“Classroom and Community Groups Visit”

Details of Program
As there will be more than 30 new Japanese families moving into this community within the next year, it is my goal to introduce the basic Japanese useful greetings/phrases to the students. I hope that they will remember what I taught them when they get an opportunity to meet and greet the new Japanese students. I visited with more than 30 classrooms and community groups this year.

Programs
- Japanese Culture in DORAEMON (K-12)
- Japan at a glance (Jr. High, High, College students, Adults)
- Working with Japanese (High School, College students, Adults)
- Shodo/Sumie/ Eraser Rakkan (stamp) making
- Interesting Japanese Culture (Japanglish/ Pop culture/ Japanese superstition)

Comments from participants
- Students had a lot of fun listening to the presentation, and they also learned World (Japan related) history/ culture

Coordinator Comments
Visiting the classrooms always makes my efforts worthwhile. With every visit, I was encouraged by the interaction with the children, students, and people in the community.

The most exciting part when talking to people, unlike in my country, is that people do not hesitate to interact with me. They are always eager to answer my questions during my presentation. I love seeing children getting excited when trying chopsticks or folding Pikachu. I love seeing students raising their hands to ask questions.

After the presentation is over, I am always glad to hear the students greeting each other in the Japanese words that they just learned: “Konnichiwa”, “genki?” and, “I love you.”

Supervisor Comments
The number of request from schools and civic organization jumped in 2010. Especially the announcement of the new Mitsubishi Wind Turbine plant in November, 2009, our whole community is eager to learn more about Japanese culture and custom. Her presentation materials cover from the traditional culture to Manga and business/economy. In 2010 academic year, Yoko will be busy with not only schools and civic clubs, but also business owners and the chamber of commerce.
“Lifelong Learning Program” (Shodo)

Details of Program

Fall semester 2009 6 sessions... November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7, 14

Spring semester 2010 6 sessions... March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5

- Japanese Writing System
- Japanese calligraphy
- Sumie
- Rakkan (stamp) making
- Seasonal greeting card/ Birthday card making
- Japanese Culture/philosophy/ poetry

Comments from participants
- I felt I have been in the shodo sessions a semester with everything I learned, Japanese writing system, culture etc.
- It was a great experience; I would like to take the sessions next semester again.

Coordinator Comments

In the 2009 fall semester, and the 2010 spring semester, I enjoyed teaching Japanese calligraphy and sumi-e to the adults in the community. In the six sessions, we learned the Japanese writing system, poems, philosophy, and culture. We also made a “Rakkan” (stamp) with an eraser to put on their final project.

The part that they enjoyed the most was writing Christmas cards, greeting cards, and birthday card in Japanese and English with brushes; they even put some sumi-e in them. We were creative and tried putting origami on the cards. The hardest part in leading this session was trying to find the substitutes for the Japanese calligraphy materials, which I was eventually able to locate. I had a wonderful time with the students as we talked of Japanese culture throughout our sessions.

Supervisor Comments

Yoko has a special skills in Shodo. Her skill exceeded her student expectations, and they really enjoyed her sessions each week. She taught not only how to write with a Japanese blush, but also the history of Japanese calligraphy and traditional Japanese culture. People from the community truly enjoyed her class, and our office received several requests to have another both basic and advance Japanese shodo class.
“Tokyo Style – Harajuku Streets” (Japanese Fashion Show)

Details of Program
“Tokyo Style – Harajuku Streets” was held on February 15 at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. This fashion show featured a place called “Harajuku,” a fashion capital of the world because of its renowned and unique street fashion. Several contemporary fashion styles that are popular in Harajuku were incorporated in the show, together with Japanese traditional dance and fashion, such as Kimono, Yukata, and Hakama. The biggest part of the show was “Cosplay” fashion, the word for combining “costume” and “play.” It is the style individuals dress themselves in when imitating favorite Japanese anime characters. For the school fashion, Kogal and Ganguro style was featured: platform boots, miniskirts, copious amounts of makeup, blond hair coloring, and white lipstick - these are probably far away from America’s typical image of Japan.

Title: Tokyo Style – Harajuku Streets
Date: February 15, 2009
Place: University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
Participants: Public High School Students in Fort Smith, University Students
Audience: Public
Program: Japanese Traditional/School/ Cosplay Fashion, Traditional/ Pop Japanese Dance

Comments from participants
- I have made many good friends who are interested in Japanese fashion/culture through the show.
- It was interesting to see both traditional and contemporary Japanese Fashion.

Coordinator Comments
The show was organized in collaboration with the UA Fort Smith Japan Club and the high school students of Fort Smith. I am happy that I am able to build a base for connecting people who have interests in various aspects of Japanese culture, and to help people experiences our culture. This was an ice-breaking event for my JOI year.

Supervisor Comments
Yoko did a great job from organizing the event to hosting the event for 200+ guests. One of the challenges she faced was the fact that she had to work with both high school students and the university students. Most models and materials are provided by the small high school student group. Most of them do not have cell phones or do not check e-mails regularly. Yoko needed to pick them up at their schools, bring them to the campus and get details for the event. She also had to work with university staff from varieties of areas including Marketing, Plant Operations, Box office and some more. She showed strong leaderships to make this event very successful.
Library Program

**Details:** The purpose of this program was to share Japanese culture and language with children and adults in the community. I visited libraries in Fort Smith and in the surrounding areas for Japanese story telling/paper craft session and to give Shodo sessions. For the children I would hold a story telling sessions working with the librarians. We picked the books together that were both in English and in Japanese. The stories were both read in each language. For the adult’s program I taught beginning Japanese calligraphy sessions introducing them to Japanese brush writing.

