

# Explore Japan 10

A Cultural and Educational Experience

for Grade 10 High School Students

in the greater Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary areas

November 2, 2019

## Report

Explore Japan 10 Steering Committee

Edmonton Japanese Community Association

Alberta Japanese Teachers Association

Consulate General of Japan in Calgary

Edmonton Public Schools

Alberta Education

December 20, 2019



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## 1. Program Objective - What is the “Explore Japan”?

The program provides an opportunity for Grade 10 students in the Capital Region, Red Deer and Calgary to explore Japanese culture first-hand. Through a variety of activities facilitated by Japanese community members, the program will help young learners enhance their understanding of Japanese culture and promote friendship between Japan and Canada. High school Japanese programs will greatly benefit by participating in the event.

## 2. Background

Edmonton Japanese Community Association (EJCA) has been promoting Japanese culture and language in the Edmonton area. Since 2002, it has been providing the “Japan Today” program to junior high schools as a Grade 8 Social module supplement. In May 2010, EJCA Culture Programs Committee received an inquiry from the Alberta Japanese Teachers Association (AJTA) if cultural presentation to Grade 10 students who would start studying Japanese Language and Culture in September could be organized by EJCA.

The first pilot “Explore Japan” was held on October 26, 2010, with 185 students from 5 high schools attended. The feedback from students and teachers indicated that the Explore Japan was a valuable program for students learning Japanese language at high schools.

From 2011 to 2016, the Explore Japan was held annually in the early November as a two-day event and offered a variety of cultural activities to many students as indicated below.

	Dates	High schools attended	Students attended
Explore Japan 2010	October 26, 2010	5 high schools	185
Explore Japan 2011	November 1 & 2, 2011	9 high schools	300
Explore Japan 2012	November 6 & 7, 2012	8 high schools	256
Explore Japan 2013	November 5 & 6, 2013	9 high schools	261
Explore Japan 2014	November 4 & 5, 2014	7 high schools	282
Explore Japan 2015	November 3 & 4, 2015	5 high schools	209
Explore Japan 2016	November 1 & 2, 2016	7 high schools	292

The Explore Japan 2018 and 2019 were held in a new format in which teachers, students and other participants played key roles throughout its planning and implementation stages. The event

was held only on one-day in March (second semester) during a weekend at the Harry Ainlay High School instead of the previous venue, Woodcroft School (or iisle: Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education, Edmonton Public Schools) on 2 weekdays in the first semester. The reasons for the changes were as follows:

- funding decrease
- possible steering committee member changes
- the difficulty in finding instructors, assistants and volunteers for 2 days on weekdays
- financial burden on each school on weekday due to the need of substitute teachers
- teachers need to plan substitute lessons on weekdays
- the new site allows the event to serve foods other than a Bento lunch
- the new site allows a commercial vendor selling popular Japanese goods.

Since the event has become a one-day event on Saturday, fewer number of Grade 10 students registered in the event. However, with more active involvement of participating teachers and students as well as many volunteer students from Harry Ainlay High School, the steering committee believed that, overall, the events were a success. The student volunteers created many MATSURI booths with Japanese food and games. As a result, the Explore Japan created a revitalized atmosphere.

	Dates	High schools attended	Students attended
Explore Japan 2018	Saturday, March 10, 2018	7 high schools	177
Explore Japan 2019	Saturday, March 9, 2019	6 high schools	145

Then, in the fall of 2019, the Explore Japan 10 was held at iisle, back to the original facility for one day, November 2, 2019.

	Dates	High schools attended	Students attended
Explore Japan 10	Saturday, November 2, 2019	6 high schools	150

