

1-1-1 Honcho Asaka city
Saitama Pref. 351-8501
JAPAN

Friday, February 20, 2009

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald Principal of Fitzroy High School,

I have been following the news regarding the horrific bushfire disaster that has swept across the state of Victoria these past few weeks. It is truly saddening to hear that so many lives have been cut short, and that so many innocent people have been injured and left homeless as a result of this terrible tragedy.

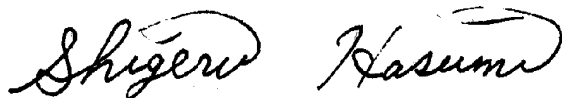
On behalf of the city of Asaka, the junior high school students who have participated in the cultural exchange between our cities and their families, I would like to offer our heartfelt sympathy, and through you, our sincere condolences to the relatives of those whose lives have been affected by the bushfires.

I hope that this disaster has in no way touched your school, the lives of your students, your students' families or your school's staff. Please let me know whether there is anything that I or the city of Asaka can do to help during this difficult time.

I am sure that the people of Australia will overcome these difficulties and soon recover from this horrendous disaster.

Our thoughts are with you, your school and the people of Victoria.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shigeru Hasumi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Shigeru Hasumi
Superintendent Asaka Board of Education