

COORDINATORS FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
ACTIVITIES REPORT
2023-2023 FISCAL YEAR



【Coordinators for International Relations】

- **Anthony Gillan** September 2018 ~ (USA: Seattle, Washington)
- **Lara Justice** November 2021 ~ (USA: Nashville, Tennessee)

MARCH 2023

Tsukidate Academy

Coordinator for International Relations (hereafter, CIR) Tony spent one day a week (Lara, one day monthly) at Tsukidate Academy, a combined elementary and middle school which opened in April 2020. They participated in 1st through 3rd grade classes, played with the children during recess, and presented English-language lunchtime broadcasts.

- **Activity Period** : April 2022 ~ March 2023
- **Cumulative Interactions with Children** : 1310



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, instead of through strict study.

- **Activity Period:** April 2022 ~ March 2023
(English Experiences were not held during August)
- **Number of Classes:** 84 occasions (once monthly at each kindergarten; two groups of children taught at Yanagawa Certified Childcare Center)
- **Cumulative Count of Participating Children:** 1,438



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:** April 26th, May 31st, August 30th, October 25th, December 20th, and February 21st
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 96



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:** May 19th, June 13th, July 14th, September 16th, October 20th, November 17th, December 15th, January 23rd, February 16th
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 56



English Activities at Afterschool Facilities

Enjoyable, hands-on English experiences were offered at Kakeda Kid's Club. Games using simple English were played, and true-false quizzes were used to introduce foreign cultures.

- **Activity Dates:** April 25th, December 2nd
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 133



Hobara Elementary School's Challenge Classrooms

Hobara Elementary School's School Community Center Club hosts afterschool "Challenge Classrooms", in which school students can play in English. The alphabet and English phonics were taught through various games, helping the children learn to differentiate Roman characters and the sounds of spoken English, and providing an enjoyable English learning experience.

- **Activity Dates:** May 24th, June 17th, October 17th, November 14th, January 20th, February 13th
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 64



Easter Egg Hunt

To facilitate both the interaction with English and another culture, an Easter Egg Hunt, which is often seen during the Easter season in places such as North America and Europe, was held. Once the children found one of the many eggs hidden throughout various areas of Hobara Total Park, they brought it to one of the CIRs. After speaking simple English, they were able to exchange the egg for a treat.

- **Activity Date:** May 29th
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 100 people (63 children, 37 guardians)



Handmade Halloween

A Halloween event was held to give young children an opportunity to experience American Halloween culture and simple English in a fun way. Using handmade Halloween decorations, the CIRs performed a play while teaching the participants Halloween-related vocabulary. After the performance ended, the children had an opportunity to choose their favorite design and try making their own decoration together with the CIRs.

- **Activity Date:** October 16th
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 20 people (10 children, 10 guardians)



Trivia Night

A quiz game called “Trivia Night” was held in both Japanese and English, aiming to promote exchange between Japanese and non-Japanese participants. Randomly assembled teams of Japanese and non-Japanese participants worked together to answer a variety of questions spanning several different topics. The team that earned the most points by the end was crowned winner and received prizes.

- **Activity Dates:** August 29th, November 18th, February 24th (Hobara)
Cumulative Count of Participants: 72 people



Offsite English Courses

Lara taught English conversation in each of the five areas of the city, so that residents of every area could participate in English conversation courses.

- **Activity Dates:** Odd-numbered months (May, July, September, November, January, March)
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 112



Japanese Language Course

A Japanese language course was held to support foreign residents of the city. During the course, students were taught various grammar, vocabulary, and cultural through Japanese conversation, focusing on various themes such as shopping and Japanese holidays.

- **Activity Dates:** April 27th, June 21st, August 23rd, October 18th, December 6th, February 21st
- **Cumulative Count of Participants:** 14



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"> • April's English Experience • The Kannon of Nozaki Temple
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May's English Experience • The Kannon of Seisui Temple
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June's English Experience • The Kannon of Hōju Temple
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July's English Experience • The Kannon of Taira Temple
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving My Diamond Health Card • The Kannon of Rishō Temple
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September's English Experience • The Kannon of Chōkoku Temple



The Kannon of Nozaki Temple



May's English Experience



The Kannon of Taira Temple



Receiving My Diamond Health Card

October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October's English Experience • The Kannon of Ryūhō Temple
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November's English Experience
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December's English Experience
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January's English Experience
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February's English Experience
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March's English Experience



October's English Experience



December's English Experience



January's English Experience



February's English Experience

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

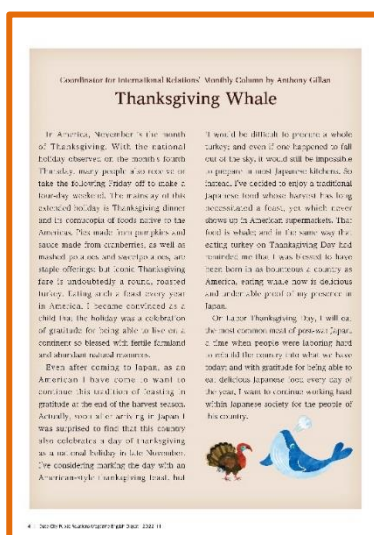
CIRs wrote a monthly column in the municipal public relations magazine, comparing Japanese and American culture, or reporting on CIR activities. Lara wrote articles for the even-numbered months, and Tony for those of an odd number.

