

This month, it went from a nice fall to a swift winter. There were many murmurs of how cold it was from all ends of the school.

1<sup>st</sup> years got their first Daily Scene and did really well with it. We learned how to ask someone if they don't feel good. Many were nervous to memorize the dialogue but other pairs were all in and ready to go.

Before the test, the 2<sup>nd</sup> years and I found things in a hand drawn room. It had everything from monsters under the bed to 3 cats on the bed. After, we tackled saku saku together. I introduced a Michigan winter to them and they introduced their favorite season to me. I was happy to see that most of the students met the challenge and wrote five or more sentences.



Then I got to see Class 10 twice this month. I was super excited. Usually, I only get to see them once a month, maybe. We had fun playing werewolf and reviewing for the test. They even taught me how to play a new card game called Speed. Not long after that, Class 9 and 10 opened shop and cooked curry for the teachers for lunch on test day. In addition to curry, I got French fries and a small salad. It was so delicious! I'm almost sad that I bought the small meal set instead of the large.

On top of all that, now we're getting some of our 2<sup>nd</sup> years ready for Michigan. I, and many other Koka ALTs, were asked to join in the preparation. Minakuchi's numbers won again this year. Out of all the schools in Koka, Minakuchi is sending the most students to Michigan! And as a fun fact, we're sending about 5 more students than last year! Proud of you Suichu!

The Michigan Meetings have allowed me to kick-start something I wanted to do last year. Personal practice for those going to Michigan. After having a general meeting with all the students going, we set up pair practices. In those practices, we do various things like pronunciation, reading and speaking practice. Thanks to a fellow ALT, I have plenty of material for them to practice pronunciation. The sessions are little rough, as this is the first time I've tried doing something like this, but I hope it will help them. I also I will learn how to make these practice sessions even more useful for next year.

Lastly, I'm getting ready for the JLPT N4. It's like the Eiken but for those learning Japanese. I've been doing my best to study for months and now it's time to see what I've learned. Pass or fail, I will have done my best. Wish me luck!