

3rd & 4th Grade at Daiichi Elementary

From April 2014, the 3rd and 4th grade students at all of the elementary schools in Kanegasaki began to study English for 1 hour every week. This is a big change from how much they studied before and the children's rise in English speaking ability reflects that. Each and every week, the children of the 3rd and 4th grade at Daiichi Elementary School surprise me with how quickly they are able to learn how to use new English words and concepts. I'll now talk about some of the unique things that we are doing with each class and what I hope to do in the future.



The 3rd Grade has learned many conversation structures and are doing an amazing job at being able to use them smoothly. They started by learning about colors, numbers, shapes, body parts, animal sounds, and following directions. After that, they started with real conversation. First they learned the question "Do you play ~?". Then, they learned "Do you have a ~?". After that, they learned, "Do you like ~?". Then, they learned about family and pets and using the phrase, "Do you have a ~?", they were able to ask questions to their classmates about their families. It's quite a lot that they have covered this year and it's normal to get some of them confused but by covering the material again next year with a higher level of difficulty, they will begin to cement their knowledge of the various conversation structures and be able to use them more smoothly.



The 4th Grade has learned many difficult structures as well and what they did is built upon what they learned in the 3rd grade. They started

the year by learning place words such as above, by, under, in, etc. They used that to describe where things are in the room. We also used that to describe where things are in a map so we studied place names as well. After that, they studied about likes and dislikes but instead of talking about themselves, they had to ask their friends questions and then talk about what their friends and classmates like and dislike. They did the same with whether their classmates have something or not. This is quite difficult because the verb structure changes and becomes more difficult with “he” or “she”. The students were able to do this really well and had a very fun time describing what kind of music their teacher likes and what types of food their friends like and dislike. Moments where students reacted to things in the dialogue such as “He doesn’t like ice cream.” “What??? Wow!” were really fun to watch. The students were starting to really communicate with each other and they were doing it in English!



There are only a few classes left in the year and so I want to spend the remaining lessons we have wrapping up year. I want to review the lessons and the structures and I want to do some of the activities with the kids that they really enjoyed so that what they learned this year will sink in. Nobody can remember something after learning it once so that’s why doing it again and again is necessary.



Lastly, I am going to do a Tongue Twister Competition at Daiichi Elementary School starting from January. The tongue twister is...

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. (x3)

This is a short version of a very common tongue twister.

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn’t very fuzzy, was he?

Can you say it? Good luck!