



KAKEHASHI Project (Canada)

Inbound program for High School Students

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 41 High school students and supervisors from Canada visited Japan from January 29 to February 5, 2019 to participate in the program aimed at promoting their understanding of Japan with regard to Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy. Through the lectures, observations and interactions with Japanese people etc., the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan and shared their individual interests and experiences on social media. Based on their findings and learning in Japan, each group of participants made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be taken after returning to Canada.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

Canada: 41 participants

(Breakdown)

Group A (23 participants) : Henry James Cambie Secondary School

Vincent Massey Secondary School

Group B (18 participants) : Miles Macdonell Collegiate

University of Toronto Schools

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Aichi, Mie

2. Program Schedule

Jan 29(Tue)	【Arrival】
Jan 30(Wed)	【Orientation】
	【Lecture】
	【Observation】 Edo-Tokyo Museum / Asakusa / Nakamise-Dori
Jan 31(Thu)	Move to Aichi from Tokyo 【School Exchange】 Toho High School
Feb 1 (Fri)	【Cultural Experience】 Nagoya Castle 【Observation】 Toyota Motor Corporation, Motomachi Plant

	Move to Mie from Aichi 【Meeting with Host Family】
Feb 2(Sat)	【Homestay】 Taiki Town (Mie Prefecture)
Feb 3(Sun)	【Farewell party with Host Family】 【Workshop】
Feb 4(Mon)	Move to Tokyo from Aichi 【Observation】 Honda Welcome Plaza Aoyama 【Reporting Session】
Feb 5(Tue)	【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine / Harajuku / TEPIA Advanced Technology Gallery 【Departure】

3. Program Photos



1/30 【Lecture】





1/31 【School Exchange】 Toho High School



2/1 【Observation】 Toyota Motor Corporation



2/4 【Observation】 Honda Welcome Plaza Aoyama

	
2/4 【Reporting Session】	2/5 【Observation】 TEPIA Advanced Technology Gallery

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ Canada, High School Student (Group A)

The school exchange was so fun, Kendo was extremely fun and I found communicating with the students to be the highlight. I learned so much about the Japanese people from talking to the students and I also got to try and use the basic language I have learned, The Toyota Motor Corporation (Motomachi Plant) was very interesting. I learned about automation and how they don't make more than they need. I also was very interested after I learned that as the production rate increases, employment increases. The homestay or (at a farm) was easily one of my favorites or the favorite part of the trip. I was not expecting to be staying in such an old and traditional house. I found it very interesting to learn about the different types of Japanese food.

◆ Canada, High School Student (Group A)

My strong impression from the lecture was how closely affiliated with religion Japan was. Praying and Shrine visits were very common and open to everyone. Everyone prayed for different subjects and it was really interesting how Buddhism and Shinto formed the basis of Japanese religion as a mixed belief. For the school exchange, my most signify impression was how the students had to clean the class rooms as they had no janitors. It was really interesting as it was completely different from Canada and gives a strong impression on the Japanese education of responsibility. Much like the school. I was impressed by the motto of the Toyota motor corporation as it perfectly defines the efficiency of Japan's work force, e.g. automation/Just-in-Time. Everything about the homestay gave me a strong impression of Japan. It was by far the most effective experience for teaching me Japanese culture and was overall a great lesson. The Onsen, Tatami, Mochitsuki, Calligraphy, all made me feel like a Japanese local for the day.

◆ Canada, High School Student (Group B)

As I was listening to the lecture, I was interested with all the activities that were listed, which we would participate in. Going to Toho High School was a pleasure and was so much fun. I got to talk and share stories with some students. I made new friends and I am currently still

communicating with them. I wasn't able to experience going to the government office, but I am sure that if I did it would have been an awesome experience. The home stay was absolutely amazing. I got attached to the family and their personality. The way we were treated with kindness was absolutely amazing and once in a lifetime experience that I will remember forever.

◆ **Canada, High School Student (Group B)**

School Exchange – It was interesting to see what the students wanted to know about us and what they had learned or know about people in Canada.

Company – The efficiency of the assembly lines was remarkable to observe.

Homestay – This was one of the best experiences so far. I really enjoyed learning more about Japan's everyday life and culture. We did so many activities that were interesting and unique that I would not have been able to experience in any other case.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/Host Families/Organizations



◆ **Host Family**

I was pleased to see how knowledgeable the girls were about Japan and that they enjoyed trying to experience new things here, such as going to a hot spring, origami, and Japanese calligraphy. I am moved to have received messages and photos from respective families of the girls. Spending time with the three girls as their “Japanese mom” has become a precious and dear memory to me. I was also very impressed by how they always expressed themselves clearly.

