

Started off the year by seeing my third years. They were troopers. I made a game based of the American version of “Cranium” and it was a bit complicated. Their eyes glazed over with torture during the explanation but when they started playing, they quickly figured out what to do. Most of the groups had a blast challenging each other in their tiny teams reading, writing, speaking and listening their way through the game. I was so proud of them.

Some of the second years got to kick off the year with writing essays. Once I told them they could lie, some of them had fun writing. My favorite was about a boy who took his pet lion to the moon. Unfortunately, the lion did not come out alive, but I hope he was at least delicious. The other second years got to solve a mystery with me. My treasure was stolen and they had to find all the information to crack the case. They all did super well following instructions and diligently asking in English who was doing what when.



I also got to go to the highly anticipated Minakuchi matsuri! I had been looking forward to this for weeks. I guess I was so excited my body decided it wanted to be a wake at 5:30, long before the festival was to start. It was amazing. When I got there, there was a float with a dinosaur on top! When it started moving down the street, people started following it. I wasn't quite sure what to do so I followed the crowd. I got some weird looks but I wasn't the only foreigner following the float so I went with the

flow. I got to see several of my students and a few of them even said hi. It made me so happy and the food was so delicious. I was surprised I didn't see any of my co-workers, but they may have gone to the festival after I left. Even though I didn't want to leave the festival early and even though I was sick, I still went to Japanese class.



After the festival, I finally met my first years! They were so funny. I would always walk in and they would assume I was in the wrong class. They would try to help me by telling me the class number. After I told them I knew where I was, they would proceed to ask me who I was and what brought me to their classroom if I wasn't in the wrong class. I was very amused by their confusion.

They were so nice and polite throughout class. They sat quietly through my impromptu self-introduction and understood everything. I was so impressed. They were very understanding when I told them that I was still studying Japanese and that sometimes I won't understand what they're saying in Japanese so they will need to help me. When it was time for questions, I expected Japanese but no. The kids stood up and asked completely in English. I was floored. Some kids even came up to me after class and asked in English if I liked Once Piece. It broke my heart to tell them that I know about it but I haven't seen it or read it. I look forward to seeing all of them in class again.

みなさん、本年度もよろしくお願ひします！