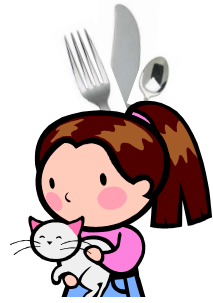


## Would you wear a knife, fork, or spoon in your hair?

*Probably not. Then why wear chopsticks in your hair? They are eating utensils! Kanzashi are hair ornaments used to create traditional Japanese hairstyles. Inexpensive kanzashi can be found in some local stores or online.*



After visiting many schools in the area I would like to share with you some light-hearted discoveries that may help you have

# A Culturally-Sensitive Japan Day!

ご気分の悪い節に ご利用下さい。

**“I found this Japanese writing! Let’s put it on the paper lanterns we’re making with the kids!”** *Great idea . . . but not when the Japanese translates as “use in case of motion sickness”!!! While amusing, it was definitely NOT culturally sensitive. It was also pasted on the lanterns upside down.*

## Know the Clothing and Keep it in Context!

*Usually worn only on special occasions, if at all, traditional Japanese clothing can be confusing.*

- **Kimono and Yukata** are long, with kimono being made of silk or wool, yukata of cotton. With kimono, socks (tabi) and zori are worn; geta, made of wood, are worn with yukata (no socks).
- Traditionally workmen’s jackets, **happi** are shorter and worn at festivals in Japan.
- Straw, conical-shaped **hats** are rarely seen in Japan, but sometimes may be worn by farmers; monks wear another style, and the samurai of long ago wore another style.

We may dress up like this for *shichi-go-san* when girls of ages 3 and 7 and boys of age 5 go to a shrine to receive blessings.



Or I might wear a suit and the girls might wear pretty dresses.



Sometimes the whole family dresses in yukata to go to a summer festival!

I’m ready in my happi and hachimaki (headband) for a matsuri or festival parade!

