2017
National Japan Bowl® Report
National Japanese Language and Culture Competition for High School Students
第25回全米ジャパンボウル大会

Presented by
THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC
The 25th Anniversary National Japan Bowl

On April 6 and 7, 2017, the Japan-America Society of Washington DC held the 25th National Japan Bowl® in Chevy Chase, Maryland. This year, 170 students from 57 teams came from all over the United States to compete: California, Connecticut, Florida, Guam, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The National Japan Bowl also welcomed teams from Japanese Plus in Washington, DC and the national championship team from the 2016 Mexico Japan Bowl, who attend Liceo Mexicano Japones, A.C. in Mexico City.

Students competed at three levels in three rounds (two written Preliminary Rounds and one oral Conversation Round). In the Preliminary Rounds, the students were challenged by a total of 90 questions at each level, covering not just the Japanese language but also a wide range of questions on Japanese history, culture, daily life, and sports, to name only a few. After the results of the preliminary rounds and conversation round were tallied, the top three teams at each level advanced to the National Championship Round for a live, on-stage competition to decide the top teams in the nation.

On the first night, all participants were welcomed at the Opening Ceremony, which included a performance by world-renowned shamisen played, Keisho Ohno, and performances by Jr. EXILE, whose members are currently in training in New York. On the second day, students enjoyed an introduction to wagashi (Japanese sweets) from master wagashi chefs of Matsukawaya Sweets. The winner of a wagashi contest was presented with a special wagashi, and all students were taught how to make wagashi designed specifically for the National Japan Bowl. During the championship round, students were read a question by a special guest – the 2017 Cherry Blossom Queen, Yuki Shimono. At the closing ceremony, they enjoyed a performance by an enka trio, MIZMO, as well as a performance of SMAP’s 2002 hit, Sekai ni Hitotsu Dake no Hana, by Japan Bowl solo singers.

For the 25th Anniversary of the National Japan Bowl, there was a special Teacher’s Round where teachers from the East Coast, West Coast, and Central states competed. After the closing ceremony, attendees gathered for the planting of three Yoshino Japanese cherry trees to commemorate the 25th Anniversary.

The Deputy Chief of Mission, Atsuyuki Oike, and Madam Nobuko Sasae, wife of the Japanese Ambassador to the US, as well as other distinguished guests, presented awards and medals to the national championship teams. The Level 4 winners were awarded a trip to Japan, thanks to the generous support of the Mazda Foundation.
School Name

Gretchen Whitney High School, CA
Lynbrook High School, CA
Silver Creek High School, CA
Stevenson School, CA
Center for Global Studies at
    Brien McMahon High School, CT
Japanese Plus, Globalize DC
Deerfield Beach High School, FL
St. John's School, GU
Northside College Preparatory High
    School, IL
Eastern High School, KY
Eleanor Roosevelt High School, MD
Montgomery Blair High School, MD
Eastview High School, MN
Shakopee High School, MN
Liceo Mexicano Japones, A.C., MX
Townsend Harris High School, NY
Lake Oswego High School, OR
Liberal Arts and Science Academy, TX
The Woodlands College Park High
    School, TX
The Woodlands High School, TX
American Fork High School, UT
Falls Church High School, VA
Hayfield Secondary School, VA
Lake Braddock Secondary School, VA
Langley High School, VA
Thomas Jefferson High School for
    Science and Technology, VA
Madison Country Day School, WI

28 Schools, 57 Teams, 170 Students
全米ジャパン・ボウル入賞校
Champions of the 2017 National Japan Bowl

Level 2
1st Place Silver Creek High School, CA
2nd Place Thomas Jefferson High School, VA
3rd Place Lynbrook High School, CA
4th Place Townsend Harris High School, NY
5th Place Shakopee High School, MN

Level 3
1st Place Lynbrook High School, CA
2nd Place Thomas Jefferson High School, VA
3rd Place Gretchen Whitney High School, CA
4th Place The Woodlands College Park High School, TX
5th Place Montgomery Blair High School, MD

Level 4
1st Place Townsend Harris High School, NY
1st Place Lake Braddock Secondary School, VA
3rd Place Eastview High School, MN
4th Place Stevenson School, CA
5th Place Northside College Preparatory School, IL
先生

Japanese Language Teachers

We would like to thank this year’s teachers for their support of the National Japan Bowl and their dedication to developing the “next generation” in the US-Japan relationship.

