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Daishi Fukuda School Kurashiki *visit to Mount Pleasant School Christchurch* *August 2002*

On the 6th August 2002, a group of nine Japanese students and three teachers from "Daishi Fukuda School", Kurashiki, Japan visited their sister school "Mount Pleasant School" Christchurch. The group was led by the Principal of Daishi Fukuda School Mr. Koichi Azuma. Also traveling with the group was Mr. Takumi Ogo from the Kurashiki Board of Education. The purpose of this visit by Daishi Fukuda School was to return Mount Pleasant School's first visit to Daishi Fukuda School of Kurashiki in 2001.

Day one:

The group started their visit to Christchurch with a Mayoral Reception and in the evening went to a local restaurant with some of the students who visited Kurashiki the year before.

Day two:

A brief visit was made to Mount Pleasant School, a Maori welcome was performed by staff and students, a welcome assembly followed, then the rest of the morning was spent in the classroom. In the afternoon the students visited a New Zealand Farm near Springfield for a barbecue lunch and to see a sheep shearing demonstration.

Day three:

Home stay families and Japanese students visited Hanmer Springs, where they swam in the hot pools and went Jet Boat Riding.

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Day four:

The day was spent in the classroom at Mount Pleasant, with a school assembly held in the afternoon. Both the Japanese and Mount Pleasant School students performed items. A Fish and Chips lunch was provided by the school and well received by the Japanese students.

A Cherry blossom tree was planted to commemorate the visit. In the evening a party was held at the Mount Pleasant School for the Japanese students and home-stay families.

Day five:

This was a free day with home stay families for shopping and to visit local points of interest.

In the evening, a party was held at the Windsor Hotel where the Japanese group were staying, All the students participated in Maori singing and games.

Day six:

The students left Christchurch for Auckland and Japan.

Summary:

- ◆ The Japanese students home-stayed most of the nights and enjoyed the experience.
- ◆ Mount Pleasant School will visit Kurashiki in September 2003.