

Karori Normal School: International Languages Week Report

It was Karori Normal School's first year celebrating International Languages week. We had a ball. It was a busy week, with fun filled, lighthearted activities and celebrations Japanese style. The kids were all excited on Monday morning to read the posters in their classrooms with the happenings for the week.

It all started on Monday lunchtime with 'learn Japanese in 30 minutes'. Kids poured in to my classroom keen to learn a little bit of Japanese. We made 'Fortune Tellers' in Japanese with numbers and Japanese expressions and the students walked around with these all week sharing their new learning with everyone they met. It was a great opportunity to teach a little Japanese to students who had not managed to get into the Japanese class this year. They had heaps of questions and enjoyed my responses. Spot prizes were also given out - this excited them and made them keen to come along to other sessions to have another chance at a spot prize.

On Tuesday at lunchtime we had an *origami* competition. The students loved using the variety of origami books that I had collected in Japan to make some super looking origami pieces.

On Wednesday we studied *anime*. The students all have such an interest in this subject. Across the week the students were also encouraged to design their own *anime*. I had some wonderful *animes* presented. We displayed these on a wall in the senior corridor where they drew lots of attention. It was a hard job judging them!

On Friday, 25 students were drawn from a hat to make *onigiri* with me. It was so much fun. First I talked about the significance of *onigiri* in Japan and the fact that you find it in 7/11 shops like we find bags of potato chips. I challenged them to use the molds to make interesting shapes and designs. The students thoroughly enjoyed making *onigiri* and even more so enjoyed eating it! They were keen to take photos of what they had made. The smiles on their faces told me everything!

The week was action-packed and fun for both the students and myself. I will definitely be doing it again next year!

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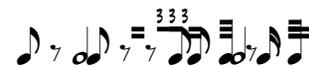

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