



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
 DISTRICT 2740
 INDOUND STUDENT
 REPORT



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Date: April , 1 2017	
Name of student: Breanna Leslie GRAY	Sponsor Rotary Club: Gosford North Rotary Club
Host Rotary Club: Unzen Rotary Club	School: Obama High School
Host Family:	Consoler:
From:	
Next Host Family:	
Rotary meetings:	Club Activities:
Health:	
<p>Outside activities: In my last report, I mentioned I would have my graduation ceremony on the 1st of March. I literally don't know how too example it, I have never experienced something so weird and confusing in my life. The graduation ceremony started with each year walking in to the hall as the teachers stood surrounding us clapping with very large smiles on their face, even the mean teachers that everyone fears. We were soon seated, the Principal (Mr. Tanaka) gave a speech and it was soon handed over to the students to give speeches etc. Even though I am unable to understand every word people say to me or I hear I can still pick things up, so much so that the School Captain speech mentioned Donald Trump in her goodbye speech, yes Donald trump in a goodbye speech!!! This is when I realised that it's not just only the outside world of Japan that is influenced by America but also the schools, after this speech I soon payed more attention to the fine details of this ceremony and worked out it was a mix of American and Japanese, no wonder it seemed so strange. I had some personal favourite moments of this graduation ceremony, seeing all the female teachers in kimono's (Traditional Japanese outfit) as they looked beautiful and when the Vic Captain gave her goodbye speech. Her speech was lovely, it expressed how much every teacher had done for her, how much she had enjoyed being an Obama High school student and how much she was going to miss it. The ceremony went for an hour and a half, but it didn't feel long at all as there was always something happening. On the 2/3/2017 I was invited to one of my younger brothers (Jyunjirou) school. The school was having a good-bye assembly for the year 6 students. The assembly was so cute, every year did a dance and a song</p>	

and wrote good bye speeches. The principal soon asked me if I could do a short speech for the school telling them about me and where I was from. On the 13/3/2017 I went to Fukuoka which is around an 5 hour's drive away from Unzen. It turned out to be a family shopping trip with my grandma, grandpa, aunty, my cousin who is 6, my baby cousin who is 4 months old, my mum and myself. It was a lot of fun and even though it was an extremely long drive I got to see the country side of Japan I have never seen before.

I had my last day of school on the 24/3/2017. I am now on spring break until the 10th of April. When I return to school I will start Year 11, Wooohoo!!! We had a good-bye ceremony as 13 teachers were leaving and moving to teach at other schools. Sadly, one of those teachers was one of my home room teachers. Everyone in our class was very sad to see her go. When I first came to Obama high school I thought she was scary but she wasn't she was one of the kindest teachers that I had. When we had our last homeroom with her she gave a goodbye speech to our class everyone started crying, even me. To me she just wasn't my home room and business teacher, but she was a teacher that was always there for me, she helped me greatly with my Japanese with her quizzes every morning and teaching me new words whenever she could. She always made sure I knew what was happening in the school as everything was in Japanese, she was just an all-round fantastic teacher that will be missed very much at Obama high school in the future.

On the 25/3/2017 my town had their local Sakura (Cherry Blossom) festival. This festival consisted of people from the local town dressing up as Head Samurai, Red warriors (women), Black Samurai (Men) and just warriors. My host family made me dress up as a warrior, the costume was very beautiful with all the detailing but extremely heavy and itchy. We were taken to a local grass area where warriors fought each other, traditional dances and the shotting of guns. Once this was finished everyone included in the festival, so including myself had to stand in a massive circle. We were handed these massive wooden sticks with fabric on the end of them and men came around and lighted them with a fire touch. The heat coming from the fire touches that we were holding in our hands was incredible, felt like my face was going to melt. We soon moved into formation and started walking through the town to a local temple this was a 1kilometre walk away. When we reached the temple, our touches were taken and put out although some of them were kept alight. A monk announced that it was cherry blossom season and everyone was left to celebrate. The Sakura festival was amazing and I was very lucky to be a part of it, it was one of many experiences I will never forget.

On the 27/3/2017 I had a meeting with the mayor of Unzen. I was kind of scared and excited to meet him. To the Japanese meeting the mayor is a big deal and is very important, compared to Australia where it isn't really

considered a big deal. I had to do a short speech introducing myself and where I was from, I soon found out that it had all been published in the weekly newspaper that is delivered to everyone's house. So now everyone knows who I am not that I didn't stand out before.

On the 29/3/2017 I went to grandma's dance concert. All the dances were traditional Japanese olden style. All the dancers were dressed in very colourful kimono's, the concert went all day but was very good. Each dance was beautiful and showed the old Japan before the westerns influences came into place. There were some traditional dances with a modern twist but I think I prefer the old style much more.

Hope you enjoyed my monthly report.



School:

Home: