2014 Kanegasaki English

There are some big changes to English education in Kanegasaki this year. It's going to be a big challenge for the teachers and the students and I'm really looking forward to it!

First, a big change happened with me. I changed jobs. I became an officer for the town of Kanegasaki. I'm really excited about the change and I'm going to work very hard for the children in Kanegasaki. I really want to thank the the Mayor, Kanegasaki Board of Education, and the other staff members of Town Hall for giving me this opportunity. I will do my best!

Second, Kanegasaki is going to expand teaching English in the elementary and kindergarten levels. For the kindergartens, an ALT will come to the school every week and have lessons and play with the kids. At the elementary schools, the 1st and 2nd grades will have English 20 hours this year. It was 10 hours last year. The 3rd and 4th grades will have 35 hours this year. They had 15 hours last year. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades have double the number of English classes as last year. Wow!

With the extra English classes, we hope to raise students who will love English and have the confidence to speak it. Children learn a language much faster when they are young so that is why we are putting a lot of emphasis on that age level.

This year, we are also planning for an English Caravan Summer Camp for elementary school students. We are making the plans now but the idea is for there to be many different activities that kids can join for about 30 to 45 minutes each so they can learn English in a variety of fun ways. I think it's going to be very fun! I hope as many children as possible can come! Of course we are also planning the English Camp for junior high school students in the winter as well.

Each year is fun and unique and this year will be no different. I don't know what challenges will come up and what exciting things will happen that are not planned but I do know that 2014 will be a fun year and the children of Kanegasaki should learn a lot of English and have fun doing so.