

COORDINATORS FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
ACTIVITIES REPORT
2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR



【Coordinators for International Relations】

Shannen Donovan September 2017 (Revere, MA)

Anthony Gillan September 2018 (Seattle, WA)

MARCH 2020

Kindergarten and Preschool English Activities

Tony and Shannen visit kindergartens and preschools throughout Date City with the goal of introducing English through play and dance.

- Time Frame : April 2019 ~ March 2020
- Number of Classes : 109 (sum of monthly classes)
- Number of students : 190



Greetings & Dance	We begin by introducing the phrases “Hello,” “Good morning,” etc. Then we sing and dance to “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.”
“Simon Says”	We play a game similar to “Simon Says” using the words “clap,” “jump,” “crawl,” and more. We introduce new words each time we play.
Song	Between April and July, we sing “If You’re Happy and You Know it Clap Your Hands.” Then we switch to “BINGO” between September and March.
Picture Book	We read a new picture book each time we visit, beginning in September.
Game	We also introduce a new game for every visit. (Ex. “Duck, Duck, Goose,” “London Bridge is Falling Down,” English <i>karuta</i> , etc.)
Present	At the end of each visit, we pass out a word search and coloring page.

English Kamishibai

They created a *kamishibai* to help students hear natural spoken English while telling them a local folktale. Shannen painted the reimaged version of “The Candy Shop Ghost” that Tony wrote and performed.

- Time Frame : October, 2019



English Time at Date Family Park

They participated in English playtime at Date Family Park. During playtime, they sang and danced with the children and read picture books aloud.

- Dates : June 25th, July 16th, August 27th, September 17th, October 15th, November 26th, December 17th, January 28th, February 25th
- Number of Students : 15



Hobara Elementary “Challenge Classroom”

Once a month, they visited Hobara Elementary School to play games with students while speaking English. They introduced American games, passed out word search puzzles, and practiced the ABCs together.

- Dates : April 17th, June 25th, September 13th, October 18th, November 15th, January 24th, February 17th
- Number of Students : 13



English Courses

Tony and Shannen offered a quarterly English course with an emphasis on speaking using practical words and phrases, not the rigid English typically learned in schools. During every session they strove to create a casual atmosphere in which participants could comfortably express themselves and try out the new material.

- Details : They designed the course material to allow students at all levels of fluency to participate. During class, students were separated into groups of four to converse in English and think about the answers to questions together. Meanwhile, Tony and Shannen circle the tables answering questions and providing explanations.

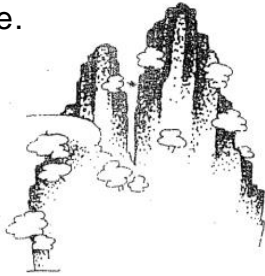


Dates	Themes	Participants
First Series May 14 th , 21 st , 28 th	Travel Abroad : Shopping, eating, etc.	14 th : 19 people 21 st : 20 people 28 th : 19 people
Second Series September 17 th , 24 th , 30 th	Travel in Japan : Shopping, eating, etc.	17 th : 18 people 24 th : 16 people 30 th : 13 people
Third Series December 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th	Travel in Date City : Shopping, eating, etc.	3 rd : 14 people 10 th : 13 people 17 th : 12 people

Ryōzen Hiking Tour with Foreign Residents

With the goal of spreading knowledge of the mountain worldwide, they held a hiking tour of Mount Ryozen in which they invited Japanese residents of Date City and foreign residents of the prefecture to participate.

- Date : Saturday, November 9th 9AM – 4:30PM
- Participants : 21 (including two Japanese participants)
- Nationalities : Jamaican, Malaysian, American, Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese
- Details : Participants gathered at Hobara station and rode a shuttle bus to the mountain entrance, where we met our guides. After climbing and having lunch, we went to Michi no Eki Ryōzen for ice cream and souvenir shopping.



Time	Activity
9 : 00	Meet at Hobara Station
10 : 00	Begin hike!
12 : 00	Break time and lunch at the top.
14 : 30	Shopping at Michi no Eki Date no Sato Ryōzen
16 : 00	Finish at Hobara Station

CIR Activity Log (Date City Website • Facebook • Twitter)

Shannen and Tony scout out interesting places and events throughout the city and write about their experiences on the city’s website and social media accounts in both English and Japanese.

