

COORDINATORS FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES REPORT 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR



【Coordinators for International Relations】

● **Anthony Gillan** September 2018 ~ (USA: Seattle, Washington)

(Shannen Donovan September 2017 ~ August 2020 [USA: Revere, Massachusetts])

MARCH 2021

Tsukidate Academy

The Coordinators for International Relations (hereafter, CIRs) spent every Wednesday at Tsukidate Academy, a combined elementary and middle school which opened in April 2020. They have participated in 1st and 2nd grade classes, played with the children during recess, and presented English-language lunchtime broadcasts.

- **Activity Period** : April 2020 ~ March 2021
- **Cumulative Interactions with Children** : Approximately 460



English Experiences at Kindergartens, etc.

The CIRs visited kindergartens and certified childcare centers throughout the city and held English Experiences, in which the children were able to enjoy English through dancing and games.

- **Activity Period:** June 2020 ~ March 2021

(Activities were cancelled in April and May to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus infections)

- **Number of Classes:** 90 occasions (once monthly at each kindergarten; two groups of children taught at both Hobara Kindergarten and Yanagawa Certified Childcare Center)
- **Cumulative Count of Participating Children:** approximately 1,576



Outline of a Typical Lesson

Greetings & Dance	After greetings of "Hello!" and "Good Morning!", the CIRs and children sang and danced <i>Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes</i> .
<i>Simon Says</i>	This game taught verbs such as "clap" and "stomp," with new verbs taught each month.
Song	In June and July, the song <i>If You're Happy and You Know It</i> was sung; and from September to February, the English-language children's song <i>Bingo</i> was sung.
Picture Book	From September, a picture book with simple English was read aloud to the children by the CIRs during each session.
Game	Each month a new game was introduced and played using English (for example, <i>Duck Duck Goose</i> , <i>London Bridge is Falling Down</i> , English-language <i>karuta</i> , etc.).
Presents	In order to instill fond memories, a new coloring sheet and word search was given to the children at the end of each session.

English Activities at Family Park Date

English-language activities for children were held at Family Park Date, where the CIRs did things such as sing with the children and read picture books to them.

- **Activity Dates:** September 15th, October 20th, November 24th, December 22nd, January 19th, and February 15th
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 110



English Activities at Smile Park Hobara

At Smile Park Hobara, English-language activities were held, in which children and the CIRs interacted through playing Japanese and foreign games, etc., in accordance with the ages of the participating children.

- **Activity Dates:** August 31st, September 17th, October 23rd, November 17th, December 14th, January 21st, February 19th, and March 16th
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 72



English Courses

English courses were held with the CIRS, which emphasized conversation using practical English vocabulary and phrases.

Contents: The first course focused on enjoying time at home, which had increased due to the coronavirus; from the second course onward, classes were split into beginner and intermediate-advanced sessions, the contents of which were adjusted to fit the level of the participants.



Dates	Theme	Number of Participants
<i>First Course</i> July 7 th , 14 th , and 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic English • Let's Play Board Games! ▪ Talking About Movies 	July 7 th : 8 July 14 th : 7 July 21 st : 9
<i>Second Course</i> Beginner Session : October 6th Intermediate-Advanced session : October 13th	Self-Introductions in English	October 6 th : 7 October 13 th : 9
<i>Third Course</i> Beginner Session : January 14 th Intermediate-Advanced Session : January 15 th	Beginner Session : Self-Introductions in English Intermediate-Advanced Session : Hobbies and Favorite Things	January 14 th : 4 January 15 th : 4
<i>Fourth Course</i> Beginner Session : March 18 th Intermediate-Advanced Session : March 19 th	Beginner Session : Introducing One's Self and Hometown Intermediate-Advanced Session : Introducing One's Hometown; Game about American Cities	March 18 th : 4 March 19 th : 6

CIR Updates (City Homepage • Facebook, Twitter)

Reports on visits to charming areas within the city, as well as on the activities of the CIRs, were presented on Date's City homepage and social media accounts in both English and Japanese.

Month	Topic
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date-Made Reusable Masks • The Azuma Higan Sakura Tree at Koyanoiri
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobara Castle
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Day at Tsukidate Academy • Walking Around Kibō-no-Mori Park
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Lodging House “Tomappe” Tour • Tokugamori • Let’s all do our best to overcome the coronavirus!
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tata For Now • Nagaoka Kinshūji • Ryozen Shrine • Date City Premium Merchandise Vouchers
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Tea Party in Tsukidate • Akasaka-no-Sato Forest Park



Senior Tea Party in Tsukidate



A Day at Tsukidate Academy

October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and Happy Date Point Program • Harvesting Rice at Tsukidate Academy
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christmas Boots of Tiny Tots Plaza • A Lively Walk in Ryōzen
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving my Fukushima <i>Kenmin</i> Card • Tasting “Mofet”
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January's English Course • Tsukidate Academy's <i>Risshishiki</i>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote International Exchange Activities • Letter-Writing Class at Ōishi Elementary School
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oguni's SATŌ Chubō



Healthy and Happy Date Point Program



Harvesting Rice at Tsukidate Academy



A Lively Walk in Ryōzen



Tasting “Mofet”

