

A FRIENDLY HELLO

BY MARK KATO



Mark Kato welcomes students to the first Sunnyvale to Iizuka exchange program.

Thank you for reading this first newsletter from the Sunnyvale Sister City Association (SSCA). We founded the SSCA in October of 2013 and soon initiated many friendship activities with the city of Iizuka, Japan. We were fortunate to accelerate our exchange by having a lot of help from Sunnyvale's mayor, Iizuka's mayor, the Fukuoka Center for Overseas Commerce in America (FCOCA), and the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco. We have many exciting events coming up, such as our S2I project (with eleven Sunnyvale students visiting Iizuka in June) and our I2S project (with twenty Iizuka students visiting Sunnyvale in August). Please stay tuned for more on how the students involved are getting inspired for their new adventure.



Former mayor Toni Spitaleri hands agreement to Morichika Saito and Masato Watanabe

CIVIC CONNECTIONS

BY MIKE MICHITAKA

Last fall, on November 26th, Sunnyvale's city council and former mayor voted unanimously in favor of a Friendly Exchange Relations Agreement with the city of Iizuka, Japan. Before the vote, I spoke about how this agreement will effect

positive change in our community, following supportive speeches by San Francisco's Japanese Consul General Masato Watanabe and Iizuka's Mayor Morichika Saito. Mayor Saito returned to Japan with the signed agreement and Iizuka's

city council approved it in December of 2013.

Sunnyvale's new mayor, Jim Griffith, fully supports our agreement with Iizuka, and our collaboration with Iizuka is off to a great start.



A student listens as Mark Kato explains the details of the trip

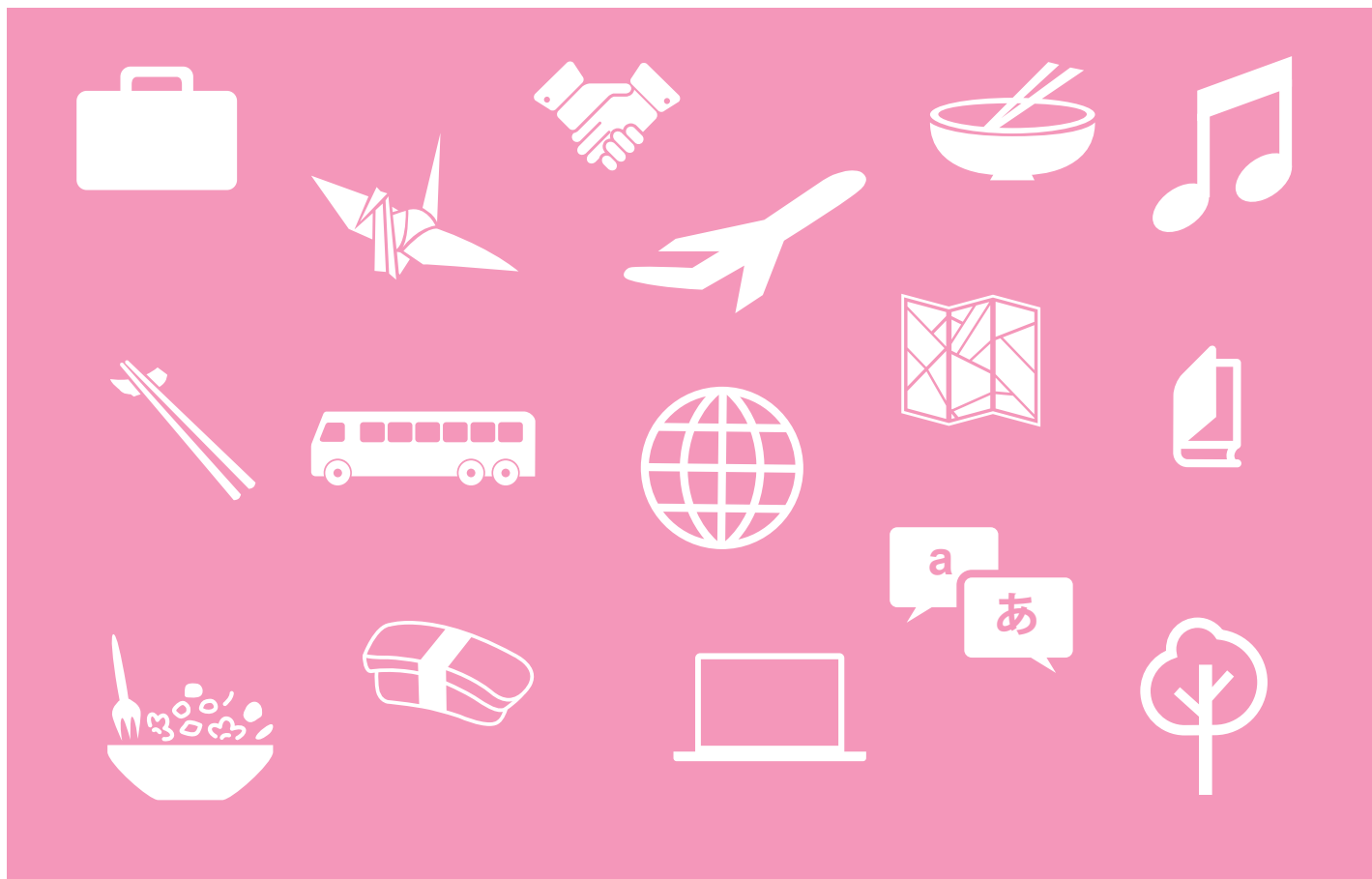
SUNNYVALE STUDENTS ARE TRAVEL READY

BY JACK EWBANK

On April 9th, the SSCA and Sunnyvale Middle School held an orientation session for this June's Sunnyvale to Iizuka exchange program. Participants and their representatives and school administrators listened to Mark Kato's preliminary itinerary for the program, as well as

early details for this fall's Iizuka to Sunnyvale exchange. Mark advised the students on trip preparations, recommending how to prepare for the air travel and jet lag, suggesting appropriate *omiyage* for the home stay families, and ways to deal with the

Japanese rainy season. Also in attendance were Sunnyvale School District Superintendent Dr. Benjamin Picard and Japanese Vice Consul Kei Hagiwara from the San Francisco consulate.



STUDENT ADVENTURES IN SUNNYVALE

BY AKIKO INOUE

We have two exciting student exchange events on the horizon this summer. On June 4th at Sunnyvale Middle School, prior to their visit to Iizuka, Sunnyvale exchange students will give personal presentations about their

desire to travel to Japan, what they might need should they move to Japan, and their current ideas about Japan. Later in the summer, on August 22nd, we will throw a welcome party at Sunnyvale Middle School for Iizuka's visiting

exchange students. Sunnyvale students, host families, and officials from Sunnyvale and Iizuka will be present to celebrate the beginning of the Sunnyvale exchange program.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Sunnyvale Sister City Association is looking for volunteers to help with our activities. If you are passionate about contributing to the community, please send a message to mark@sunnyvalesistercity.org

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WE NEED SPONSORS

As a completely volunteer-run non-profit organization (501c3 pending), the Sunnyvale Sister City Association (SSCA) is looking for sponsors. The SSCA has three levels of sponsorship: GOLD (\$2,000 per year), SILVER (\$1,000 per year), and BRONZE (\$500 per year). Please help us continue to offer dynamic events to the community and support Sunnyvale's future generations. If you are interested, please send a message to jonathan@sunnyvalesistercity.org.

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