

# HOME BASE AWESOME KIDS News

## Staff and Volunteers

Shirley M. Springer Staten,  
Coordinator

LaVerne Wilson,  
Volunteer

## Math for Everyday Living:

Laura Cruz

## Home Work Tutors:

Rose VanHermert

## Alaska First Tee:

Golfing

## Japanese Language and Culture:

Jordyn Steele

## Photography:

Laura Norton Cruz

Charles Tice

## Poetry Writing and

## Art Illustration:

Ashley Skabar

Dianne Barske

## African Drumming:

Jessie Wright

## African Dance:

Noemia Reis-Howell

## Home Base After School Student Madison Coulson

Cast in the Nationally Acclaimed  
Broadway Musical "*Caroline, Or  
Change*"



By Tony Kushner

Directed by Teresa Pond.

Madison's character is the oldest boy to Caroline named Jackie. The two boys Jackie and Joe are very close. The two boys often sing together in this performance. See Madison in his debut performance at Cyrano's Off Center Playhouse beginning on May 12, 2010, located on the corner of 4th Ave and D Street. Tickets available at [Centertix.net](http://Centertix.net).



## Kanji

By まとWard

What I've learned in Japanese is how to write and spell my name in Japanese. My name in Japanese is Matokun, to spell my name it is まとくんdesu. Letters of the Japanese ひらがな(which is alphabet) have only: K,S,T,S,H,M,R,Y,W,N, A,I,U,E, O. かんじ(which is the art of words) have much more.

In Japanese I also learn how to ask questions like what is your birthday. In Japanese, you say, あなたのおたんじょうびはなんですか? To say what is your name, you say; あなたのなまえはなんですか?.

What I like most about Japanese is the かんじ. One is : 手. I am very good at kanji. Another Kanji is : 名前. I have also learned all the stroke orders in Japanese letters. The TIP to remember stroke order is that you have to go left to right for example: ま The example I did was Ma. As you can see, I have Ma in my name: まと.

In Japan, you have to be polite and kind. If you don't, your teachers will get very mad. If you respect your teachers, they will get very happy. That is what I have learned in Japanese.

Mathew Ward



The Home base students actually wrote each of the Japanese characters which were translated using a Japanese's computer program. The Japanese teacher taught students the Hiragana alphabets as illustrated in their writings.

Special Thank You to the Home Base After School Funders



## Golf Time

By Nnamaka Isolokwu - 6th grade

Every Thursday we are attending Golf classes. We are learning about the Core Principles of Golfing. My favorite principle is perservance. Perservance teaches us to never give up on our goal even if we don't succeed the first time.

I also learned about having respect for people and yourself. For example in golf you have to show respect for your opponent by not walking in front of them or distracting them while it's their turn to putt. Golf is a fun experience partly because I have never done it before.

Sometimes we even go to the Dome to golf. At the Dome we can hit full swings. We have metal golf clubs and little spaces with boards on either side of you so that your balls don't hit anyone. We have to do your ABCs. A, which stands for look around, B, stands for broadcast to tell everyone you're hitting, then the C, stands for check again. I particularly like to hit full swings at the Dome because I can have more freedom and can hit the golf balls hard as you can.

Golfing is one of the most professional sports and it's very exciting to learn.

## My Favorite Club the Iron

By Drew Parker

Golfing is a very good sport. In golf, we all have Core Principle, for example respect. We always respect the golf equipment because the equipment we use is not ours. We always try to wear the right shoes because if I were to go to a real gold field and I would have to run then I would probably put holes in the grass and the grass is very expensive. Sometimes I also need to respect others.

Another Core Principle is called courtesy. When we are courteous we don't talk back to the coaches and we listen because if we don't listen then we don't know what to do. We also have to be courteous to each other because if someone is about to hit a ball you do not blurt out, and say "hurry up and hit the ball." We also must be courteous in the safety zone because if someone is hitting you won't get hurt.