Month	Content
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Hero Saitou Hikonai • Beniya Ridge in Hobara • The 2019 Spring Festival at Hobara Yakushi Hall • Everyone’s Takako
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobara Rice Planting Experience • Hobara Elementary School’s Traffic Safety Parade • Knit Goods are Cheaper! • <i>Genkidzukuri</i> in Hobara Town
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Fire Brigade Mobile Pump Competition • Hobara Town’s Chōkokuji Temple
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AbuQ Beer Garden • Yanagawa Town’s Heart Monument • Yamafunyu’s Hydrangea Park • Ryūhōji Temple’s Lotus Garden
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobara Summer Festival • AbuQ Walk Takako • Date City’s School Lunch Center • Guyana NOC Visit to Date
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date na Anime Festival • Hobara Rice Harvesting Experience • Date Town Bar March • Masamune Datenicle Stamp Rally



Yanagawa Town’s Heart Monument



AbuQ Walk Takako

October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date City's Candy Shop Ghost • Date Town Culture Fair 40th General Exhibition
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AbuQ Stamp Rally • Date City's Disabled Persons' Handicraft Sale • Surikami River Waterworks Tour
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Boot Galleries • Making Dried Persimmons (Part 1) • The Chin-chin Densha Illumination • Daniel Kahl in Hobara Town • A Gift from Kusatsu City
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone Fraud is No Joke • A Talk on Gender Equality • Andean Music of Peru Performance & Workshop • Making Dried Persimmons (Part 2) • New Motorbike License Plates
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of Yanagawa Hachiman Shrine (Part 2) • Restoration of Yanagawa Hachiman Shrine (Part 1) • Making Miso at Family Park Date • Date Station Plaza Renovation • Mamemaki at Family Park
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Communication with Foreigners Drill • Tsukidate Academy Tour • Strawberry Picking at Michi no Eki Date's Village of Ryōzen



Making Dried Persimmons (Part 1)



Andean Music of Peru Performance



Mamemaki at Family Park



Emergency Communication Drills

Articles in Date City's *Shisei Dayori* Magazine

Every month, Tony writes a brief article about his experience in Japan or about American culture for Date City's monthly publication, *Shisei Dayori*.

Month	Article	Month	Article
April	April is for Easter	October	Halloween
May	A Spring of Hope	November	<i>Kamishibai</i>
June	Summer Time	December	Esperanto
July	Summer Vacation	January	Life Under a <i>Kotatsu</i>
August	Mobile Pump Competition	February	American Football
September	Nordic Walking	March	Traffic Accidents

Translation of Date City's *Shisei Dayori* Magazine

Vital information from each issue of the magazine is summarized and translated into English. This version is distributed at Date City Hall, all branch offices, Hobara Station, and Yanagawa Station, and is also available on the city's website and official Facebook page.



Translation

Date City is rich in history. Shannen and Tony translate the city's historic markers and guide maps with the hope to share this legacy with English speaking visitors. They also translate material including city maps for residents of Date City who do not speak Japanese.

Translated materials : Garbage Calendar (Vietnamese), evacuation center information、 Disaster Atlas, *kominka* website, signboards, etc.

List of Various Evacuation Shelters in Date Town

No.	Name and Address	Designated Evacuation Shelter	Designated Emergency Evacuation Area	Assured Care Evacuation Shelter	Suitability for Each Type of Disaster				
					Flooding	Landslide Disaster	Earthquake	Large-scale Fire	Backflow Flooding
1	Date City Homeless Hall Date-cho, Furusato Kaikan Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Maekawa 63	●	●		○*	○	○	○	×
2	Date City Health & Welfare Center Date-cho, Fukushi Kaikan Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Maekawa 17-1	●	●		○*	○	○	○	○
3	Date Gymnasium Date-cho, Maekawa 37-1 Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Maekawa 37-1	●	●		○*	○	○	○	×
4	Date Senior Health Center Date-cho, Chuo 5-1 Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Kita-Sakine 22-1	●	●		○	○	○	○	○
5	Date Sports Complex Date-cho, Ippon-Matsu 64-1 Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Ippon-Matsu 64-1		●		○	○	○	○	○
6	Said Academy Said-Daigaku Kofei Daigaku Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Bokucho 3	●	●		○	○	○	○	○
7	Date Elementary School Date-cho, Sakagiri Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Tate-no-Uchi 20	●	●		○	○	○	○	○
8	Date Middle School Date-cho, Chigasaki Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Hasegawa, Oki 110	●	●		○	○	○	○	○
9	Date Community Contact Center Date-cho, Furoji Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Hasegawa, Banbaicho 7		●	●	○	○	○	○	○
10	Hasegawa Rural Environment Improvement Center Hasegawa-cho, Kariya Kawa Sando Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Hasegawa, Otake 29	●	●		○	○	×	○	○
11	East Date District Exchange Hall Date-cho, Higashi-1 Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Fuhigunomats, Ippon-cho 41-2	●	●		○	○	○	○	○
12	East Date Elementary School Date-cho, Higashi-1 Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Fuhigunomats, Ippon-cho 42	●	●		○	○	○	○	○
13	Date Senior Home Date-cho, Ippon-Matsu 64 Fukushima-ken, Date-shi, Ippon-Matsu 64			●	○	○	○	○	○