1. **Premium Story Time**
   Location: Fort Smith Main Library
   Date: March 7, 2011
   Audience: Age 3 and up, along with the parents
   In the 30 minutes of storytelling part, we picked two books that have both English and Japanese versions. We used a Dr. Seuss’s book, and another bilingual book called, "Where Are You Going? To See My Friend!"
   It is an interesting bilingual book written by Eric Carle and Kazuo Iwamura, it is a story and has songs for the children in both Japanese and English. It is a very good book to compare animal calls and some other onomatopoeic expressions in English and Japanese. Most children were very focused the whole 30 minutes even when I was reading the books in Japanese. After the storytelling part, we went to a different room, to do paper craft, origami. We folded some animals that were in the book we read in the storytelling part.

2. **Let’s try Shodo**
   Location: Arkoma Library (Oklahoma)
   Date: June 8, 2011
   Audience: Adults and K-12 students
   Location: Spiro Library (Oklahoma)
   Date: June 29, 2011 – to be continued
   Audience: Adults
   This is an 60 minutes shodo program for people who have never experienced Shodo –Japanese calligraphy in their life. This program gives the participants a chance to learn Japanese writing systems briefly, to learn how to write their names in Japanese, to experience writing some Japanese letters with brushes, and to make greeting cards in Japanese.

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**Comments from Takeo Suzuki**

These events were one of the most popular events at the library. Kids and their parents truly enjoyed spending time with Yoko. It was fun and educational at the same time. People from the community also enjoyed Yoko’s Shodo classes. It was their first time to see Shodo for all of them, and they all enjoyed writing their names using Shodo paper and brush.
Japan Disaster Relief Program

**Details:** After the Japan Disaster on March 11 2011, the UA Fort Smith Japan Disaster Program established the Japan Disaster Relief Scholarship for the university students who had lost their houses and family members in Japan due to the disaster, and to visited schools, civic groups and non-profit organizations to talk about the disaster. The program also held fund raising events on campus with cooperation of the students from the University of Arkansas –Fort Smith.

Location: Fort Smith, Grater Fort Smith Area
Date: March 11, 2011 – on going
Audience: Students, civic groups, non-profit organizations

1. **Japan Disaster Relief Scholarship**
   We established the scholarship to help Japanese students who were affected by the 2011 Japan Disaster. The scholarship was established to encourage students who lost their homes and family members and are having difficulties in continuing their education due to financial situations. The scholarship is for students that are interested in studying abroad. We selected two students from the Miyagi prefecture. They are given an opportunity to study in Fort Smith from August 2011 to May 2012 with no cost, and also an opportunity to participate in the community activities.

2. **Outreach on Japan Disaster 2011**
   After the disaster on March 11, I focused on talking about the disaster on my school visits and other outreach activities. I visited elementary, junior high, high schools, civic groups, and non-profit organizations to talk about the disaster. 2011 was a year of natural disaster; there were a lot of natural disaster in the US also. I focused on the various cultural differences in the attitudes towards natural disaster and the recovery process.

3. **Fund Raising Events for Japan**
   We organized several fundraising events on campus and off campus. The Paper Crane Campaign was a fundraising event to support the Japan Disaster Relief Scholarship. With help from the American/international students and professors, we made a lot of paper crane crafts, and gave them away for people who donated.

==== Comments from Takeo Suzuki
UAFS came up with an idea to invite 2 students from disaster area in Tohoku, Japan. Yoko worked extensively to put this idea together, contact the universities and organizations, and set up interviews for the students and
the university. University welcomed 2 students from Miyagi prefecture thanks to her dedicated effort. We hope these 2 students will enjoy studying here at UAFS, and make changes in our community.
**Summer Program “Language and Culture - Japan”**

**Details:** Summer school on Japanese Language and Culture. The target is high school students in Fort Smith and greater Fort Smith area, age 14 – 17. The 7 sessions includes the following topics: 1. Japanese conversation, 2. Japanese writing systems, 3. Japanese customs, 4. Japanese Brush Writing (Shodo), and 5. Japanese crafts. After the 7 sessions are completed the students are expected to be able to: 1. say simple greetings in Japanese, 2. Know some Japanese customs such as simple table manners, business manners etc. and 3. Write own names in Katakana, and know how to write simple Kanji –Chinese characters.

**Location:** University of Arkansas Fort Smith Campus  
**Date:** June 14, 2011- July 7, 2011  
**Audience:** High school students

- Session 1: Introduction to Japanese language and culture.
- Session 3: Japanese writing systems: How to write your name, make a greeting card in Japanese.
- Session 4: Japanese customs. Table manners, business manners etc.
- Session 5: Japanese craft: making eraser stamps with your name.
- Session 6: Shodo: try to write some Kanji -Chinese characters with a brush
- Session 7: Presentation –introduce yourself in Japanese and show your final project (shodo and stamp) to the video camera. Check your pronunciation with the video.

==== Comments from Takeo Suzuki  
*This is her 2nd year to teach this special summer program. These sessions could be the busiest program she had here in Fort Smith. Students who are attending this program are from the families in needs. These students might not have a chance to learn about Japan if there is a program like this. These students really enjoyed Yoko’s lessons and presentations, and all of them told us they would like to Japan in the future.*