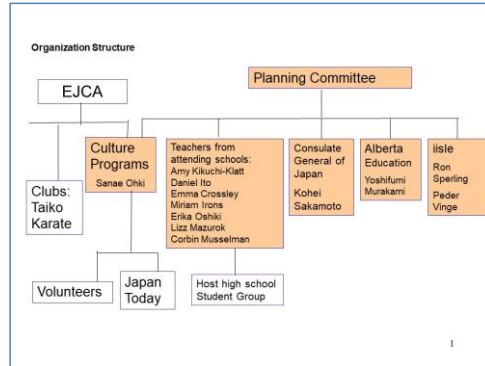
### 3. Steering Committee

Daniel Ito (Chair)	Teacher, Alberta Japanese Teachers Association (AJTA) / Harry Ainlay High School
Sanae Ohki	President, Edmonton Japanese Community Association
Yoshifumi Murakami	Japanese Language Advisor, Alberta Education / Japan Foundation
Kohei Sakamoto	Consul, Consulate General of Japan in Calgary
Ron Sperling	Language Consultant, Edmonton Public School Board
Amy Kikuchi-Klatt	Teacher, AJTA / Bishop Carroll High School
Corbin Musselman	Teacher, AJTA / Spruce Grove High School
Emma Crossley	Teacher, AJTA / Jasper Place High School
Erika Oshiki	Teacher, AJTA / Memorial High School
Lizz Mazurok	Teacher, AJTA / Paul Kane High School

**4. Project Organization Structure**

Supporting Organizations

1. Consulate General of Japan in Calgary
2. Edmonton Japanese Community Association
3. Alberta Education
4. Edmonton Public Schools
5. Alberta Japanese Teachers Association (AJTA)



**5. Date/Time**

Saturday, November 2, 2019 10:00 – 16:30

**6. Attending Representatives from Supporting Organizations**

- The Consul-General Narushige Kobayashi from Consulate General of Japan in Calgary
- Mrs. Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education
- Mr. Nathan Ip, Trustee, Edmonton Public School Board
- Ms. Naamah Segura, Alberta Education
- Ms. Janice Aubry, Institute for Innovation of Second Language Education

**7. Student Registration and FOIP Forms**

Student registrations were conducted on-line in mid-October. FOIP information was not collected by this program.

**8. Registered Schools, Students, Teachers and Chaperones**

School	City	students	Teachers/ chaperones
Harry Ainlay High School	Edmonton	54	2
Spruce Grove Composite High School	Spruce Grove	1	1
Jasper Place High School	Edmonton	18	1
Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School	Red Deer	42	1
Paul Kane Composite High School	St. Albert	13	1
Bishop Carroll High School	Calgary	22	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>7</b>

## 9. Program Details

### A) In the homeroom: 9:45-9:55

When students arrived at the facility around 9:45, they were directed to a homeroom where they could leave jackets and large bags. They also had lunch in the room.

### B) Opening ceremony: 10:00-10:30

1. Welcome speech by Consul General Shigenobu Kobayashi
2. Welcome speech by Mrs. Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education
3. Welcome speech by Mr. Nathan Ip, Trustee, Edmonton Public School Board
4. Kita-no-Taiko's Performance

### C) Workshop sessions: 10:40-15:30

#### 1. Tea ceremony (40 minutes, Room 12)

**Instructors and demonstrators:** Tamara Sutherland, Yiping Zhang, Janet Yoneda

**Assistants:** Junko Froment and Mineko Koto

The room was prepared in the tearoom settings with Tatami mats. After a tea ceremony was demonstrated, all students made pairs with classmates and enjoyed pastries, and then made tea for each other.

#### 2. Calligraphy 1 (40 minutes, Room 2) and 2 (40 minutes, Room 4)

**Instructors:** Keiko Oba and Fukuko Gordon

**Assistants:** Cheng Yann Beh and Yukiko McLaren

Because calligraphy activities required extra assistance and a large space, a group was divided in 2 smaller groups and each group used a separate room. After the instructors explained the fundamentals of Japanese calligraphy and tools, students quietly practiced a few kanji characters using samples and made one good copy. When there was enough time, students made bookmarks with their own names written in Japanese. All their works were dried and packaged for taking home.

#### 3. Kimono (40 minutes, Rooms 5 and 7)

**Kimono Instructor:** Akiko Ogata

**Kimono Assistants:** Yukiko Nagakura and Mayumi Wong

Purikura Assistants from the Lindsey Thurber High School

Looking at slides and sample Kimonos, students were introduced to the traditional

Japanese garments and how to wear Yukata. After the introduction, each student wore a Yukata and took individual and groups photos. A Purikura station was set up for group photos, which was a very popular addition to the session.

#### 4. Exchange program and Exchange experience (40 minutes, Room 11)

**Instructor:** Bryan Marshall - Alberta Education Exchange Supervisor

**Presenters:** Yuna Oh, Naomi, Aimie Amendolia, Rodrigo Alanis-Pena

The instructor Bryan Marshall gave information about available exchange programs in Japan. Presenters shared their exchange experiences.