## The Tee Box

By Matthew Ward

In golf, I have learned about Core Principles. Core principles are basic rules in golf. The main core principles we learned are to respect others, respect yourself, and respect your surroundings. To give an example: To show respect for others, you have to be kind to them, not break their things, and not interrupt their personal space. Another core principles is perseverance, be honest and courteous.

I also learned in golf the areas. The area you start to golf is in the tee box. The areas you do not want to have your golf ball are in the water, in the sand trap and in the long green. You want your ball to land in the short green.

What's fun about golf are the real golf clubs and balls. It's fun because when you hit the ball with a driver, it flies far away from you and helps you lose your anger. In golf, I'm very good at full swings. When I putt, I hit too hard. I think I'm launching it, but I'm putting it.

This is what I learned in golf.



Onnalisa

# Hole in Three

By Lamica Harris

Golf is a fun sport and I am learning a lot. I am learning the Core principles, they are: respect, courtesy and kindness. Respect is showing a regard to others. We should always be respectful for the golfing equipment. Courtesy is showing kindness and helping others. In addition, I have learned that perservance and safety are very important in golfing. My Mom thinks I am really learning a lot in golf. My Dad says that most black people don't play golf except for Tiger Woods. I am happy I am learning to play golf.

I really like the activities we do like baseball, golf and challenge each other. In playing golf one should always show good sportsmanship.

# G o l f

By Onnalis Ramos

I have learned about the ABCs. A is to look around for other golfers who may be behind you. It is important to make sure you don't hit them when you are swinging. B is for broadcast. Broadcast is important to do the right steps in golf. You put the golf club in position and then you say "ball." It tells people that you are about to hit the ball. C is for check again. This is important to make sure you don't hit a person.

It is very important not to step on the head of the club. This means you are being very respectful to the coaches for allowing us to use their equipment. One of the core principles is respect. This mean when you are playing golf you are doing what the coach ask you to do. Respect is also being safe while having fun. It is important to do your best in golfing so one day you can become a golf professional.

# Hole in One

By Rashawne Wilson

"Hole in One" is a golf term used when the player hits the golf ball in the hole the first time. Golf is a great sport and it is great for kids to learn. That is why the Home Base program is learning how to play golf. One of the major rules of golf is to be safe. Students must be safe so they won't get hit with the golf ball or club. One of the things we do is to do our A B C (look around, broadcast, check again). To start the game you have to start at the Tee Area. You want your golf ball down the fairway. The places you don't want to hit are the roughs. You want to end at the Greens.

In golf I became better from the start. Now we are hitting full swings. I enjoy golf and it is fun. It is really relaxing game to me. Now we are going to start golfing at the Dome. I think it is going to be challenging but a lot of fun.

Oluchi

## Courtesy Is Very Important in Golf

By Oluchi Isolokwa - 3rd grade

Golfing is super fun. It's like you're outside. You can just hit a ball and have so much fun. One of the things you should know about is courtesy. Courtesy is really important. Courtesy means you're polite and you don't lie. You have to be honest about your scores. If you say you have one on your score card and you only scored three then that's a lie. For example you are not learning from your lesson if you are not being honest.

Honesty is one of the core values in playing golf.



## It's Tee Time

By Desmond David Pitts

One thing that I have learned in golf is when you are taking a small hit you do not break the Y. The second lesson I have learned is when you take a big hit you break the Y. And I have also learned to play golf animal style.

I have learned not to swing the golf club when someone is behind you. The person might get hurt and the person that hit them might get in trouble. Respect is one of the Core Principles in golf. If you are being unsafe on the golf course then you are not being respectful.



# Golfing for Kids Like Me

By Makayla Wilson - 4th grade

In golfing, I have learned a lot so far. Some of the things I have learned are the way you must stand in order to putt. I have learned that the face is on the front of the golf club. Another thing I have learned is "What is a green?" I saw it on my Wii but I didn't really know what is.

Some core principles that I learned from my golf coaches are: respect and perseverance. Respect is for everybody not only you. Respect for others and respect for your surroundings.

