

VANCOUVER JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL AND JAPANESE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
– Saturday November 26, 2016

JAPANESE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (Hereafter, JCEP)

1. The inception of the Japanese Cultural Experience Program was made in 2005 with an initial grant from the RBC Youth Development Program /RBC Foundation and also from the BC Government.
Received a two-year grant to cover 2016 and 2017 from RBC Foundation; this will be the last grant from this organization that the new grant/donation sources need to be researched and applications submitted.
With these generous grants/donations we are able to reach out to the inner-city schools for them to have unique and enriching experiences.
Because of their generous grant/donation, we are able to offer the Program at a reduced rate of \$5 per student and on a complimentary basis to the inner-city schools.
2. This year the Program offered Tea Ceremony, Japanese martial arts, traditional Japanese toys, origami, Japanese Dancing, Okinawa Taiko and Kimono (Yukata) dressing with Instructors and Assistant Instructors as follows:
 - * Japanese Tea Ceremony: Hisako Sakai, Yoko Takahashi, Miwako Mori, Kyoko Fleming, Yumiko Ozeki, Yoshino Nomura, Masae Aso, Sumako Kakiuchi, Mari Takeda, Etsuko Taylor, Kumiko Itagaki, Tamaki Hatada, Sadayo Yamasaki
 - * Chado Preparation Assistants: Midori Koshiyama, Asuka Mizokami, Kotoe Hisata
 - * Aikido: Andrew McBride and Tim Barr (uke)
 - * Japanese Dancing (Nishikawa-ryu): Mamiko Aihara and Reiko Takeda
 - * Japanese Calligraphy: Junko Fuchioka, Tsunenori Yamada, Hisami Matsumura
 - * Japanese Kimono (Yukata) Dressing: Michiyo Kawashima, Hiromi Tanaka, Masako LeClair, Kaoruko Minamoto
 - * Japanese Traditional Toys: Kunihiko Naito
 - * Okinawa Taiko Group: Masami Hanashiro
 - * Mrs. Yoko Konoshima was assistant to the Coordinator, overseeing the running of the workshop.
3. The yearly schedule is set in consultation with the school events and the kitchen usage.
 - * 1,000 JCEP booklets for promotional purpose were printed through Vanco Advertising Company. * Prior to each session, booklets explaining Japanese culture were sent to each participating school, which aided in visual understanding of the different culture. These booklets were well received.
 - * The first session of the 2015 ~ 2016 program began on Thursday October 22, 2015 with the Holy Trinity Elementary School from North Vancouver in the morning session and Sanford Fleming Elementary School in the afternoon, both attended by 30 pupils each.
 - * 21 schools – both public and independent/private, and inner-city schools – from

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October 22, 2015 to May 19, 2016 participated. One school cancelled. The last JCEP session was held on May 19, 2016.

The morning and afternoon sessions were scheduled for 12 Thursdays attended by approximately 875 students and 100 chaperons.

- * There were four inner schools that experienced the Japanese culture first hand, they were all impressed and enjoyed the expertise of each instructor. This was an increase of one school from previous year (40 students).
 - * Received many heartwarming comments from participating students as well as a card of appreciation from participating schools.
4. In addition to various schools participating, there were other events that occurred under the umbrella of JCEP:
 - a. Mochitsuki – December 2015 (Community event)
 - b. Shishimai – January 2016 (Rakuichi Group)
 - c. Sakura Matsuri – April 2016 (Did not participate due to a change in sponsor)
 - d. UBC Outpost Workshop – May 2016 (Tea ceremony demonstration)
 - e. Tanabata Matsuri – July 2016 (Community event and Mrs. Keiko Kubota was the head instructor of various activities)
 - f. Demonstrations at VJLS Summer School – July/August 2016
 5. Two schools from Coquitlam visited Tozenji Temple in Coquitlam and two schools from Richmond to Steveston Buddhist Temple in Richmond.
 6. Kodomo-no Kuni children observed the sessions in action on two occasions.
 7. Materials for Tea Ceremony demonstration, e.g., matcha was ordered from Chado Tea House Ltd. and 'ohigashi' (sweets), from Ms. Sumako Kakiuchi.
 8. Implemented the slide show showing the Japanese arts and culture on the Hall wall as well as a "WELCOME ----- School" sign welcoming the students, teachers and chaperons as they entered the foyer.
 9. The new Coordinator for 2016-2017 year will be Mrs. Yoko Freeman, who is a teacher at VJLS-JH.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the instructors, assistant instructors, kitchen mothers and teaching/office staff for their warm support and cooperation; for without them, this program would not have been carried out as for the previous year.

Respectfully submitted,
Keiko Yagi, Coordinator - JCEP