“Surrounded by the Sea” - 2nd grade social studies program

Date: January 2010 to June 2010

Details: The Museum of Anthropology (MOA) at Wake Forest University has been offering a variety of curriculum-based, NC Standard Course of Study, educational programs for grade k through 12 during the school year. I joined Mrs. Tina Smith, the museum educator, this January and started co-teaching the second grade program called “Surrounded by the Sea.” We visited about forty classes in eight Forsyth Country public schools in the 2009-2010 school year and met about 800 individuals. We limited the number of students in each classroom so that we could have more interaction with the children. The greatest advantage for the children is that they can actually touch many objects from Japan, in addition to the presentation by Mrs. Smith and myself.

Contents of Program (90 minutes)
- Introduction: Geography, Japanese language (greetings and numbers), products from Japan (cars, video games, anime and manga, and food), currency, etc.
- “Hiroshi’s Day”: A PowerPoint presentation on a daily life of Hiroshi, an elementary school boy in Japan. It introduces what Hiroshi eats for breakfast, what schools and school lunch in Japan look like. It also compares the modern and traditional lifestyles. For example, younger generations like Hiroshi sleep in the bed, whereas his previous generations sleep on futon on the floor.
- Questions and Answers
- Hands-on: The children can take a look and touch a lot of Japanese objects such as kimono, tabi and geta, chopsticks, and obento box, etc.
- Origami: Each child gets a sheet of origami paper and folds a paper cup at the end of the program.

Comment from Coordinator
I am very happy about collaborating with Mrs. Smith and the museum because it keeps me busy. Also it is helpful for my networking in the community. Mrs. Smith introduced me to a lot of key people in the community such as curriculum coordinators in the public school system and librarians in the local library branches.

Comment from Mrs. Tina Smith, the educator at the Museum of Anthropology at Wake Forest University
I have enjoyed working and getting to know Mako. The program "Surrounded By the Sea" was enhanced by Mako’s participation this past school year. She was always on time, well prepared, and interesting. For the children it was a chance to listen, learn, and interact with someone from Japan. I look forward to this coming school year and hope Mako and I have the opportunity to do even more programs together.

Comment from Supervisor
Japan is one of the thematic units covered in the second grade curriculum of the public schools in North Carolina, and the MOA’s program is the only one in Forsyth County that systematically provides additional resources and instructions to strengthen education on Japan. The program is usually centered around the artifacts owned by the museum. Mako definitely enhanced the program this year with her presentations and hands-on activities. She probably was the very first Japanese person a lot of students had ever met, and her presence has made Japan come alive in the classroom.
Monthly Activities with Japanese Studies Club

Place: Facilities on campus, public schools
Program Participants: Wake Forest undergraduate students in Japanese Studies Club

Background: The Japanese Studies Club (JPNSC) is a student interest group at Wake Forest University which Takata sensei has been supervising. Any student who is interested in Japanese and its culture can join the club. The problem this year was that very few members showed up for the club events during fall semester except for the first get-together due to minimal planning and publicity. This spring semester, I helped the chair person of the club with planning and scheduling the events. The on-campus events were for cultural enrichments for the members. As for off-campus events, the members joined my JOI public school visits. I published monthly newsletter to announce the events to the members. I also joined existing weekly Kaiwa Table for the students in Japanese language class to promote the JPNSC’s event. I gave a short cultural presentation once a month to generate interest to participate JPNSC’s activities.

Jan 14, Japan Night at Salem Academy: Shodo, Origami and the panel discussion
Feb 1, Spring semester kick-off meeting
Feb 12, Presentation at Kaiwa Table: St. Valentine’s Day celebration in Japan
Feb 12, Multiculture Night at Old Richmond Elementary: Origami booth
Feb 15, Cooking night: Wagashi to celebrate St. Valentine’s Day
Mar 4, Fine Arts Night at Paisely Middle School: Origami booth
Mar 19, Presentation at Kaiwa Table: Japanese Commercial Films
Mar 23, Cooking night: Okonomiyaki
Apr 9, Presentation at Kaiwa Table: Spring in Japan
Apr 18, Movie night: “Departure”

Comment from Coordinator

It was fun for me to visit schools with the JPNSC members. Working at the booth in the cultural festivals was very busy. I had to teach many students origami or shodo at the same time and I always wished that I had some volunteer helpers. The JPNSC members helped me a lot and I couldn’t have done without their help. It seemed that the students at the schools enjoyed interacting with college students very much.