Even you have to respect other people's stuff like golf clubs and golf balls. Mostly anything that doesn't belong to you. Perseverance means if you keep trying then you might succeed.



Drew

## HOLE IN ONE

by Madison Coulson - 5th Grade

There are many reasons why I like playing golf. First of all because I think it is a really cool sport. Also it teaches you a lot because the teachers don't just give up on you. If you don't get it exactly right they'll help you until you get it right. Another reason is because we get to play with a great program called first tee with a professional golf player. The coolest swing to me in golf is the full swing.

I like the full swing because if I'm mad I can take it out on the golf ball with my club. I also like the full swing because it's the easiest for me, for now until I get onto the real course. One of the main reasons why I like golf is because the core values that they teach like respect, courtesy, and good etiquette. My favorite core value is courtesy because it just seems like one of the best things to show other than respect. I like to have this because it makes others feel good, also yourself.

I love Thursdays.....because it's golfing time.

# Respect for Golfing

By Xavier Brown

What I have learned in golfing is how to hit the ball up in the air. What I use to hit the ball is a club called the "driver." There is another club I use for putting. It is called a "putter." Also the driver has one face and the putter has two.

I have also learned honesty and respect. I use respect in golfing with the equipment. That means that I do not abuse it on the ground or step on it. I use honesty when I am keeping score. So if I put the wrong number I am just cheating myself.

Another thing I learned in golfing is The First Tee Code of Conduct. The code of conduct is respect. Respect for myself, respect for others, and respect for my surroundings. Respect for myself is dressing appropriately. Respect for others is being nice to the other students. Respect for my surroundings is taking care of the equipment.

## Swing, Hit and Smile

By Giani Kinnaird

Golfing is hard, but the rules are easy. First you bend your knees. A line should be parallel with your knees. If you are right handed you would hold the club with your left thumb over your right thumb. If you are left handed you would hold the club right thumb over left thumb. Make a Y with your hands and club and never break your Y. (This is for your little swing.) Same thing at the start bend your knees, then with your knees make a straight line. It gets different now.

First, you need a different club. Your Y changes, but you start with a Y. Now bring your Y behind your shoulder, break your Y, and then stay in the same place for about two seconds. Bring your club forward, hit the golf ball, keep going and bring the club over your shoulder again. (This is for your big swing.)





## Best Math Class

By Faizon Murray

In math we are learning how to do measurements and cook. We are also learning that you can eat good food and eat healthy at the same time. In addition, we learned that if you eat a lot of fried food, you can become obese and have diabetes. Eating healthy food will give you strong bones, when you grow up.

I also learned that Hispanics have more diabetes than any other culture. We also discovered that Black people have the second most diabetes. Last but not least White people have the lowest chance of diabetes. We also figured out how to read which labels are healthier.

One thing the reader should remember about my article is that you can eat healthy and have good food. If you don't take care of yourself, you could die.

Sometimes math is very hard but it is important.

Special Feature

## WRESTLING IN ALASKA

By Marcus Wilson

There are three different styles of wrestling. Folk style (also known as Collegiate), Freestyle and Greco/Roman. Each style of wrestling has its similarities and differences. All of the styles involve grappling but if you have wrestled you know each style is also very different in strategy, rules and scoring. Folkstyle wrestling is the style used in middle schools and high schools here in Alaska. Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling is offered at a younger age here in Alaska for those kids that choose to wrestle with clubs. Kids as young as 4 and as old as you can still handle being on the mat are out there wrestling. The middle school and high school kids can choose to wrestle all three styles since they are different seasons.

If you have never been to a wrestling tournament it may not be what you would expect. The wrestlers start their day at 7 am when they weigh in to see what weight they will wrestle at that day. The tournaments begin as early as 9 am and end as late as 9 pm. There are typically 600-700 kids that participate in each tournament. At the state tournament there are up to 1200 kids participating. Wrestlers have to stay in the gym until their age and weight group is done wrestling or they have lost 2 matches. Since there is no particular order to when you are called to wrestle you just wait until your bracket is called. At that point you have a few minutes to mentally prepare for your next match. The gyms are loud, hot and crowded. There are kids left and right either cheering from a win or sad from a loss. There are always some matches where hundreds of people crowd around the mat to watch.

