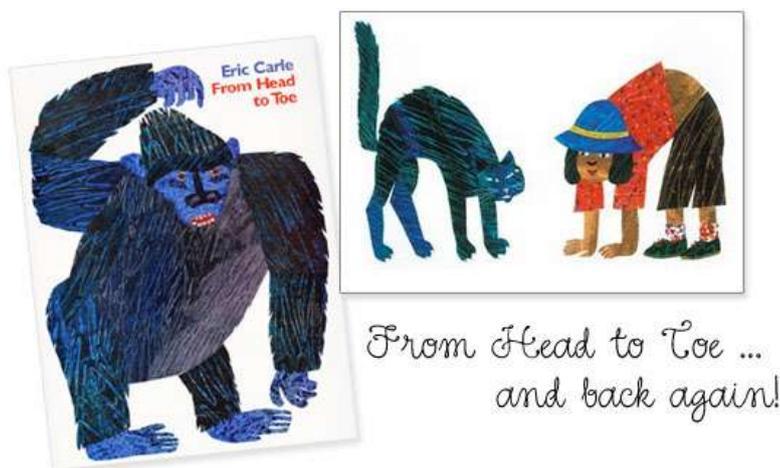


English at Kanegasaki Elementary School

(1st and 2nd Grade)

The 1st and 2nd grade students at Kanegasaki Elementary School love English. They have a strong desire to learn English and to be able to communicate in English. Starting this year, H26, they will study English for 20 hours. So far, they have done about 16 hours. They have 4 more hours to go in the 3rd semester.



In the 1st grade, so far they have learned how to do basic introductions, numbers, colors, parts of their body, and comparative adjectives.

In the 2nd grade, they did a similar but everything has been harder to make is more at their grade level.

They learned more numbers, more colors,

more parts of their bodies, and when they learned adjectives, they used that knowledge to compare 2 items.

I'll start by talking a little about the 1st grade and then I'll move on to the 2nd grade.

One of the things that surprised me about the 1st grade this year is that many of the students know a lot about the world already. From my very first lesson, I heard about 4 different languages spoken. "Namaste" "Anyonghaseo" "Bonjour" "Nihao". They are all hello in Hindi, Korean, French, and Chinese. When I was doing a lesson on



Christmas and how it is different in other countries, the students were asking me about Christmas in Turkey, in Belgium, in Uruguay, in Ethiopia, and other countries of the world that would not normally expect 1st graders to know about. It was very surprising.



In terms of English class and English learning, the 1st graders are also great. Right before summer holidays, I taught the students a chant about bananas. It teaches them many verbs that they have been using outside of this chant such as cut, drink, eat, pick, and peel. I decided to do the chant again in November and almost every student remembered the whole chant! Wow!

The 2nd grade is doing a higher level of communication type activities using English. They also learned numbers and colors and body parts but where the 1st graders stop at the number 12, the 2nd graders continue until 20. I actually taught them higher than that because the students learned 1~20 very quickly. One student asked me in the hallway what the difference is in pronunciation between 13 and 30 and I was very pleased. I taught her and then I taught the whole class the next lesson.

The 2nd graders did a multi-lesson study on comparative adjectives where they compared many things. They started with easy things such as bigger and smaller. They then progressed all the way to faster and slower, hotter and colder, heavier and lighter. My favorite sentence used to compare things was “Which is heavier, a baby or a sumo wrestler?” The answer is.... a sumo wrestler. The 2nd graders have a thirst for knowledge that I hope to keep growing in the years to come.





and talk to the students in English. I am so very grateful to those 6th graders for being such good role models for the younger kids and for helping me teach them that English is fun.

Lastly, I want to talk about something that we are doing with the whole school but mainly it's the 1st and 2nd graders who join in. Every Tuesday after lunch, in the library we have a Daniel's Corner where the kids can come and try and say a tongue twister or do a greeting or ask me a question about English. If they do that, they get a sticker in their "Kanegasaki Passport." So many 1st and 2nd graders come each week that there are about 3 or 4 6th graders who will volunteer their time