



## **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

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President: Taishi Mikami  
Ryokuen Higashi Primary School  
School Council President