**Commented [TO1]:** Hi Daniel, Do you know the family name of Naomi?

#### 5. Taiko (40 minutes, Gym)

**Taiko Instructors:** Omar Amer, Carley Okumura, Yukiko Isaka, Jody Crilly, Daniel Torres, Keiko Marumo, Emillie Chartrand, Riva Benditt

The instructors first introduced the Taiko and basic beats, and then, demonstrated key techniques. All students took turns drumming the Taiko.

#### 6. Karate (40 minutes, Gym)

**Karate Instructor:** John Priegert

**Karate Assistants:** Karyn Chikhacheva

At the Karate session, the instructor guided students into the "Karate world." The important Japanese values and behavior, i.e. politeness, concentration, and respect for others were introduced as students enjoyed practicing basic Karate movement.

#### D) Lunch: 12:00-12:30

Students had the option of ordering a Japanese bento box for \$13.00 (regular, vegetarian or gluten free) from the Mikado Restaurant or bringing their own lunch. Many students enjoyed the Bento lunch.

#### E) Festival: 15:30-16:30

Student and teachers from each participating schools initiated a booth(s) and they were run simultaneously at various locations. The following is the list of the booths and the schools that ran booths. All booths were set in the gym.

1. Purikura — Lindsay Thurber Composite High School

2. Origami — Jasper Place High School
3. Yo-Yo balloon fishing — Harry Ainlay High School
4. Goldfish scooping — Harry Ainlay High School
5. Manga drawing — Harry Ainlay High School
6. Giant Jenga — Harry Ainlay High School
7. Janken Game — Bishop Carroll High School
8. Karuta — Paul Kane High School
9. Woodblock using erasers— Lindsay Thurber Composite High School

#### 10. Funding Sources and Expenditures

Grants	Consulate-General	\$ 2,500.00	
	Alberta Education	\$ 1,000.00	
	Sub total		\$ 3,500.00
Expenditures	Honorarium for instructors and assistants	\$ 2,650.00	
	Teaching materials and some food	\$ 855.22	
	Sub total		\$ 3,505.22
Balance			-\$ 5.22

#### 11. Providers of Equipment and Other Supplies (No charge was made to the project)

EJCA:

- Tea ceremony equipment, furniture and tatami mats, calligraphy equipment, calligraphy samples, 36 Kimono sets (Yukata, footwear, sash, belts, and bins), mirrors, a wedding gown and Kimono, Kimono display stands and Happi coats.
- Transportation of the above equipment between the EJCA Centre and IISLE

IISLE:

- Facility, furniture, PC and monitors, sound system
- Technology assistance
- Security of facility during the event

Alberta Education:

- Hardcopies of the student handbooks for guests
- Gifts for teachers, session instructors and assistants

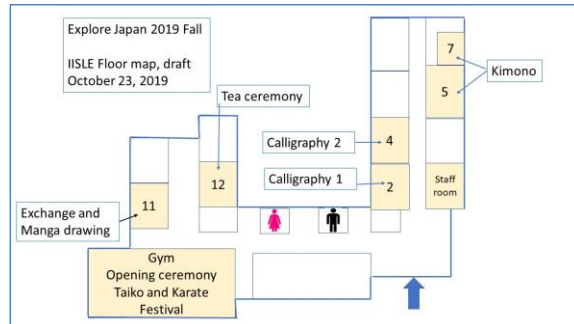
Japan Foundation

- Gifts and information flyers for teachers, instructors and assistants.



## 12. Facility Information

The diagram shows rooms used for the event.



## 13. Students' Handbook

A students' handbook was prepared in advance with the following contents. It was posted in Website so that it was used at the Japanese language classes for preparation in attending the event.

