Popoki



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http://popoki.cruisejapan.com

It is rainy season! It is so nice to have a cheerful umbrella on a rainy day!

Popoki's Hot News!



You can watch

watch the video of Popoki on Stage at haba challenge 2013!

You can watch the performance by Popoki's friends at Nada Challenge, the festival begun by Kobe University students and Nada community members after the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, on Popoki's website. http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/videos.html

PIECES OF PEACE



One of Popoki's friends, Tetsuri-nyan, sent the following piece of peace: "I lost a good watch. The watch was sent to a police station by an anonymous person. The police officer said the person didn't want any gratitude or reward. I felt mortified, but also a bit of peace."

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

HOW ABOUT FOLDING PAPER CRANES?

On 28 July 2008, a sudden torrential rain caused flooding and 4 people including 3 children, were swept away at Tokagawa Park in Kobe. Please have a look at the following short video.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjkDbKvmorA

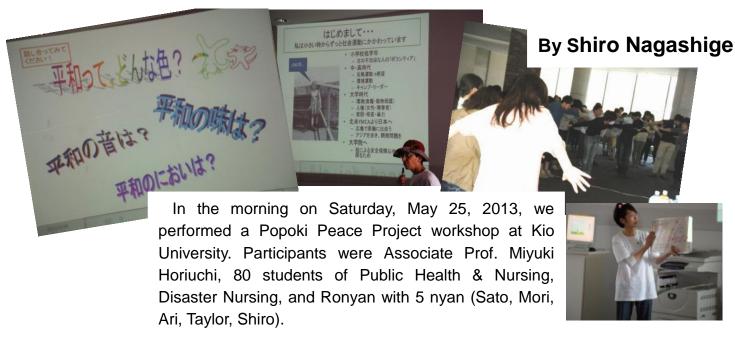
Popoki's friends are asking that we fold cranes to help remember those who died, make sure it doesn't happen again, and ensure safety for children. Please see page 13 for details.

Thank you for your continuing help!

Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born out of the Great
Northeastern Japan Earthquake is getting a good reception, thanks to help from
his friends. Please help to let more people know! More information about the book
at: http://popoki.cruise.japan.com/monogatari.html

* You can purchase a copy at the Kobe YMCA!

Kio University workshop "What is peace and health?"



First, we all exercised with instruction by Sato-nyan in POGA. And after a self-introduction by Ro-nyan, we did Popoki Theater. Five friends read pages related to peace and health from Popoki's Peace Book 1 or 2. The students seemed to be wondering, "What's a peace book?" but they seemed to be interested. Next we used a rope and participants lined up along it in response to a question, answering yes or no. I was surprised to find so much similarity in their way of thinking. Their answers were simply yes or no, and I thought that the question of peace and health might not be something that they will think about in their daily life.



As for a situation of non-peace, students thought about war, violence, and poor health. Students appreciated Popoki Peace Machine Journey DVD and I think they learned the negative impact on the present of human activities in the past. This only one earth is in a critically ill condition due to human ignorance and lust. As well as war, environmental destruction and pollution are going to destroy humanity and mother earth. Each person should have a critical mind.





Well, the time for drawing finally came! The theme was, "a peace garden where everyone is well" or "a peaceful town where everybody is well." We divided 8 groups and everybody worked eagerly to express themselves feeling using the five senses. They were at a loss by the theme choice, but, as a result, it seemed to become the work which took in both subjects. As for what is common to the final pictures: *longing for the Sun; *wanting to get along well; *bright feeling; *wanting to put oneself in that spot.

They may have expressed their own feelings of wanting to "be happy now" or "find happiness." The



単和ってどんな色?どんな味?どんな

音?どんな慈勉?どんなにおい?

-マを選んでください

元気に暮らせる平和

On 2 June, it was fine day. Popoki and Popoki's friends attended a festival, Nada Challenge held in Tokagawa Park, just like last year

Popoki: It's sunny day! I'll try to sell some Popoki goods. Oh, I also brought drawing goods and ...

Popoki, Mori-nyan, Tetsuri-nyan and other friends rent some space and a tent to open a Popoki goods shop. Then, they also opened a playground to put some colorful chalk and new hobby, soap bubbles. It was popular with children.

This was the 19th time that Nada Challenge was held. When Hanshin-Awaji earthquake disaster happened in 1995, some students at Kobe University and people living in Nada began Nada



Challenge hoping for revival of the community. The theme of Nada Challenge this year was, "the challenge to create Nada as a diverse community." The Executive committee had decided on this theme hoping that visitors realize that people of various ages, abilities, ethnicities, and nationalities were living in Nada. When Popoki heard this hope, Popoki and his friends got out their tent and walked around in their free time.

