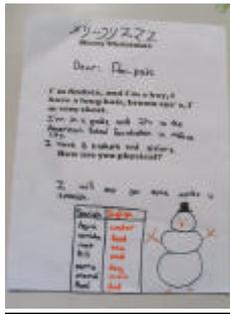


Card Exchange PROJECT between Japan and Mexico



Title of the project: Card Exchange
Country/Region: Japan/ Kyoto
Name of participant: Akiko Nagao



Summary of the project:

I had my students complete a small research project on the country of Mexico and some other countries. They were required to make a small presentation to tell the other students what they have learned. To complete this idea, I would like to have my students send your students traditional Japanese New Year's cards.

Context of the project:

The school is located in countryside of Kyoto Prefecture, so we have few chances to meet and interact with foreigners. Through this project, I would like the students to become interested in other countries and cultures and diversify their knowledge. I would also like to draw attention to cultures and customs that are not in the media light.

Need for the project:

Approximately twenty to thirty students from overseas country This year, I met Mr. Herman Morfin through the program called the 21st Century Renaissance Youth Leaders Invitation Program and he offered his help to find some students in Mexico who may be interested in participating in the card exchange project.

Students are the elementary school students from 3rd to 6th grade or 8-12 years old. These students would be asked to send relevant culture materials to the students such as letters about traditional culture, tapes of traditional music, or videos of traditional dance. It would be one time exchange with no further commitments as a project. It is up to the students' motivation.

Aim:

Internationalization of Mexican and Japanese students would be the goal. Teaching children at a young age about other people gives them a sense of global responsibility and tolerance. I would like to show them how exciting it can be to meet new people from abroad.

Objectives:

- ◆ The Japanese students research on various cultural areas of Mexico.
- ◆ The Japanese students present their research to the class.
- ◆ They prepare traditional Japanese New Years card and complete an information sheet to enclose in the cards sent to the Mexican students. The sheet gives information on the history and activities related to the Japanese New Years.
- ◆ Mexican students should send similar information to the Japanese students, but this would be at the discretion of the Mexican teachers.

Justification:

To promote internationalization and world collaboration of ideas and tolerance. It is particularly important to teach these concepts at a young stage.

Activities:

- ◆ The students do research on the country, culture and customs of Mexico.
- ◆ The students present their findings to the class.
- ◆ The students prepare traditional Japanese New Years card along with supplementary material detailing the history and customs of the Japanese New Years.

Timetable:

Japanese students made research project and presentations in November 2003. The cards and supplementary materials were made and will be sent in December.

Evaluation:

The students will be evaluated based on effort and enthusiasm. There is no formal system in place.

Follow-up:

I sent some pictures, videotape and report to the Mexican students after my students receive Mexican information. I would be interested in visiting the Mexican students if possible at a later date.

Sustainability:

The possibilities to continue the project are present. However, it does require a great deal of time and effort on the part of the teachers involved. At this point, I think that the best course of action is to approach this as a one-time commitment. Should further interest develop, this can be addressed at this time.

Detailed budget: (Standard budgetary items are: staff/persons involved in the project, accommodation, travel costs, meeting costs, equipment, office running costs, communication costs, documentation etc.). Describe and justify the need for the different resources/costs.

The costs associated with this project should be minimal. I suggest that each side cover their respective costs independent of each other. The local school board will cover any minor expenses that I incur, such as postage, paper, etc. I am unable to advise on costs associated with this for the Mexican participants.