

Bridge

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After a brief welcome from principal Melissa Proffitt and Park View's band on Wednesday, the Japanese girls performed the Mikagura, a traditional worship dance using fans and bells.

During their stay, the Japanese students will take part in several assemblies to share information about their culture, religion, food, city, language and lifestyle with the American students, Christensen said.

The students also will take several trips to noted California attractions, such as Disneyland, before leaving Aug. 6.

While the drums were being set up, English teacher Koichiro Sawane recited a passage from Ezekiel, popularized in the Quentin Tarantino film "Pulp Fiction."

"To make them more interested in English, I sometimes show them movies," Sawane said, adding that because of the film's violent content, he showed only small segments of it. "I believe the best way to learn some languages is memorizing."



Staff photo by GABRIEL ACOSTA

A group of Japanese exchange students perform a Mikagura dance at Park View Middle School in Yucaipa.

'I want to come back next year. Everything is big here.'

■
Makiko Nishikawa,
English teacher

Sawane, who has visited the United States twice before, said Southern California is very similar to the students' home city, which allows them to compare their cultures and lifestyles.

English teacher Makiko Ni-

shikawa said this was her first visit to the United States, and she was looking forward to seeing Disneyland, Universal Studios and a baseball game.

"I want to come back next year," she said. "Everything is big here."

Despite Wednesday's soaring temperatures, 16-year-old Shiho Nishimura said she liked California because of its comfortable climate.

"Japan is very hot and wet," she said, fanning herself for effect. "Here (it) is very dry."