Popoki: Ooh... there are many flea markets in this year, again. Where are interesting games and books? There are also different kinds of food being sold. Fried noodles... deep-fried chicken... Oh! I also found Sa-ta-andergee which a snack from Okinawa, same as last year.

Finally, Popoki came back to the tent with a selection of food and in a good humor.



Mori-nyan: Wow! Look how much food you bought, Popoki!

Mori-nyan tending their tent said.

Popoki: Meow ♪

Mori-nyan: By the way, did you go to Nada Kumin Hall (which was a public hall in Nada)?

Popoki: What?

Mori-nyan: There are some cloths from Popoki's Friendship Story exhibited and look really nice on the wall of Nada Kumin hall. Next to the space, someone is making beanbags. When I went there, many people looked at our cloths.

Popoki: Oh, I didn't know! OK! I'll try to go...

Tetsuri-nyan: Stop! Popoki!

Popoki: Huh?

Tetsuri-nyan called Popoki to stop.

Tetsuri-nyan: You are going to do a play on the small stage, right? You should go there soon!

Popoki: Oh! I'm sorry, but I forgot. What is the story?

Tetsuri-nyan: The story this year has 3 groups, cats, dogs, and rabbits. At first, they don't know about each other, so they don't help each other, even if other groups have problems. However, they finally live together helping each other. I wrote this script for visitors to think about peace from the perspective of diversity, it's the theme of Nada Challenge in this year, so I hope lots of children watch our play and think about it.

Popoki: Wow! It sounds good! OK, let's practice soon, Tetsuri-nyan.

Tetsuri-nyan: (Mumbling) How glibly...

Popoki and friends practiced hard and succeeded in performing their play.



Popoki: It was good a play!

Tetsuri-nyan: Yes! It was good for children to attend our play cheerfully. After the play, I asked the children "Can you behave like the animals in the play?" and they answered with confidence, "Yes." I was so happy to hear that.

Popoki: Really? It sounds good! I want to do a play again next year.

After

that, Popoki enjoyed seeing the exhibition and managing their shop. However the good time passed in an instant, and then it was time to finish Nada Challenge.

Popoki: I enjoyed this year too!

Mori-nyan: It was interesting that everyone enjoyed this year too. Soap Bubbles were so good. I was also happy to see a girl who we had made friends with last year.



Tetsuri-nyan: Me too. We also saw Taiki-nyan and his parents. This was why I thought that continuation was important. Our friends are increasing every year.

Popoki: Yes. Let's try to attend Nada challenge next year!

In this way, Popoki and Popoki's friend went home from Nada challenge.

Fin.

Popoki in Kodomo no Sato2013*

Suzanka-nyan & Yusuke-nyan

Suzanka-nyan "Popoki, Popoki~!! I'm here~"

Popoki "Oh! Suzanka-nyan! You are here."

"Yes, How are you, Popoki?""Yes, I'm fine, How about you, Suzanka-nyan?"

"I'm fine thank you, Oh! Popoki, where do we go today?"

"Today, we go to the wonderful place where is Kodomono sato, and play full and study something with the kids."

"That sounds is great! Hey! Everyone is coming."

Everyone is Yusuke-nyan who is leader Today, Ro-nyan, Taylor-nyan, Tetsu-nyan, Halis-nyan, Isac-nyan, and Kasumi-nyan

Yusuke-nyan "OK! Everyone is coming. Let's go!" "Yeaaaaaah"

And this is how we began our visit in Kodomo no Sato with Popoki this year...

"Yusuke-nyan, do you remember the place of Kodomono sato?"

Y "Yes. To get to Kodomono sato first we go south for the three blocks from Shinimamiya station, then turn right and go West and pass the underpass of Hankai-denki-Hankai line, and walking a little more, we will see it, right across the street from the Nishinari police station."

"OK, We are arriving at Kodomono sato. So let's go inside~"

"Excuse me >, Excuse me >, Hello >, Hello ... Long time no see! How are you, everyone?"

We are very glad to see our friends at Kodomono sato after one year, and to get a little bit closer to each other, Let's go on to the program of Today —

"Then let us begin ""Hello, everyone! My name is Yusuke-nyan!! But today please call me Po-suke because I'm with Popoki," Thus we introduced each other in the popoki way.

And after we get to Know each other, let's stretch our bodies. It's Poga time* Today's manager is...

Tetsu-nyan, in response to the request of the children.

After warming up our bodies, it's time for *Popoki study time*

"Do you like study, everyone?" "Yes... No~" "There are various opinions. But Popoki's study is a different style from the regular one. Yusuke-nyan," "That's right, Today, we have a picture-story show, and we can study by using our bodies~!!!"

