

32nd national
J★PAN
B○WL



2024 REPORT



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON DC



The 32nd National Japan Bowl

PRESENTER • Japan-America Society of Washington DC

DATE • April 18 - 19, 2024

VENUE • University of Maryland College Park

On Thursday and Friday, April 18 – 19, 2024, the Japan-America Society of Washington DC welcomed 24 schools, 44 teams, and over 120 students and teachers from across the country to compete in the 32nd National Japan Bowl at the University of Maryland College Park. Students tackled over 90 questions and a Conversation Round, and the finalists faced off in the Day 2 Championship Rounds, to determine who would be crowned this year's national champions.

For the past 31 years, JASWDC has organized the Japan Bowl to recognize and encourage students across the United States who have chosen Japanese as their foreign language of study. The National Japan Bowl, America's premier Japanese-language competition, is vital for inspiring students and reinforcing their teachers and school districts' efforts and investments.

The Japan Bowl is not just a challenging and fun competition, it also allows students to experience Japanese culture first-hand and meet other students who share their interest in Japan and its language. Students were given the opportunity to enjoy live cultural workshops between competition rounds. Students and teachers also had the opportunity to network and meet with various Japanese cultural organizations, universities, and sponsors to learn more about career opportunities, study abroad programs, and Japanese language and cultural opportunities outside the classroom.

The National Japan Bowl's top winners will travel to Japan for a week of cultural experiences, cultural exchanges with Japanese students, a homestay, and audiences with dignitaries, including Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, the National Japan Bowl's honorary patron.

32nd National Japan Bowl Winners

LEVEL II

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDS

- 1ST PLACE** • Lynbrook High School (CA)
- 2ND PLACE** • Henry M. Gunn High School (CA)
- 3RD PLACE** • Cupertino High School (CA)
- 4TH PLACE** • Stuyvesant High School (NY)
- 5TH PLACE** • Gretchen Whitney High School (CA)

CONVERSATION ROUND

- FOR GREAT COLLABORATION**
Lynbrook High School
- FOR WONDERFUL HUMOR**
St John's School Guam
- HONORABLE MENTION**
- FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEAMWORK**
Gretchen Whitney High School

LEVEL III

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDS

- 1ST PLACE** • Stuyvesant High School (NY)
- 2ND PLACE** • Cupertino High School (CA)
- 3RD PLACE** • Lynbrook High School (CA)
- 4TH PLACE** • Henry M. Gunn High School (CA)
- 5TH PLACE** • Townsend Harris High School (NY)

CONVERSATION ROUND

- FOR WARMTH & POSITIVITY**
VERA SINGH, Montgomery Blair High School
- FOR SUSTAINED MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION**
PHU VO, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
- FOR EFFECTIVE USE OF AIZUCHI**
SHILOH WILLIAMS, The Center for Global Studies

LEVEL IV

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDS

- 1ST PLACE** • Lynbrook High School (CA)
- 2ND PLACE** • Cupertino High School (CA)
- 3RD PLACE** • Stuyvesant High School (NY)
- 4TH PLACE** • Henry M. Gunn High School (CA)
- 5TH PLACE** • Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology (VA)

CONVERSATION ROUND

- FOR EFFECTIVE ARTICULATION OF ISSUES**
SOPHIA GUIBAS, Henry M. Gunn High School
- FOR GREAT ENTHUSIASM**
PRACHI MARFATIA, Cupertino High School
- FOR EMPATHY**
TRONTOUR WANG, Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology



Marubatsu Judges

YOSHINAO ANPUKU, CEO of Nikoli Co., Ltd

TOSHIKO M. CALDER, Lecturer, Language Department, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced international Studies

MAKI HISHIKAWA, Vice President, International Affairs, Aflac Life Insurance Japan, Ltd.

