K-12 Outreach programs

Since last August, I have visited 19 schools and met 2,424 students. I usually showed lots of pictures from Japan on power point presentations. Children always love hands on activities such as Origami, chopsticks challenge, toys, calligraphy, etc. Sometimes children surprised me with their Origami skills! One of my favorite programs was Tanabata Festival, because I enjoyed seeing what children wished for on their wish strips. Also, kids seems fascinated knowing about stars, which they don’t really learn at schools.
On campus outreach programs

Throughout the year, I often partner with the MSU Japan club to have various events for on campus students. The biggest event was the Mochitsuki party in January. Handling heavy Mochitsuki equipment and the very complicated process to prepare mocha was a first time experience for most of us. However, our passion was to present a very significant event from Japanese culture, and of course we were excited to eat fresh Mochi in The U.S.A.! This led to a huge party success! Although, this was the very first Mochitsuki party at MSU, we had more than 100 people participate!

“Saya Kaneda has made a very significant contribution this year to our Asian Studies Center’s Japanese Cultural Outreach program. She has been a valued and hardworking member of our staff greatly contributing to our positive working environment. She has expanded our network through coordinating programming with a wide range of people across Mid-Michigan. She has presented over 135 diverse and creative programs which have been extremely well received by K-12 students and teachers, MSU students and faculty, and community members. In her first year alone, Saya has presented aspects of Japanese culture to over 13,150 people. It has been such a pleasure working with Saya!”

Karen Klein, Assistant Director, MSU Asian Studies Center
Off campus outreach programs

Though off campus outreach activities, I enjoyed working with general adults and senior citizens in the community. At the Crane Festival, I made a board explaining how cranes are important in Japan by showing the crane images in daily life. Although I was in a children’s activity booth, lots of adults stopped by to see the board. At the Sushi workshop, one of the participants said although she usually doesn’t like sushi, she actually loved the sushi she made because she could pick the ingredients. Her comment made me happy!

He put little too much Wasabi at Sushi workshop! Haha!
JOI Annual Report

August 2015-July 2016

Saya Kaneda
Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinator
Asian Studies Center
Michigan State University
**K-12 Schools Programs**

In my second year, I visited a lot of schools that I had visited in the first year. One of the places was called Ostego, MI. This area is about two hours from Michigan State University. Every year I visited three to five days around May 5th for the Japanese Children’s Day program. I visit three different school’s art classes reaching out to over 400 students. I have done many school festivals such as international festivals. It was always fun to have a Japanese booth presented at those festivals. Origami and toys table such as *Kendama* was always the most popular by everyone include teachers and parents.

“Having Saya Kaneda, our JOI Coordinator, has made an outstanding contribution to our Asian Studies Center’s Japanese Cultural Outreach efforts. Through coordination and delivery of high quality and creative programming, she has very successfully presented numerous aspects of Japanese culture to diverse audiences in a wide variety of settings. Her programs have consistently been highly praised by K-12 students and teachers, MSU students and faculty, senior citizens, and other community members, and return engagement requests the norm. Saya has been a highly valued, professional, hardworking, and positive member of our staff. It has been such a joy working with Saya!”

*Karen Klein, Assistant Director, MSU Asian Studies Center*
Library Programs

I have done so many program this year at Okemos Public library and the Highland Township Public Library for home school children, teens, and adults. Library programs were on my program wish list, so I am glad that I had so many opportunities and good relationships with libraries. I especially enjoyed the Highland library. I was really happy to see “repeater” teens who came back again and again for my second, third, and even fourth program. It was also impressive that participants looked at me very closely and carefully when I demonstrated tea making. I was a little worried that the tea might be too bitter for children to drink but despite my anxiety, they loved the tea and Japanese snacks as they made second and third bowls of tea, changing the amount of the tea powder.

“Being the Teen Services Librarian at the Highland Township Public Library, I’m always on the lookout for programs to broaden the global experience of our teen patrons. Saya first visited us on September 21, 2015 to conduct a Japanese Tea Ceremony program for teens. We had such an overwhelming interest from our adult patrons that the adult department scheduled her to conduct the same program for adults on April 7th, 2016.

Since that first program in September of 2015, all departments at the Highland Library; teen, adult, and youth have availed themselves to her excellent programs:
- 9/21/2015 – Japanese Tea Ceremony (TEENS)
- 10/12/2015 – Sushi Workshop (TEENS)
- 4/7/2016 – Japanese Tea Ceremony (ADULTS)
- 6/15/2016 – Preschool Education in Japan (YOUTH)
- 6/13/2016 – Anime with Saya (TEENS)
- 7/11/2016 – Calligraphy with Saya (TEENS)

Saya was so professional, articulate, and informative at these programs, that the only regret we have is that we will lose her when she returns home to Japan.”

Dawn Dittmar, Head of Teen Serves, The Highland Township Public Library
One of the most memorable community events was the Japanese World Heritage Site Panel Exhibit in which we collaborated with the City of Lansing and the Lansing Sister Cities Commission. It took me over a year since I first start planning about this event. The exhibit lasted a month and over 1,500 community people attended. I believe the exhibit was a great opportunity for people to be reminded of the friendship and strong sister city relationship Lansing has with Japan.
The Great Lakes Shiga High School Science Exchange Program was one of my favorite programs throughout the year. 16 students from Michigan and Japan went on a tour in both countries for 10 days each. During the trip, students learned about water science, did numerous experiments, and visited many historical places in each countries. It was really great to see students bond as they taught each other the culture, language, and many other things like fun games! Most of the students were shy at the beginning but they surprised me how they changed in a great way, influenced by each other and gave me a totally different impression at the end. I was so fortunate to be a part of this tour as a chaperone and translator. I hope this amazing program last long in the future.
Outreach Result 2014-2016

Outreach Programs

K-12 Schools Programs
Library Programs
On Campus Outreach Programs
Off Campus Outreach Programs

Outreach Organizations

Bath Township Library, Battle Creek Japanese School, Eaton County Youth Facility, First Christian Church, Girls Scout, Hannah Community Center, Haslett Community Church, HOT plate Pottery & Art Studio, Meridian Senior Center, Michigan Lion’s club, Okemos Library, the City of Lansing, the Highland Township Public Library, Michigan 4H, MSU Federal Credit Union, MSU Friendship House, MSU Japan Club…and more!

Number of program and people served

Total number of programs.........245
Total number of people served........24,450