

Application for Participation
Associated Schools Project (ASP)
for Promoting International Education
Outline of the way the Project(s) will be implemented in the institution
(please use extra sheets if necessary)

“Our town Miyuki”

- **Protect Lake Shimizu, the treasure of Miyuki, protect the environment of the region, and protect the culture of the region -**

Description of the Project

This school has been implementing community-based educational activities such as developing the recycling of resources together with the region centered on our involvement with Lake Shimizu, which is adjacent to the school grounds. Therefore, we thought we would do more work with the region to promote education to develop the human resources that will learn from the region to create a sustainable society (ESD).

In academic year 2010 we cooperated with the Parks and Green Spaces Division of the Toyohashi City government to dredge Lake Shimizu. We exterminated exotic fish such as the black bass and bluegill and protected indigenous fish such as the common carp and the Crucian carp using a school-wide structure centered on the 4th graders. Furthermore, we placed signboards in the school zone, particularly in areas around the lake. The signboards promote “The treasure of Miyuki, Lake Shimizu” and were produced by the children in order to protect Lake Shimizu. Toyohashi City has also been making standing signboards that prohibit the stocking and fishing of black bass, etc. but it is thought that the signs have been effective this time because due to the help from the children they are transmitting a message from the school.

In order to develop these approaches into the promotion of “education for sustainable development” (ESD), we have decided to revise our previous curriculum in order to formulate and implement an ESD Activity Program centered on Life Environment Studies and the Integrated Study Period and linked to student council activities and activities to transmit information to the school zone.

We believe that continuous implementation based on this ESD Activity Program will enable us to develop children who realize the good qualities of their region into the future and feel pride for their region and affection for their region.

Objectives of the Project

This school would like to approach initiatives for ESD from the position of environmental conservation. This is because the children at this school have been continuously engaged in activities and studies aim at protecting the environment of Lake Shimizu adjacent to the school grounds, and using that as starting point have been studying the connections with the culture and people of Miyuki, the town in which we live, ever since the school was founded. Moreover, 35 years have passed since the school was founded and the number of families in which two generations,

the parents and the children, spent their elementary school years at Miyuki Elementary School is increasing, so the feeling of being a “community-based school” has become stronger. Therefore, we would also like to make the continuation and succession of community-based culture one of our objectives.

For this reason at this school we have set the following goals for the following four kinds of activities.

(1) Activities to conserve the environment of Lake Shimizu

- * The “spring and autumn cleaning mission” held twice a year with the people of the region
- * The “dredging of Lake Shimizu” held in cooperation with Parks and Green Spaces Division of the Toyohashi City government
- * Observation of the ecosystem and water quality tests at Lake Shimizu

By continuously implementing the “cleaning mission” to beautify the environment of the Lake Shimizu flood control basin adjacent to the school and the “observation of the four seasons,” we will raise awareness of the need for environmental conservation and transmit awareness of environmental beautification to the region.

(2) Activities to transmit the regular recycling campaign and greening campaign to the region

- * The “recycling campaign” held every month and led by the student council
- * The “Lots of Flowers Campaign” led by the cultivation committee

Separately from the resources recovery activities the PTA organizes twice a year, the student council runs a recycling campaign specialized in recycling three types of garbage, empty cans, milk cartons, and PET bottle caps, in order to contribute to environmental beautification of the entire region and to raise awareness of the recycling of resources.

Furthermore, the cultivation committee takes the lead in running the “Campaign to have Lots of Flowers” inside the school, so that the children can gain affection for their school and immediate neighborhood, and moreover for their school zone and the wider region.

(3) Activities to experience the traditional culture of the region

- * Study of the traditional Flower Festival of the Miyuki Shrine in the school zone, and participation in the festival
- * Studies of the history of reclamation in the Miyuki area (Takashihara)

The children learn about their traditional culture and the hard work our forefathers did to reclaim the land so that they create a spiritually richer society, live in harmony with nature, respect their connections with the region, and live as members of the region in the future.

(4) Activities linked to events, etc.

- * Athletic meetings, Miyuki children entertainment, summer holiday exhibitions of works, class visits (four times a year), exchange parties with the elderly (twice a year), greeting campaign (once every month, holding of meetings of the residents’ association (four times a year)) , exchange parties with welfare facilities in the region

The children, guardians, educators and community residents work together to develop a feeling of pride in and affection for our region and foster an approach of placing importance on involvement and connections with people, by gaining opportunities to present outcomes.

Execution

As stated in the aforementioned objectives, this school will advance its studies with environmental conservation as the starting point for its initiatives for ESD. We believe that deepening these studies will enable the children to foster the fundamental ability to discover and share the links between the development of the town and the environment, the connections between people, and values of a member of a society. Furthermore, we understand that to be nothing other than education for developing the human resources that will build a sustainable society in the future.

The origin of the Miyuki school zone begins after the war with the adoption of settlement policies to reclaim Takashihara in order to increase food production and reduce unemployment. There were major transformations over a period of less than 70 years as the wasteland was converted into agricultural land and then became a residential area. The population increased during the high economic growth period, the school zone split off from and became independent of the surrounding school zones, and Miyuki Elementary School was born. The efforts of our forefathers in the region and the existence of Lake Shimizu are inseparable from the children of Miyuki Elementary School. Given this context we thought that if the children can proactively learn about Miyuki and try to talk about Miyuki based on their own thoughts and feelings, we can develop children who understand their relationships to other people and their relationship to society and attempt to cooperate with others to live in harmony.

In order to achieve the goals in each grade, we work on activities linked to community studies and events in the Integrated Study Period and Life Environment Studies, etc. We have created and are implementing the ESD Activity Program as an implementation program for this purpose.

- Involvement of each grade with the region
 - * 1st graders: Lake Shimizu in spring, summer, autumn, and winter
 - * 2nd graders: Insects and plants of Lake Shimizu
 - * 3rd graders: Our Miyuki expedition team (Let's learn about our school zone, Let's communicate the games from the old days)
 - * 4th graders: We are Miyuki eco-rangers (Think about the ecology of the school zone)
 - * 5th graders: Miyuki, a people-friendly town (barrier-free within the school zone)
 - * 6th graders: Disaster prevention by Us (Cooperation with District Council)
- ~We believe and connect with our Lives, our Bonds~
- Activities to conserve the environment of Lake Shimizu
 - * All grades: "Cleaning activities"
 - * 1st-3rd graders: "Observation of the ecosystem in all four seasons"
 - * 4th-6th graders: "Lake Shimizu water quality tests, etc."
- Activities to transmit the regular recycling campaign and greening campaign to the region
 - * 5th-6th graders: The student council board of directors presides over the recycling campaign and is in charge of recovery of trash in each class
 - * Children in all grades, guardians and general community residents participate in the recycling campaign
 - * The cultivation committee presides over the flower beds in the school and the cultivation of flowers in planters

- Activities to experience the traditional culture of the region
 - * Study of the Flower Festival held in the villages of Toyonemura and Tomiyamamura before the separation of villages, and participation in the festival
 - * Exchanges with the elderly people of the region
- Activities linked to events, etc.
 - * Activities for presenting or announcing outcomes

(1) ESD Activity Program for Promoting the Activities (example of 4th graders in academic year 2010)

Subject area	April	May	June	July	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Sociology			History of reclamation								
Science			Water quality test		Water quality test			Water quality test		Water quality test	
Integrated									Dredging		
Events							Miyuki children entertainment				

(2) Activities to conserve the environment of Lake Shimizu



Academic year 2010 “Lake Shimizu Dredging”

(The black bass and bluegill are exterminated and the common carp and Crucian carp are evacuated to the pool)



Academic year 2011 “Returning indigenous fish to Lake Shimizu”

(We return the common carp and Crucian carp that were evacuated to the pool to Lake Shimizu.)



Lake Shimizu “Spring cleaning mission”

(3) Activities to transmit the regular recycling campaign and greening campaign to the region



Recycling campaign: the guardians also help under the leadership of the students in the higher grades.

(4) Activities to experience the traditional culture of the region



3th graders: Let’s communicate the games from the old days (exchange party with the senior citizens association)

Let’s learn about our natural monument called “loess doll”



Type of materials to be used

Handbook of Elementary School Career Education, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, May 2011 (Web version)

Shining Toyohashi, published April 1, 2011, edited by the Toyohashi Municipal Elementary School Social Studies Department Side Reader Training Committee, published by Toyohashi City Board of Education, printed by Aprise Co., Ltd.

A handbook for promoting career education called *Career Education for the Nine Years of Elementary and Intermediate School*, Aichi Prefecture Board of Education, Compulsory Education Section (Web version)

Career Education Notebook: a Navigation Notebook for Finding your Dream and Fulfilling your Dream, by the Aichi Prefecture Board of Education (Web version)

Is there any type of evaluation to examine the effects of the project on students' comprehension and attitudes?

The guiding teacher observes the attitudes and approaches of the children in their ordinary lives and after the project evaluates them through their statements on reflection cards.

In addition to this, we use the following evaluation methods.

- * Ascertain the outcomes on the various activities of the children using summaries and feedback, etc. afterwards.
- * As a summary of the studies and activities, we observe and evaluate the interest, enthusiasm, attitudes, etc. of the children through presentations and transmission to regions of outcomes such as open classes, summer holiday exhibitions of work, and events (Miyuki children entertainment: school play), etc.

Together with the above evaluations, we use evaluations from the region through the school counselors, questionnaire surveys after events and meetings of guardians, questionnaire surveys of all guardians conducted twice a year, and other methods to revise the ESD Activity Program and make improvements to the content of the activities for developing Miyuki children that can live in harmony with the region.

On behalf of my institution, I apply for participation in the UNESCO Associated Schools Project and give the assurance that this institution will make an active contribution to the Project, as outlined above, for a minimum period of two years. At the end of every year, I shall submit a report of the Project to the ASP National Co-ordinator of my country.

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Date

Principal's name

Position Principal

Institution's name

Toyohashi municipal MIYUKI elementary school