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news & views

Exchange gives new outlook

By Eri Amemiya and Mirai Katayama, Year 11, exchange students from Otsuma Nakano High School

ERI AMEMIYA

When I came to St Andrew's there were many things which surprised me.

Compared to my school in Otsuma, St Andrew's Catholic College is very big.

The college is surrounded by many trees and plants. At my school, we have few trees and the area is so small (we have eight storeys with elevators to reach each floor).

St Andrew's students move between the classes outdoors.

This is the most surprising thing for me as at my school the students stay at one class and teachers come there.

Lifestyle is very different between the countries.

Australians spend more time with their family than Japanese families do. In Japan, our teachers go to school at 7.45am, and return home around 9pm, which means they don't have enough time to spend with family.

In addition, I am surprised by how friendly Australians are. At the college, moving between classes, many students speak to me in Japanese and when I make eye contact, they smile. In Japan this never happens. I like Australian culture.

MIRAI KATAYAMA

Hello! I have come from Otsuma Nakano Senior High School to study abroad for Term 1 at St Andrew's Catholic College.

I am doing Awa-dance in Japan. It is a traditional Japanese dance.

In Tokyo, there is a big festival for Awa-dance once a year and I will be dancing there. If you come to Japan, please go to the festival in Koenji (a district in Tokyo).

Now I'm going to discuss the differences between St Andrew's Catholic College and Otsuma Nakano Senior High



OVERSEAS ADVENTURE: Sophie Dahlenburg, Mirai Katayama, Eri Amemiya and Sindy Shen.

School. The biggest difference is religion.

In my school, religion is not taught so we don't pray every morning like St Andrew's.

We don't have mass either - so when I had mass, it was a very refreshing experience for me!

In my school, students wait for teachers at homeroom classroom with a specified seating plan every morning.

All students take the same class with their classmates, so students don't have to move from their homeroom class.

During class, teachers use blackboard and chalk to explain to students.

Students are not allowed to use laptops during class so everyone take notes in a paper notebook.

Students are also not allowed to drink water during



HOME SCHOOL: Otsuma Nakano High School in Japan.

class. Each class is 50 minutes, so 10 minutes longer than St Andrew's.

In Japan, students can't borrow textbook from the school, so students have to buy textbooks for each

subject. After school hours, almost every student participates in club activities at my school, so there is only a few students that go home straight away.

In my school, we have 28

kinds of club activities, for example; badminton, cheerleading, popular music and calligraphy.

In many ways there are a lot of differences between St Andrew's and Otsuma Nakano Senior High School.

I like both schools very much!

I am really thankful to my parents and teachers who gave me the opportunity to come to St Andrew's.

I have been really enjoying school life at St Andrew's.

It is because of my host sister Rhiann Cull, host family, school buddy Sophie Dahlenburg, all of my friends and the teachers at St Andrew's.

I like them very much. I hope I can enjoy the remaining days until I go back to Japan at the end of this term.

Boys roped in for team-building exercises



SWINGING THROUGH: Christopher Van Bael zipping through the rainforest at the Cairns Rainforest Dome.



ZOOM CREW: Ready to take on the Zoom course are Nathan Lauder, Dylan Shakespeare, Brendan Ward, Benjamin Molony and Akitha Pinnapologe.



TEAM WORK: Working together as a team, Conor Kelly, Nicholas Johnson, Michael Riley, Riley Hyden and Reuben Porta.

by Ken Yamamoto, Year 7, St Augustine's College

LAST week the Year 7 boys participated in an activity day designed to build teamwork, trust and family spirit among the homeroom groups.

This was achieved by the boys participating in the ropes courses at the Cairns Rainforest Dome and later back at school taking part in team building activities in small groups.

My class had a great time swinging through the replica rainforest in very tropical conditions, and they particularly enjoyed zip lining over Goliath, the 4.1m crocodile.

The students were also challenged to step outside of their comfort zone with a 15m Power Jump.

Back at school all the boys participated well in the team building activities and

reflected encouragingly on the day with lots of positive affirmation given to teammates for their efforts, ideas and teamwork.

Many felt that the Power Jump was the scariest, but I thought it was the most exciting.

We also had a look at the animals while we were there.

The team-building activities consisted of the water bucket, the spider web and the human knot.

The water bucket was very tiring and eventually we just dipped our heads in the bucket because we were so hot.

The spider web was the most fun, but overall it was an exciting and eventful day.

Thanks must go to all the teachers who made the day possible, especially our year co-ordinator, Mr Aaron Hume.