Month	Topic	Month	Topic
April	Arbor Day	October	Tricks on Halloween
May	Bicycle Commuting	November	Thanksgiving Whale
June	The Land of Changing Seasons	December	Jubilant Diversity
July	Camping	January	Bird Feeders
August	"We all scream for ice cream!"	February	The Super Extravagance of the Super Bowl
September	Rice Paddies	March	College Loans

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 or any of the General Branch Offices, and can also be viewed online on Date City's homepage or via Facebook.

As of January, it has been moved to the "Note" online periodical site.



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, and Tony (a 5-year ALT veteran) gives guidance on English Education.

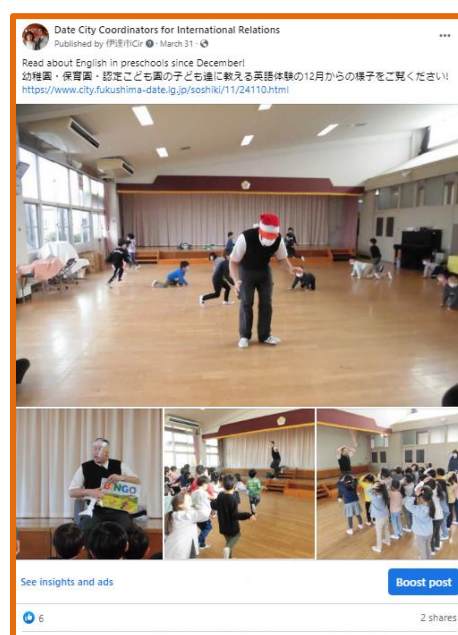
- **Activity Dates:** April 20th, May 16th, June 10th, September 12th (with a class observation at Date Middle School), October 18th, February 18th
- **Number of ALTs: 7**

Date City CIR Facebook Page

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

- **Number of Followers:** 103
- **Greatest Number of Likes:** 17

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

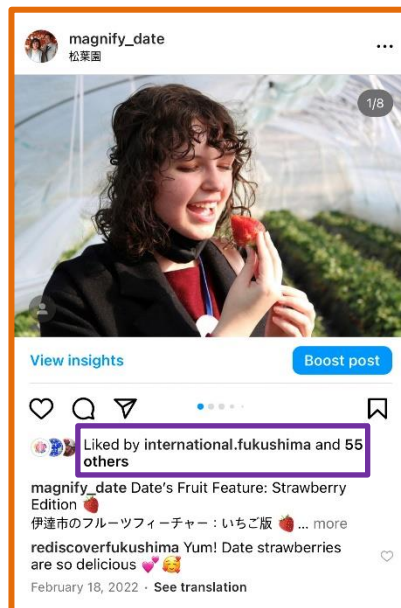


Date City CIR Instagram

Date City's CIRs are also active on the SNS platform Instagram. They share the charm of Date City throughout the world with photos of the beautiful natural scenery within the city, as well as of sites steeped deeply in history. Events held by the CIRs and past activities are also introduced.

- **Number of Posts:** 39
- **Total Number of Followers:** 194
- **Greatest Number of Likes:** 56 (normal post) 60 (reel)
- **Greatest Number of Reel Views:** 5,448 times

伊達市国際交流員専用
Instagram
@magnify_date





～ **Message from Lara** ～

If I were to describe this past year in one word, I think “new” would be most fitting. With events such as Easter Egg Hunt, Trivia Night, and Handmade Halloween, I was able to create and host a variety of events aimed at a diverse audience. As such, I feel very fulfilled and satisfied with this past year’s work. For the City, its citizens, and me, this year was full of new experiences. I have no doubt there are many facets I can still improve on, but after seeing the smiling faces of the participants and reading their overwhelmingly positive feedback, I feel truly grateful from the bottom of my heart. Through our work as CIRs, I feel as though I have deepened my understanding of both the City and its lovely residents. I will continue to work hard and do my best to help provide fun, new experiences and facilitate exchanges with all kinds of people!



～ **Message from Tony** ～

The 2022 fiscal marks my last full year as a CIR, and the most bountiful in terms of activities offered. Every year these activities have increased, and I wish to believe that they have enriched the lives of the people here. In the preparation and execution of the events and services described in this document, I have met an ever-increasing number of Date City residents, and have come to greater understand and appreciate the culture and history of this region. Through my work as a CIR, I hope that I have been able to spread this appreciation of the region in ways that will persist beyond my tenure. Yet most importantly, it is my sincere hope that through the countless educational activities I have been able to provide as a CIR to many hundreds of children, from kindergarteners to middle school students, I have aided in their development and character formation. These children are the future of Date, and I pray that any saplings of language acquisition and global awareness that have been planted over these past five years will bear fruit when they come to face the myriad challenges of the future.