

# REPORT Artmile International Collaborative Learning 2019

Country/Region [Taiwan/Chiayi City]

School [Wen Ya Elementary School] Teacher [Ruth Hou] Grade (5) Members (48)

JP school [Nakai Elementary School] Teacher [Miho Araki]

## # Subjects, Activities and Hours of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Hours
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*the definition of eco-system and sustainable energy</li> <li>*the practice of sustainable energy in the world</li> <li>*the practice of 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) in everyday life</li> </ul>	2
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Learning English key words about eco-system and sustainable energy</li> <li>*Reading English passages for Skype talk with the partner school</li> </ul>	3
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Creating possible drafts</li> <li>*Combining good elements on the mural together</li> <li>*Drawing and painting</li> </ul>	12
Integrative Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Skype talking time</li> <li>*Appreciation and reflection on AICL project</li> </ul>	3
ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Surfing on the Internet for sustainability-related references</li> <li>*Creating the PowerPoint for group reports</li> </ul>	2

## # Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	Mother Earth and the Guardians (SDGs Goals 6 & 11)
Message United thoughts to share with the world	With the danger of increasing global warming, our Mother Earth is facing tremendous threat nowadays. In order to save the Earth as well as all the citizen in the global village, taking appropriate actions to protect the Earth is the first priority. We start from focusing on sustainable use of energy, including water, solar and wind power. We also emphasize on the possible actions that we can take to protect the Earth. Namely, the 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) are put into practice in our daily lives.



### # Effects and Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
Recycling work is seriously promoted in Taiwan but we did not really see the importance of doing this. After researching on the environment-related themes for our mural, our students fully realize the emergency and necessity of protecting our environment. Now, they are more willing to encourage themselves, their neighbors and friends to work hard for a better living environment.	The focus on SDGs this year is a very good point for the younger generation to know more about the world. However, due to the limited school time and less guidance from teachers, the students may find the theme difficult. Next year, our teachers plan to offer a clearer framework for the students earlier so that they can have a much longer time researching on the theme.

### # How has your impression toward your partner's country/region and the world changed?

Changes in the students	Changes in the teachers
Our students are used to doing the recycling work at home and at school because they are asked to do so. However, after researching on the theme of the year for the mural, the students got to know the value and importance of the recycling work. They are more enthusiastic to make an effort to protect the Earth.	Our teachers are very surprised to know that the Japanese partner school tried to add the elements of Chinese Geomancy on the design of the mural this year. To promote global culture exchanges, we need to be more aware of the values of our own culture so that the beauty of different cultures can co-exist for a long time.

### # Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students attitude/reflection	Subject
MEET Self-introduction	Sep.	<p>We created a video to introduce our beautiful campus to our partners.</p> <p>We sent the self-introduction sheets to say hello to our partners and we also had a class-to-class Skype meeting.</p>	<p>Our students found it interesting to make a video to introduce our beautiful campus. Although they tried so many times to get the videos done, they felt proud of themselves.</p> <p>The self-introduction sheets included very basic background information about the students at Wen Ya ES. Most students finished it with the help of English and Art teachers. They had strong motivation to make friends with the students from Nakai ES in Japan.</p>	Art +English +ICT
SHARE Research on the theme	Oct.	<p>Science and Homeroom teachers made extra learning materials to introduce the learning contents to the students. Our students formed in groups to figure out all the information about water and renewable energy in Taiwan.</p> <p>We had a class-to-class Skype meeting about the research.</p>	<p>Students spent some time surfing on the Internet and watched the video on YouTube to get a broad view of the practice of eco-friendly actions in Taiwan. They finally understood why the governments in Taiwan forced us to take serious actions for recycling works. They were proud of what they have been doing for such a long time.</p>	Integrative Activities +Science +ICT +English

