



### 日本語センター

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# J L C 通信

(つうしん)

Newsletter May 2004

## \* 文化 (ぶんか) \* Culture Corner



### こいのぼり Koinobori

5<sup>th</sup> of May is “Children’s Day” which was originally celebrated as the Boy’s festival. The Girls’ Festival is 3<sup>rd</sup> of March however the Boys’ festival day became “Children’s Day” and is a national holiday. Do you think it’s fair? Why not a national holiday for Girls’ Festival day? I believe that the Japanese society lack respect for women. To celebrate the Boys’ Day, families that have son hoist Koinobori from deck and flagpoles. Koinobori are carp streamers constructed out of cloth.

## \* 食べ物 (たべもの) \* Food Corner



### Kappa-maki

Are you vegetarian? Are you scared to eat raw fish? Who said that Sushi is expensive? There are many kinds of Sushi. Kappa-maki is cucumber roll, which is wrapped in a toasted sheet of dried seaweed. That name came from an imaginary creature “Kappa”. Kappa is generally portrayed with the body of a tortoise, ape-like head, scaly limbs, long hair circling the skull, webbed feet and hands, and yellow-green skin. They are often depicted with a tortoise shell attached to their backs. Kappa is a water spirit and loves swimming and cucumber. That’s why the cucumber roll is called Kappa-maki. You can make such an easy, inexpensive, healthy vegetable sushi at home. However, the best way to enjoy sushi is to visit a sushi bar and order from the cook directly in Japanese. Remember that sake is the best friend of sushi.



## ✉ おたより ✉ From Guestbook



By way of explaining my desire to learn Japanese, let me give you some of my background:

I am half-Japanese...my mother is from Tokyo and I grew up with a lot of exposure to the language and culture, but for some reason she never made it a priority to teach it to me or my brothers (I think she didn’t want us to “stand out”, which was very important to her given her arrival to the United States during the ‘50’s when postwar hostility towards the Japanese was still very high). I took two years of Japanese in high school, but was not at all conscientious with my studies and have now forgotten almost all of that material.

Now, my child is taking Japanese at school and it has awakened my interest again. I am able to understand only a bare minimum set of words and grammar and do not know any Hiragana, Katakana or Kanji.

What I would like to do is take on a focused, immersive private study program that will get me somewhat fluent in the language within a year. I am interested in being able to speak the language conversationally with ease and know enough to handle some business communications as well. I would also like to be able to read and write enough to get by.

Unfortunately, my schedule does not allow for evening/weekend classes, nor can I easily make it to another location. I would require that an instructor be able to come to my office once every other week for lessons.

**Our response:** No problem, we will take care of it. We have several students who are Japanese American, Ni-sei, San-sei, Yon-sei, or native Japanese. They have very similar stories like yours. I believe keeping the heritage is very important, and the language is the first step.

 **自己紹介（じこしょうかい）**  **Student of JLC**

Hi, my name is Frederica, a student of Newport High School. I am learning French and Japanese. I love Anime, Manga, Japanese Pop music, snow cones, and sushi! I am a Manga "Otaku." I'm planning to go to Japan as exchange student. I can't wait to go to a sushi bar in Japan. Yes, I'm a sushi maniac too.



 **レストラン**  **Restaurant**

**Kikuya** (Japanese cuisines)

I go to Kikuya almost every week with my work people. The owner of this restaurant is Japanese and the waitresses are Japanese too. I know how to order in Japanese, Japanese counters are so complex though. (Jeremyah)



Redmond Center/Mall 8105 161<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE, Redmond, WA Tel: 881-8771

**Our comment:** We usually have a "Field Trip" after we complete Group Lessons. Let's try Kikuya for the next Field Trip.

 **新聞記事（しんぶんきじ）**  **Newspaper article**

**Top 5 markets for Washington state exports\***

Rank	Country	Exports in million of dollars			Percent change	
		2000	2001	2002	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	Japan	\$4,595	\$3,384	\$4,349	-26.4%	28.5%
2	China	1,901	2,929	3,830	54.1	30.8
3	Canada	2,876	2,737	2,944	-4.8	7.6
4	Australia	511	576	2,627	12.7	356.3
5	Singapore	610	2,991	2,306	390.5	-22.9
Total all countries		32,215	34,929	34,627	8.4	-0.9

\*Exports that originated in the state. Percentages reflect rounding of export values.

Source: Adjustments to data from U.S. Customs bureau, Foreign Trade Division by Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research.

 **ことわざ**  **Proverb Corner**

「早起きは三文の徳」（はやおきはさんものどく）

Hayaoki wa san-mon no toku.

The early bird gets the worm.



 **プレスリリース**  **Press Release**



**Clas for the JETRO business Japanese Proficiency Test**

The JETRO Test is the first test of business Japanese proficiency to be recognized by the government of Japan. Japanese Language Center provides classes to those wishing to prepare to pass the examination.

The JETRO Test is supported by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and leading business and academic organizations. Japanese Language Center provides an eight-week course (2 hours per week) that provides a full review of the material to be covered in the examination. This course is designed to cover listening, writing, and reading the Japanese language. Test schedule: June/November 2004

### Shizuoka International Translation Competition (Japanese/English)

5th Annual Shizuoka International Translation competition with 1,000,000 yen (\$9,200) Grand Prize and a grant to study in Japan for one year is a wonderful opportunity.

The 5th Shizuoka International Translation competition has been announced. Applications from persons of all nationalities and age are eligible. The Japanese Language Center is offering to provide additional information for interested parties.

Deadline: December 10, 2004  
Translation topics: Fiction and Criticism  
Language: From Japanese to English

### Japanese Classes for Young People

Japanese Language Center provides Classes for Young People. These classes are designed for Middle/High school students.



They have an excellent instructor for these classes. For five years she was the instructor of Georgia Public TV program (nationwide), "IRASSHAI" that is a Japanese Language Program for High school students. She encourages students to apply to exchange student programs, and actually many of her students have traveled to Japan for studying in the past. You had better try this unique, fun, and cool class.

The lessons focus on the realistic topics and vocabulary of the average teenagers' life. Young people are sometimes more comfortable with others of their own age. However, teenagers are welcome to the adult classes also.

### 📎 クラススケジュール 📎

#### Class Schedule

	Evening course starts on	Saturday courses start on 15 May 2004.
Japanese 101	Thu 13 May	
Japanese 102	Thu 13 May	
Japanese 103	Tue 11 May	
Japanese 104	Thu 13 May	
Japanese 201-204	Fri 14 May	
Japanese 301-304	Wed 5 May	
Japanese for Teens	Wed 12 May / Fri 14 May	



Class Schedule may be changed without notice

5-day Intensive course and 7-day Language Camp start in summer. The registration has already begun.

Registration/Lesson fees are due 72 hours before the first lesson of the course. We don't accept payment for enrollment on the first day of the course. Also we will close enrollment when a course gets 6 registrants. Please sign up early before the class becomes full.



For more information about Intensive classes and Summer Camp for Teens, please visit our website <http://www.japanese-language.net>

### 🌸 お知らせ 🌸 Remarks

Please bring your friend to JLC. Any referrals signing up for a class results in a 20% discount of your next block of lesson.

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and Translation Services*