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Student Delegation Arrives March 20th



New Look

The Executive Board worked with designer Lisa Samtani to develop a new promotional postcard, greeting card and a pull up banner to help promote the MFA. We wanted the new design to attract the attention of potential new members with some images of Japan as well as promoting our most important purpose- friendship with Kariya. This modern yet fun look helps to capture our goals and purpose. We are hoping to develop a sponsorship kit with the same look to help “brand” the MFA. Please take some postcards if you have any place you can display them or pass them along to anyone who may be interested in joining us.

Twelve students and two teachers from Kariya Kita High School will visit Mississauga for a cultural exchange from March 20th to March 27th. The MFA has helped to develop a varied and interesting itinerary for the students. The MFA will host a trip to Niagara Falls that will include a visit to the butterfly conservatory, a look behind the falls and shopping on Clifton Hill. They will also visit Bradley Museum to learn about maple syrup production and have a pancake lunch. The students will also have the opportunity to visit schools from three different school systems. They will spend one day at their twin school, Stephen Lewis Secondary School, as well as a day at St. Francis Xavier Secondary School and the Greater Toronto Language

School (GTLS) which is a private ESL school. Thanks to everyone who helped to make these opportunities happen! On March 25th the delegates will showcase their culture at our MFA social meeting. It will run from 7pm to 9pm at Frank McKechnie Community Centre, 310 Bristol Road East. They are planning to demonstrate how to tie Furoshikis (Japanese wrapping cloths), calligraphy and dancing as well as performing a tea ceremony. Please plan to attend to support the students and give them a warm Mississauga welcome.



MISSISSAUGA DELEGATION TO VISIT KARIYA IN MAY

Ten delegates will represent the MFA on our visit to Kariya from May 14th to 22nd. Although there is lots of snow outside, we are busy thinking about a warm spring visit to Kariya. Mary DesJardine, Melissa Wakeling, Rebecca Chan, Heni Hidayat, Alene Sen, Nathan Lam, Scott Kemp, Kevin Kemp, Milja Oliveric and Stephanie Meeuwse will make up the group. The delegation will visit Kyoto and vari-



ous attractions around Kariya as well as have the opportunity to wear kimonos and participate in a tea ceremony. This year we will also attend a special celebration in honour of former Mayor, Hazel McCallion, who will be recognized as a "Municipal Contributor" to the City of Kariya. This honour is usually reserved for residents of

Kariya only. Seven of the delegates met on a snowy February 21 to start planning and we already have a lot of great ideas.

ANIME...AND THE WORLD!

Japanese culture through anime and manga is simply more popular than ever around the world! Hordes of people gather every year to celebrate this major part of modern fandom. Canada's largest anime convention, "Anime North", is right here in Mississauga every May. Not only is this the biggest Japanese pop culture event in Canada, it's the 4th largest in North America with nearly 29,000 fans in 2014 (the largest being Anime Expo in California with 86,000 attendees). The Festival do Japão in Brazil brings in a whopping 180,000 attendees every year, and the Japan Expo in France eclipses them all with 240,000 in attendance for 2014! (The latter two encompass all aspects of Japanese culture and not just anime and manga.) If you've never been to an anime convention, you might be wondering what people do there. Typical activities include costume and singing contests, autograph sessions with voice actors and artists, maid cafes (a more recent Japanese phenomenon where servers are dressed as "maids"), workshops, and anime viewings, to name a few. And of course there's the dealer room with an endless supply of imported goods available for purchase. It is truly a unique and fun experience!

JANUARY MEETING & PRESENTATION

The MFA recently held a meeting on Jan 21st at the Mississauga Valley Community Centre; thanks to everyone who attended! Our guest speaker, Rui Umezawa from the office of the Consul General of Japan, gave us a fascinating look at popular culture in his presentation "Influences on Japanese Culture in Anime and Manga". For those of you who may be new to this genre, "anime" (pronounced "Annie-May") is the Japanese word for animation, and manga is the word for comic books. In western culture, these are typically thought of as being for kids and young adults. However, in Japan, these forms of media are much more widely accepted and enjoyed by people of all ages, often exploring adult themes that are more serious in nature.



Most of us are familiar with Japanese icons such as Transformers, Gundam, and Pokemon, but even die-hard fans might not know about some of the Japanese cultural elements present in these stories. Buddhism, Shintoism, animism and more play a large part in these tales of distant places and creatures. Popular characters and scenes even carry over into real life in the form of "Cosplay" (i.e. costuming) and even a table-throwing competition based on a scene from a classic anime series. Naturally the presentation was followed by socializing, green tea, and sushi! Thanks again for the wonderful presentation Rui!

NEW SPONSOR- GREATER TORONTO LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Welcome to our newest sponsors the Greater Toronto Language School that is situated in downtown Streetsville. The school provides English language instruction both reading and writing as well as oral conversation. The instructors are qualified ESL teachers who encourage learning through interaction. The school is eager to participate with the MFA especially when our 12 high school students arrive in March. Their students will join us for Maple Magic at Bradley House on March 23 learning about tapping maple trees and making maple syrup. Our visiting students will go to their school on March 26 for cooking classes, English conversation and other still to be determined activities. The instructors, Ana, Amalia and Ken are all enthusiastic people with lots of ideas to share. We think the school will be a big asset to our Mississauga Friendship Association family.



THANK YOU G.N.JOHNSON

A big thank you to G.N.Johnson/ Raymond for continuing to support us in 2015 with a corporate sponsorship of \$3000. Their support allows us to ensure all delegates from Kariya have a great experience and that locals learn more about the twinning of Mississauga and Kariya. THANK YOU!

SPONSORS

A big thank you to our sponsors!



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