

Expanding future possibilities

Hirakû

28

Cover Picture: Craft "A Tree Where Bugs Gather"

Amidst the scorching heat, many bugs have gathered on a tree in the mountain.

Cicadas, ladybugs, dragonflies, and even caterpillars have arrived.

All of them seem to be having a lot of fun together!

Summer is hot, but let's have fun!

**We look forward to
your ideas!**

"Hiraku" provides useful information
and the latest news related to
English and childhood education.

- Your recent interests
- Topics you want us to cover
- New content etc etc...

If you have ideas to contribute,
please share these with us!

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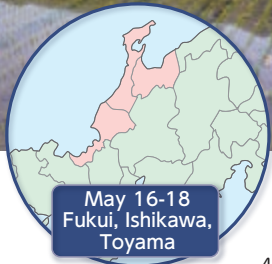


日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.

Learning About History, Geography, and Our Society Through Travel

Infinity Global Elementary School's Inaugural Class

Trip to Hokuriku

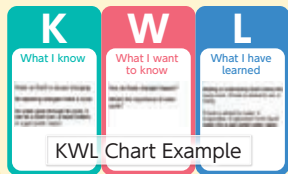


May 16-18
Fukui, Ishikawa, Toyama

The Hokuriku region which consists of Fukui, Ishikawa, and Toyama Prefectures was the first destination we chose towards our goal of visiting all 47 prefectures in Japan during the 6 years of elementary school.

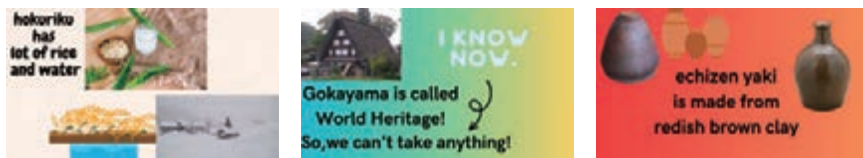
Before going to Hokuriku, we talked about what we wanted to learn about Hokuriku, utilizing a method called the **KWL chart**. This asks the children to consider "What I Know", "What I Want to Know", and after the travel "What I Learned". This learning unit on the Hokuriku area had been specially devised based on the questions the students had.

What is the KWL Chart?



The KWL Chart is a teaching technique devised to effectively make students read the materials. It consists of a table with three columns: the K column (**What I Know**), the W column (**What I Want to Know**), and the L column (**What I Learned**). Students are encouraged to fill in each column, [K] and [W] as a preliminary study to stimulate their purpose and interest, and [L] as a review and to clarify the accomplished items. The KWL Chart can also be applied to research planning, information organization, and test preparation.

The students learned about each prefecture, such as where it is located in Japan, and practiced writing each prefecture's name in kanji. We finished the learning unit by having the children work in small groups and **give presentations about their areas of interest in Hokuriku (Rice, Gasho-style houses, Echizen Yaki, etc.)**. This was a great way for the children to learn about the area before they visited **to get the most from the experiences they had on the trip**.

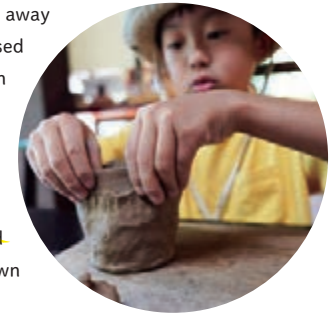


Presentation slides created by the students



We started our trip by taking the Thunderbird Express Train to Fukui. In Fukui, **the students increased their appreciation for rice producers by actually experiencing how to plant rice**. That night we stayed at a beautiful seaside hotel. The next day we traveled to a place in Ishikawa called "Yunokuni no Mori". There we had the opportunity to make **Echizen-yaki** pottery and learn about the purpose of Omiyage. That evening we arrived at a **traditional Gasho-style house in Gokayama Village** where we stayed and sang songs by the campfire. On the final day, we got on the Kurobe Gorge Train in Toyama Prefecture and saw the breathtaking **Kurobe Gorge**.

The trip was a fantastic way for the children to grow as a class. Being away together on the trip helped create a strong bond between the students based on building mutual respect and understanding. Doing the hands-on activities of things they had previously studied really solidified their studies, especially the experience of rice planting and making Echizen-yaki pottery. Staying in the Gasho-style house was also eye-opening for the students, as they were not used to having bugs entering their homes! In addition to those experiences, **the self-confidence that the children gained from being able to stay away from home and take care of** their own belongings, hygiene, and other various aspects of life, is irreplaceable.



