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News Release

Japanese Culture, Art Classes Slated for All Ages

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MARQUETTE – The Great Lakes Center for Youth Development (GLCYD), Peter White Public Library and the City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center will offer classes on Japanese culture and art beginning February 2.

Cultural awareness, especially in today's global marketplace, is a key element to becoming a world citizen. Only 35 percent of students in grades 8, 10 and 12 in Marquette and Alger counties who took the 2008 Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors survey reported they possessed cultural competence. In the survey, developed by Search Institute in Minneapolis, cultural competence is defined as a young person's knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The Japanese Cultural Series will begin with a four-week Japanese Tradition & Art for Children. The class is designed for youth in the third through fifth grades. Students will learn basic Japanese words, how to eat with chopsticks, how to write their name in Japanese calligraphy, how to create beautiful shapes using origami, and get a taste of Japanese food. The class will be held Wednesdays, beginning February 2, 2011, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. There is no charge for the class, but class size is limited to 15.

Japanese Tradition & Art for Teens will be offered for grades sixth through 12, beginning March 9, 2011, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Designed for teens, this four-week series will include the same topics as the first class, but at a higher grade level. Again, there is no charge for the class, but class size is limited to 15.

On Saturday, April 16, 2011, from 1 – 3 p.m., the art class Learning about the World around Us: Japan will be offered for all ages. Participants will learn the arts of Japan such as origami and calligraphy. The cost of the class is \$5 per adult. Students in grades 12 and under may attend at no charge. Class size is limited to 20.

Pre-registration is required. All classes will be held at the Arts and Culture Center in the Peter White Public Library, 217 N. Front St., Marquette, and taught by Tomoko Inoue from GLCYD. Inoue is originally from Kiryu, Japan. Call 228-0472 to register for classes or for more information.

For more information on this or other youth development or nonprofit management topics, please call GLCYD at 906-228-8919 or visit www.glcyd.org.

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