



## Welcome to Japanese Immersion

The PTA's Japanese Cultural Committee (JCC) welcomes you to Fox Mill Elementary School's Japanese Immersion (JI) Program. We have prepared this booklet to answer many of your questions about the Japanese Immersion (JI) Program.

JCC is an excellent way to meet other families participating in the immersion program. JCC meetings are held monthly at 9:00AM. **Our first meeting for the 2017-2018 school year will be on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.** Future meetings are planned for November 8<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>, January 10<sup>th</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>. Meeting dates are subject to change and will be listed in Fox Prints and announced in JCC emails.

JCC sponsors school events such as a school-wide Japanese art project and a festival (Matsuri). **Our 2018 Matsuri will be held on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 6PM to 9PM at Fox Mill. First grade students perform at the festival so mark your calendar!**

**If you would like to be added to our email list, please send an email to [jccfoxmill@aol.com](mailto:jccfoxmill@aol.com).** Our emails include information about upcoming JCC events, Japanese cultural events in our local area and other important JCC information. We welcome your suggestions and feedback and look forward to meeting you.

General Information About JI: All Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) students learn new concepts each year in math, science and health. Japanese Immersion students learn these concepts in Japanese. They will also learn to read and write in three different types of characters (Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji); and learn about Japanese culture by taking part in traditional events and activities both inside and outside the classroom.

Yokoso! Welcome!

## More about the Japanese Cultural Committee (JCC)

JCC is a PTA Committee open to any Fox Mill Elementary School parent, but is primarily comprised of parents from the JI program. All parent volunteers are welcome to join the JCC at any time and there is no need to speak Japanese or have any knowledge of Japanese culture.

The mission of JCC is to support the JI Program in ways that benefit the entire school by

- Organizing learning opportunities
- Bridging cultures (integrating Japanese cultural items and activities in the school to enhance student appreciation of different cultures)
- Conducting outreach activities within the school and within the community

### Types of activities JCC sponsors

- **JI Library** The Fox Mill library has many Japanese language picture books and Japanese audio books. JCC parents help to catalog these books. JCC assists the librarian in maintaining and organizing Japanese language material.
- **Japanese Signs** JCC posts signs in Japanese for the common areas of the school such as the office, gymnasium, cafeteria and library. Signs in more than one language acclimates the student body to a multicultural environment.
- **Cafeteria Bulletin Board** JCC uses this bulletin board to introduce Japanese phrases, holidays and traditional customs to the student body.
- **Japanese Art Project** JCC coordinates a school-wide art activity with the art teacher. JCC volunteers present the project and assist the teacher in the classroom.
- **Doll Festival (Hina Matsuri)** JCC volunteers set up a display of Hina-Ningyo (dolls) for the student body on March.
- **Children's Day Japanese Festival** JCC sponsors a Children's Day Matsuri or festival in early May. This festival is open to all Fox Mill families and members of the community. Festivities include cultural performances, traditional games, and food demonstrations.
- **Japanese Culture and Conversation Club** The South Lakes HS Japanese Honor Society presents the material for this club while collaborating with the Japanese teachers through the entire pyramid (South Lakes, Rachel Carson and Fox Mill).
- **Shogi Club** Japanese chess, or shogi, is one of Japan's most popular board games. Shogi is the only variation of chess in which each player may drop captured pieces on the board as one's own. This unique rule gives the game greater complexity and depth than Western chess, allowing for very exciting and dynamic gameplay.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What academic subjects are taught in Japanese?**

Math, science and health are taught in Japanese. The curriculum requirements and standards are the same as the FCPS Program of Studies that are taught in the English classes. The Japanese teachers use the same teaching concepts and textbooks as the rest of FCPS, but teach the concepts and curriculum in the Japanese language. The math and science curriculum is summarized on the FCPS website at <http://www.fcps.edu/academics/acadenrich.shtml#es>.

### **Will my child understand what is being said in the classroom?**

Most of the children enter the program without understanding or speaking any Japanese. However, children are so adaptable that they quickly learn the routines and learn to follow directions and lessons in Japanese. The JI teachers are very effective using other means to communicate, such as hand gestures, visual aids (overheads, pictures, manipulatives), and music/songs.

