

Case 2

Junior High School

Exchange between Malaysian Junior High School / High School and Wakayama Municipal Kada Junior High School

■ Held: January 24, 2019, 11:00-14:45

■ Number of visitors: 26 students, 8 teachers

■ Participating Schools: SUM Bukit Jelutong and SMK SEKSYEN 7

(junior high school and high school students)

Wakayama Municipal Kada Junior High School

■ Number of host participants: All students (26)



Contents of exchange

Twenty-six students came from two schools in Malaysia. The host, Wakayama Municipal Kada Junior High School is small with only 22 students, but it holds overseas school exchanges many times through the year and students actively network online with foreign schools on a daily basis.

After arriving, the Malaysian students first went for a stroll along Kada beach and Kasuga-jinja Shrine, which is about a 10-minute walk from the school. Such a beautiful ocean view cannot be seen from the visiting student's city of Kuala Lumpur, so they were happy to take photos even on a cloudy day.

Then they went back to the school, and all students from first to third grades returned to their classrooms and participated in activities with their

Malaysian counterparts. In English, each young person introduced themselves, and through the day, the cultural and geographic distance that once separated the groups faded away.

Afterwards, following lunch and prayer, the welcome ceremony began in the gymnasium. The Malaysian delegation presented souvenirs from their country as well as their school emblem, and in return received the traditional artwork of Wakayama called "Kishu Temari." The Malaysian game of marbles called "Chonka," demonstrated at this time, is still played by some Kada Junior High School students every day.

Next, the Kada Junior High School first and second grade students performed a traditional Lion Dance which has been passed down through the generations since ancient times in the Kada area. In return, Malaysian students gave their own dance performance. Although seemingly a school club activity, it was executed with near professional skill. These exciting performances brought everyone closer together.

Schedule of the day

11:00	Arrival at school
11:10 – 11:50	Walk around Kada beach and Kasuga-jinja Shrine, etc.
12:00 – 12:40	Class activities
12:40 – 13:00	Worship
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Welcome ceremony (Gymnasium)
14:45	Departure from school, farewell from students



Comments of the Host School



The Kada Junior High School students reacted very positively saying, "Even without using language, our exchange was deepened by the physical expression of each other's culture through the Lion Dance and their dance performance." "I learned how to greet people in Malaysian and was able to remember the phrases and use them in person, so I was really happy. We were also really glad that the Malaysian students had also practiced Japanese for us and they spoke it really well." "It was great hearing from the Malaysian students about how much they loved Japanese songs and anime." Various impressions such as these show how moved students were by the cross-cultural communication. After the event, students continued to connect with their Malaysian friends through Instagram, exchanging messages in English about how much they wish to visit each other's country. Because Kada Junior High School has so few students, the Principal seeks to provide opportunities for a wide variety of experiences including international exchange, and field trips along the beach or in the city, to devise ways for all members to interact with each other and make the fullest use of their time together.