

**COORDINATORS FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR**



**【Coordinators for International Relations】**

Shannen Donovan September 2017~(Revere)

Anthony Gillan September 2018~(Seattle)

**MARCH 2019**

## Kindergarten and Preschool English Activities

We visited kindergartens and preschools throughout Date City with the goal of introducing English through play and dance rather than study.

- Time frame: April 2018~March 2019
- Number of classes: 99
- Cumulative number of students: About 1700



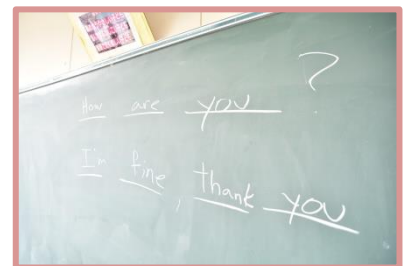
Month	Themes
April	Greetings and Animal Names
May	Color Names
June	Fruit and Vegetable Names
July	Review!
September	Color and Animal Names (Meeting Tony!)
October	Halloween and Number Names
November	Color, Fruit, and Vegetable Names
December	Christmas Games and Greetings
January	Body Part Names
February	“Be careful!” and Directional Phrases
March	Reviewing the songs and dances we’ve learned and reading a picture book together!

## CIR Activities with Elementary Students

We visited students in grades one and two in Tsukidate Elementary School and students from grades one through four in Ote Elementary School with the purpose of interacting with them in English. We told them stories, answered questions, and played guessing games centered on comparisons of Japanese and American culture.

- Dates: May 2018 ~ February 2019
- Number of classes: 15 Cumulative number of students: 364

Date	School	Themes
5/29	Tsukidate	Self-introductions and BINGO Game
5/29	Ote 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Self-introductions and a talk about the US
6/13	Ote 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
7/3	Ote 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Songs and Dances
9/19	Ote 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Tony's Introduction and English Greetings
9/26	Tsukidate	
10/16	Ote 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Halloween
10/30	Tsukidate	
11/29	Ote 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Tony's Introduction and a talk about the US
11/29	Tsukidate	Fruit Names and a talk about Fruit in the US
12/17	Ote 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	A talk about Christmas in the US
12/17	Tsukidate	
1/30	Ote 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	A talk about New Year's Day in the US
1/30	Tsukidate	Mamemaki
2/15	Ote	Songs and Dances



## English Workshops at the Library

Date City Library hosted a series of children's English playtime events in which we participated by reading aloud and singing for groups of children and their parents.

- Dates: June 14<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, & March 14<sup>th</sup>
- Cumulative number of participants: About 100
- Details: A member of the library's staff prepared lesson plans which included many songs, such as "The ABCs," "Happy Birthday," and "Silent Night." We also read from the English and Japanese versions of the same books and played simple English games.



## Sister City Letter Exchange

We facilitated a letter exchange between Date City's Tsukidate Jr. High School and Revere High School in Date City's sister city of Revere, MA.

Participants from Tsukidate Jr. High School: 53

Participants from Revere High School: 35



## English Courses

We offer 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 we strive to create a casual atmosphere in which participants can comfortably express themselves and try out the new material.

- **Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> session June 12<sup>th</sup> • 19<sup>th</sup> • 26<sup>th</sup>  
 2<sup>nd</sup> session September 5<sup>th</sup> • 12<sup>th</sup> • 19<sup>th</sup>  
 3<sup>rd</sup> session December 5<sup>th</sup> • 12<sup>th</sup> • 19<sup>th</sup>  
 4<sup>th</sup> session March 18<sup>th</sup> • 22<sup>nd</sup> • 27<sup>th</sup>
- **Cumulative number of students:** 169
- **Details:** We design the course material to allow students at all levels of fluency to participate. During class, students are separated into groups of four to converse in English and think about the answers to questions together. Meanwhile, we circle the tables answering questions and providing explanations.



Month	Content
June	“Giving Directions and Recommendations in Date City”
September	“Hotels, Tips, & Roleplay”
December	“Let’s go shopping!”
March	“Homestay”

*Text sample:*

What’s this?



It’s a **taxi**.

☆ ～はどこですか？

★ Where is ～?

一番近いスタバはどこですか？



“Where is the nearest Starbucks?”

ピザが旨い所はどこですか？



“Where is a place with good pizza?”

# Ryōzen Hiking Tour with Foreign Residents

Mount Ryōzen is out of the way and generally unknown to foreign residents. That's why we offered a hiking tour of Mount Ryōzen for foreign nationals living in Date City and the surrounding area. The tour was also open to Date City residents, allowing for cultural exchange and English / Japanese language practice.

- Date: June 24<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) 9am to 4:30pm
- Participants: 19 Foreign Participants  
(Brazil, America, Vietnam, China, Mexico, Jamaica)  
10 Japanese Participants



- Details: Participants met at Hobara station and took a shuttle bus to the mountain, where we met the Japanese participants and the Ryōzen Mountain Guides. We had lunch at the summit at noon before visiting Ryōzen Kōsaikan, Makiba no Jersey, and Michi no Eki Ryōzen, before heading back to Hobara Station.



Time	Details
9:00	Meet at Hobara Station
10:00	Begin hike!
12:10	Reach the Summit & Have Lunch
14:00	Rest and Bath at Ryōzen Kōsaikan
15:00	Makiba no Jersey Ice Cream
15:40	Ryōzen Michi no Eki
16:30	Conclusion of the tour at Hobara Station

# Takako Walking Tour for Foreign Residents

Takako holds a number of curious places for those who do not know its history. We held a walking tour of Takako's Twenty Scenic Views with the goal of making this information available to foreign residents of Date City.