### **How can parents help their child if the parents do not speak Japanese?**

Communication with your child is key. Trying to understand what he/she is learning in the classroom and reinforcing that at home is important. You can do so by reviewing your child's homework assignments daily. The JI teachers send review information and class newsletters home in the Tuesday Packets. You can find the same math, science and health concepts that are taught in Japanese in your child's English language textbooks. Most JI parents however, do not speak Japanese, and many parents of older JI students say that their children simply become very independent learners.

### **What do *Sensei*, *san*, and *kun* mean?**

"Sensei" means "teacher" in Japanese, and precedes the teacher's last name. Thus, the children address the JI teachers as "Last Name-Sensei" (e.g., "Nakayama-Sensei").

"San" is a title of respect added to the name of someone other than yourself. Students refer to and address adults as "Last Name-san" (e.g. a parent with the last name of "Smith" is "Smith-san" (although Mr. or Mrs. Smith would not refer to themselves as "Smith-san")). Students refer to and address female students as "First Name-san" (e.g. "Karen-san") and students refer to male students as "First Name-kun" (e.g. "Robert-kun".)

### **What Japanese holidays and traditions are celebrated in class?**

- **New Year Celebration/Oshogatsu.** In January, the children celebrate "Oshogatsu" which is the Japanese New Year (January 1<sup>st</sup>). The activities may include eating mochi (Japanese rice cakes); using sumi-e brushes to make Japanese characters for "Nengajo" (Japanese New Year's Cards); folding origami or other traditional activities.
- **Doll Festival (Hinamatsuri)** is held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate the well-being of girls. Most families with girls display "Hina-ningyo", which are special dolls that represent the Emperor, Empress and Imperial court. Peach blossoms are dedicated to the dolls.

- **Children’s Day (Kodomo No Hi)**, is held on May 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the healthy growth of children. The day was traditionally called “Boy’s Festival”. Many families with boys display a “kabuto” (a replica of a samurai helmet) or “gogatsu-ningyo” (samurai doll) inside the house; and fly “koinobori” (carp streamers) outside.
- **End-of-Year Performance.** The children will give an End-of-Year Performance for parents consisting of songs and/or a traditional play performed in Japanese.

### What are the Japanese songs that they are learning?

Ookina Kuri no Kino Shita de “Under the Big Chestnut Tree”	Do Re Mi no Uta “Do Re Me Song”
Donguri Korokoro “Rolling Acorn”	Sakura “Cherry Blossom Song”
A I U E O “Hiragana Alphabet Song” ( <i>Jingle Bells</i> melody)	Calendar Song Yobi no Uta ( <i>Frere Jacques</i> melody)
Morino Kumasan “A Bear in the Woods”	Chiisana Sekai “It’s a Small World”
Atama Kata “Head and Shoulders”	

### Japanese Games in the Classroom

- **Fukuwarai** - Fukuwarai is a game similar to “pin the tail on the donkey”, but instead of a donkey, the children use a chubby-cheeked face, or “otafuku” to place facial features. The teachers often use this game to teach parts of the body in Japanese.
- **Karuta** - There are many variations of Karuta, or Japanese playing cards, in Japan. The teachers may use Karuta to teach vocabulary and Japanese characters.
- **Bingo** - The teachers may also use a modified version of bingo to teach Japanese vocabulary and Japanese characters.

### What is a happi coat?

Happi coats originated as a Japanese overcoat traditionally worn by shopkeepers. Today, happi coats are still used by some shopkeepers; however happi coats are widely used for Japanese festivals called Matsuri. Happi coats for a Matsuri are traditionally worn over a t-shirt with shorts or pants.

Jl students traditionally wear happi coats during the End-of-Year performance. The students can also wear them during the New Year Celebration/Oshogatsu activities and Children’s Day Matsuri. Happi coats can be made or purchased.

