

ALIA COLLEGE HOSTS STUDENTS FROM JAPAN'S IWATE PREFECTURE



For a week in Term Three, Alia College played host to six students from Japan's Iwate prefecture. The exchange was part of the Nichigo Project, a not-for-profit program set up following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, which devastated the Iwate prefecture.

The students came from different high schools to spend seven days in Australia. This started after landing in Melbourne with a trip to the Royal Melbourne Zoo to see some of Australia's unique native animals. After meeting their host families and spending their first night with them, students began their week at Alia. The special program designed for the students included tutoring in English from Alia alumnus Josh Rowe (2015). Josh was good enough to volunteer his time across the five school days to help the students with their

English, and of course to help Yuri with all of the organisational tasks.

The students' first school day was followed by a very special Japanese cultural day on the Tuesday. The visiting students presented a talk to both Alia College and Japanese School of Melbourne students on the earthquake and tsunami, covering what destruction occurred, and how the rebuilding efforts were going. This was followed by performances of traditional Japanese martial arts and dancing, and a riveting taiko drumming performance. Following the educational and cultural morning, Alia College, Japanese School of Melbourne, and visiting Japanese students joined in one of the traditional Alia lunchtime soccer games, vastly increasing the number of players.



Noah delivering a speech and presentation to the Japanese visitors.

Other notable highlights of the week included excursions to the Queen Victoria Market, and Consulate-General of Japan, as well as a workshop on Aboriginal culture and art from Alia alumna, Mikaela (2016).

The week wrapped up with a special whole school meeting for the presentation of certificates, moving speeches, and a celebration featuring plenty of Australian foods - Anzac biscuits, lamingtons, pavlova, and plenty of fresh fruit - before an emotional goodbye.

Alia College is incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to host these students, and hopes that their time here was enjoyable and memorable.

Miku and Hazuki with some classic chicken parmas and chips - how very Australian!



HOKUSAI EXCURSION

Article by Jessica McConnell

During the last week of term, the year 9 and 10 classes accompanied by Yuri and myself, journeyed to the NGV International to view a vast collection of colour woodblock prints by Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai(1760-1849) who is considered one of the most influential and creative minds in the history of Japanese art.

This exhibition tied in nicely with both the Art and Japanese curriculum at Alia, as Hokusai's work reflects historical Japanese society and also includes Japanese characters which the students were able to recognise. Furthermore in art this term, students have been exploring printmaking so it was exciting for them to see such a beautiful and extensive collection of prints.

I was very impressed with how the year 9 students in particular, took the time to view every artwork closely and read all the plaques, making sure to learn as much as they could.

Paul was inspired by the prints of boats which may influence his own very skilful drawings. Benny was particularly impressed by the iconic "Great Wave" images. Alex Beresford enjoyed the striking waterfall prints and Kayla loved the illustration books which showed the very first Manga images. Saskia, Sebastian and Alex were very studious and seemed interested in all the art work. I think we were all impressed by the numerous images of Mt. Fuji and Ryo and I marvelled at the sheer volume of work this artist produced and wondered how he could possibly have carved the woodblock for every single one of these prints.

Yuri generously shouted everyone ice cream on the way home and we returned to Alia with minds filled with images of waves, waterfalls, and Mt. Fuji.

Year 12 BIOLOGY EXCURSION

Article by Kim Bruce

On 18 September, the Unit 4 Biology students and I went to the Royal Melbourne Zoo and GTAC for an excursion. The first part of the day was probably the most exciting; we learnt about the evolution of the Tasmanian Devils Facial Tumour Disease and how it's evolved in the genes of the Devils. We had an expert researcher talk to us about the importance of trapping and tagging the Devils and then the students were given the opportunity to trap a Devil (not a real one, just a really heavy teddy replica!). They then got to determine the brain capacity of the Devils by filling the cavity of the skull with lead rounds and then weighing the rounds, the heavier it was, the bigger the brain

Emily and Ruby (Year 12) with some (stuffed)
Tasmanian Devils



cavity! Lastly, they got to estimate the age of some skulls of the Devil by basically measuring how “yellow” the teeth were. Although there were a lot of students completing these activities, they were very hands on and informative. Oh and also, this was held right next to the lion inclosure so we had full view of all 3 male teen lions!

The Zoo had lost one of its Devils a few days before the trip (due to old age) and it was originally planned to have a close up encounter with him but instead we were able to spend some time wondering around the Zoo before the next part of the day. I discovered that there was a butterfly room, that was the most amazing thing ever!

We drove to GTAC where students learnt how to apply biotechnology and bioinformatics to real world problems in the context of the Tasmanian Devils Facial Tumour Disease. They got to perform gel electrophoresis to understand how the genes of different Devils are compared and analysed in an attempt to gain insight to the evolution of this crippling disease.

Overall, it was a great day out. The bus drive to and from the Zoo provided many laughs and at the end of Term 3 it was a welcomed change of scenery!

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Article by Kirsty Kain

The recent Royal Commission into Family Violence highlighted the devastating impacts of family violence on children and our communities. One in five Australian women over the age of fifteen has experienced sexual violence; one in three has experienced physical violence; and one in four has experienced this physical or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner. Of those women who experience violence, more than half have children in their care. It is in this context that it has now been acknowledged that schools play a critical role in preventing and responding to family violence.