Upon returning, the children reflected on their own experiences through video diaries. The focus of the reflection was on **the appreciation for the culture and beauty of the region**. As we continue our journey throughout Japan we will utilize other methods for reflection as well.



Infinity Global Elementary School
Lead English Teacher
Mark Palcsak

Reflecting On This Trip

This was a fantastic start on our journey around Japan. Most of the children only know city life, and being able to go out to Hokuriku and experience the natural beauty of Japan was so valuable for them. Before learning about rice planting on this trip, most students did not know how rice is planted, so this was a very valuable experience. As we continue to build this course, I am really excited for the children to begin to take more ownership of the experiences they have in each of the prefectures. For the first few trips, we were mainly using the plans created by professionals, but as the children's knowledge and curiosity grow we would love for them to have more say in what kind of experiences they are interested in. Ultimately I hope that the children can gain an appreciation for their home country and its place within the world, as they **grow into Global Citizens**.

HP



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The Inaugural Year Student of the Tokyo School Studying Abroad in Canada

Her Reunion with Her Former Teacher

K.T. was an inaugural-year student who graduated from Kinder Kids Tokyo School in 2013. She visited Oakville School in Canada in March of this year during her study abroad program to meet her former teacher, Stephanie.

They First Met at Tokyo School as a Student and a Teacher.

Ms. Stephanie Good helped to open Kinder Kids Tokyo School in 2010. K.T. was the first student at the school, and in the beginning, it was just two of them in the class.

Stephanie taught that class in K1, K2, and part of K3 before she moved back to Canada to prepare for the opening of Clarkson School in Canada, where she became the principal. Just before Stephanie's moving day, K's mother presented her with a beautiful photo album, which she still keeps.



After Several Years, K Went to Canada Where Her Former Teacher Lives

One day, K sent Stephanie an e-mail informing her that K was coming to Vancouver, Canada to go to high school and do a homestay. Stephanie was very flattered and honored to hear that K chose to study in Canada because it was Stephanie's hometown. They then kept in touch to arrange to meet up and Stephanie invited K to Oakville School, which opened in 2022, where she is currently the principal.



Tearful Reunion at the Sports Festival

K's visit happened to coincide with the school's Sports Festival. When K arrived at the venue and finally met with Stephanie, they cried tears of joy and Stephanie tried hard to keep it together because she was the MC for the event.

It was like a dream for Stephanie to meet one of her former students in her home country. For K, the sports day was very nostalgic because many of the events and dances were the same as the ones that K did with Stephanie when she was a student at Kinder Kids in Japan.



Meeting After 11 Years Was A Happy Time For Both

After the Sports Festival, Stephanie brought K to the brand new Kinder Kids school in Oakville for a tour. K enjoyed seeing the same workbooks and readers that she had used as a student and the familiar phonics characters on the wall. Then they went down to see Lake Ontario and then to Stephanie's house to hang out with Stephanie's family. Both of Stephanie's children attend Kinder Kids in Oakville, so K had a chance to meet them. The children are the same age as K was when Stephanie taught her in Japan. While at Stephanie's house, they were able to reminisce while looking at some old photo albums of her class that Stephanie found. At the end, K said that she had so much fun and didn't want to leave Toronto, and they promised to see each other again.



Inaugural year student at Tokyo School K.T.

Kinder Kids and Stephanie Greatly Influenced My Life

Whenever I think back to my days at Kinder Kids, I always think of Stephanie's big smile and the hugs every morning. All the other teachers were cheerful and kind as well, and I loved them all. The Christmas concert with my classmates is still truly a wonderful memory. That stage experience is the reason I continue to dance to this day. I could pass the Eiken Test and was able to take the junior high school entrance exam with fewer subjects than other students, and I had no difficulty in studying English at school. However, I started feeling like I couldn't speak English as fluently as before, so I decided to study abroad to regain the feeling of being able to respond quickly like when I was at Kinder Kids. I had been surrounded by English-speaking teachers since I was little, so the idea of studying abroad came naturally to me. I chose Canada because I wanted to see the country where my favorite teacher Stephanie was born, and I really wanted to thank her in person. That became my greatest motivation for studying abroad. When I met her, I was so overjoyed and couldn't stop crying. I felt it was like a miracle that I could actually meet with her again. **She helped me become good at English and was a huge influence on my life. Expressing my deepest gratitude in person was the greatest reward of my study abroad experience.** Inspired by Stephanie and CEO Nakayama, I aspire to become a strong-willed woman, in the future, and create an international school that is filled with love.