FUMITO MIYAKE, Minister of Public Affairs, Embassy of Japan in Washington DC

YOSHIKO TSUDA, Instructor, Nishiura Style of Koh-Do

Cultural Workshops

JAPANESE MATCHA & GREEN TEA
with Silvia Mella of Sorate

TEA CEREMONY WHISKING EXPERIENCE
with instructor Jennifer Swanson

GUIDE TO BENTO BOX LUNCH
with Harmonious Kitchen

JAPANESE LOGIC PUZZLE ADVENTURES
A WORKSHOP WITH NIKOLI
with Yoshi Anpuku, the puzzle master behind Shikaku

JAPANESE YUKATA WORKSHOP
with instructor Hideko Uchiyama

KOH-DO (INCENSE CEREMONY), NISHIURA
STYLE *with Yoshiko Tsuda*

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by Temple University, Japan Campus

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Participating Schools

- Center For Global Studies
- Cupertino High School
- Dublin Jerome High School
- Dublin Scioto High School
- Forest Grove High School
- Gretchen Whitney High School
- Hayfield Secondary School
- Henry M. Gunn High School
- Lake Braddock Secondary School
- Langley High School
- Liceo Mexicano Japonés
- Lynbrook High School
- Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
- Montgomery Blair High School
- Northside College Preparatory High School
- Paint Branch High School
- R.L. Paschal High School
- St. John's School
- Stevenson School
- Stuyvesant High School
- Sunset High School
- The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts
- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
- Townsend Harris High School

32nd National Japan Bowl Team

Japan Bowl Council

The Japan Bowl Council works throughout the year to create questions – over 350 – which are challenging, informative, and entertaining. The questions are the lifeblood of the Japan Bowl. Half the questions are focused on the Japanese language, and the other half relates to Japanese history, culture, society, daily life, and more.

Sang-mi McHale
Sufumi So
Takae Tsujioka
William Brooks
Yoshiko Mori
Akane Shirata
Kirsten Jensen
Louisa Rubinfien
Mylz Hahn
Tomoko Hoogenboom
Yoko Lawless
Peggy Breer

JASWDC Staff

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Sam Harris, **PROGRAM MANAGER**
Sami Marks, **PROGRAM MANAGER**
Anetera Bryant, **INTERN**

Preliminary Round

LEVEL II

ENGLISH MODERATOR • Jessica Kling Meagher
JAPANESE MODERATOR • Haruka Han
GRADER • Akane Shirata
GRADER • Yoko Lawless
GRADER • Kirsten Jensen
GRADER • Seiko Kyan

LEVEL III

ENGLISH MODERATOR • Nathan Finch
JAPANESE MODERATOR • Tomoko Hoogenboom
GRADER • Louisa Rubinfien
GRADER • Sang-mi McHale
GRADER • Mylz Hahn
GRADER • Samantha Marks

LEVEL IV

ENGLISH MODERATOR • Tracy Mahoney
JAPANESE MODERATOR • Sachiko Beeman
GRADER • Sufumi So
GRADER • Peggy Breer
GRADER • Takae Tsujioka
GRADER • Yoshiko Mori
GRADER • Shun Hioki
SCOREKEEPER • Noriko Otsuka

Conversation Round

LEVEL 2 MODERATORS

Sufumi So
Louisa Rubinfien
Jennifer Swanson
Noriko Otsuka

LEVELS 3 & 4 MODERATORS

Tomoko Hoogenboom
Takae Tsujioka
Akane Shirata

Championship Round

ENGLISH MODERATOR • Tracy Mahoney
JAPANESE MODERATOR • Sachiko Beeman
JAPANESE MODERATOR • Kosuke Watanabe
JUDGE • Sufumi So
JUDGE • Louisa Rubinfien
JUDGE • Sang-mi McHale
JUDGE • Akane Shirata
JUDGE • Mylz Hahn
MC • Jennifer Swanson
SCORE-KEEPER • Takae Tsujioka
SCORE-KEEPER • Tomoko Hoogenboom
TIME-KEEPER • Nathan Finch

Creative

Takeo Kanji, **PHOTOGRAPHER**
Domio Mallory, **PHOTOGRAPHER**
Luciana Martorell, **VIDEO EDITING & DESIGN**

The National Japan Bowl is made possible by generous grants from the following organizations:



Sojitz Foundation

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