* Available for use × Unavailable for use
 ○ Available for use depending on disaster conditions

※ Numbers correspond to location in the Date City Disaster Atlas (Risai Map); please refer to pp. 23-24

One Section of the “Disaster Atlas”



Signboard at Yanagawa Hachiman Shrine

Reconstruction “Arigatō” Host Town

In anticipation of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Date City signed an agreement on August 22nd with representatives of the Republic of Guyana to become that country’s “Reconstruction ‘Arigatō’ Host Town.” Following this signing, the Guyanese team’s representatives visited Date City, and joined Mayor Suda onstage at the “Date Taiko Drum Festival” before tasting peaches grown in the city. During these events, Shannen was present to interpret.

- Dates : August 22nd, 24th, 25th, 26th



ALT Meetings

We attend monthly meetings with Date City's Assistant Language Teachers during which we facilitate communication with the Board of Education. We also interpret for the ALTs in matters concerning their daily lives, when asked.

- Dates : April 2019 ~ February 2020
- Number of ALTs : 7

Date Cable TV

With the intention of introducing Date City's culture and natural scenery to a wider audience, Tony and Shannen made a series of appearances on Date TV. "Date City Sakura Viewing" and "English Kamishibai 'The Candy Shop Ghost'" are both promotional videos that you can find on Date City's YouTube channel.

Month	Video	Month	Video
April	Date City Sakura Viewing	October	Children's Sumo Wrestling
May	~	November	English Kamishibai "The Candy Shop Ghost"
June	Mount Ryōzen	December	Ryōzen Hiking Tour
July	AbuQ Railyard	January	Motorbike Santas
August	~	February	Date Town's Retro Cars
September	The Republic of Guyana's NOC Visit to Date City	March	Michi no Eki Date's Village of Ryōzen Strawberry Garden



Date City Sakura Viewing



Ryōzen Strawberry Garden

Firefighters' Emergency Communication Workshop

With the goal of preparing Date City's paramedics to communicate with patients who may not speak Japanese, Tony and Shannen participated in a series of training seminars at the city's central fire station. They gave a presentation on communication and cultural sensitivity, and participated in simulations during which they spoke only English. A member of "Date-nity," the city's international community, also participated in these simulations.

Dates : March 12th, 16th, 17th



Japan Monthly Web Magazine

Japan National Tourism Organization's JAPAN Monthly Web Magazine, which distributes multi-lingual information of interest to foreign tourists in Japan, has posted an article about Date City's CIRs.

Scan the QR code below to take a look!



QR Code



We've created a Date CIRs Page on Facebook!

We've created an English and Japanese language Facebook page to spread the word about events and other information about Date City.

Scan the QR code below to take a look!

Date CIRs Official Facebook Page
[Date City Coordinators for
International Relations](#)



~A Message from Shannen~

Tony and I have been doing our best to support cross-cultural communication and English language learning in Date City. We've enjoyed visiting the city's kindergartens, indoor playgrounds, and community centers. And we take enormous pride in translating information about events and places of interest, from summer festivals to castle ruins, museums, and much more. Personally, I've had the opportunity to learn a lot and have enjoyed every day of it.



~A Message from Tony~

This has been a very productive year for your Coordinators for International Relations. From refining the English experiences offered at kindergartens to embarking on new endeavors such as TV appearances, we are doing our best to enrich life for everyone in Date City. Additionally, by residing within the City and actively participating in community events, we hope to revitalize neighborhoods with even just a small dose of grassroots internationalization.