"Someday I would like to become a teacher like you", the message card written by K when she was in K3.



Stephanie Good, Director, Oakville School

Reflecting on Our Heartwarming Reunion

It was such an emotional time and was so neat to see life come full circle. It seems that I made a big impact and possibly even changed the course of K's life by being her teacher in Japan.

I was also very friendly with her mom when K was a child so I hope that they come back again together and visit me.



The maximum period for transferring to our schools in Canada has been extended to 2 months. For those interested in long-term transfers, please consider studying in Canada!



Three Graduates of Takarazuka School Did Their Work Experience at Their Former School!

Three Kinder Kids Takarazuka School graduates, who are currently second-year students at Takarazuka City Yamatedai Junior High School, had their work experience at Takarazuka School from May 29 to June 1 (the last day, June 2, was canceled due to a heavy rain warning). Under the guidance of the teachers, they took care of the children of their former school! After the work experience, we asked them about their impressions of working at Kinder Kids and to give messages to current Kinder Kids students

Meeting with their K2 homeroom teacher at that time (on the right)



Kinder Kids Takarazuka School Graduated in 2016 K.M.

I Realized Once Again How Wonderful Kinder Kids Teachers Are!

I chose Kinder Kids for my work experience program because I wanted to see again what the teachers used to do for us when I was a student. I had the opportunity to experience various tasks such as refilling children's tea, putting them to sleep, sanitizing desks, and playing with the children. But what I realized again was how wonderful the teachers are. During the nap time, I tried to put the children to sleep, but they wouldn't fall asleep. However, when a teacher took over, the children fell asleep surprisingly fast, and that deeply impressed me.

I have fond memories of the fun times I had at Kinder Kids, like going on camping trips and the Christmas concert. Since I started learning English at an early age, I always scored high on English tests at school. I would like to major in English in the future and be able to communicate with people from all over the world. During my work experience at Kinder Kids, I truly felt the joy of using English at work, which made me want to work overseas someday.

Message to Current Kinder Kids Students

I believe that more Kinder Kids graduates will have one week of work experience at their former schools in the future, and I hope everyone who chooses Kinder Kids enjoys working there. Keep up the good work!



Kinder Kids Takarazuka School Graduated in 2016 M.O.

I Want to Use English to Help People in the Future!

I chose to do my work experience at Kinder Kids because I wanted to reunite with the teachers who took care of me when I was a student, and also to convey the importance of learning English to the children. I went into the classes with the children and assisted the teachers. It was so cute that the children came to me and called me by my name!

Through this work experience, I realized once again how much I like English. Seeing the students smiling and trying various things in English made me think that it is cool to work with such children, and it has motivated me to improve my

English skills even more. I now aspire to work in a multinational company where I can use English to help and connect with people.

Message to Current Kinder Kids Students

As you continue learning English, remember that it won't always be just fun and games. There will be challenges and difficult times ahead. But I want to encourage all of you to never give up. By overcoming those hardships, you will discover more amazing and enjoyable experiences that await you.



Kinder Kids Takarazuka School Graduated in 2016 Y.I.

I Hope to Work With Children!

I wanted to help the teachers who took care of me when I was little, so I participated in the work experience program at Kinder Kids. During the experience, I helped with tasks like refilling the children's tea, sanitizing their hands and desks, and making the children line up, and I realized that the teachers' job was quite busy.

I was impressed by how well the Kinder Kids children speak English. I was also impressed that when the teachers started to speak, all the children became quiet and listened attentively. Through this work experience, I was able to understand a little better about treating children and how to interact with them.

When I was a Kinder Kids student, I have fond memories of field trips and Halloween parties where we all wore costumes. However, I realized that even during such enjoyable events, the teachers must have had a very busy time. I would like to work with children in the future, but I realized that I need to study more to make this dream come true.

Message to Current Kinder Kids Students

Learning English will lead to many opportunities in the future, so I hope everyone at Kinder Kids continues to study hard.

