

There is no better way to end my last time with my third years than with games. The third years and I had a blast playing board games and battle ship. They did a great job fully participating, I'm so sad they're graduating soon. I will miss them.

The first years got to learn a little about Valentine's day and Black History Month. It was good to see the students try to read the valentines I made them! Then, before testing started, the Minakuchi teachers had a ping pong tournament. The other ALT and I only intended to only watch but as we walked in, we were added to the roster right away. It was my first time playing ping pong, which caused our team to lose, but it was so much fun. My team was awesome and I'm so grateful to them for being patient with me. I'm so glad my supervisor told me about it! I hope we do something like that again soon.



February English Board

This month also held my first evaluation. My principal and I went to the Board of Education (BOE) together to assess my progress with my work. I was super nervous but having him and my BOE coordinator there made me feel more at ease. I was too nervous to speak Japanese but it seemed to go well. Even though I'm not happy with my progress, they seemed to be which made me feel better.

Call me a glutton, but I was so scared that because of testing I wouldn't get to have the ni-ni-ninja lunch at school. I've heard so much about it, I was so excited and it turned out to be so delicious! A school friend gave me the ninja scroll lunch menu and helped me break it down so that I knew what I was eating and why they had the names they did. I was so cool. I hope that I'll still be here for the ultimate ninja year in 2022. Then it will be ni-ni ni-ni ni ni (2022 年 2 月 22 日)!

The BOE and the other Koka ALTs have been preparing for the Michigan students for quite some time. We did interviews and practiced helpful English phrases. The kids did a great job preparing welcome boards and participating in the activities. They had fun asking each other questions about their friends in English and even asking some of the native English speakers!

The highly anticipated Michigan kids finally arrived. There was a morning meeting where the other ALT and I introduced ourselves and welcomed the Michigan students. Our meeting was brief but they were very kind! Later that day, we had lunch with the Michigan chaperones. It was interesting to hear Michigan English again and as per Michigan, there was a lot of talk about snow. I, unfortunately, didn't get to see the Michigan students very much during their stay but when I saw them, they were always smiling which made me feel good. Then as soon as they came, they had to leave. I was happy that I was allowed to attend the Michigan Farewell party and I was glad that I finally got to speak to the Michigan kids to see how their experience had been. It sounded like they had a good time and were very emotional about their departure the next day. I hope that next year, I can play a bigger part in their stay. I would love to be of more help to them.