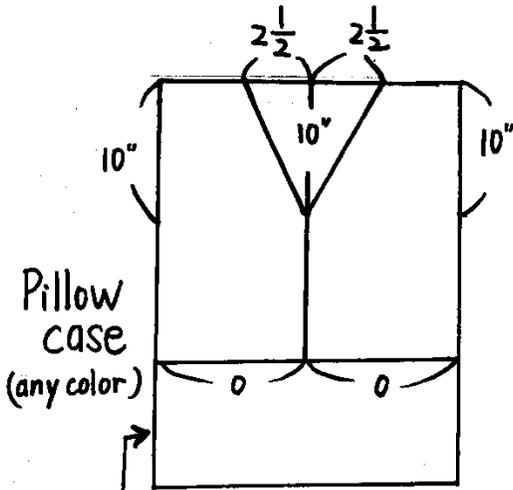
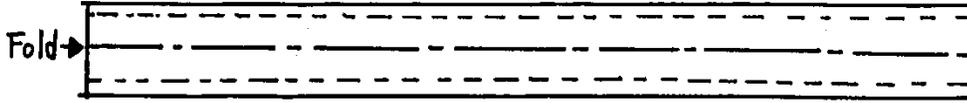
Happi coats are available for purchase at:

- <http://www.global.rakuten.com/>
- <http://www.japanesestyle.com/>
- <http://www.lakeshorelearning.com/>
- <http://www.wabijapan.com/>
- <http://www.store.japan-zone.com/>

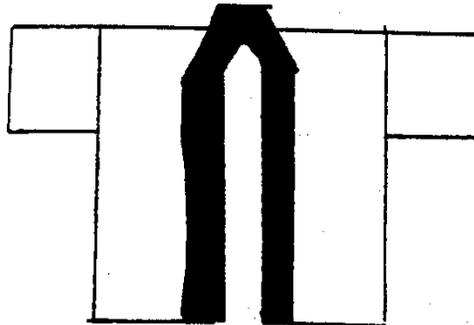
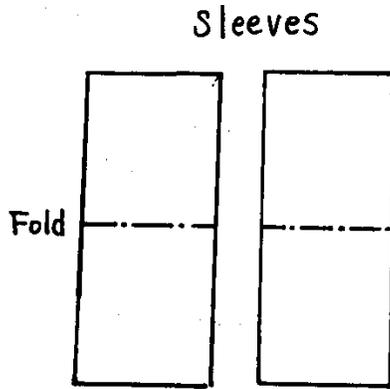
Following are two simple patterns showing how to make the happi coats.

# How to Make a Happi Coat

Collar Band (any color)



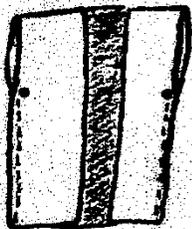
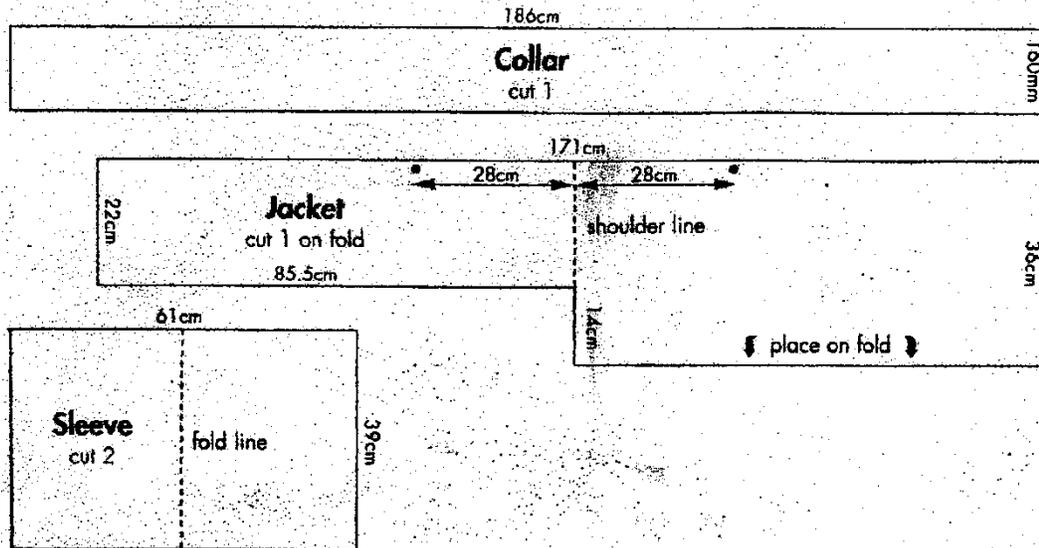
Cut off for sleeves



- Lay collarband flat and pin body to it, easing around the neck.
- Sew sleeves on to body.

