July 30 was a landmark day for two colleges separated by language, culture and several thousand miles of ocean.

Capilano College in North Vancouver and Aichi Gakusen College in Okazaki, Japan ushered in a new program of cooperation and exchange with the arrival in Vancouver of 23 Japanese students to take part in a three-week English language program at Capilano.

The Japanese exchange

students, along with two faculty members and an administrator, spend the weekend settling in with their host families and a busy schedule of classes, field trips and social events began Monday.

In addition to classroom work and special assignments such as shopping in English, the students will take the Royal Hudson trip, go up Grouse Mountain, visit UBC, downtown and Granville Island, attend live theatre and musical events and take a weekend trip to Whistler.

Founded in 1912, Aichi Gakusen is one of Japan's earliest women's schools. The curriculum there focusses on international education, early childhood education, nutritional studies, fine arts, fashion design and textiles.

This October, in a return visit, two students from Capilano will have the opportunity to study at Aichi Gakusen. The B.C. students will take some courses and will also assist the college by tutoring students in English.