

REPORT from Daniel LARSON of Cashmere High School

The plane trip was long and a very early start it was exciting and scary at the same time.

But all those hours of waiting was worth it. I had an awesome host family, awesome friends and the most important Newton and Cheryl to guide us through the most amazing places the shrines, parks, temples and museums.

We immersed ourselves in the Japanese culture we tried Kendo, Ikebana, meditation, Japanese dancing, and were part of an international cultural festival that was fun.

My most favorite part to the trip was the food I love Japanese food I always went for more. . . I tried everything I was given and I ate more than they expected. My host mother Yoko was a great cook.

The most interesting place for me was the school it is so different to the way New Zealand kids learn and interact with each other. The school grounds are all dirt as well it makes me wonder how they can play on such rough grounds. All the people we met were so friendly.

Last of all I want to thank Newton and Cheryl for all their hard work and effort they put into this trip. And thank you to the students who participated in the Kurashiki Trip 2007.

It inspired me to work harder on my Japanese and my next big goal is to live there.

Daniel Larson