- Introduction of key Japanese values such as attentiveness, quietness, cleanliness/tidiness, and harmony
- Event Program
- Event Map
- Japanese language list to be used by instructors and students
- Background information of all sessions and MATSURI activities

## 14. Workshop Timetable

Schedule: Explore Japan 10 - November 2, 2019								
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6		
	Harry Ainlay 1	Harry Ainlay 2	Lindsey Thurber 1	Lindsey Thurber 2	Paul Kane	Bishop Carroll	Jasper Palace	Spruce Grove
Students	27	27	28	14	13	22	18	1
Teacher	Ito		Irons		Mazurok	Kikuchi-Klat	Crossley	Hammami
9:45 - 9:55	Homeroom Gym	Homeroom Gym	Homeroom Gym	Homeroom Gym	Homeroom Room 4	Homeroom Room 2	Homeroom Room 12	Homeroom Room 11
10:00 - 10:30	Opening: all students together at the Gym - Welcome message and Taiko Demo							
10:35 - 11:15	Taiko Gym	Taiko Gym	Calligraphy Room 2, 4	Tea Ceremony Room 12	Exchange Programs Room 11	Kimono Room 5		
11:20 - 12:00	Karate Gym	Karate Gym	Kimono Room 5	Calligraphy Room 2	Calligraphy Room 4	Tea Ceremony Room 12	Exchange Programs Room 11	
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch Gym	Lunch Gym	Lunch Gym	Lunch Gym	Lunch Room 4	Lunch Room 2	Lunch Room 12	Homeroom Room 11
12:35 - 13:15	Exchange Programs Room 11	Kimono Room 5	Taiko Gym	Taiko Gym		Calligraphy Room 2, 4	Tea Ceremony Room 12	
13:20 - 14:00	Tea Ceremony Room 12	Exchange Programs Room 11	Karate Gym	Karate Gym		Kimono Room 5	Calligraphy Room 2	Calligraphy Room 4
14:05 - 14:45	Calligraphy Room 2, 4	Tea Ceremony Room 12	Exchange Programs Room 11	Kimono Room 5		Taiko Gym	Taiko Gym	
14:50 - 15:30	Kimono Room 5	Calligraphy Room 2, 4	Tea Ceremony Room 12	Exchange Programs Room 11		Karate Gym	Karate Gym	
15:30 - 16:30	Festival at Gym and hall							
16:30 - 16:40	Questionnaire Gym	Questionnaire Gym	Questionnaire Gym	Questionnaire Gym	Questionnaire Room 4	Questionnaire Room 2	Questionnaire Room 12	Questionnaire Room 11

## 15. Project timeline

The steering committee had 3 planning meetings on June 3, 2019, September 25, 2019 and October 23, 2019 and a debriefing meeting on November 6, 2019. Meeting minutes are available for details of project activities.

## 16. Summary of Feedback from Students

The post event survey was conducted with the students. Online survey tool was used for this purpose.

### Students

Out of 155 students attended, 77 students (51%) from 5 schools responded by November 5, 2019.

#### 1. Overall, how did you find the event?

Evaluation	Responses	%
Very satisfied	32	46%
Satisfied	29	35%
Neutral	3	4%
Not satisfied	9	10%
Dissatisfied	4	5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

} 81%

#### 2. Please rate your interest/understanding about Japan and Japanese culture through today's event?

Evaluation	Responses	%
Gained great	38	49%
Somewhat gained	30	39%
No change	6	8%
No interest gained	3	4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

} 88 %

#### 3. How has your impression of the Japan or Japanese culture changed as a result of today's event?

Evaluation	Responses	%
More positive	54	70%
Some what positive	13	17%
No change	10	13%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

} 87%

4. Was today's event memorable?

Evaluation	Responses	%
Memorable event	61	86%
Not so outstanding	10	14%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100%</b>

5. Has your desire to learn Japanese language increased as a result of today's event?

Evaluation	Responses	%
More interested	48	62%
A little more interested	20	26%
No change	9	12%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

6. Have you attended any other events organized by Consulate General during the past three years?

Evaluation	Responses	%
No	48	62%
1-2 times	26	34%
3 or more	3	4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>

7. How do you evaluate each workshop?

	Taiko	Karate	Tea	Calligraphy	Kimono	Exchange	Total	%
Excellent	58	46	48	55	60	39	306	66%
Good	16	27	22	20	15	29	129	28%
Fair	3	2	7	2	2	7	23	5%
Poor		2				2	4	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>100%</b>

17. Photos

a. Opening Ceremony



Welcome by Consul General Kobayashi



Welcome by Mrs. Adriana LaGrange

b. Calligraphy Workshops



c. Tea Ceremony Workshop



d. Kimono Workshop



e. Karate Workshop



f. Taiko Workshop



f. Festival



Yo-yo fishing game



Janken Game

g. The facility – IISLE

