Minasan konnichiwa (Hello, everyone)

In term one and two, Year three to six students are having a Japanese lesson. Many students including those new to our school, have already started demonstrating their great enthusiasm to use Japanese whenever opportunities arise. In addition, it is so nice to see our students support each other to play speaking and listening games very cooperatively in Japanese. One of our focuses for this term is to use Japanese as much as possible. Each week students will learn new Japanese phrases to use during their Japanese lessons.

Year three students will also learn to talk and write about what we have in Frankston. In addition, we will compare available facilities between Frankston and our Japanese sister city, Susono. Year four students will look at Ainu (Native people living in the north island called Hokkaido) culture. Year five students will write a New Year message to our sister school. Year six students will focus on self-introduction, and write a letter to our sister school by introducing themselves.

A huge thank you (arigatoo) for the students who have helped out in the Japanese garden in various manners. Some students helped to moved falling bamboos to the vegetable garden. Some happily volunteered to monitor the Japanese garden in order to keep the garden as a peaceful space. Some have regularly participated in the Japanese garden club. Some senior students helped to transplant one bamboo into a new location. I believe all these student’s effort and our community’s support maintain our beautiful lush green Japanese garden! The Japanese garden club will occur every Wednesday lunch play time (during the semester one) with this year’s Japanese garden leaders. Any students are more than welcome to join in the garden club.

Finally, I would like to invite anyone (including parents and guardians) interested in joining “before school garden club” every Wednesday morning from 8:15 to 8:45 if weather permits. The morning garden activity started yesterday, 1st March. We will focus our work on the vegetable garden (i.e. behind 4A and 4C classroom). If you like gardening, please come to join us in the vegetable garden Wednesday morning. I will be present to supervise students.

Arigatoo goziamasu (Thank you very much)

Tomko Yamashita (Japanese teacher)