Marisa Bellini, American Fork HS
William Collazo, Deerfield Beach HS
Yoko Eshita, Globalize DC
Hiroko Fukuhara-Karch, Liberal Arts and Science Academy
Fumiko Harada, St. John’s School
Karen Hendrickson, Madison Country Day School
Elizabeth Hojo, The Woodlands College Park HS
Hector San Juan Juanchi, Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C.
Elena Kamenetzky, Eastern HS
Chizu Kennedy, Bayside HS
Jeremy Kitchen, Lynbrook HS
Kumi Kobayashi, Lynbrook HS
Yumi Lawless, Langley HS
Yuki Melvin, Lake Braddock Secondary School
Yukiyo Moorman, Walt Whitman HS
Laura Moy, Eastview HS
Shinobu Nagashima, Stevenson School

Tetsuo Ogawa, Eleanor Roosevelt HS
Hina Oishi, Lake Oswego HS
Koji Otani, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Eilene Oyama, Gretchen Whitney HS
Jeun-Hee Park, Northside College Preparatory HS
Masumi Reade, The Woodlands HS
Mariko Sato-Berger, Townsend Harris HS
Naomi Satoh, Shakopee HS
Sally Schwartz, Globalize DC
Andrew Scrone, Langley High School
Keiko Sigmund, Brien McMahon HS
Charlotte Stewart, Lake Oswego HS
Nicholas Sturtevant, Silver Creek HS
Yumi Lawless, Falls Church HS
Kyoko Vaughan, Hayfield Secondary School
Tamaki Yoshitome, Eastview HS
Yoko Zoll, Montgomery Blair HS
Japan Bowl Sponsors and Supporters

The Japan Bowl is supported each year by many sources of funding, and especially grants. The United States-Japan Foundation started its funding in 1996 and has played a major role in helping the Japan Bowl grow to become America's premiere competition for high school learners of Japanese. The Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation has helped expand the Japan Bowl to many new locations across the nation. The Toshiba International Foundation has assisted JASWDC in expanding the Japan Bowl program around the world. The Embassy of Japan also has been a great supporter over the years. The Hiroko Iwami Malott Memorial Fund also has supported the development of the Japan Bowl in recent years. JASWDC is grateful to the following sponsors and supporters who made this year’s competition possible.

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**Special Supporter**
The Hiroko Iwami Malott Memorial Fund

**Special Thanks**
Kamada America
The Pokémon Company
We would also like to thank all the wonderful guests at the 2017 National Japan Bowl, who came to share their knowledge of Japan with all of this year's participants.

This year's special guests included:

**Keisho Ohno**
Keisho Ohno is a Tsugaru Shamisen player who mixes traditional Shamisen music with modern and rock music. Born in Niigata, Japan, Keisho started playing Tsugaru-shamisen at the age of eight. In 2006, he performed at SXSW (South By South West) and toured cities in the United States including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Austin. In 2007, he major debuted with his album, “Shamisen-damashii-Shami Spirits.”

**MIZMO**
A groundbreaking Enka trio with true Japanese heart and soul. “East meets west” in this brand new style. MIZMO will mesmerize you with their KOBUSHI (special Japanese singing technique) in three-part harmony.

**Kihachiro Nishiura**
Kihachiro Nishiura is a descendant of Nishiura Enji, the founder of the Nishiura-yaki school of ceramics, which was highly acclaimed in the Meiji Era. His “Nishiura Style” exhibitions of incense, floral arrangements, calligraphy, and other art forms have been enthusiastically received in Japan and around the world.
**Jr. EXILE**

In 2014, a group of youth candidates were selected from highly competitive auditions in Japan to develop their talents and global appeal through an entertainment-driven educational program in NY. Project Taro is a three-year educational program which helps the candidates reach ‘global superstar’ status and gain positive recognition.

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**Matsukawaya**

Matsukawaya was founded in Nagoya in 1862. Their mission is to pass down and convey the important traditional Japanese culture of Wagashi, and to enrich the lives of all people by creating the enjoyment and deliciousness. The wagashi are made based on the beauty of nature and the four seasons of Japan.
2017 National Japan Bowl Student Survey
Here are some key results from this year's survey of students

Q5 Here's another question for everyone. Which of these words best describes your overall 2-day experience at the Japan Bowl?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>44.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great</td>
<td>44.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>8.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td>1.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disappointing</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q6 Did you listen to/meet with any of the representatives who came from the Japanese universities?

Answered: 58  Skipped: 0

Yes | 74.14%
---|---
No, because I didn't arrive... | 15.52%
No, because I was too busy... | 5.17%
No, because I didn't have ... | 5.17%

日本の大学からの担当者と会ったり、話を聞いたりする機会がありましたか。
Q16 Do you plan to continue to study Japanese when you go to college?

Answered: 59  Skipped: 0

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>59.32%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>37.29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3.39%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Q18 Do you think you might want to study abroad in Japan during your college years?**

*Answered: 58  Skipped: 0*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, for a semester.</td>
<td>44.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, for a full academic year</td>
<td>25.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, all four years.</td>
<td>17.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>12.07%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

日本の大学に留学したいと思いますか。
THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

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Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado

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