# MAKING A HAPPI COAT

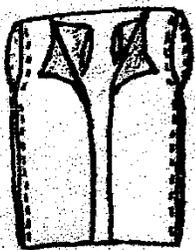
The happi coat is an informal short jacket once worn by all kinds of Japanese workers – firefighters, gardeners, shop assistants and crafts people. Today, people wear happi coats at festivals or matsuri. Designs vary, but often incorporate motifs (see p.9). These simple instructions show how to make your own happi coat. To cut out the fabric, you will need to redraw the pattern pieces using the measurements given. These measurements have incorporated 2.5cm for all seam allowances. This pattern is for a one-size garment. **YOU WILL NEED:** 2.4 metres of 90cm width fabric, eg. calico, lightweight cotton (The collar may be cut in a contrasting colour – in this case, use 2.2m + 1.0m for the collar, cutting the collar on the fold).



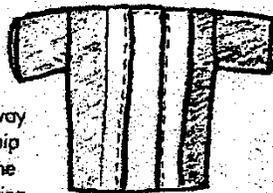
1. With right sides together, fold front flaps of jacket along shoulder line and press, matching bottom edges and circles. Pin and stitch side seam up to circles. Press seams flat.



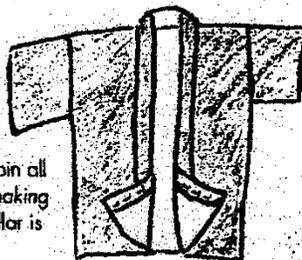
2. With right sides together fold sleeve along fold line. Pin and stitch sleeve along long edge. Press seam flat.



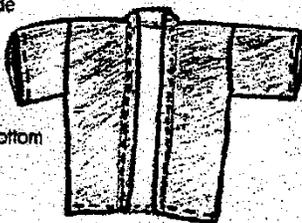
3. Insert sleeve into arm hole (right sides together); match seam of sleeve with the side seam, pin and stitch. Press seam flat and clip seam allowance if necessary, to make seam lie flat.



4. Pin the collar to the opening of the jacket all the way round, taking care to ease the fabric into the neckline. Stitch all the way round. Make a diagonal snip as far as the seam line at the corners of the neckline, cutting through both thicknesses of seam allowance.



5. Open out the seam and press flat. Fold collar over the seam, turn under a 2.5cm hem on the inside and pin all the way round. Press, making sure the width of the collar is even all the way round.



6. Stitch round the inside edge of the collar, about 0.5 cm from the edge, stitching through all thicknesses. Hem the sleeves and bottom of the jacket and press.

# Japanese Characters and Language

## Kanji, Hiragana, and Katakana

Contemporary Japanese uses a mixture of kanji, hiragana and katakana characters. First grade students will learn all 48 Hiragana characters and 18 Kanji characters: Numbers 1 through 10, 100, and the days of the week.

**Kanji** were introduced to Japan around the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The Japanese, with no writing of their own until the 5<sup>th</sup> century, adopted about 2,000 Chinese characters to represent their own language. Each Kanji character has a specific meaning (e.g., “一月” represents the name for “January”, or “Ichigatsu”).

**Hiragana.** In the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Japanese developed Hiragana and Katakana. Hiragana is a more simplified form of Kanji, consisting of 48 characters. As opposed to Kanji, where a single character can represent an entire word, Hiragana is phonetic (e.g. “January” or “Ichigatsu” is represented by 4 Hiragana characters: いちがつ i-chi-ga-tsu).

**Katakana,** also phonetic and consists of 48 characters. It is used to write words of foreign origin adopted into the modern Japanese language (e.g., Martyn-Sensei’s last name would be written as マーティン, or “ma- te-i-n”).

