

REPORT Artmile International Collaborative Learning 2020

Country/Region [Taiwan]

School [Wen Ya Elementary School] Teacher [Ruth Hou] Grade (5) Member (50)

JP School [Kuzumaki Elementary School] Teacher [Mikako Saito]

Subjects, Activities and Hours of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Hours
ICT	*surfing on the Internet for any related references *creating the PowerPoint for group reports during the Skype	4
Science	*the definition of affordable and clean energy *the practice of sustainable energy in the world *the life and death of land animals in our community	3
Health	*the cause and effect of COVID-19 *the issue of personal/group hygiene	1
English	*English key words about symptoms of COVID-19, sustainable energy and land animals in the community * short English passages for Skype talk	4
Art	*creating drafts in groups *a list of all good elements on the draft/mural *drawing and painting	12
Integrative Activities	*scheduled Skype talk *appreciation and reflection on AICL project in class	4

Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	Let's Save the Earth
Message United thoughts to share with the world	Human beings play important roles in the world. So does everything on the earth. To keep the world moving as safely as usual, let's take more actions to protect the earth.



Effects and Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, all the Wen Ya students witnessed the importance of personal hygiene. We seriously followed the instructions and regulations of the government so that our daily lives can go on as usual. The students are sure that they have taken the correct actions to help the world. In addition, the shortage of water and energy caused a lot of debate in Taiwan, which inspired the students to make a deeper research to investigate the pros and cons of energy issues.	The elements of local culture impressed the students in both Taiwan and Japan. However, the limited English ability hinders the fluent communication during the monthly Skype talk. The homeroom teachers and English teachers have made the plan to implement some culture issues into the English class. Hopefully, the quality of cross culture community can be better next year.

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

Changes in the students	Changes in the teachers
The students always took turns to give a short talk during the Skype. They were encouraged to use English, the difficult foreign language to share their ideas in public. They were brave enough to conquer the possible challenges.	It was said that Japanese people were very picky and hard to please. However, we found the stereotype might not be true because our Japanese partner teachers were very friendly and cooperative. The homeroom teachers, who joined Wen Ya in August 2020 found the Artmile project inspiring, innovative and creative to cultivate the global citizens in the future.

Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students' attitude/reflection	Subject
MEET Self-introduction	Sep.	<p>We worked on a group work to create a campus video to introduce the 10 most beautiful corners at Wen Ya to our partners.</p> <p>We wrote the individual the self-introduction sheets to say hello to our partners and mailed them to our partners.</p>	<p>Our students found it interesting and challenging to make a campus video to introduce the 10 most beautiful corners at Wen Ya. They were so highly motivated that they kept on practicing and practicing during the nap time. They wanted to present the best parts of Wen Ya in the most understandable English.</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 teachers. They were excited to make friends with the students in Kuzumaki ES this year.</p>	English ICT
SHARE Research on the theme	Oct.	<p>Teachers of science and health presented different reading material to introduce the land animals around Wen Ya E.S. and COVID-19. The students took their time researching on the two themes.</p> <p>We planned to share the research results with our Japanese partners during the Skype talk later.</p>	<p>With the guidance of teachers in different subjects, the students found the features of special land animals around Wen Ya Community. They also understood the necessity of renewable energy in Taiwan.</p> <p>They were so proud that they'd found something that their parents did not know. The research stage helped them to get closer to appreciate the the beauty of local issues. In the meantime, they were encouraged to keep taking the correct actions to protect the earth.</p>	Science health ICT Integrative Activities English

<p>UNITE Message of united thoughts</p>	<p>Nov.</p>	<p>Students took a look at the Wen Ya Artmile handbook to have a quick view of what's supposed to present on the mural. Then, they created their own drafts and explained their ideas to our partners during the Skype meeting.</p>	<p>Students were interested in creating their own drafts. However, with the reference from the Wen Ya Artmile Handbook, their creativity seems to be limited. By watching the draft design of the Japanese partners during the Skype, they learned to see more creative possibilities.</p>	<p>Art ICT English</p>
<p>CREATE Mural painting</p>	<p>Dec. Jan.</p>	<p>Our students formed into groups and attending the painting meeting during their winter vacation. The so-called Art Directors drew the outline first and asked the rest of the students to paint on the mural. They collaborated with one another and finished the painting work in 4 days.</p>	<p>The painting for this year was comparatively easy because there were lots of big images and color blocks on the mural. Namely, we need not focus on the very detailed parts. Audience could read the mural from a broader perspective.</p>	<p>Art</p>
<p>APPRECIATE Reflection/ Appreciation</p>	<p>Feb. Mar.</p>	<p>We read the completed mural in class with the hope that we could share some suggestions with our partners during the Skype. We also took a group photo with our principal, chairlady of PTA and teachers before we sent the mural back to Japan.</p>	<p>Artmile is a very good project for the students to broaden their world view. It also encouraged the students to take a deeper look at the global issues and even take some actions to help solving some problems. Painting is not hard. What's better, painting helps deliver the message of saving the earth from the younger generation.</p>	<p>Integrative Activities English</p>

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 and reasons that teachers felt the effects
Cross-cultural understanding	4	Japan is a popular country in our mind so we have had good impression toward this country before we started the partnership with the Artmile partner school. We were very surprised to know that the big snow in Kuzumaki E.S. did not stop the students from going to school. On the contrary, Japanese students were encouraged to play with the snow if they were well-equipped. They were well-trained people and they expected the kids to take challenges under safe circumstances. That's impressive, too.
Critical thinking (objective, logical views)	3	Critical thinking is a big issue in Taiwanese elementary school system and it is hard to see the result in a short time. We have called the students' attention to COVID-19, renewable energy and land animals through the Artmile project this year. We were sure the students have gained something different from the discussion and research results. However, we were not sure if the habit of critical thinking grew stably in their minds. It surely takes time and more efforts to make critical thinking possible for elementary school students.
Active learning and action	4	Thanks to the careful guidance from the teachers, the students spent their time researching on the topics about COVID 19, renewable energy and important land animals in the community. The more they knew about the themes, the better awareness they would have to take better actions to tackle the challenge.
Collaborating with different people	5	The fifth graders this year are easy going and gentle. They love to follow the suggestions from the peers and teachers. They are also generous enough to accept any positive or negative comments. Therefore, the teachers believe they have good abilities to collaborate with different people. They also had a good time working with the Artmile partners in Japan this year.
Expressing in words, in shape	4	Most of the students from Wen Ya E.S. and Kuzumaki E.S. had limited English to express themselves freely. However, with the great efforts paid beforehand, the students in both schools were fully encouraged to try their best and they did a good job during the monthly Skype talk. If possible, the teachers had better send the scripts to each other so that the messages could be discussed in depth.