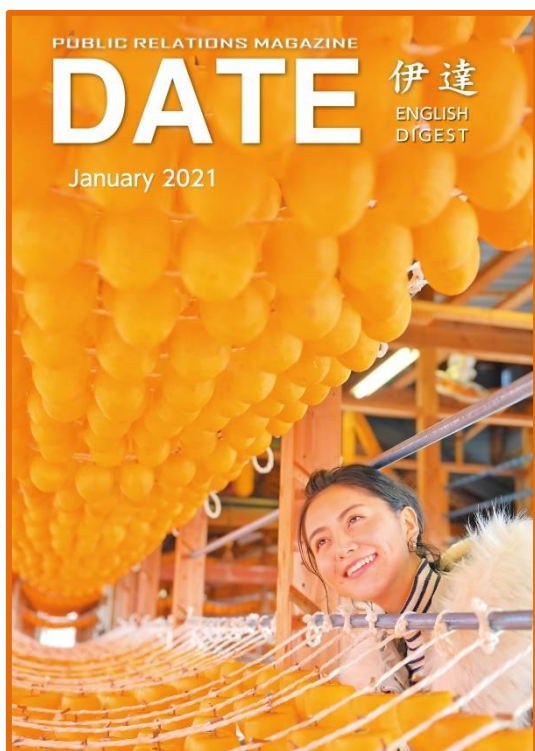
CIR's Monthly Column in *Public Relations Magazine DATE*

One of the CIRs wrote a monthly column in the municipal public relations magazine, comparing Japanese and American culture, or reporting on CIR activities.

Month	Topic	Month	Topic
April	Worksheets for Children	October	Germinated Brown Rice
May	Composting	November	Rice Bowls
June	Laundry	December	Slow Cookers
July	Sunflowers	January	Handmade Face Masks
August	Thanksgiving in August	February	Obligation Chocolate
September	Farewell	March	Fish Fridays

Public Relations Magazine DATE English Digest

In order to inform foreigners of municipal government information, excerpts from Date City's monthly public relations magazine have been translated into English. Copies of *Public Relations Magazine DATE English Digest* can be found at Hobara and Yanagawa Stations, and can also be viewed online on Date City's homepage or via Facebook.



“Arigatō Host Town” Remote Exchange Activities

Remote exchange activities were conducted with the Republic of Guyana, for whom Date City has become the Tōkyō 2020 Olympic and Paralympic “Arigatō Host Town”.

Gratitude was expressed for the recovery support received after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and discussions were held regarding the exchange activities to take place following this year’s Olympic and Paralympic Games. Tony served as interpreter throughout.

Activity Dates	
Preparatory Meeting with Guyanese Paralympic Officials	December 3 rd
Remote Exchange Activity with Guyanese Olympic Delegation Members	February 2 nd
Remote Exchange Activity with Guyanese Paralympic Delegation Members	February 18 th



Assistance with Ōishi Elementary School’s Airmail Activity

The 3rd- and 4th-year students at Ōishi Elementary School wrote letters to the East Missoula Rural Fire Department, where Tony’s younger sister serves as a volunteer. He helped the children write letters in English, and talked about the fire department to which the letters will be sent.

Activity Date: February 26th

Number of Participating Children: 5



Regular Meetings with Assistant Language Teachers

The CIRs attend monthly meetings with Date City’s assistant language teachers (ALTs), to support communication between these teachers and the Board of Education. They also assist in matters related to the daily lives of the ALTs.

- Activity Period: June 2020 ~ February 2021 (once monthly)
- Number of ALTs: 7

Date City Cable Television

Tony and Shannen appeared on Date City Cable Television’s *Message from the Residents* program. They performed an original picture board theatre presentation based on the Date City folktale, “The Candy-Shop Ghost”, as well as gave a “yell” to city residents, so that they do not succumb to the coronavirus pandemic. The video is available on Date City’s official YouTube channel.

Additionally, coverage of the English conversation courses was broadcast on cable television.

Broadcast Date	Contents
July 17 th	Message from the Residents
December 25 th	English Conversation Class Held with CIR
February 19 th	Let’s Learn English from the CIR!



Date City CIR Facebook Page

Information on the city and CIR activities is provided in English. Please view it via the QR code below!

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



Message from Shannen

After three years as a CIR in Date City, I'll be returning to America with a bagful of souvenirs soon. I'm happy to have had the opportunity to live here and experience as much as I did.

Thank you to everyone who was patient with me as I stumbled along with my Japanese. I will keep studying Japanese and come back to visit. So I hope you will all keep practicing English too! I'll be cheering for you!



Message from Tony

Even though this year has been marked by the novel coronavirus pandemic and my colleague Shannen's return to the United States, it has still been a wonderful time to serve as Date City's Coordinator for International Relations. Becoming the sole CIR has slightly increased my workload, yet I am very thankful to have learned and incorporated methods to increase efficiency and productivity, and I believe that more has been accomplished this year than in any prior year. Additionally, visiting Tsukidate Academy every week has been incredibly fun and rejuvenating. The past year has been difficult for everyone around the world, but working with the children of Date gives me hope, and seeing their smiling faces motivates me to work hard to help create a bright future for them.