When I am called to wrestle I get butterflies in my stomach but when the match begins I become relaxed and zoned in, ready to work for my next win.



Deputy Director Suzi Jones welcomes Home Base Students



Star Wars - Dinner at the Museum





# Japanese

## Japanese is a Fascinating Language

By ふあいそん Murray

Hello everyone, my name is Faizon. What I have learned in Japanese is how to write my name. I will show you ふあいそん this is how you write Faizon. I have also learned how to say please which is Kudasi - written in Japanese ください. I have learned how to say hello which is こんにちは. We learned to say good job which is すばらしい.

I have learned how to count from one to ten in Japanese. I will write them in English and then in Japanese. Ichi, ni, san, shi, go, roku, shi chi, ha chi, kyuu, Juu. Now in Japanese: 一, 二, 三, 四, 五, 六, 七, 八, 九, 十. I have also learned the alphabets. They are: あ, い, う, え, お. and か, き, く, け, こ. Those are just a few of the letters in Japanese.

It is important to always bow and say the words best as you can in Japanese. If you don't they will think you are being disrespecting their culture. When I get older, I would like to visit Nihon which is Japanese for Japan.

Thank you all for all the time and patience.

## Great Learning

By おるち Isolokwa - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Japanese class is a success. It is a success because you get to learn a new language. If you go to Japan to greet someone you say こんにちは. Japanese letters are like art. When you say the word “です” that's ending the sentence. In Japan they say sentences backwards compared to English. So when you say like I love to dance. In Japan you say “dance I love.”

