

# My wonderful experience in **Australia**



## Mabel Park State High School

When we arrived at the school, I was pleasantly surprised and impressed by the warm welcome we received from all the teachers and students who greeted us.

At the opening ceremony we were told that this school had accepted and adopted the Australian national feeling of having people from many different countries.

I was then called by name and met my buddy. My buddy was very talkative and explained everything to me as we walked around the school before the teacher explained everything. It was great to learn so much about the school.

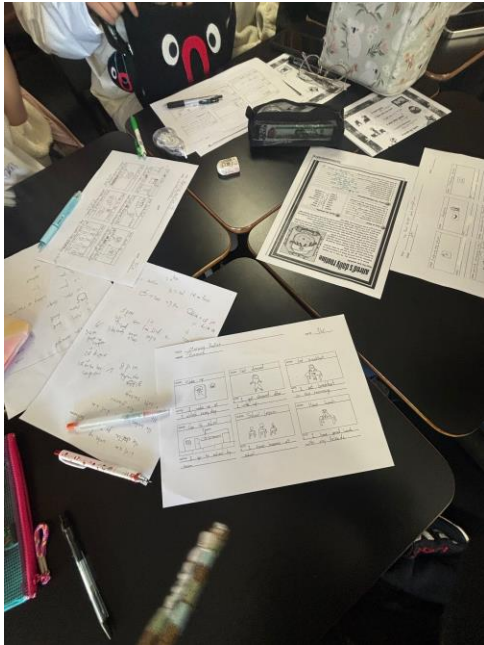
The morning tea was delicious. It was amazing to see the students from the cooking club making it. I wish Japan had that kind of time.

I was impressed by the factory, the beauty salon, the dance classes, and various specialty classes that we don't have in Japan. I took a science class and a drama class, both of which were very fun and not classroom learning. In Japan, everyone takes almost the same classes, so I felt that Japan was behind in terms of knowledge and thinking about the future.

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When we played basketball during recess, I felt like I was in a drama. When I bumped into my friend there and fell down, he held both my hands and helped me up.

I felt that if I stayed here longer, I would be able to speak English.



## Language School

I was not allowed to use my phone in class. Because I have to communicate with friends. I was nervous about the test, but I found it interesting to take it with students from different countries. There were students from Hong Kong and Taiwan in my class. They were all younger than me, but I thought it was amazing that they spoke English so fluently. I felt embarrassed to speak after that. I felt that the English education in Japan was very inferior to that in other countries.

I thought I was good at English, but compared to students in other countries, I felt miserable and not so good. So, thinking about the future, I thought I should learn more English in terms of speaking.

In class, we played a game in English. When the teacher asked for a hand, no one raised their hand. I think the teacher probably thought, "Why don't you raise your hand & do not be shy?". I could not raise my hand. That is my biggest regret. I thought it was a bad thing that I was too shy to speak English when I came all the way here. I am glad that I was able to make friends from different countries.

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## Homestay



My host mother's name is Jun. She lives alone. Her house has a big garden where the sky was always beautiful.

The day after we met, he took me to an outlet called Harbor Town. I bought some cute things and souvenirs for my family. For lunch I was taken to the most delicious and popular fish and chip restaurant on the

Gold Coast. I saw pelicans on the beach near the store.

She gave me so many portions that I was full every time. Thanks to you, my stomach is bigger. I ate breakfast every day on toast with butter and strawberry jam. The hot chocolate she made was so good! I do not want to forget the taste. The drink for dinner was always a can of Coke. Jun is Chinese, so there were days when they served rice. I was surprised.

Jun made gestures and spoke in a different volume and tone, which made it easier to understand. So I imitated them and worked them into my conversation. The night before last, Jun gave me a letter and a towel. I was so happy that he wrote it thinking of us. We also wrote a thank you letter to Jun. Lots of hugs and high fives as we said goodbye.

I thought I need to study English more so I can say what I want to say better the next time I meet Jun.



## What I learned through this program

This was my first time abroad. I am happy because I wanted to go to the southern hemisphere. I am happy that my first country was Australia. I am grateful that I could have this experience at my age. I would like to go back.

I thought Japanese people's English was very poor compared to people from other countries. Especially in speaking. So I think we need to do something to improve this situation.

I was impressed by the fact that we can connect with different people from different countries by using English as a language. I felt that it is really important to speak English.