MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
Moonee Ponds West Primary School & Ryokuen Higashi Primary School

Moonee Ponds West Primary School in Victoria, Australia (150 Athol Street Moonee Ponds Victoria, Australia) and Ryokuen Higashi Primary School in Yokohama, Japan (5-28 Ryokuen Izumi-ku Yokohama City), hereby agree to become sister schools in order to develop friendship and cooperation between our two schools and promote mutual understanding and cultural awareness between Victoria, Australia and Japan.

SISTER SCHOOL PROGRAM GOALS

- To strengthen relationships, understanding and appreciation between Ryokuen Higashi Primary School in Japan and Moonee Ponds West Primary School in Victoria, Australia.
- To develop students into citizens who are globally engaged, comfortable with diversity and with the skills to operate effectively across cultures with different world-views and belief systems.
- To develop ties of friendship through regular communication.
- To support the teaching of Japanese in Victoria and English in Japan and to continue to teach the languages in their respective schools.
- To implement a successful sister school program.
- To provide opportunities for students and teachers to develop skills which enhance Australia-Japan relationships.
- To increase cultural awareness and respect for each other’s cultures.
- To build an international perspective within the school.
- To maintain a sister school relationship which constantly improves through evaluative processes.

SISTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Consideration will be given to developing, implementing and maintaining the following activities:

- Exchanging of information about curriculum, school policy and school events.
- Exchanging of teaching resources, course materials and teaching strategies.
- Exchanging of student work, emails, letters, photos, student newsletters and other relevant material to promote mutual understanding.
- Endeavouring to develop and maintain student, teacher and administrator exchange programs to provide the opportunity to study, work and live in the sister school community.
- Exchanging of leadership development information between principals.
- Including Studies of Asia across the curriculum.
- Involving the community through newsletters and websites, and providing opportunities for parents and the wider community to meet with the visitors from the Sister School.
- Using a video conferencing system to communicate live with students/teachers from the Sister School.
- Taking part in hosting each other’s schools through a school tour and home stay program.

In 2016, Moonee Ponds West Primary School and Ryokuen Higashi Primary School will review this agreement to determine its future directions.
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President: Mr. Paul Girdler  
Moonee Ponds West Primary School  
School Council President

Principal: Ms Eriko Soejima  
Ryokuen Higashi Primary School  
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President: Taishi Mikami  
Ryokuen Higashi Primary School  
School Council President