GOOD SHEPHERD WELCOMES JAPANESE VISITORS

For 16 years students at Good Shepherd Lutheran College have been welcoming Japanese students into their homes and their school. 2010 has seen the arrival of 19 exchange students and their teacher from the Aoyama Gakuin School in Tokyo. The students aged between 10 and 12 years are immersed in the English language and Australian way of life during these annual visits.

School mornings see the Japanese students in English classes, followed by afternoon classes with their hosts. The ten day exchange is not all work and no play, the visitors enjoy a range of ‘Aussie’ experiences including a farm stay where they go horse riding, canoeing and feed the farm animals and spend an ‘Aussie’ weekend with their host families. It really is a win-win situation with all involved benefitting from their participation in this program in some way.

Students from Good Shepherd are also given the opportunity to travel to Japan on a reciprocal exchange program. This year three Good Shepherd students made the journey. Lucinda Paech, a Year 7 student, enjoyed her trip: “It was great to experience the Japanese culture first hand and see how they live. I would love to go there again.” Fellow traveller, Brendan Lowrie, remembers, “It was fun, especially the visit to Disneyland. School was interesting too. All students have a meal provided for them and they eat inside their classrooms.” GSLC teacher, Mrs Val Handreck, who accompanied the Australian students, said it was an eye opening adventure and an absolutely wonderful chance for our students to experience school and home life in another country.

Students from Good Shepherd Lutheran College also have an option to travel to Germany as part of the Secondary German curriculum. Visits such as these fit very nicely into the College’s status of candidate school with the International Baccalaureate and its philosophy of nurturing global learners.

Photo above: Good shepherd Lutheran College, Year 6 student, Amy Louise Armstrong and Japanese exchange student, Kaho Fujimura show off their origami peace cranes.