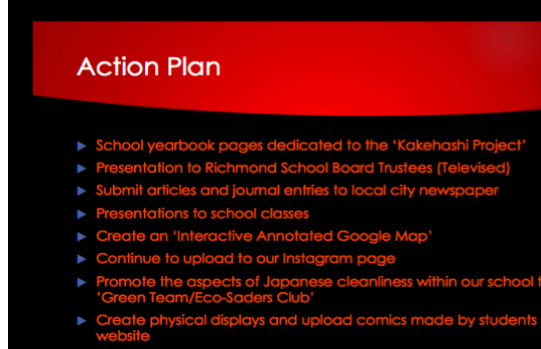



◆ **Host family**

Although I do not speak English very well, I managed to form a close bond with the students, and I was thrilled to have a cultural exchange with them. The students became so close to me that it felt as if they were my own children or grandchildren, which was a magical experience. I was touched when the students tearfully told me that they did not want to go home. I was a little worried about not being able to make sure they remain healthy during their stay, so I felt relieved to have managed to send them all off in good health.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>kaylareynolds.japan Nagoya-shi, Aichi, Japan</p> <p>100 likes</p> <p>kaylareynolds.japan Smile did not leave my face at TOHO high school this afternoon. Got to meet such amazing and beautiful people 💕 beyond excited for them to visit Winnipeg</p>	 <p>natayokomeshi Our home stay in Taiki was so fun! We will miss our host family so much. This was such a unique experience 💕 #kakehashi2019</p>
<p>(Group A) About the school exchange (Instagram)</p> <p>Smile did not leave my face at Toho high school this afternoon. Got to meet such amazing and beautiful people. Beyond excited for them to visit Winnipeg.</p>	<p>(Group B) About the homestay (Instagram)</p> <p>Our home stay in Taiki was so fun! We will miss our host family so much. This was such a unique experience.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

	
<p>Action Plan (Group A/Henry James Cambie Secondary School)</p> <p>This has been an amazing experience for all of us, and it will be one that we remember forever. Kakehashi means 'bridge' and it is now our responsibility to share our learning with friends, family, our school and community and the entire world through social media to develop more positive connections, knowledge and understanding about Japan. We all want to share the amazing experience we have had with others so that they can learn to appreciate more about Japan and our hope is that we will be able to influence them to one day come to Japan.</p>	<p>Action Plan (Group A/ Vincent Massey Secondary School)</p> <p>WHAT and HOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -table for the project at the open house, presentation -writing an article for the school newspaper -talk to the community; elders, feeder schools, etc. -YouTube video representing each of our individual experiences -section with CBC about the project -presentation with student council -talk to local radio stations to welcome the Japanese -announcements in the mornings at the school presenting facts about Japan
	
<p>Action Plan (Group B / Miles Macdonell Collegiate)</p> <p>To showcase Japanese culture and beauty. Encourage tourism to Japan and challenge stereotypes. All students and teacher share videos and pics through google photos. One student will compile and edit for video for</p>	<p>Action Plan (Group B / University of Toronto Schools)</p> <p>To whom; School, Family, Friends, People we know now and people we will meet in the future, Followers on Instagram What and How; 1. Currently we are planning on</p>

<p>group but others may make their own. All access on YouTube posted and shared through social media including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, snapchats, WeChat, VSCO and on school video board. A Nas Daily style video. One student creates a video for the group to disseminate but others will likely make their own as well. Students share videos and photos to a common google photo folder where they can upload to iMovie for creation of own Miles Macdonell Kakehashi video.</p>	<p>making a video about our experiences in Japan/ 2. We would compile videos of activities, food, and other experiences that would be interesting about Japan and the activities that we enjoyed the most/ 3. We would plan on making the video very interesting to the audience with bloopers and other interesting and funny moments throughout the trip/ 4. We would play this during one of our school assemblies where all 660 students + all the staff would be able to experience Japan through our eyes/ 5. In addition, we have some space in "TWIG," our school yearbook (that everyone in the school and beyond sees) so we can put in some pictures and a short explanation of our experience in order to reach an even wider audience and let more people know about our experience in Japan/ 6. We will present to the Geography of Asia class at school/ 7. We will also be presenting to the board of directors so that they have more information about what we have experienced in Japan and how fruitful this trip was for everyone involved.</p>
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