- Date: October 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) 9am to 3:30pm
- Participants: 17 foreign participants  
(China, America, Jamaica, Philippines)
- Details: Participants toured three of the Takako Twenty Scenic Views as we interpreted for the local guides. We then brought them to experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, followed by a performance of traditional Japanese storytelling. The tour ended with a trip to a grape orchard, where participants each picked two bundles of Shine Muscat grapes!



Time	Details
9:00	Meet at Takako Station
9:10	Visit the Scenic Views of Takako
10:40	Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony
12:10	Lunch in Hobara
13:00	Folk Tale Performance
14:00	Shine Muscat Grape Picking
15:25	Visit Hobara Station
15:30	Return to Takako Station

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

Date City is full of interesting places! We visit as many as we can and convey our experiences in both English and Japanese on the Date City website and social media.

Month	Content
April	Flower Viewing in Date City (4.10.18)
May	Hakozaki's Historic Lion Dance (5.10.18), Getting your library card at Date City Library (5.17.18)
June	Tsukidate Hana Kōbō's Handmade Goods Fair (6.21.18)
July	Abukyu's Big Thanks Festival (7.1.18), Yanagawa's Machi no Eki (7.26.18)
August	Yanagawa Tenjin Shrine (8.8.18), Hobara Summer Festival (8.11.18), Yanagawa Summer Festival (8.12.18), Ryōzen Taiko Festival (8.19.18)
September	Anthony Gillan Introduction (9.10.18), English Conversation Course (9.28.18)
October	The Mysterious Kumano Shrines of Isazawa (10.15.18), English Rakugo in Hobara (10.23.18)
November	Autumn in Ryozen (11.3.18), Isazawa's Community Chrysanthemum Garden (11.15.18), Craft Show at Tsukidate's Kōryū-kan Morimori! (11.29.18)
December	AbuQ Walk!! (12.2.18), Hobara's 2018 Winter Illumination (12.19.18), Family Park Date (12.25.18)
January	Kitabatake Akiie and Ryouzen (1.10.19), Community Firefighting 2019 Commencement Ceremony (1.16.19), Japan's Number One Onigiri (1.29.19)
February	Let's dry some persimmons! (2.1.19), Mochi Making with Tokyo-ites! (2.20.19), Bounding Monkey Boulder (2.28.19)
March	Date's Wine "Café" (3.2.19), Mayu Display in Yanagawa (3.5.19), Introducing the Date-Revere Burger Set! (3.22.19)



Flower Viewing in Date City



Hobara Summer Festival



Japan's Number One Onigiri



Bouncing Monkey Boulder



# Article Composition for *Shisei Dayori*

We wrote articles comparing Japanese and American culture for Date City's monthly publication, *Shisei Dayori*. Every month, we sent English language copies of *Shisei Dayori* to Date City's sister city in the United States.

Month	Content	Month	Content
April	Celebrations in April	October	Introducing our newest colleague
May	Long Distance Hiking Trails	November	Autumn on Either Side of the Pacific
June	It's Raining, It's Pouring	December	Christmas Lights
July	Independence Day and Hotdogs	January	The Year-end Holidays
August	State Fairs	February	Snowy Road Driving
September	Revere City's Sand Sculpting Festival	March	St. Patrick's Day



Shannen visited Sakura no Seibo Junior College to give a presentation about herself and her life so far in Date City, as well as a foreigner's perspective of Fukushima Prefecture.

- Date: Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>
- Participants: About 50
- Details: Shannen presented a 50 minute slideshow about her hometown's connection to Date City and how that influences her perspective of Fukushima. She then took question from the students and subsequently answered more questions over email.



The Outside Experts' Report Conference was an event to highlight the work that people from outside of Date City are doing to improve residents' daily lives. We participated as one of the presenters.

- Date: Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>
- Participants: 3 Town Revitalization Specialists, 2 CIRs, 3 "Teaching Tour" Members
- Audience: 120
- Details: We gave a 15 minute presentation introducing ourselves, our hometowns, and the work that we've been doing in Date City.



## ALT Meetings

We attend monthly meetings with Date City's Assistant Language Teachers during which we help them communicate with the Board of Education. We also interpret for the ALTs in matters concerning their daily lives.

- Dates: April 2018 ~ February 2019
- Number of ALTs: 6

## Translation

Date City is rich in history! We translate the city's historic markers and guide maps with the hope to share this legacy with English speaking visitors.

Works translated: Date City's Tourism Video, Waste Disposal Guide, Mount Ryōzen Guide Map, Takako Guide Map, & Date City's Promotional Brochure



Date City's Tourism Video



Takako Guide Map on display  
at the Yanagawa Art Museum



## YouTube Video

We appeared on Date City's YouTube Channel in both Japanese and English.

See for yourself by searching:

福島県伊達市公式  
YouTube チャンネル  
(*Fukushima-ken  
Date-shi Koushiki  
YouTube Channel*)



Or visit Date City's

YouTube Channel by

scanning this QR code:



### ~A message from Shannen~

Even after a little over a year here, Date City continues to surprise me. I'm having fun learning about the city's history. I've heard a lot of interesting stories while visiting places throughout Date and translating information about them. And everyone I've met along the way has been extremely helpful and kind. I hope to translate as much as I can about Date in time to share it with everyone coming in 2020!



### ~A message from Tony~

Working for Date City has been a dream come true. Though I have lived in this area for nearly ten years, I didn't realize that Date City abounds with natural beauty and rich history. Every day I am happy to have the opportunity to learn more about and meet more of the kind people of the area that I have chosen to call home. Whether using English to make known this area's history and culture in publications and social media, or to nurture future generations at kindergartens and elementary school, working as a CIR has been very fulfilling.