



SAKURA

No. 89

January - February 2015



かめ こう とし こう
亀の甲より年の功 Years know more than books

AKI & KUNIKO



Mr. Hiroaki Sasaki and Ms. Kuniko Obina of Japan enthralled Kolkata with perfect blend of tradition and contemporary in Japanese music on the Acoustic Guitar and the Koto.

Held at the Rabindra Okakura Bhavan under the aegis of The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata & The Japan Foundation, New Delhi

KOTOWAZA

It was a good opportunity to learn the Kotowaza (proverb) of Japanese on 12th November at Sarat Samiti. Our sensei, Mrs. Kazuko Nigam explained 'Yojjukugo' (four characters which make a proverb) beautifully in Japanese with a lot of examples. Then, Poonam Nand Dey Sensei explained the differences among 'Yojjukugo', 'Kanyouku' and 'Inarawashi' with some more examples. We all enjoyed the session very much.

Uttara Sarkar

MONTHLY PROGRAMME

- ◆ **Annual Picnic:** 11th Jan 2015
At Neeldeep Garden, Baruipur
To start from RKM at 8:15 am by bus
- ◆ **Ikebana Exhibition:** 5th ~ 8th Feb 2015
By **Nigam Sensei** at Horticulture Garden
- ◆ **30th In Nichi Bunkasai:** 14th Mar 2015
At Birla academy of Art & Culture 5:30 pm
108, Southern Avenue, Kolkata 700 029

2015

Heisei 27

year of the Sheep

新年おめでとございます!



NKKS members at MADHUPUR

Madhupur

Perhaps we will remember Madhupur trip as one of the best trips we ever had. We boarded the train around 2:pm on 15th November and reached Madhupur in the evening. We had stayed in the guesthouse which used be a palace for an ancient king of Madhupur. The next day we visited many beautiful places such as Pathrol Kali Temple, Pathrol hill, waterfall. Then moved to Deoghar and travelled to Baidyanath temple Trikuth Parvat, Naulakha Mandir, Tapovan and other places with scenic beauty. That day we took the train in the night and returned to Kolkata on 18th November early in the morning, around 5:00 am.

Salil Roy

THE LAND OF TOTTOCHAN

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's current Japan tour and his extremely generous gesture to take out time and visit an elementary school and interacting with kids, all the while keen on gaining knowledge about the system followed in the country, he urged the children to come to visit our nation and make us learn the language!!

As we watched, indelible memories surfaced and we could not help but feel grateful to the country which inculcated so much in us. Our enriching experience on the Elementary school system can perhaps turn into a book someday but to put into simplistic terms, it is a unique blend of traditional, modern and perhaps the closest to nature.

My son Utsho a 7 year old kid, me and my husband without a singular knowledge of Japanese reached the country and the kid got admitted in Tokiwadai Elementary School, in Yokohama. My scepticism and the child's fear were whisked away on the first day when I saw my son's home room teacher Miyata sensei, holding his hand and running across the corridor to the class. The fun had started!! The initial days were difficult with nobody in school speaking English, the kid not being able to follow any word in class and a plethora of other impediments. All this was overcome with the help, assistance and love we received from all quarters. Yokohama National University lab students (of my husband) with their minimum English skills helping with school communications, the parent's association coming up with special meetings for us, Miyata sensei (who couldn't speak a word of English) always carrying a dictionary to read Utsho's daily diary and making sure to comment and his special teacher, Fuji sensei (coming once a week and making him comfortable with the language by speaking in terms of Pokemon, his favourite anime). In three months flat he was speaking like a native and helping us in daily life.

Our PM wants us to imbibe the efficiency of the Japanese.....well, **it all starts in school.**

Lessons in **cleanliness** are imbibed in everyday activities, sweeping and mopping the class room after lunch, both the student and teachers are involved in it. School shoes are separated from outside shoes to avoid dirt inside the premises.

Lessons in **hygiene** are given by wearing, masks, apron and gloves while serving lunch and also if someone has caught a cold but still coming to school; **in recycling** in each minimum activity, for instance -



during school sports, wherein recycled pet bottles are filled with trash paper balls to make jingling sounds for cheering.