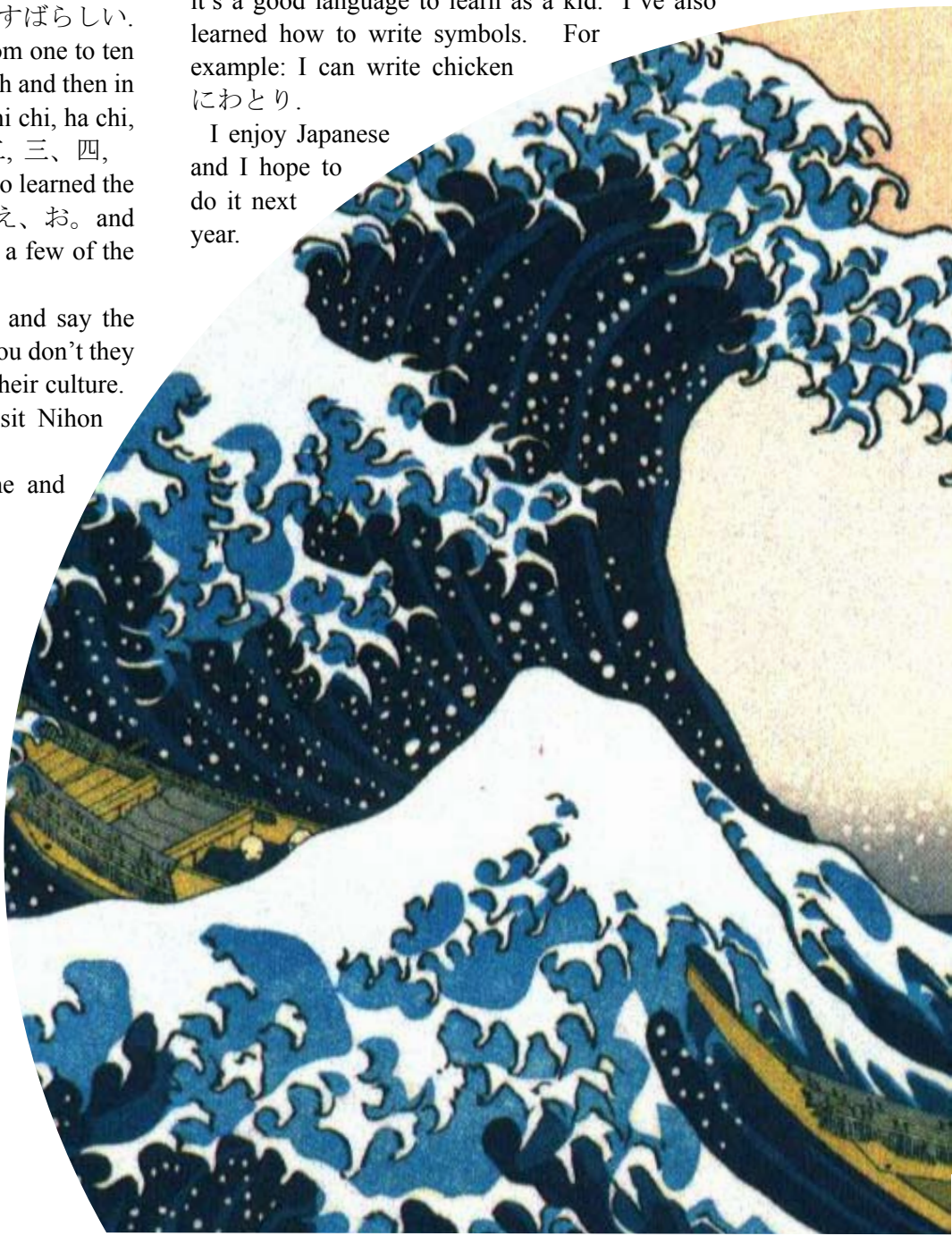
## おげんきですか

By らしゃん Wilson

I just wrote: おげんきですか means how are you? わたしはらしゃんです。わたしはじゅういちさいです。I am Rashawne. I am 11 years old. Japanese is really easy to learn. I learned how to do a lot of activities like I can count to ten. 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十.

We've done a lot of activities like paint and learn the strokes of the symbols. I really enjoy Japanese. It's fun and it's a good language to learn as a kid. I've also learned how to write symbols. For example: I can write chicken にわとり.

I enjoy Japanese and I hope to do it next year.



## Clean, Clear, and Fast

By Giani Kinnaird

All of the words we have learned, we know how to say and how to write in Japanese.

We have learned basic words like eat, time and hello. Now we are learning sentences and it's going very well. But Japanese ends at the end of March and I would like to learn Japanese longer. I just love how you have to articulate your

words so clean, clear, and how fast it all comes out.

