



KARUTA TAIKAI SUCCESS

The fourth annual Karuta Taikai (Tournament) brought another success for students of Japanese in our community. Since our first tournament in 2016 this competition has evolved and grown to be one of the highlights of the year for primary school students in Ballarat.

This year Our Lady Help of Christian Wendouree hosted the tournament. Ninety-six Grade 5 and 6 students took part. There were students from Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School, St Patrick's Primary School Gordon, St Augustine's Primary School Creswick, St Alipius Primary School Ballarat East, St Columba's Primary School Ballarat North, St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballarat East, St Thomas More Primary School Alfredton and Emmaus Primary School Mt Clear.



Karuta is a Japanese card game which originated in the 16th century. It was introduced to Japan by the Portuguese. In Japanese classrooms, Karuta is a fun way to learn the hiragana characters and word recognition.

The day commenced with a dynamic performance by the Wadaiko Drumming Team from St Alipius Primary School. Each school fielded three teams of four pupils who competed passionately and concentrated hard to recognise the hiragana sound that matched the reciter's call. Taking part in this tournament was a way to celebrate the children's learning. Many students had been practising for months beforehand and were excited to be part of this tournament and proud to represent their schools.

Another highlight for this tournament was having the Year 10 Japanese students from St Patrick's College Ballarat and Loreto College Ballarat assisting on the day. Having the older students assist on the day provided inspiration for the younger students who could see the future for their study of Japanese.

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