



September 7, 2007

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the first year of the Japanese Immersion Program. It is very exciting to be here, and I look forward to working with all of you. It will be a year of growth and change, and I ask for your patience and flexibility. Please see the

attached overview. I will have a course syllabus available for you at curriculum night on October 4th.

About Me

I was born and grew up in Hamamatsu, Japan and attended university in Tokyo. I have finished my professional teaching certification, and am working on my Master's Degree in Education at Seattle University. Before coming to Hamilton I taught at Lakeside School and Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.

Communication –The Source

The Source is the most important tool we have for communicating with families. **It is an online information center that will allow you to view your child's grades, assignments, and additional class information.** Logon information has been sent to you. There is a separate logon for parents and for students. Please check this site regularly with your student to monitor his/her progress in the class.



I have also included my email and phone number below for your convenience. I check both when I arrive at Hamilton and will respond as quickly as possible. However, I do not check email during the weekend.

If you would like to set up an appointment with me or visit the classroom, it is Hamilton's policy that you contact me at least 24 hours prior to the date you would like to come. It is also the school policy that visitors sign in downstairs in the main office.

Course Focus

This year the emphasis of the class will be on improving both oral and written proficiency. I will expect my students to speak Japanese as much as possible, and there will be an important oral component in the projects and lessons throughout the year. This emphasis on speaking is the most challenging part of acquiring a language and can be very frustrating. You can help your student by providing encouragement and enrichment activities. If you speak Japanese, please engage your child as much as possible.



Volunteering

Some of you have volunteered your time and talent to the class, and I am very appreciative of this enthusiasm. One way to help that will benefit the class is by donating Japanese children's books to the library. We are trying to create a Japanese collection, and any additions would be welcome. I may need assistance preparing for certain projects during the year; please email me if you would be interested in helping out. Finally, you can volunteer to help other students with English or Math. Please contact Amy White if you are interested in tutoring in other classes.



Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am very excited to start this new year! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions you might have. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely, Wakae MacLean

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206-252-5810 (Hamilton)

206-252-5883 (my extension)