We are very pleased to let you all know that Alia College has become a partner school in the Victorian Government's Respectful Relationships initiative, which has come out of the findings of the Royal Commission. The pilot of the Respectful Relationships Program found that curriculum delivery alone is not sufficient to drive change; so although respectful relationships skills have been an integral part of Health classes at Alia for over a decade, this is not enough if we really want to change the concerning statistics listed above. In the family violence prevention space, the term 'Respectful Relationships' has a very specific meaning – "The building and promotion of gender equity in relationships, and the challenging of gender stereotypes." This definition is based on clear evidence that challenging gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality helps to address gender-based violence. To this end, we will not only be continuing our hard work in delivering quality respectful relationships curriculum, but we will also be widening our scope to exam-

ine other aspects of school structures, policies, and procedures.

We are still in the early stages of implementing this program. The core team (Kirsty, Kim, and Amanda) has attended a number of professional development sessions, and we recently had our first Community of Practice meeting with our lead school, Bialik College. We will soon be conducting a gender audit of a variety aspects of school life so that we can get an idea of areas for improvement, and will be asking you all to participate, and have your say! We feel it is important to include the whole school community in this process, and look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

If you, or anyone you know, need further support please contact the National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service on 1 800 RESPECT (1 800 737 732).

THE THOUSAND STEPS

Article by Andrew Lockrey

1000 steps does not sound like very many steps. We are encouraged to step 10 000 times a day, so surely 1/10th of that is not very many?

On the last day of term, the Senior PE class jumped into the bus and I drove them all down to Ferntree Gully where we embarked on these (in)famous 1000 steps. It got tough quite quickly as the gradient increased and we realised that these 1000 steps were going to not quite be a walk in the park. Walking through the lovely Dandenong Ranges, with the ferns and tall gum trees all around us was a picturesque setting to walk through, which somewhat offset the pain we felt in our legs. The elation when we reached the top of these steps was wonderful.

Everyone should be really proud of themselves, it wasn't easy and it was lovely to see people push themselves really hard!

SNOW CAMP 2017

Article by Simone Erasmus

At the last minute (to clarify, a week before), I was asked to come along to snow camp. I wasn't sure what to expect but I was keen for an adventure, so I jumped in and went along.

Well, what a great experience I had! The second day particularly stands out from the four days we were at Buller. On the second day we all went off to our respective skiing lessons. I was in a beginner ski lesson with Paul (Year 9) and Tom (Year 10). The ski lesson was filled with the usual wobbly arms in the air and people skiing off in various directions except for the direction you were meant to go in.

First we learnt how to ski on one leg which was a rather strange. I would have thought being able to stop would have been one of the most important skills to learn. However, we learnt this last.

Second, we learnt how to turn left and right, which was great fun and very entertaining at times. A few skiers in our group nearly ended up in a tree. After the lesson we went home and had some lunch.

That afternoon, the adventures really began. A few of the students decided to go tobogganing on the slope next to our cabin. The slope next to our lodge was more of a steep decline, which excited the keen, adrenaline-fuelled tobogganers. They only stopped after a few hours of tobogganing down the slope and flying through the air because they were getting a bit wet, and so decided to come in for dinner.

All in all, I had a great time and I hope to go along again.



Benson (Year 11), Paul (Year 9), Tom (Year 10), Sebastian (Year 9), and Emma O (Year 12).

WELCOMES & FAREWELLS

Term Three saw the Alia College community grow in number, as we welcomed Kye (Year 8), Dylan, and Kayla (Year 9). Welcome to Alia!

We also welcome back Sara from the start of Term Four, who has returned from parental leave to take Junior and Year 9 Art classes. It's great to have you around again!

We also wish our Year 12 students all the best as they enter their final stretch before exams!

In Term Four we will also say goodbye, just for a while, to Jacqui, who will be taking parental leave. We will miss you!

Term IV, 2017 Calendar Dates

STUDENTS COMMENCE	TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER
Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews	Tuesday, 17 October; 4.30-9.00pm
Year 7 Immunisations	Tuesday, 17 October; 2.00pm
Year 12 Last Day of Classes	Wednesday, 25 October
Year 12 Muck Up Day	Thursday, 26 October
Year 12 Written Examinations	Wednesday, 1 - Friday, 24 November
Year 10 Work Experience	Monday, 6 - Friday, 11 November
Foundation Day Holiday	Monday, 6 November
Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday	Tuesday, 7 November
Year 11 Exams	Thursday, 9 - Wednesday, 15 November
Year 9 Work Experience	Monday, 13 - Friday, 17 November
Year 10 Colac Camp	Monday, 13 - Friday, 17 November
Year 11 Exam Discussion	Thursday, 16 & Friday, 17 November
VCE Afternoon Tea & Book Return	Friday, 17 November
Year 9 City Experience	Monday, 20 - Friday, 24 November
VCE 2018 Orientation Week	Monday, 20 - Friday, 24 November
Year 12 Graduation	Friday, 24 November; 5.00pm
Years 9 & 10 Skills & Development Week	Monday, 27 November - Friday, 1 December
Juniors 2018 Orientation Day	Thursday, 30 November
School Camp	Monday, 4 - Thursday, 7 December
STUDENTS FINISH	THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER