

Video Production From Above

University Film Training Camp



Left/Piloting the drone Right/What Okuono Community Center looks like from an altitude of over 100 meters above ground level

On the 20th of August, 12 video production students from Hageromo University of International Studies (Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture) held a four-day film training camp at Okuono Community Center. A modern society professor at Hageromo University, Kiyomi Murakami, met Okuono ward mayor, Katsuhiko Kawaguchi, while looking for a suitable training camp location. Ward mayor Kawaguchi invited them to utilize Okuono, and started this annual tradition 5 years ago. University students lodge in the area at this time of year, working on various film projects.

The focus of this year's camp is to have the students polish their skills by creating a PR video of the region. Everything from shooting to editing will be performed solely by the students. They captured the nature of Kyotango City by drone, including the sights of Omiya's satoyama and the coast of Tango. A first time attendee of the training camp shared the following, "Green trees, terraced rice-fields, and ocean views... these are sights that you just can't see in the city. I was pleasantly surprised by the beauty of it all."

Professor Murakami commented, "In the past we have done projects including a commercial for Omiya Elementary School, and a project titled 「Foreigners Explore Kyotango」 . It isn't possible to fly drones in most areas of larger cities; Okuono is very useful to the students as they work on their craft. This type of area is extremely rare so

I would love to have next year's training camp take place here as well.”

The finished product will be made public in the middle of October via the internet

An All-Out Showdown of All Ages!

Toyosaka Elementary PTA Event 「School-Wide Hide and Seek」

A school-wide hide and seek session was held at Toyosaka Elementary School on September 15th. This year will be the last year that these students will study at the Toyosaka campus due to the upcoming “School Reconfiguration”. With this in mind, the Toyosaka Elementary School PTA (Parent Teacher Association) decided to throw an event that would last in the children’s memories. All 52 Toyosaka students, along with their respective guardians, broke off into two teams: the hiding team, and the seeking team. They used the entire campus and enjoyed playing hide and seek together.

Sogo Oshita, a sixth year student who hid in a classroom cabinet, gave his thoughts on the experience, “I spent days thinking of a good hiding spot. It stinks that I was found out, but being able to play with everyone like this was fun and I will remember it for a long time.”



Toyosaka students playing hide and seek

Ride Correctly! Ride Onward!

Pre-schoolers Participate in the 「City Bus Seminar」

The 「City Bus Seminar」 was held on September 3rd in a parking lot near Amino City Hall.

Kyotango City, in cooperation with Tango Kairiku Koutsu CO., Ltd, put on this event with the purpose of capturing the interest of city youth to increase public transportation usage rates in the future. 24 pupils from Amino Preschool learned about the bus's structure, how to get on and off the bus, as well as proper bus etiquette from the bus driver.

During an explanation of the bus's features, the cry of “Cool!” could be heard coming from the group of children. They were in awe of the stepless ramp used by those in wheel chairs. After that, the children grabbed their tickets and boarded the bus. They received various types of training from the driver. Instructions such as, “make sure to sit down in your seats” and “look both ways before you get off the bus” were greeted with a warm “Okay!” from the students.

When the class ended, the children were pleasantly surprised that they were able to take a ride to Amino Station and back. A six year old first-time bus rider, Tomonari Sanada, reported “I was happy when they let me press the button before we got off. From now on, when I ride the bus, I will make sure to follow all the rules they taught me here.”



Preschoolers looking right and left before getting off the bus

Learning the Fun and Importance of Nurturement

Mineyama High School Yasaka Campus Home Economics Department



On September 12th, second year students from Mineyama High School's home economics department conducted hands-on nurturement training at Yasaka Children's Park. This is a part of the school's "Child Development and Nurturement" course and is conducted yearly. The goal of this training is to have high school students gain a deeper understanding of infancy's idiosyncrasies, and to have them learn how to appropriately interact with infants through observing professional teachers and pupils in the field.

On this particular day, high school students were recruited to participate in a rehearsal for the nursery's sports day as "Parents".

During the first of three sessions, the high school students were a little nervous about meeting the preschoolers for the first time. It showed in their interaction, but after holding hands and giving piggy back rides to the energetic children, eventually the nervousness faded away and both parties were able to have fun and run about the nursery grounds together.

After wrapping up the one hour training session, Motoe Ake reported, "You can't help but smiling being with these children. I had so much fun! I learned how hard yet rewarding this type of work is."

Take a Laid-Back Sail in Traditional Boats

“Maruko Fune” Launching Ceremony & Sailing Experience at Kumihama Bay



Left / Participants enjoying the Maruko Fune boats Right / What a finished Maruko Fune boat looks like

A traditional boat (Maruko Fune) sailing experience was held at Kumihama bay on August 19th.

NPO “To Build an Exciting Kumihama” and the Tango Art Camp Executive Committee launched this first-time event. Its goal was to invigorate the town while teaching the younger generation about the “Maruko Fune”, a boat that was used by the locals for fishing and transportation up until about 40 years ago.

Last autumn, artist Tomohiko Ogawa built one Maruko Fune boat while participating in “Art Camp Tango 2017”, a fine arts project that was held in Kumihama. With that, in addition to 3 boats previously repaired by the NPO, there were 4 Maruko Fune boats that children were able to enjoy. In total there were 50 children that attended the event; many of which were brought by their families/were a part of the local canoeing club. Using a large oar, they rowed the Maruko Fune boats in the Kumihama bay and enjoyed the sensation of boating underneath the summer sun.

Five-year-old Yushiro Mizushima and Four-year-old Michihito Mizushima participated together as brothers. They said the following with a smile, “The boat had a nice smell of wood. We were surprised at the swaying at first, but we had a good time.”

During the launching ceremony that preceded the event, the aforementioned Tomohiko Ogawa kicked off the ceremony's opening speech with the following words, "Building the boat took a lot out of me, but many people helped me throughout those four months. It is so emotional for me to be able to be a part of this ceremony. If my efforts spark an interest for boat building in the hearts of the children here today, I would be extremely happy." NPO board chairman Yuya Tomomatsu also commented, "With Maruko Fune as a start, from here on out, we want to spread liveliness throughout this area by showcasing Kumihama's bay and townscape."
