

I started off the month by guest starring in one of the special education classes and practicing my Christmas lesson on them. They and one of the other first year classes were all very surprised that we didn't have chicken and cake on Christmas in America. In fact, we usually have ham and no cake.

When we started the Christmas cards, I expected most students to choose the card that allowed them to design their own cover but I was wrong. Out of the snowman, make it yourself and SpongeBob, SpongeBob became very popular very fast. Even though it was hard, they wrote their cards from beginning to end. I was happy to see them finish coloring the cards the next day.

As far as clubs go, I just started trying to fully participate in Judo. The students tried to teach me the basic moves and how to fall properly. It was very difficult for me, as it was all in Japanese, but they did great and persevered through the language barrier. I'm happy they took the challenge instead of turning me away. I had a great time even though I needed constant reminder to keep my head tucked in and my arms flat when I hit the ground.

One day, after Judo, I decided to visit the gym. I got to see the boys and girls basketball as well as the girls volleyball team. Before I knew it, the girls basketball team and I started a giant circle of pass. The students were interested by my throw and asked if I had played basketball before. I answered "no" in English and Japanese but one of the girls kept asking her friend to translate my answer. The look her friend gave was amazing. The team laughed and told her that I said it in Japanese, what is there to translate.

Later in the month, I once again got to go to the Michigan meeting. We pretended to be immigration officers, asking the kids questions and testing their listening. It was a lot of fun getting to see the progress all the students made with their self-introductions and farewell speeches. I'm so excited to see them go abroad and come back with amazing stories.

Then there was the end. The end of my first semester in Japan was pretty great, not to mention that it was also on my birthday so that made things double interesting especially when all the teachers sang to me when I let it slip later that day. I have also made my decision on whether to stay another year or not. That decision is to stay another year. So I hope you guys like me because we have another whole year ahead of us! 今年もよろしくお願ひします!



December 2018 English Board: The new sign donated by my amazing mother.