pages, Booklet and Origami t-shirt



When the school bell rang the volunteers were very busy working with the hundreds of pupils who rushed up to join in the fun, but we had prepared for this chaos by having pairs of volunteers on each station, one to demonstrate and one to help individuals who found some parts difficult. We also had a few volunteers who circulated around encouraging those pupils who were a bit shy to come forward, and the younger pupils who were being pushed back by other more eager, older pupils. We even had an extra table put out since many students were eager to learn how to fold other objects such as a frog, a plane, the crane and even a piano! Luckily, we had some volunteers and even the staff members of Balmoral School help with teaching the pupils how to fold them! Since there was no room for the younger pupils who came later to colour in, they opted to learn how to fold origami or even colour in the booklet. Compared to the colouring sheets and the booklet, origami was clearly in higher demand.

The one-hour lunchtime passed by very quickly and everyone had a great time making origami, even the Year 3 pupils, who are not learning Japanese yet, were being taught simple Japanese words like *inu* 'dog' and *aka* 'red' etc.

Thoughts for the Future:

What we learnt from the event.

- 1) Although the workbook booklet was the main activity for the event, the origami was favoured more than the book. The book, however, did interest the much older kids who seemed enthusiastic with their Japanese studies. Also, the colouring in sheets that were made for younger ones since they haven't started Japanese could have had more than just the colouring-in. Possibly in the future include some sort of Japanese teaching with the activity taught by the volunteers.
- 2) More interaction needed in terms of teaching and helping them with the Japanese phrases when filling out the booklet. Some kids just went off on their own and ended up filling the book in English. This might be attributed to needing more tables and volunteers since there was quite a few pupils.
- 3) We were unable to order extra-large Ubers, so we had to go by several separate little cars, as they could only fit 4 students each, unlike the bigger cars.
- 4) If there was no service or Wi-Fi, we couldn't order an Uber, and so had to order cars by many different student's and teacher's phones. To fix this, a different pick up location would suit better, especially when thinking for easier access for the cars as well.

Conclusion

Overall, the Balmoral lunch time pop-up event went very smoothly, despite an extra table needing to be put out and students requesting to learn extra origami we had not prepared for. Thankfully we had volunteers and a Balmoral school staff member who already had prior knowledge of how to fold

different origami. The edition of the Japanese booklet for older students to fill in also worked well, and was popular with the older students who were enthusiastic with their Japanese studies.

Photos:

