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June! In Kobe where Popoki live, this is the rainy season. But this year it hasn't rained very much. Why is it that when you want it to rain it doesn't, but when you don't want it to rain, it pours?

Popoki's Hot News!



Coming soon*

This year's Nada Challenge will be on 2 July!

Popoki will have a booth and exhibit.

And he has invited a special guest!

Yoko Kawarabata from Otsuchi-cho!

Please come and see us. We'll be waiting for you!

(Please see page 9)

Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, **Ainyan**, sent the following piece of peace:

"I always think how easy would be if we had a "peace" recipe. But maybe, peace can be built not in just one way but with our creative ideas. For example, don't you think there is peace in the process we go through when we are thinking and talking to make people smile? "

What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today? Please contribute a bit of peace! Please let us know by sending a message to Popoki's e-mail.

RONNIANDPOPOKI (AT) GMAIL.COM !



Workshop at Kio University

Fumi-nyan

On May 27th we held a workshop about peace at Kio University in Nara Prefecture. Keywords for this workshop were "peace, genki, and health". The workshop was really interesting because we had an opportunity to think and talk about the colors of "peace, genki, and health" and make a statue of them as we see them in our minds. I would like to report on the workshop with photos which Reiza-nyan took.



① Self-introduction



② Relaxing by doing "Poga" by following Sato-nyan



③ Thinking with pictures.
What is the color of peace?
From the picture, do you feel
Peace, genki or health?
We found difference! That's interesting!
]



④ Reading from Popoki's book.
Every-nyan did it in Japanese!

⑤ Human Statue of peace and health! We created various statues together!

People in a heart.



Many hearts.
Many groups created hearts.

Great! But how about under person?



Spelling "PEACE"

After learning about violence around the world by watching “Popoki’s Peace Machine Journey”, we drew pictures. The theme is “A peace garden where Popoki and everyone can get genki”. Every group drew great pictures! However, unfortunately, it is impossible to show pictures of all of them.



-Voices from Students-

·I have not had any chances to think about peace since graduating from elementary school. Thinking about the color of peace, genki, and health was interesting. Hearing different ideas from friends is also interesting.

·I learned in detail about the atomic bombs and Agent Orange which affects the next generations, and about human experimentation that I learned about in textbooks at school but have never seen in pictures or movies. I feel fear and anger from them. Japan is the “only” atomic-bombed country but Japan also did horrible violence in its colonies. Children do not know so much about the violence which Japan did because the education system

focuses too much on “atomic-bombed country”. However, to eliminate wars, Japanese should learn about it.

·Hearing Popoki’s stories was interesting. It gave us a chance to think about peace from daily life. There are a lot of questions. I would like to read the books in detail and think again.

·I think art is the most important thing for peace and health. Great art get praise from all over the world, not from only one country. It means that art has power to connect the world. Art also has power to make people’s minds “wealthy”, too. Being “wealthy” in mind should be good for the body. So I think art is really important for peace and health.

-My opinion-

Writing this report and choosing the photos, I found people were smiling when they tried to create the statues and to draw pictures of "peace · genki · health". The environment which everyone could have a smile may be a kind of "peace · genki · health," too.



Popoki’s New Activity – 2

Thinking about Disaster Risk Reduction in Many Languages with Popoki

Ronyan

Thinking about disaster risk reduction in many languages with Popoki has entered its second month. On the last Monday of May I uploaded a story and the Nyans translated it, and some contributed their own. The May story is simple, so I will share it here, too. (Please check out Popoki’s FB page)!

The story uses the words introduced in May (disaster, earthquake, tsunami, fire).

One day, Popoki asked Ronyan, “Why do you put words like earthquake, tsunami, and fire on Facebook? I think it is meaningless!”

“Maybe, but Popoki, if you were in a disaster, what would you do?”

“I’m not sure, but I think I’d run away.”

“Yes, that’s a good idea. So let’s keep thinking about ways to run from different kinds of

disasters.”

“OK, but when I run away, I’m not going to look at Facebook first!”



The theme for June is “Preparing for evacuation.”

First week of June: Warning; Popoki subscribes to disaster risk reduction information services so he gets warnings for typhoons, tsunami, etc. on his smart phone.⁶



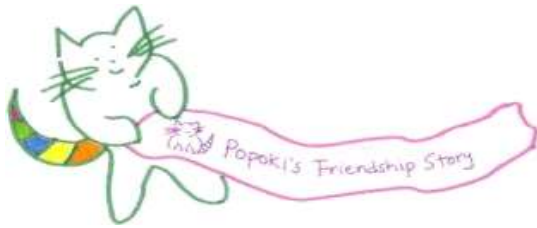
Second week of June: Evacuation warning

If there is an evacuation warning, Popoki makes sure he is ready and then goes to help Grandma Koala.

Third week of June: Evacuation bag

Popoki puts chocolate in his friend Pen-chan’s evacuation bag because it is important to have snacks when you evacuate





Popoki's Interview

Ronyan

The first time we did Popoki's Friendship Story activities in Iwate Prefecture was during the holidays in early May, 2011. Many people at evacuation centers in Kamaishi and Otsuchi-cho drew pictures and shared their stories with us. This month, I want to use this 'Interview' to share a drawing and a story that made a deep impression on me.

In May of 2011, the damage from the tsunami was still starkly visible along the coast of Iwate Prefecture. At an evacuation center, a child concentrated on drawing a picture. It was a purple 'whirlpool'. Perhaps because the artist was a young child, he did not try to explain in words about the 'tsunami' he had seen. But words were unnecessary. If you look you can understand what it is. That was a moment I felt the power of Popoki's Friendship Story drawing activities. But this story does not end here. After that, we took the cloth to many other places for people to draw. Gradually the cloth became filled with drawings of many shapes and colors. But nobody drew anything near the 'whirlpool'. Small children often have no compunction about drawing on top of pictures that are already there, but the 'whirlpool' seemed isolated from all the other drawings. It continued to make its plea, all by itself.



One day, a child drew a flower on the 'whirlpool'. And the isolated 'whirlpool' suddenly was surrounded by friends. One after another, people drew around it. It made me feel the power of drawing even more than before. I thought about how it took time before someone could draw the flower, and also about the change that happened after the flower appeared. I hope that Popoki can continue to provide opportunities for drawing flowers at just the right moment. Popoki, thank you!

POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 109

This month's theme is stretching on a rainy day!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, stand up and raise your umbrella high over your head.
3. Next, keeping your back and arms straight, twirl your umbrella. First go in circles to the right; then go in circles to the left. You can twirl your tail, too!
4. Finally, still keeping your arms and back straight, try stretching to your right, and then to your left. Is your tail stretching, too?
5. Did it? Even if you didn't succeed, you tried! It is time for the 'success pose.' Congratulations! Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!



Next Po-kai: 2017.7.2 16:30~ At Popoki's Nada Challenge booth!

7.2 Popoki at Nada Challenge! 10:00 – 16:00. Meet at 9 if you want to help!

- ✧ This year we will have a booth and exhibition!
- ✧ Our special guest from Otsuchi-cho will be Yoko Kawarahata san! She will do some SHAKE HAND activities, too.

7.3 Lunch with Yoko-san at Kobe University! Let Ronyan know if you want to join us.

7.15 Popoki at Kodomo no Sato 10:00 – 12:00

8.6 Hiroshima Day Sky (tentative) 8:00 – 10:00

From Popoki's friends:

New booklet* “Voices of evacuees from 11 March: Collected by the affected people themselves” (in Japanese) 2017.3.11.. Information: Thanks & Dream, sandori2014@gmail.com



23rd Nada
Challenge
Festival @
Togakawa Park
2 July 2017

7月2日(日) 10-16時 トガカワコウエン
都賀川公園

※小雨決行 荒天中止

神戸大学の学生が中心になって地域の皆さんと作る祭り、灘チャレンジ。
阪神淡路大震災の復興祭として始まって今年で23回目となりました。

Kobe University students and local residents have held this festival since the 1995 Kobe earthquake.