## Fun and Learning in Japanese

にほんごはたのしかた！

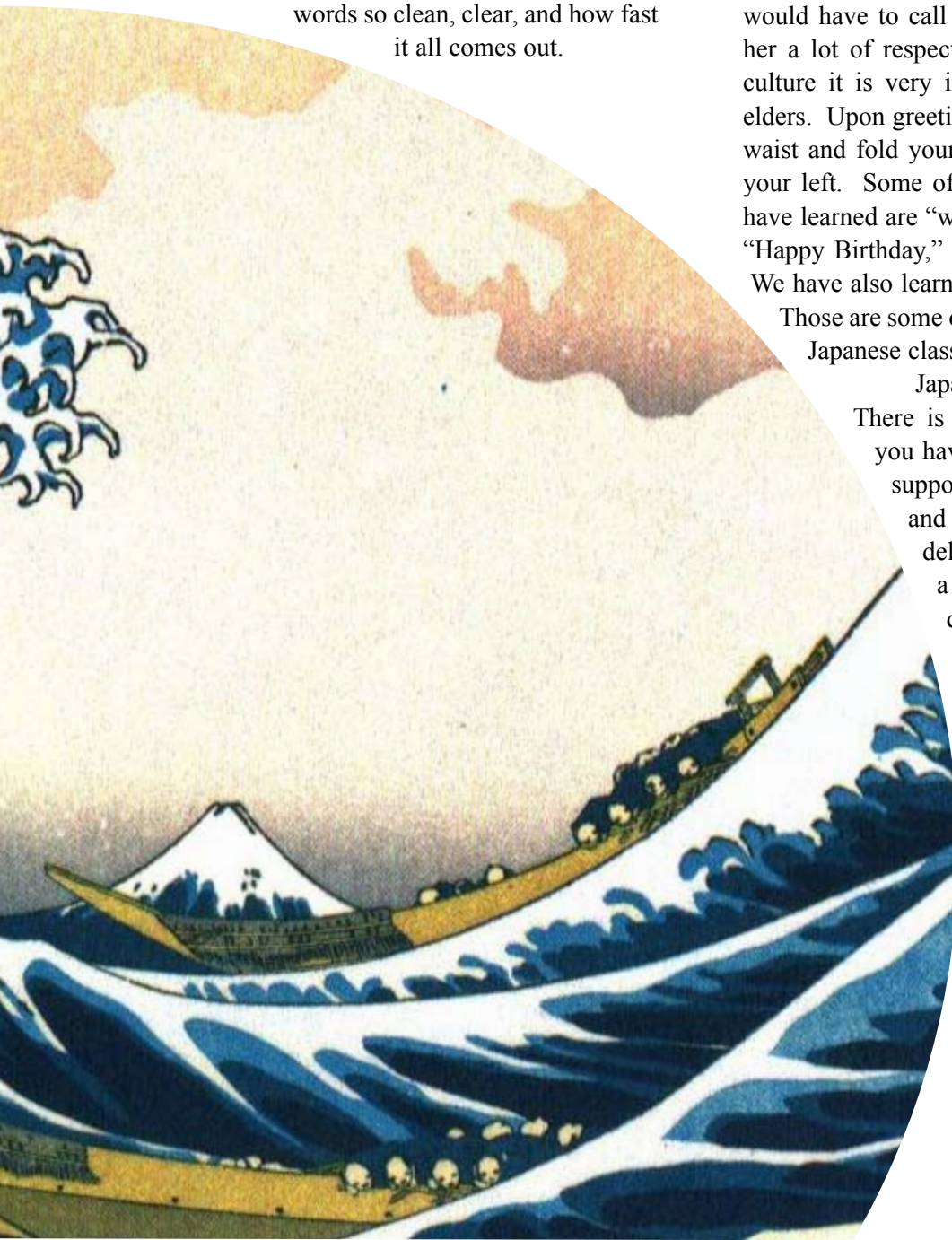
By にあまか Isolokwu - 6<sup>th</sup> grade

こんにちはわたしのなまえはにあまかです。Translating – Hello my name is Nneamaka (period). I have learned so much in Japanese. Learning a new language is challenging, but a fun thing to do. Our Japanese teacher's name is Ms. Jordyn. The students would have to call her Jordyn sensei and show her a lot of respect in Japan. In the Japanese culture it is very important for one to respect elders. Upon greeting them one must bow at the waist and fold your right hand over the one on your left. Some of the words or phrases that I have learned are “what is your phone number?”, “Happy Birthday,” “name,” and names of food. We have also learned verbs to use in sentences.

Those are some of the things I have learned in Japanese class.

Japanese characters are like art. There is a certain keystroke of how you have to draw them. You're not supposed to press down too much and you have to place your hand delicately. There are always a certain number of lines to draw. To learn and memorize some of the words and characters we play games and sing songs. The games are really fun because they are often competitive games.

Japanese is one of my favorite languages to learn.



# どるー

By どるー Parker

The thing I've learned in Japanese is that if you're at a friend's house in Japan and they offer tea you always want to drink all of it because if not then that is very rude. Another thing that I have learned is that when Japanese words are written they are in a different order. I have learned the head, shoulders, knees, and toes song. (あたま、かた、ひざ、and あし) Japanese is much easier than Spanish.