## Hiragana Chart

	A <i>a</i> as in ah	i <i>i</i> as in pizza	u <i>u</i> as in flu	e <i>e</i> as in egg	O <i>o</i> as in open
	あ	い	う	え	お
k	か ka	き Ki	く ku	け ke	こ Ko
s	さ sa	し Si	す su	せ se	そ So
t	た ta	ち Ti	つ tsu	て tse	と Tso
n	な na	に Ni	ぬ nu	ね ne	の No
h	は ha	ひ Hi	ふ hu	へ he	ほ Ho
m	ま ma	み Mi	む mu	め me	も Mo
y	や ya		ゆ yu		よ Yo
r	ら ra	り Ri	る ru	れ re	ろ Ro
w	わ wa				を Wo
	ん nn				

## Sample 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Vocabulary

### Numbers

Following are numbers in Japanese in Romaji (written English), Kanji and Hiragana. Please note that we have not included all numbers serially, but there is a pattern similar to numbers in English.

Number	Romaji	Kanji	Hiragana
1	Ichi	一	いち
2	Ni	二	に
3	San	三	さん
4	Shi or yon	四	し or よん
5	Go	五	ご
6	Roku	六	ろく
7	Shichi or Nana	七	しち or なな
8	Hachi	八	はち
9	Ku or Kyuu	九	く or きゅう
10	Jyuu	十	じゅう
11	Jyuu ichi	十一	じゅういち
12	Jyuu ni	十二	じゅうに
13	Jyuu san	十三	じゅうさん
20	Ni jyuu	二十	にじゅう
21	Ni jyuu ichi	二十一	にじゅういち
22	Ni jyuu ni	二十二	にじゅうに
30	San jyuu	三十	さんじゅう
40	Yon jyuu	四十	よんじゅう
50	Go jyuu	五十	ごじゅう
60	Roku jyuu	六十	ろくじゅう
70	Nana jyuu	七十	ななじゅう
80	Hachi jyuu	八十	はちじゅう
90	Kyuu jyuu	九十	きゅうじゅう
100	Hyaku	百	ひゃく
123	Hyaku nijyuu san	百二十三	ひゃくにじゅうさん

## Days of the Week and Months of the Year

Following are the days of the week and months of the year written in Romaji (written English), Kanji and Hiragana.

Day/Month	Romaji	Kanji	Hiragana
A Day	Hi	日	ひ
Sunday	Nichiyoubi	日曜日	にちようび
Monday	Getsuyoubi	月曜日	げつようび
Tuesday	Kayoubi	火曜日	かようび
Wednesday	Suiyoubi	水曜日	すいようび
Thursday	Mokuyoubi	木曜日	もくようび
Friday	Kinyoubi	金曜日	きんようび
Saturday	Doyoubi	土曜日	どようび
One week	Isshuukan	一週間	いっしゅうかん
A Month	Gatsu	月	がつ
January	Ichigatsu	一月	いちがつ
February	Nigatsu	二月	にがつ
March	Sangatsu	三月	さんがつ
April	Shigatsu	四月	しがつ
May	Gogatsu	五月	ごがつ
June	Rokugatsu	六月	ろくがつ
July	Shichigatsu	七月	しちがつ
August	Hachigatsu	八月	はちがつ
September	Kugatsu	九月	くがつ
October	Jyuugatsu	十月	じゅうがつ
November	Jyuuichigatsu	十一月	じゅういちがつ
December	Jyuunigatsu	十二月	じゅうにがつ
One Year	ichi nen	一年	いちねん

## Sample Phrases Used in First Grade

Japanese language	Nihongo
First Grade	Ichinensei
Teacher	Sensei
Good Morning	Ohayogozaimasu
Good Afternoon	Konnichiwa
Good Evening	Konbanwa
Good bye	Sayonara
Thank You	Arigatou
Thank you very much	Doumo arigatou gozaimasu
You're welcome	Dou itashimashite
I'm sorry	Gomennasai/Sumimasen
Yes	Hai
No	lie
"I am (name)" Ex. "I am Jon"	Watashi wa (name) desu. Ex. Watashi wa Jon desu.
"My name is (name)" Ex. "My name is Jon"	Watashi no namae wa (name) desu. Ex. Watashi no namae wa Jon desu.
To denote a girl's name, add the suffix, "san"	(name)-san Ex. Karen-san, Sara-san
To denote a boy's name, add the suffix, "kun"	(name)-kun Ex. Robert-kun, David-kun
I do not understand	Wakarimasen
I understood	Wakarimashita
Please sit	Suwatte kudasai
Let's listen	Kikimashou
Let's stand up	Tachimashou
Please be quiet	Shizukani shite kudasai

