



To Teachers of Japanese Language at Victorian Primary Schools/AJSV members

Mid next year, the Australia-Japan Society of Victoria will again be invited to send six children (3 boys and 3 girls) to the 29th Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka Japan, which will be held for approximately 12-15 days from the middle of July 2017.

For the past 28 years the Australia-Japan Society has sent a group of children accompanied by a Chaperone and Assistant Chaperone/Peace Ambassador to participate in this Convention and it highly recommends this wonderful opportunity being offered to Victorian students. It is a unique event, which allows approximately 240 eleven-year-old children from 43 regions around the Asian Pacific region to share in a truly international exchange.

The children and Chaperone/s will initially stay in orientation camp along with other countries' participants before going to stay with a Japanese host family. All the Australian children and Chaperone/s will be home hosted in the same area and the Chaperone is contactable by the host families at all times.

Expenses covered by the Asian Pacific Children's Convention Executive Committee in Japan are:

1. Round-trip airfare, including airport tax between Melbourne and Fukuoka.
2. All transportation fees in Japan.
3. Meals during the entire stay in Fukuoka.
4. Insurance covering all injury and illness during the entire trip.

A fee will be payable to the APCC by each country to assist with the costs of the convention. AJSV also charges a participation fee for selected children to cover uniform, administration and camp fees, and family membership of the Australia-Japan Society. Payment will be by installments and the final figure will not be known until the fees are set by Japan and the Peace Ambassador selection process is completed but is likely to be between \$500 and \$750.

Each school is invited to nominate **one** child to be considered for selection to attend the APCC. Your school can undertake its own selection process, however, your selected child must complete the accompanying application form and this must be returned along with the Confidential form to the Australia-Japan Society of Victoria **before 5.00pm Wednesday 7th December 2016**.

Generally, we receive a large number of female applications and limited male applications. If your schools first choice is a female student, you are invited to nominate an additional male student for consideration, **only if this child was the school's second choice during your selection process**. You should clearly indicate the school's first and second choice on the application forms. If your selected student is a male, you should only send in that application.

Feel free to photocopy this letter, the accompanying application form and APCC information sheet and distribute to interested students who **meet all of the criteria** if you wish to use this as part of your selection process

We ask that the Confidential form be filled in by the teacher who has the most contact with the student (generally a classroom teacher, not the Japanese language teacher) and who can therefore best provide personal insight of the child's strengths and weaknesses. You can send in an additional form completed by the LOTE teacher if you wish. As this form is confidential, we ask that this form not be given to the student as part of the application kit.

We also ask you to include a copy of the child's most recent report. It is preferable that this is the end of year report if available (note, we are happy to receive it in draft form and it will be used for selection purposes only).

Please note that if any children have parents who are Australia-Japan Society of Victoria members, the school should undertake their own selection process excluding this student as AJSV members may apply direct to the Society.

The selection process to choose the six children who will attend the convention will consist of two stages:

1. The Society will draw up a shortlist from all the applications, and an **initial selection day** will be held on **Sunday 5th February 2017** at a metropolitan location.
2. Short-listed children will then be invited to attend an **interview together with their parents on Sunday 19th February 2017**.

More detailed information regarding the Convention will be provided to all families attending the final selection interviews, and a former chaperone will be available to answer any questions. The child selected by your school should be able to attend on both the above dates if required. If the child is unable to attend on these dates, **no alternative date will be available and the school is advised to select another child as its applicant.**

Four orientation meetings will be held for the group prior to departure in July and attendance is compulsory. These meetings will be held at a metropolitan location and will be held on:

Sunday, 5th March

Saturday, 3rd June (usually sleepover meeting)

Sunday 23rd April

Saturday, 1 July (unless otherwise agreed by group).

We would like to emphasise that the selection is not based on academic ability. We are looking for happy, confident, enthusiastic and co-operative ten or eleven year olds who show an interest in Japan, display a positive attitude towards new experiences, a willingness to interact and will make a proud representative for Australia as a Junior Ambassador.

*If your school is interested in nominating **one child**, please read the following criteria carefully and adhere to them fully:*

- **The nominated child must have his or her date of birth between September 1, 2005 and August 31, 2006.**
- **It is preferable that the child has not travelled overseas within the past five years; however, this will not preclude the child's possible selection.**
- **The child must be in good health.**
- **The child is thought to be independent enough to stay alone with a host family while in Japan.**
- **The child is a happy, enthusiastic, confident and willing student who follows instructions readily and displays a positive / embracing attitude towards new experiences and willingness to interact.**
- **The child has a keen interest in his or her Japanese studies or in Japan itself.**
- **Both parents of the selected child will be required to attend all orientation meetings and to co-operate with the Chaperone in preparing for the Convention.**
- **The child is available for an initial selection day on Sunday 5th February 2017 and a further interview together with both parents on Sunday 19th February 2017 if required.**

Please contact the Australia–Japan Society APCC Liaison Officer – Heather Darbyshire (T: 0409 181265) or email apcc.australia@gmail.com if any additional information is required.

Application kit includes:

Junior Ambassador application form

Confidential form

APCC Information sheet

All applications must be received by 5.00 pm Wednesday 7th December 2016

Applications should be scanned and emailed to: apcc.australia@gmail.com

Alternatively, applications can be posted but must be received by the closing date:

APCC 2017

Australia–Japan Society of Victoria

Level 2, 99 Queen Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000

Please note – confirmation of receipt of application will be emailed to the school contact person on the application form.. All applicants will be notified of the shortlisting process via email in late January and if shortlisted, the email will contain information about the selection day.