



The William Colenso College

Japan connection

Following are comments by former Colenso students from Japan.

MIKA SUZUKI

My name is Mika Suzuki. I come from Kikuka High School in Japan. For the first two months I felt it was such a long time to spend here but after that the time went so fast. I am glad I came to New Zealand because I have had a lot of experiences I couldn't have in Japan.

I have studied ESOL, Tourism, Film, Hospitality, Outdoor Education and Art. My favourite subjects are Art and Hospitality. I joined the Art Exhibition and went to Hastings to watch the Art Exhibition with my host family. When I came here I was afraid of things, but I didn't need to worry because the teachers and all the students have been very kind to me. Now I have international students and kiwi students as friends, so I am excited every day! It is fun for me to come to school!



MIREI TANAKA

Hello! My name is Mirei and I come from Japan. I decided to study abroad because I like English songs and I was interested in English. For the first month I felt out of place because I didn't have any kiwi friends. I was talking just to my friends from Japan and I wanted to go back to Japan.

But little by little I started to speak to kiwi students and even though my English was bad, they tried to understand. We went to town to watch movies or watch rugby. I enjoyed it. I don't have just kiwi friends but I also have international friends such as Spanish, German, Danish, Swedish, Dutch, French, Korean, Malaysian, Vietnamese and more. They are so awesome! Our cultures are different and I enjoy talking about our country. Sometimes we teach our languages to each other and it is really fun. In fact I didn't think that I would make good friends here and have such good teachers. In future, I will learn more languages and travel to other countries.



**Mirei and Mika:
All dressed up for the ball.**



KENTO KATO

When I arrived in New Zealand I felt anxious about my English skills – I couldn't speak English fluently. But my first homestay host brother was very friendly and kind to me and I soon stopped feeling anxious. I really appreciated him. He and I sealed a good friendship. Now my English is a lot better than before. At first I was negative about speaking English but now I am more confident. I think all of my language skills have improved because of my friends and teachers at William Colenso College. I have got lots of memories.

For example, the international students' school trip.

We went to the Coromandel in Term 1. It was so exciting and enjoyable because this was my first school trip at William Colenso College. We went to many places. The Coromandel trip is one of my favourite memories of this year. The Colenso students are very funny and friendly so I have made lots of kiwi friends. I like Colenso. This study abroad has given me confidence. I'll come back to New Zealand.



SAYAKA KASHIBUCHI

Hello! My name is Sayaka Kashibuchi. I'm from Japan, Osaka Prefecture. I stayed in New Zealand for three months and went to Colenso High School for two months.

I think that three month is too short, so I wanted to stay here longer.

My memory of New Zealand is very nice. I never forgot this memory.

I wanted to come back to New Zealand for a long time, so I saved money from a part time job. I want to stay here longer. Now I am a university student in Japan learning International Economics. I want to live in New Zealand in the future.

Sayaka (centre) returns to New Zealand with a friend to visit her Napier host mother.



YUI OBA

My name is Yui Oba from Nagoya in Japan. I have been in New Zealand for six years and studied three years of my high school life at William Colenso College. When I first arrived in Napier I was only 14 years of age and my English was really bad. Everyone could tell how different I was. Not only could I not speak the language, my listening skills were poor as well, so I couldn't understand in class. But New Zealand people are really friendly so they helped me a lot. After I graduated high school I went to Auckland to study an International Flight Attendant course. My dream was always to be a Flight Attendant since I was 4 years old. But now I don't have only this dream, because I have found many different ways to use my experience.

I am not giving up my first dream yet, because I believe that what I have done until now leads to my dream. Now I'm working in Napier and also volunteer work in National Aquarium as a tour guide, especially for Japanese tourists. I am fortunate that I can help people. When they say "Thank You," it makes me happier. "Thank you" can be said easily, but I think that much thought and meaning are put into it. I want to progress to the future one step at a time, using efficiently what I have learned.