The **love and respect for nature** is instilled very rigorously. Each season is welcomed with festive delight, finding out highlights of the climate, insects that thrive, the trees, the flowers, fruits that make that season special and a grand show is organized by the children for their parents and the neighbourhood. All this is done with nature's bounty, leaves, pinecones, colours out of natural sources and so on.

During vacations children are given a plant to tend (each is asked about his/her favourite vegetable and that particular plant is given) and the kid has to take care and record its progress in a sheets of paper. Thus he learns about plants and also discipline in growing a daily habit. The daily menu during lunch time is served keeping in mind the nutritional requirements of the child and the list is sent to each parent prior in the month to check for any allergic history and



Mopping the floor post lunch

.....contd. from page 2

perhaps to make them aware of what the child is being served. Parents are actively involved in every activity of the school and the entire local community is welcomed in every school occasion. Lessons in social studies are knowing your locality, helping the aged, learning to shop and knowledge about the geography of one's neighbourhood. Lessons in biology are learnt in school garden and in interaction with local farmers.

In all the elementary system makes a child independent to carry out his own activities and also be responsible for his society. The idea is treat your school the way you treat your home and the teachers will facilitate the process. The home room teacher spends a 12 hour stretch in school and is involved in every activity. Other than visiting children's homes, the teacher ensures the mental well being of the kid by making them write daily dairies and diligently checks them for knowledge about his mental health.



My gratitude to the people of Japan, our local friends cannot be expressed in mere words. We learnt a custom, a language, and a discipline which is very rare in today's world. We earned love, and respect from the natives and made lifelong friends. For my son, I hope the values that were inculcated in him do last a lifetime and makes him a truly global citizen.

Piali Bose

おばあさんの金のメガネ



バダン: (confused) ええ! あんたの金のメガネか。
おばあちゃん: (Rushing towards Badan thief) あんたはどろぼうだこれは私のだいじな金のメガネよ。あなたがぬすんだのね。今思い出したわ。

バダン: あんたはお寺の中でメガネをはずしてよこにおいてじっとおがんでいた。それでこっそりそれをとっていったんだ。

けいかん: あんたはどろぼうだ。けいむしよにに入れる。

バダン: (Rushing towards the police) 何? けいむしよだと? ぼくからぬすんだ物を買ったのはだれだ。そのうえまだそのかねをはらっていない。

けいかん: 何いってんだ。けさもらったばかりじゃないか。あんたにかねをはらうためにこうばんを出した時この人によばれてここへ来たんだ。

お父さん: それではどろぼうもけいかんもいっしょにけいむしよに行け!

(Both the police and the thief flee. But all prevent them. While trying to run they both fall on the floor. Tara hits them with broom)

タラ: このおおどろぼう。けいさつもどろぼうだ。

お父さん: そうだ、そうだ、もっとたたけ。

お母さん: タラしっかり! もっと、もっと。

(Suddenly the police and the thief fall at the feet of the grandmother and begin to implore)

けいかん: おばあさん、おばあさん、ゆるして

ください。ぼくはこれからけっしてぬすめれたものはかわないとやくそくする。(to Badan) あんたもぜったいむすんだものをぼくにうらないでくれ。

バダン: おばあさん、おばあさん。ぼくをのがしてください。ぼくはこれからぜったいぬすみをしないとやくそくします。

(Then to the police) あんたもぜったいにぼくからぬすんだものを かわないでくれ。

お母さん: でもね! けいさつもどろぼうもけいむしよにいれなければ。

あばあちゃん: (Wearing the golden spectacles) だいじょうぶ だいじょうぶ。でもね。ひとつじょうけんがあるわ。ふたりとも耳をつかんでひゃっかいしゃがんだりたったりして!

(both the police and thief sprang up from the floor.)

けいかん: はい、はい。ぼくはあなたのめいれいにしがいます。

バダン: はい、はい。ぼくもあなたのめいれいにしがいます。

(They both begin to sit down and stand up alternately holding ears by hands and begin to count)

けいかん: いち、に、さん、し、

バダン: いち、に、さん、し、

(At first Ranu and Minu begin to count with them and then all begin to count with them)

レヌとミンヌ: ご、ろく、しち、はち、

みんな: きゅう、じゅう、じゅういち、

じゅうに。 (The curtain falls)

Aloke Basu

