

Dear Parents,

As I'm sure you would already be aware, Oakleigh South Primary School has established a sister school relationship with Tamba Higashi Primary School in Japan. This relationship has grown over the last four years, from skyping each other to exchanging students between our two schools.

Last year we selected 14 students from our 2018 Year 5 class to be part of the 2019 exchange program. The reasons for selecting the students while they were still in Year 5 are as follows:

1. The exchange was scheduled to take place during the last week of the Christmas holidays and the first week of Term 1 in 2019.
2. The children were informed of their selection early in Term 3 2018 to enable us to give these students extra briefing sessions on language, culture, diet and other experiences they might encounter while in Japan.

This preparation has proved so valuable, we will be repeating the procedure in 2019 and possibly making our selections as early as the end of Term 2, 2019. Early in 2020 we will be taking students to Japan, which will be our fifth visit as part of this program.

The first steps in the selection process are to run an information night for all parents and children who may be interested and at the conclusion of this meeting, hand out Application Forms to be completed by all students who are keen to take part in this adventure.

I am therefore inviting any interested students and parents to come along to this preliminary information session on **Wednesday 13th March at 6.00pm**, in the staffroom at OSPS. At this meeting I will explain our selection criteria, costs, itinerary and proposed dates for the 2020 exchange. I will also answer any queries you may have regarding the exchange and have some parents and children from the 2019 exchange present to share their experiences.

At the end of this session, when all the details of this exchange have been outlined and the Q&A completed, I will hand out Application Forms for all students who are keen to be a part of this exciting program. **It is therefore vital that a representative from families wanting to be a part of the program be in attendance at this meeting.**

If you will be attending this preliminary information session, please fill in the form attached and return it to Mami or Sumiko sensei, by **Friday 8th March**.

OSPS JAPANESE EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2020

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

GRADE: _____

NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETING _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE: _____