# Resources

## Japanese Language Classes

- **Fairfax County Public Schools Adult and Community Education (ACE)**  
Japanese I through Intermediate levels. To check class schedules and fees you may call 703-658-1227 or visit the FCPS web site at:  
<http://www.fcps.edu/aceclasses>
- **FCPS Summer School Program offered through Adult and Community Education (ACE)**  
Japanese language courses for FCPS students are offered through ACE. ACE has offered a one week Japanese summer camp at Fox Mill Elementary. For information on summer 2015, check the FCPS web site or the summer ACE catalog. The phone number for registration is 703-658-1201.
- **One Week Summer Camps at Lake Fairfax through o-en network**  
Two separate week long camps are offered in August. One of the weeks is geared toward immersion students, but both are open to all. Register early as the camps fill quickly. <http://o-en.net/>

## Web Sites for JI Parents and Students

### Parental Guide for supporting Japanese Language Education

- **Japan Foundation, Los Angeles** The organization was established by the Japanese government to promote international cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and other countries. The Los Angeles office also provides assistance for Japanese-language education nationwide and offers online links and resources.  
<http://www.jflalc.org/>

### About Japanese Language (Character and language charts)

- **Access Japanese** <http://www.accessjapanese.com/hiragana.html>
- **AIRnet** <http://www.sf.airnet.ne.jp/ts/japanese/table.html>
- **Kids Web Japan** <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/language/hiragana/index.html>
- **Free Japanese Learning Website**  
<http://www.erin.ne.jp/en/>
- **Information Media Center, Hiroshima University**  
[http://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/top/kenkyusyo/p\\_ho0a22.html](http://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/top/kenkyusyo/p_ho0a22.html)
- Youtube videos can also be helpful. For example, when you type in Hiragana, there are Hiragana song, Hiragana Flash Cards, how to write Hiragana, and many more helpful videos.

## Japanese-English Dictionaries:

- **Jim Breen's WWWJDIC Japanese Dictionary Server**  
<http://freelanguage.org/blog/opal-myth/jun/2007/jim-breens-wwwjdic-japanese-dictionary-server>
- **Denshi Jisho** <http://www.jisho.org/>
- **Freedict.com** <http://www.freedict.com/onldict/jap.html>

## Japanese Culture:

**Shen's Books Site Dedicated to multicultural books for children. Offers books about Japanese culture as well as some published in both Japanese and English**  
<http://www.shens.com/>

- **Kids Web Japan** Contains information on culture, geography, language, and education. Website is mostly in English, but can be converted to Japanese. "Meet the Kids" links directly to schools in Japan. Sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).  
<http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/index.html>
- **Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASW)** Nonprofit, nonpartisan educational and cultural organization of individuals and institutions with an interest in Japan and U.S.-Japan relations. Includes information about Japanese-related events, programs and educational support in the Washington DC area.  
<http://www.us-japan.org/dc/>

## Japanese News Sites ( in Japanese )

<http://www.nhk.or.jp/>  
<http://www.asahi.co.jp/>  
<http://www.mainichi.co.jp/>  
<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/>

## Places to Visit

### Museums

The following museums have Japanese-related exhibits:

**Smithsonian Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Art**  
<http://www.asia.si.edu/>

**Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond**  
<http://vmfa.museum/collections/east-asian-art/>

### Local Stores

- **SuperH**  
10780 Fairfax Blvd. (Lee Hwy.)  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Phone: 703-273-0570
- **Maruichi Grocery**  
1049 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Phone: 301-738-1042
- **Lotte Plaza**  
13955 Metrotech Dr.  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
Phone: 703-488-6600
- **Fresh World International Market**  
1050 Elden St. Herndon, VA 20170  
Phone: 703-435-8200

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