

Japanese Exchange Program

Clarkstown High School North hosted a group of 30 Japanese high school students and three teachers in March. This was their second time visiting CHSN since last March. CHSN and CHSS students first visited Osaka Yuhigaoka High School in July 2012 through the KIZUNA Project that was organized and funded by the Foreign Minister of Japan. Since then, students and Japanese language teacher, Mrs. Uchiyama have visited them three times, developing friendships across the ocean. CHSN has been exchanging letters and students' video messages with them.

During their visit, each Japanese student stayed at a Clarkstown student's house for one week. Some of them spoke English fairly well while some were very shy and communicated with their host family with mostly gestures and smiles. Everyone observed many differences and similarities in culture, language and lifestyles. It was an eye opening intercultural experience for many of us which we will never forget. They also enjoyed English classes during periods 1-3 with CHSN staff including Ms. McNally, Ms. Gold, Ms. Napier, Ms. Lubanty, Mrs. Sheridan, Ms. Kalmeta, Ms. Esteban, Mrs. Maiello, Mrs. Frisbee, Ms. Miranda and Mr. Reid. They all attended regular classes along with their host student for the rest of the day. NorthPTSA kindly provided gifts for each of the students and teachers. Cafeteria staff patiently helped them choose from the lunch menu. They also participated in the Tile Art Co-Project (theme is "Kindness"), between the World Language Department and Yuhigaoka High School. This will soon be displayed on the 2nd floor wall of the main building. It was a truly successful exchange program and CHSN showed our hospitality to the visitors. Many thanks to all the host families, students, staff and teachers at CHSN!

Osaka Yuhigaoka HS is known for its prestigious music courses, along with regular high school diploma courses. Many of the students wish to become professional singers and musicians. They support a foreign exchange program for students throughout the year and will welcome any Clarkstown students who wish to study in Japan for a short time or a full academic year. Further information, please contact Mrs. Uchiyama at auchiyama@ccsd.edu