Sometimes when Japanese people eat they sit on the floor. Instead of pencils and paper Japanese people use paint and rice paper. I think that's how they always write. In Japan the alphabet is different very different than in English. For example this is how you would say A through M in Japanese. あいうえおかきくけこさしすせそ です。The first few days of Japanese were a bit difficult. Writing in Japanese is very different than writing in English.

## My Class in Japanese

By Onnalisa Ramos

I really love Japanese because it is an interesting language to me. It is very easy for me to learn. I really love the teacher. I have learned how to count to ten in Japanese- 一, 二, さん, 四, 五, 六, 七, 八, 九, and 十. Also I know how to say March 17, 2010. 三月十七日です。To greet a friend in Japanese you would say こにちわ。This means "hello."

Japanese is a good subject to take because I like to learn different languages from other countries. In this class we did a tea ceremony. I learned that when you have tea in Japan you must bend on your knees and you cannot sit on the chair. It is proper to drink all of the tea because it's impolite to not honor their customs. In closing, I want say that Japanese was very interesting and I hope I have an opportunity to learn more.

# By Bo Ku Wa

Xavier Brown

Konichiwa, bo ku no Xavier des bo ku no ju ni des. What I have said is hello, my name is Xavier and I am 12 years old. One thing I have learned in Japanese class is how to introduce myself in Japanese. Another thing I learned is the word "des". The word "des" means period. So you use it at the end of each sentence.

Ms. Jordyn the Japanese teacher taught us the basics like meh me mas means to see. Kee kee mas means to hear. Shee mas means to do. Toe bay mas means to eat. Another thing I learned is the Japanese alphabet. It is a lot longer than the American alphabet, but the only way to write them is in Japanese.

I learned how to say what time is it. This is how you say it, ji kan wa nan deska Also in Japanese you put the subject first. So if you say it in English it would be time is what. Basically you just say the sentence backwards.

# よかった！

By まけいら Wilson - 4th grade

わたしのなまえはまけいらです。 That means my name is Makayla. At the beginning of Japanese we learned the alphabet. We also sang the head, shoulder, knees and toes song in Japanese. You sing it like this: あたま、かた、ひざ、あし。

We have also learned colors like red which is あか, orange which is おれんじ and blue which is あお. If you do Japanese it is an easy and fun language to learn.

Ever afternoon we say こんにちは as a greeting to everyone in class. です means period and, ですか means a questions. Some number in Japanese are 1=いち, 2=に, 3=さん, 4=し, 5=ご, 6=ろく, Those are some number in Japanese.

In Japanese, I learned that you have to talk really fast

## About Japanese

By らみか Harris

The first thing I want to share with you is my Japanese class. I have learned a lot of things in Japanese like a song called "あたま、かた、ひざ、あし". The words are: head, shoulder and knees. It has a really good rhythm. Japanese is a good culture to learn. Sometimes I just don't understand what Ms. Jordyn is saying. However, I really like the class and Ms. Jordyn. She is a nice teacher. I am hoping to do well in the class and try to focus more.

My mom thinks that it is nice that I am learning Japanese and she says I need to teach her Japanese someday and I will. My Dad says that I will start speaking different languages in the house and maybe he won't know what I am saying.

It's a good class for me.

# さわってください

By ですもんどDavid Pitts

The one important thing I have learned in Japanese is you always try and do your very best at pronouncing the letters and words. I have learned how to say sit down which is *さわってください*. I know how to say the hours and minutes, which is *じ* and *ぷん*. I also know how to count from twenty-one to twenty-five. *二十一、二十二、二十三、二十四、二十五*. I know how to say teacher in Japanese : *せんせい*. I think it's important to speak Japanese right because if you say a bad word to the teacher they would think you are being mean.

I think it's is important to learn Japanese maybe not all the way but some of it. If I go to Japan and they asked my name, I can answer that question. I appreciate the opportunity I had to learn Japanese.



