The East Asia Institute hosted the second week of its 7th annual Japanese language and culture camp at USA for Children aged 6 through 12 from August 8–12.

The children's day would start off by watching Japanese folklore stories or small clips of children's cartoons while waiting for the rest of the campers to arrive. Once all the campers arrived, they sang songs in Japanese to help them with their pronunciation and learning basic phrases such as ohayoo (good morning) and mata ashita (good afternoon).

They would also receive lessons on how to read and write the Japanese syllabaries, hiragana and katakana, along with some basic kanji. During these lessons, campers would discover some new words and phrases in Japanese as well as learning how to write simple words and numbers. The campers also learned how to count from 1 to 10 in Japanese while playing dice games.

In addition to the language lessons, the children became well versed in different aspects of Japanese culture. Each day the students would engage in presentations of a specific part of the Japanese culture and lifestyle. Some of the presentations continued on page 2.
included festivals such as *Tanabata* (Star festival) and *Obon* (celebration of ancestors). Other presentations talked about traditional sports/games, school and even food.

During the food portion of presentations campers learned how to make a green tea cup cake and onigiri (Japanese rice balls). They even had the chance to make and decorate their own bento box lunch. Using sandwich cutouts, decorative pins, and plastic grass, the camper had the creativity freedom to decorate their bento with fun animal cutouts.

During the lunch break, the campers would watch Japanese animated films directed by Hayao Miyazaki, 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 during the week. They had the opportunity to try many different games such as *kendama*, *karuta* (Japanese card game), and *kamizumo* (paper sumo wrestling). The campers even got to make their own *kendama* and participate in a paper sumo wrestling tournament. Each day the children were taught to make origami, such as traditional flying birds, ninja

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**HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES**

- Cookie Decorating
- Paper Sumo Wrestling Competitions
- Hagoita Making

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**ARTS AND CRAFTS**

*Camper pointing to his wish on bamboo tree for Tanabata Festival*

*Finished Clay Pot Wind Chime*
Japanese Summer Camp

stars, origami ornaments for the star festival, samurai hat, and even Totoro.

The campers had the opportunity to make their own bonsai tree with pipe cleaners, clay pot wind chimes, and decorate their own tako (kites). After they finished, they all went outside and tried their kite. Students also had the opportunity to try Kingyo sukui (goldfish scooping).

On the last day students learned how to make sushi. Each student picked the ingredients and hand wrapped several sushi rolls to eat or take home.

By the end of the week, each camper could make a short self-introduction, which included a greeting their name, nationality, and how to end an introduction. Campers could count, ask basic questions, and sing four different Japanese songs. They also learned a bit about Japan's culture and foods.

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