

3rd and 4th Grade English at Kanegasaki Elementary School



This year, we are doing more English than ever before in the 3rd and 4th grades. Last year, we did just 15 hours of English but this year we are doing 35 hours. It's a big jump for the students but they are doing a great job of keeping up and still maintaining that enthusiasm for English like before.

The easiest way to look at the English curriculum for Kanegasaki is this: the 1st and 2nd grades are getting used to hearing, speaking, and interacting in English; the 3rd

and 4th grades are using that English that they have learned to play games and interact with each other; and the 5th and 6th grades use English to communicate with their friends.

The 3rd grade is more focused on learning words that are of interest to the students such as sports, foods, and animals and using those words in games. The 4th grade is more about using those words used in the 3rd grade to describe what they like and what their friends like. Both grades are a lot of fun to teach and I always enjoy going to class!

In the 3rd grade, we have just completed a two week lesson on animal sounds. The kids learned the difference between animal sounds in English and Japanese and then had to use those animal sounds in various games with their friends.

Do you know what sound a dog makes in English? It's not "wan wan". We say, "bow wow". What about a frog? We say "ribbit ribbit". The 3rd grade teachers of Kanegasaki elementary school and I made an original chant that was very easy to learn and a lot of fun to say.



Dog says bow wow. 犬はワンワン。
 Cat says meow meow. 猫はニャーニャー。
 Cow says moo moo. 牛はモーモー。
 Pig says oink oink. 豚はブーブー。
 Mouse says squeak squeak. ネズミはチュートュー。

The kids were able to use this chant to learn about the difference between animal sounds in English and Japanese. One thing that surprised me was that many students heard “oink oink” – the pig's sound – and thought it sounded like お肉お肉. That was very interesting.



In the 4th grade, we are focusing on learning English that they can use. They will learn many things throughout the year that builds on what they have learned in the past three years and will continue on to the Hi Friends textbook that they will use in grades 5 and 6. In their everyday life, 4th graders are really starting to learn about what their friends like and don't like and are seeing the world with wider eyes than they have ever before. We try to have what they learn in English reflect that.

We are in the middle of a 5 week lesson called “McDaniel's.” The students are learning They are now learning about foreign money and how to use it to go shopping. The students learn about how to say many names of foods, how to count to 100, how to count American money, how to order food at a restaurant, and then how to be the waiter. It's a lot to learn in 5 weeks and learning how to use foreign money is very difficult but it's a lot of fun and it's something that is very useful if they ever go to another country.



One reason why we are doing this lesson is that when I went to America with the junior high school students last year, one of the things that was difficult for the students was using money. It took a long

time for the students to get used to using American money, especially coins. I thought by doing a class like this, we could have fun making an interesting class involving money while the students learn about how to say large numbers and say various kinds of food as well. The students think that "McDaniel's" is a very funny name for a restaurant and so that helps capture their interest.

3rd and 4th grade is when the students really get to use the English that they've learned to start to communicate with their friends and so it's a very fun age to teach. I really appreciate all of the help I get from the 3rd and 4th grade homeroom teachers in making the lessons as fun and as educational as possible. Thank you!