Ms. Eri Yamasaki, a Japanese language teacher at Bronx Collaborative High School, is trying to raise money to take her students to Japan. A total of thirteen students were selected as members of this trip based on their skills and dedication to their studies. This trip will be the first international trip organized by Bronx Collaborative High School. While the school was able to fund the cost of the airline tickets, the money for other costs, including food and transportation within Japan, is currently being raised through various means. Fundraising activities are being led by both Ms. Yamasaki and Ms. Deborah Katz, teachers of the Japanese Culture elective. At this school, about 85% of students qualify for free lunch, and many students live below the poverty line. Using GoFundMe.com/collabhigh-school, they've raised over $10,000, the original goal. Although the goal was reached, the campaign will be open to donations until mid-June when they return for Japan in the late July. Teachers said, "Many of these donations came right after the Japanese article of Shukan NY Seikatsu was donated to Japan. We only have about one month more, but we do have quite enough to complete the trip within Japan. Please help us support our trip to Japan from the Bronx," said Ms. Yamasaki.

The students are excited to visit the Japanese Museum in Tokyo and Minoshima High School in Wakayama. These two schools are hosting the students and staff, both in terms of providing homestay placements and in allowing students to join in on planned school activities. The students of Bronx Collaborative High School are looking forward to the cultural exchange aspect of this trip and look forward to meeting their Japanese peers.

"My students have been studying Japanese very hard. They love Japan and its culture. I really wanted to make their dreams come true and decided to plan this trip. We only have about one month more, but we do have quite enough to complete the trip within Japan. Please help us support our trip to Japan from the Bronx," said Ms. Yamasaki.

Fashion designer Kansai Yamamoto reflected on his professional relationships with David Bowie at the "David Bowie Is" exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum on May 17. Below is an excerpt of the talk he gave:

"Dressed in my designs, David Bowie descended from the ceiling of Radio City Music Hall. That is when I saw him for the first time in the winter of 1973. We officially met the next day and started to work together. Both his music and dress were emitting an immense amount of energy, which made me thrilled with the sense of joint creation. Through each other, I learned about the West and he about the East, and he started to visit Japan frequently, always including a stop in Kyoto.

He was usually a quiet person, but when a switch was turned on, he immediately became well, David Bowie. I think both of us learned that expression is to appeal to your words. While I can spend one week without listening to music, I cannot live a life without colors, which are as essential to me as air. There is a great sound in my head when the sun rises over the horizon, as my eyes serve as my ears.

He never made any demands about design. He always wore what I made, and God knows whether he liked them or not— I suppose he was confident that he would look the greatest in his clothing.

He also challenged traditional notions of men and women. I worked on his dresses as if I were making women’s. I was just making what I made, and God knows whether he liked them or not— I suppose he was confident that he would look the greatest in his clothing.

To be dumb serious about your lifetime pursuit— this is what I think he left for us as his message. In other words, keep doing to the best of your ability what you believe in, rain or shine, in your life. I have no doubt that he was doing so."