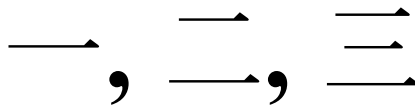
**Jordyn Steele, Japanese Teacher**  
**17 years old Senior student**  
**Graduating from Stellar High**

# Konichiwa

By Marcus Wilson

I have recently participated in a Japanese class at the Home Base After School Program. The instructors name is Ms. Jordyn. She is a very patient teacher. There are many things about the Japanese culture that she has taught us. I have learned that when you visit the home of a Japanese person it is respectful to remove your shoes when you enter the home. Also when you are offered refreshment it is polite to accept. Respect of others and traditions are held in high regard in the Japanese culture.

In class we have also had the opportunity to learn some of the Japanese language. We have learned how to say and write all of the letters, to formally and informally introduce ourselves and to say some common phrases. To say "Hello my name is Marcus," you would say "Konichiwa", *watashiwa namewa Marcus des.*" My favorite activity in Japanese is the slap game where we have to slap the proper letter that she calls out. One day I hope to have the opportunity to travel to Japan and experience of the wonderful things about the culture that I have learned.



By までそん Coulson - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

A couple of things that I have learned is how to greet myself properly. I know how to count all the way to ten as fluently as in English. The cool thing about Japanese is that you can speak a language that probably nobody in your class can understand. I learned in Japanese what might happen if you don't greet others properly. The coolest thing I have learned was the alphabets. *あいうえお かきくけこ さしすせそ たちつて とはひふへほ まみむめも なにぬねの やゆよ らりるれろ わをん*

The other cool thing about Japanese are the number symbols.

一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十

# いろな

Mia Wilson

*こんにちは* which means hello in Japanese. Japanese is a fun and easy language to learn. This semester we learned some of the colors in Japanese. These colors are *あか* which means red, *おれんじ* means orange, *きいろ* means yellow, *みどり* means green, *くろ* means black, and *しろ* means white. My favorite color out of all of them is *あか*, which means red. So if you're thinking about learning a totally different language, then think about learning Japanese!

One of the things I learned about the Japanese culture is that they are very respectful. Another thing that is respectful to do is eat all of your food that you are served. It is also respectful to bow when you are introducing yourself to someone. It is respectful to do the proper hand strokes when writing numbers or characters. The proper hand strokes are left to right and top to bottom. It is very respectful to take your shoes off before entering another person's home. It is okay to slurp your noodles and actually means that you are enjoying your food. It is very disrespectful to disrespect an elder, parent or teacher.

So remember if you want to travel to Japan make sure you know at least these rules.

## What Home Base Means to Me

Oluchi Isolokwu - 3rd grade

Home Base is an after school program where kids can learn.

On Mondays, we do Tai Chi, On Tuesday we do Spanish and the teacher is Ms. Pauline.

Me and the kids from the Home Base are all involved

Everyone likes the program

Big dreams are here

As kids grow they get smarter

Soon your kids will grow

Exciting things will fill your child's head

Since I arrived at the Home Base After School program, I was feeling happy because there were people I wanted to know. It was fun on the first day and I wanted to know what I was going to be doing at this program. Plus I was so excited.

## Home Base After School Summer Program

### The First Tee of Alaska Golfing

*Russian Jack Golf Course*

June 14 – 17, 2010

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

June 21 - 23, 2010

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

### String Music Camp Intensive

*Violin and Viola*

Guest Violinist

Internationally acclaimed

### Richmond Punch

Richard Punch is a graduate of Yale University School of Music with a Master's degree in Viola. He has a Bachelor of Music degree from Julliard School of Music.

Class held on

July 5- 9, 2010

11:30am to 1:30 pm

Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced students are welcome

Camp site: Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Total Cost

\$20.00 first Child

\$15.00 second Child

\$10.00 third Child

Space for 45 students

For more information call 561.9471 or download an application at [www.homebasekids.com](http://www.homebasekids.com)

