

Year 9 Japanese Excursion

Languages students recently attended a Japanese cultural immersion excursion. Year 9 student, **Sabrina Cao**, shares her experience with the school community in the following report.

こんにちは (Konnichiwa-Hello)

In Term 3, Year 9 Japanese language students attended an excursion that promised a day of closer engagement with Japanese culture. In our small entourage of eager Japanese learners, we sped through the streets of the city to the Japan Foundation, a non-profit cultural organisation established by the Japanese government to promote cultural exchange between Japan and other nations.

We were greeted by a staff member who discussed the various festive delicacies of 子供の日 (Kodomonohi - Children's day), ひなまつり (Hinamatsuri - Girl's day) and explained how the themes are incorporated into food and events. In pairs, we designed and presented special dishes for specific celebrations in Australia.

A treasure hunt awaited us soon after. Putting our previous years of learning into use, we searched around the stalls of Daiso for new Japanese terms. We then launched quickly into textiles and learnt about the significance of shapes within Japanese symbolism. Excitingly, many of us had the opportunity to try tie-dying for the first time and created patterns in multicoloured linen.

After bidding farewell with our heads full of new knowledge, our Japanese class enjoyed an appetising bento meal at MISO Japanese Restaurant. We then trekked across the city to Purikura Photoland, a Japanese-themed entertainment centre, to conclude the intriguing day. The girls enjoyed having a go at the popular hobbies in Japan for the final moments of the excursion before a train whisked us back to School.