Comment from Supervisor

Helping the Japanese Studies Club to increase student interest in Japanese culture was one of the major goals of JOI on campus. It is often difficult to keep the club’s momentum going because undergraduate students have a busy schedule. Mako has done a wonderful job planning with the club’s officers, encouraging students to attend, and engaging them in activities. Mako has enabled the club to add more variety to their activities. With her help for two years, the club will be self-sustaining in the future.
Origami Calendar Making and Storytelling at the Children’s Museum of Winston-Salem

Date: Monthly, on Saturday (Jan 23, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 22)
Place: Children’s Museum of Winston-Salem
Program Participants: Kids ages 5 and up and their guardians
Program length: Calendar making (30 minutes), storytelling (15-20 minutes)

Background: The Children’s Museum of Winston-Salem (CMWS) expected some crafts with the participants. I came up with the idea for the program from my personal kindergarten experience, where I folded seasonal objects with origami and created a calendar for the upcoming month. This aims at children’s learning experience through literature and the arts. The museum also wanted to emphasize storytelling.

Objects for Calendar and Storytelling:

January: A dog and a heart for Valentine’s Day and the story related to Japanese New Year
February: A kite and an airplane and “Momotaro” (kamishibai)
March: Easter eggs and Easter bunnies and the story “This is the way we eat our lunch” by Edith Baer
April: Tulips for Mother’s day and the story “The way they do it in Japan” by Geneva Cobb Iijima
May: Tie for Father’s day, with no storytelling due to the facility constriction

Comment from Coordinator
I liked working at the CMWS because I was able to reach the adults with young children. Most adults I met through this program often told me that they did know about origami but had never done it before. I sometimes stayed in the room for awhile after the program ended to show them how to fold cranes because they were very curious about it. Choosing books for storytelling was more challenging than origami because there were not a lot of books on Japan available for the kids, especially pre-k level (few words, straight forward contents, etc.)

Comment from Supervisor
The collaboration with the Children’s Museum was significant because it enabled Mako to reach out to families and a younger audience. The museum publicizes their events in various local publications and I believe Mako’s presence started to stand out. Her idea of making an origami calendar was very creative. I believe it was well received by children because it’s something they can use and enjoy.
“Samurai and Kimonos” Summer Camp at the Museum of Anthropology at Wake Forest University

Date: 3 one-week sessions: July 5-9, July 12-16, and July 19-23, 2010
Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Ages: Children ages 6-12.
Each session was limited to 15 children. (We ended up having 16 children in the last session.)

Details: The Museum of Anthropology (MOA) at Wake Forest University has been offering thematic summer camps every summer. They choose one country and its culture each year for a summer camp. Summer 2010 was the only time when I could spend entire summer at my site so they wanted me to co-teach a camp with the museum educator, Mrs. Tina Smith. She and I have been working together since fall 2009 on a curriculum-based program for the second graders. (Please see the report named “Surrounded by Sea” - 2nd grade social studies program)
We received a CGP Educational Grant to cover half of the expenses. The highlight of the camp was that each child decorated their kimono and took it home. We hired a seamstress to sew 46 kimonos and obis.

Contents of Program (3 hours each day including 20-30 minutes break)

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Comment from Coordinator
It was a great experience working with Mrs. Smith and the museum for the summer camps. I had a great time with the campers, their families, and everybody at the museum including the volunteer helpers. When I visited schools during school year I always felt that there was so much to do in so little time. However in the summer camp, I was able to meet the same individuals every morning for 5 days, which made the interaction and experience with each child more personal.

Comment from Mrs. Tina Smith, the educator at the Museum of Anthropology at Wake Forest University
Having Mako co-teach the museum’s summer camp was a wonderful experience for myself, the children, parents, and volunteers. She provided a fun, authentic, and enriching learning opportunity for everyone. The children, volunteers, and I learned so much about Japan from Mako, and we are now able to share with others. The museum's summer camp could not have been the success it was without her participation.

Comment from Supervisor
Summer camp was an excellent example of collaboration by Mako and Tina. They created a very unique educational program, and the camp was advertised widely and also recommended favorably by a major local paper, the Winston-Salem Journal, in the spring. I believe Mako played an important role in creating and executing the camp with her fresh ideas and enthusiasm.