<p><b>UNITE</b> Message of united thoughts</p>	Nov.	Students created their own drafts and explained their ideas to our partners in the class-to-class Skype meeting.	Students were interested in drafting and they did a good job presenting what they wanted to say on the drafts. They were open-minded enough to read others' drafts and made some changes after negotiation.	Art +ICT +English
<p><b>CREATE</b> Mural painting</p>	Dec. Jan.	Art-gifted students drew the outline and the rest of the students painted during the winter break.	At the beginning, we had a hard time deciding what and how we could present the well-balanced images on the mural because our partners seemed to have finished painting all the background for us. We tried to go through the picture banks on the Internet to get some more ideas. Finally, we used the idea of Mother Earth, standing in the center of the mural to symbolize the values and importance of protecting the Earth. Later, students took turns to do the painting.	Art
<p><b>APPRECIATE</b> Reflection/ Appreciation</p>	Feb. Mar.	We invited our City Mayor to our school and reported to her what we have painted on the mural. Due to Coronavirus outbreak, we had a very quick class-to-class Skype meeting to share what we had painted on the mural.	Our City Mayor had a very good time while she stayed with us to listen to our report about the mural this year. She was so pleased that we have tried our best to deliver our ideas of protecting the world by the way of art. Our partners also enjoyed the presentation of our art work. Our students felt so proud of themselves and their partners.	Chinese +Social Studies +ICT +English

### # Effect and evaluation gained through the collaborative learning

Evaluation: Rank 5 to 1 (5: very effective / 4: effective / 3: so-so / 2: not so effective / 1: not effective at all)

Expected effect	Evaluation	Scenes / points teachers felt the effects
Understanding your own cultures	4	Since we were 5 <sup>th</sup> graders, our students did not have any ideas about the dangers and difficulties the Earth is facing. Our teachers spent some time creating and editing the key concepts for them so that the students could understand how great we could be if we could do something constructive to the Earth.
Understanding your partner's cultures	4	Our students were so surprised to know that Nakai ES in Fukuoka also uses solar panels to collect solar energy for their school. In our hometown, Chia Yi City, the use of solar panels is easily seen because the tropic of cancer passes by here. We were excited to find something in common in these two different countries.
Information literacy (research, share)	4	Due to the younger age of our students, the concept of eco-system is not fully talked about in the textbooks. Our teachers spent extra time to get the related information done so that they could generate more ideas while they made drafts.

<p><b>Communication ability</b> (interactive exchange)</p>	4	<p>Our students are hard-working enough to express their ideas in class and with their Japanese partners. However, due to the limited English ability, the students may not be able to communicate fluently and freely. We hope there is more focus on the use of English so that the communication ability can be better and better.</p>
<p><b>Critical thinking</b> (objective, logical views)</p>	3	<p>Since the theme of the mural this year focuses on SDGs, it is a little bit difficult for the elementary school students to catch the main ideas. As a results, providing logical views as well as promoting critical thinking seems to be beyond the ability of the students at this age. But still, it is a good chance to start talking about the global issues. Teachers appreciated the opportunity to broaden the global views for the students this year.</p>
<p><b>Active learning and action</b></p>	4	<p>Because of the careful guidance from the teachers, the students took their time investigating all the possible facts about water and sustainable communities. After their investigation, they felt the necessity of doing all the recycling works at home and at school to protect the world.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration</b> (in the class, with partners)</p>	5	<p>Our students were so willing to collaborate with one another when they were invited to make drafts and do the painting. Thanks to our partners' kindness, we were encouraged to express ourselves freely. We had a good time working with our partners this year.</p>
<p><b>Expression ability</b> (in words, in pictures)</p>	4	<p>We were more keen to post our messages or photos on the forum because reading the forum is easier and more comprehensible to understand each other. Both students from Wen Ya and Nakai had limited English and the quality of Internet connection may hinder the quality of expression. However, if the two schools can send the speech content to each other in advance, the goal of more efficient communication can be achieved, too.</p>
<p><b>Appreciation ability</b> (the mural, the whole collaborative learning)</p>	4	<p>In the last Skype meeting on February 25, our partners from Nakai kindly told us their positive comments on the mural we have painted together this year. Later, from the video clip of opening the parcel at Nakai, we saw the happy faces, smiles and praise coming from the students at Nakai ES. We could feel they liked the mural, too. If there is no outbreak of coronavirus, we may have a better and longer time appreciating the mural and the learning process. Both of the two schools have done a wonderful job this year.</p>