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SUMMER WITH AN ASIAN TWIST

JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SUMMER CAMP
JULY 22-26, 2015



Ikebana

The East Asian Institute hosted their 6th annual Japanese language and culture camp at UTSA for children aged 6 through 12 from July 22-26.

To start off each day, the campers would do a Japanese radio *taiso* (exercise) to get ready for the day. After the exercise, they sing a song or two in Japanese to help them with pronunciation and learning basic phrases such as *ohayoo* (good morning) and *mata ashita* (see you tomorrow). They would also learn how to read and write the Japanese syllabaries, hiragana and katakana, along with some basic kanji. During these lessons, they would discover words and phrases in Japanese while learning how to write simple words.

Nerikiri



Comments from campers:

“This is the best camp EVER!!!”

“I liked everything about camp!”

“Counselors were fun and helpful and activities were fun!”

“This camp was fantastic and I can’t believe the week is over. I never want to leave.”

“I loved the culture presentations!”

Bento Making



In addition to language lessons, children became well versed in different aspects of Japanese culture. Each day, the students would engage in a presentation of a specific part of the Japanese lifestyle and culture. Some of the presentations included festivals such as *kodomo no hi*, children's festival, and *hinamatsuri*, girl's day. Other presentations talked about anime, manga and fashion, where students discovered various pieces of Japanese media and popular culture. Students also enjoyed presentations on Japanese food, and Japanese sports. They even had a chance to create their own bento box!

Pikachu
Origami

During lunch break, the campers would watch Japanese animated fantasy film written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki daily while enjoying their lunch. These movies helped give the children more insight to Japanese culture, while providing friendly entertainment during the meal. The movies introduced a new style of media to the children. Students would participate in several hands-on activities throughout the camp week. Children tried out many different Japanese games, such as *kendama*, chopsticks relays, *karuta* (Japanese card game), and *kamizumo* (paper sumo wrestling). Each day, the children were taught to make origami, such as sumo origami, ninja stars, traditional flying birds, Pikachu, Hello Kitty, and Totoro.

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Calligraphy

They practiced calligraphy on rice paper and even wrote basic kanji characters. The children also had an opportunity to make and decorated their own *tako* (kites). After they finished, they all went outside and tried their kite. On the last day, the students learned how to make sushi! Each student picked the ingredients and hand wrapped several sushi rolls to eat or take home and on the same day, campers also participated in flower arrangement with three roses. By the end of the week, each camper could make a short self-introduction, which included a greeting, their name, nationality, and and a closing. Campers could count, ask basic questions, and sing five different Japanese songs. They also learned a bit about Japan's culture and foods.



Tako Flying

Throughout the summer camp, the students were able to explore a new culture and language as well as partake in many enjoyable activities. This camp not only provided a fun summer get away, but furthermore, helped make the children aware of new ideas and concepts from other parts of the world. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces at the next year's camp!



Making Onigiri



Kamisumo



Sushi Making



Chopsticks Game



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Comments from parents:

“The children loved the camp and we’ll definitely recommend it to our friends.”

“He had such a great experience and so much fun at the camp.”

“He learned so much about the Japanese Culture which he likes so much and now he is understanding more and he would love to visit Japan one day. We thank the whole team and look forward to having our 2nd son in the program next year.”