

## Japanese Language & Culture

### School in Japan



Dear Parents:

We have just finished our “School in Japan” unit. The students have completed their “randoseru” (ran-doh-she-roo) backpacks. To receive all of the items in the backpack, they came “shopping” at our store in the classroom and asked for the various items in Japanese, using the expression, “May I please have a \_\_\_\_\_?” After our backpacks were completed, we talked about Mt. Fuji (Fuji-san) and “Onigiri” (oh-nee-gee-ree); Japanese rice balls with seaweed.

If you need help helping your child, please go to the following website and click “first grade” page.

<http://maloneyjapanese.wikispaces.com/>

Please visit the following website for the JLC program information.

<http://TeacherWeb.com/CT/MaloneyMagnetSchool/Japanese>

#### I. Please ask your child the following questions. Answers are at the bottom.

1. Which grade do children start school in Japan?
2. Which month does school start in Japan?
3. What do Japanese children wear to school?
4. Where do they eat Lunch?
5. How do Japanese children get to school?
6. Who clean the school?

(1. First Grade 2. April 3. Randoseru (Book bag) and yellow hat 4. In the classroom 5. By walking 6. Students)

#### II. Please ask your child to sing the “When I became a first grader” song.

ee-chee-nen-say-nee nah-ttah-rah

*When I became a first grader*

ee-chee-nen-say-nee nah-ttah-rah

*When I became a first grader*

toh-moh-dah-chee hya-koo-noon

*I wonder if I will make*

day-kee-roo-kah-nah

*100 friends*

Hya-koo-noon-day tah-bay-tigh-nah

*I want to eat Onigiri*

Fuji-san-no oo-ay-day Oh-nee-gee-ree-oh

*with my 100 friends on top of Mt. Fuji*

Pah-kkoon pah-koon pah-koon-toh

*munch, munch, munch (Yum, Yum)*

#### III. Randoseru Presentation

Ask your child to show what is inside the RANDOSERU (Japanese backpack).

##### Word list

Japanese	Pronunciation	Meaning
かみ	kami (kah-me)	paper
えんぴつ	enpitsu (en-pee-tsoo)	pencil
ものさし	monosashi (moh-noh-sah-see)	ruler
ほん	hon (hon)	book
クレヨン	kureyon (koo-ray-yon)	crayon
ふでばこ	fudebako (foo-day-bah-koh)	pencil case
はさみ	hasami (hah-sah-mee)	scissors
のり	nori (no-ree)	glue

けしゴム	keshigomu (kay-shee-go-moo)	eraser
ノート	no-to (noh-toh)	notebook
一年生	ichinensei (ee-chee-nen-say)	first grader

IV. School Rap

Ask your child to perform the school rap!

<b>Sensei gah eroo. Say-toh gah eroo.</b>	<b>There are teachers. There are students.</b>
<b>Doh-koh-nee-eroo. Gah-kkou dah-yo.</b>	<b>Where are they? In school!</b>
<b>Hah-sah-me gah ahroo. En-pee-tsoo gah ahroo.</b>	<b>There are scissors. There are pencils.</b>
<b>Doh-koh-nee-ahroo. Gah-kkou dah-yo.</b>	<b>Where are they? In school!</b>
<b>No-ree, moh-no-sah-see, kah-me, hon,</b>	<b>glue, ruler, paper, book</b>
<b>Kay-shee-go-moo, test, koo-ray-yon</b>	<b>eraser, test, crayon</b>
<b>Gah-kko, gah-kko, dai-soo-key-yo</b>	<b>school, school, I love it!</b>
<b>Min-nah-day, e-ssho-nee e-key-mah-sho!</b>	<b>Let's go to school together!</b>

ONIGIRI-Japanese Rice Balls

Onigiri are a popular fast food/lunch for Japanese. You can make onigiri at home with just a few simple ingredients.

Ingredients: Japanese white rice / Japanese dried "nori" seaweed / a bowl of water/ salt

Directions:

1. Prepare the rice according to the package directions.
2. Dip your hands in the bowl of water, then sprinkle at a little salt on your hands.
3. Scoop about a handful of rice into your hands and form into a triangular shape using both hands.
4. Cut the seaweed into 1/8 strips and wrap a strip around one end of the onigiri.

Other Options:

You can also stuff a surprise into the center of your onigiri, such as a little tuna salad, canned salmon, or a Japanese pickled plum. Or, you can mix in some additives to the rice before you make it, such as sesame seeds or dried seaweed flakes.

Home to School Communication

Please answer the following questions and return whenever you have a chance.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long did it take you to do this homework with your child? \_\_\_\_\_ minutes
2. Please check any that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ My child seems to know most of the words very well.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child needed hints, but then knew the words.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child could use more practice, especially with the words for \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Any further comments on this homework:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adult Signature

Thank you for your time!!! Kazumi-sensei