阪神大石駅から
徒歩8分
JR六甲道駅から
徒歩14分
阪急六甲駅から
徒歩18分

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Popoki in Print

ESD Digital Archives, Kansai Council of Organizations for International Exchange <http://www.interpeople.or.jp>

- “Peace Picture Book Published – linked to disaster support in East Japan” *Kobe Shimbun* (2014.3.25) KIHARA Kana
- “Awards given to 37 groups Daiwa Securities Foundation” *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.23 p.8)
- “Reproducing ‘human shadows’ and asserting no nukes” *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.7 p.22)
- ‘Draw inner thoughts about disaster’ *Yomiuri Shimbun* 2013.2.16:4 (evening edition; Japanese)
- “‘Safe’ and ‘Secure’ Society is from the bottom-up”, *Mainichi Shimbun Interview with Ronni Alexander*, 2012.10.29, p.1 (evening edition; Japanese)
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- “Hope on 60 meters of cloth” Etsuko Akuzawa. (In Japanese) *Asahi Shimbun* 2012.1.21
- “Voice for Peace made into a book” Masashi Saito. (in Japanese) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2012.1.19
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- ‘Friendship’ No.2 2009.11 Itami City International/Peace Exchange Commission, Annual Events, p.1-2.
- ‘Not for But With...’ No.79, 2010.1 Notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event. P.12
- ‘Nada’ notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event, 2009.12, p.2
- ‘Yujotte...Kangaeru Ehon.’ *Asahi Shimbun* 2009.7.2 AKUZAWA Etsuko
- ‘Yujo wo kangaete – Ningen to, Neko to, soshite Jibun to,’ *RST/ALN*, No.259 2009.6.28, p.11
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- ‘Thinking about Peace with a Cat: Second Peace Book Published.’ (SAITO Masashi) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2009.4.21
- ‘Popoki, What Color is Peace?’ *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.3.1. No.593. p.2
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- Popoki in Pittsburgh. Check out the Remembering Hiroshima/Imagining Peace URL: <http://www.rememberinghiroshima.org/>
- * **Back issues of Popoki News:** http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html





What Popoki means to me

Mayukonyan

Since this spring, I have moved out of Kobe where I spent two years, and am living in a new environment. I have met new people, made some new friends. However they are all people I know through my work, so even if we go out for dinner, we spend most of the time talking about our job, colleagues, etc. That's exactly what nyans told me at Po-kai in March. I am a bit worried about narrowing my relationships with people, but I'm still working on getting used to my new life.



Through Popoki, I have met many nyans. They come from different countries, belong to different societies, and are different ages, too. I am sure I wouldn't have met these people without Popoki activities.

Because of the difference of nyan's backgrounds, I learned things that I had never thought about before. I learned to think about peace and 'feeling safe' from different points of view through Popoki.

It is great that one cat, Popoki could get so many people together, and as a member of this activity, I thank Popoki for the chance to get to know these unique activities.

I'd like to visit nyans soon !!



PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE POPOKI PEACE PROJECT!

The Popoki Peace Project is a voluntary project which uses Popoki's peace book and DVD to promote peace through various activities such as peace camps, peace workshops, seminars and other activities. Since the March 2011 earthquake, we have also worked in the disaster area and in 2012 published a book about that work: *Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born Out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake*. *Popoki, What Color is Peace?* has been translated into Thai, Chinese, Korean, Khmer, Indonesian, Tetun and Bengali, Vietnamese, Arabic and Hebrew. Spanish, Farsi, Lao, Swahili, translations are underway. If you would like to translate Popoki, or have a way to have the book sold at your local bookstore, please let us know.

How to purchase Popoki's books from outside of Japan



1. Go to your local Japanese bookstore: Kinokuniya, Maruzen, etc. (or their website)

2. In the US, thanks to a very satisfied customer, *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* can be ordered from Kinokuniya Bookstore in Los Angeles. The bookstore is at

www.los_angeles@kinokuniya.com and the telephone number is 213.687.4480. The price is US\$20.00 plus tax.

Some ways to purchase *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1, Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2, Popoki, What Color is Genki? Popoki's Peace Book 3* and *Popoki's Friendship Story* from inside Japan

From the publisher, Epic: TEL: 078-241-7561·FAX: 078-241-1918

From Amazon.co.jp or your local bookseller

From the Popoki Peace Project ([popokipeace\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:popokipeace(at)gmail(dot)com))



Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

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POPOKI!!