We made two groups, and read the two pages of the picture-story show, which we brought. There

was one page from Popoki's Peace Book 1 and one from Book 2. Then we talked about each page in our groups.

On the page of Peace Book 1 we each thought about what color peace was. The kids taught us that there were many colors of peace. Even just comparing the color of peace, you can find it has many angles. What color is your peace?

On the page of Peace Book 2 we expressed the shape of friendship. Kids expressed many shapes of



friendship. For example, "shake hands," "arms around each other's shoulders," etc. For me, one of the most impressive shapes was "to match your hand with another person's and make a heart"!!! What do you think the shape of friendship is?

Oh dear, it's already so late! A wonderful time is going by fast, Alright then, let's do today's main menu.

"Let us make a dream town with Popoki, First, we make three groups, Each group draws a picture of a dream town where you want to live all together. You have to include Popoki in your town, Let's draw the picture!!"

Some of the kids said, "I want to play by using my body rather than drawing the picture." But the they drew, the more the kids focused on drawing. Finally we were finished! What kind of picture could you draw…?

All three groups made great pictures. In the first group, they drew a big park at the center of the picture, and they played and talked there all together. In the second group, there were two countries in the picture, When there was going to be a fight, they decided by rock-paper-scissors.



In the final group, there was a town named "Peace town", and it always had a rainbow spanning it, If I went there, I would become happy without even trying.

If there is a place where all members of earth gather, when it is going to be a fight, we can solve it by rock-paper-scissors, and always have a rainbow

spanning the sky on the earth, It may be going to be

peace on the earth.

"These are very wonderful pictures, aren't they, Popoki?"

"Yes indeed! When we share and think together, new ideas come to our mind. I think it is like a forest, because a forest seems beautiful because there are so

many trees. Respecting each other, each tree is beautiful and fine. So I think the whole

forest is beautiful."

Finally...

"We would like to sing a song with you. The song is "If you are happy, and you know it". Do you know the song? OK, let's sing!!"

Thank you very much — Thank you, Take care, everyone, See you again!!



In this program, how did Popoki's friends feel?

Kasumi-nyan: Kids at Sato expressed A LOT of feelings towards us!

Isac-nyan: Playing with the kids was a lot of fun, I was a little worried that my Japanese wouldn't be enough, but it worked out fine and even at the times I couldn't keep up with the kids they didn't seem to mind. It might have been a bit chaotic at times, but that is how kids are. Overall I had a very fun and entertaining two hours.

Yuske-nyan: Kids in Kodomono sato are very powerful!!! I think we all had a great time, and I want to meet them again as soon as possible. Thank you, Kids!! So what will we do next:)

Halis-nyan: I thought the morning spent in Kodomo no Sato was not spent at all - it was earned! It was my second time there, and as usual I could feel the energy flowing from all participants (and specially from Popoki, of course). The children are always great! I wish the best for everyone, and see you all next time!

Suzanka-nyan: this time with our friends from Kodomo no Sato... we could share lots of beautiful moments of...joy, challenge, hesitation, learning, happiness, effort, connection, harmony and appreciation...

Tetsu-nyan: I was impressed by feeling that children love the Sato and Ms Shoho, just like their own home and family.

Ro-nyan: I felt happy, and had fun thinking and playing together. Thank you!



The Volunteer Bus and Popoki

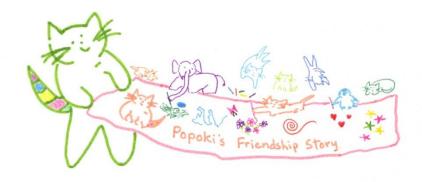
Taylor Hennesee

On April 26th, I went to Tohoku with the Kobe University Volunteer Bus for one week. I brought the Popoki Peace book and the Popoki Peace banner. This trip was focused on visiting different temporary housing communities in Rikuzentakata, and engaging with the citizens through a variety of activities. These activities included making towel animals, serving sweets and coffee, and offering a warm footbath.

As it was my first time to visit Tohoku, I did not know what to expect. It has been over two years since the disaster, so I expected the recovery process to be in full force. Upon arriving in Rikuzentakata, I looked out the bus window with my tired eyes to see the sun rising. The morning sun slowly illuminated the landscape. I saw tall mountains surrounding the city, but still an absence of buildings. Separated piles of debris speckled the once busy neighborhoods. Though the streets appeared barren, this city is still full of life. Rows of flowers have been planted in various locations, and the symbolic surviving tree continues to stand tall.

During the volunteer activities, we were reassured that the community members are still hopeful, smiling, and strong. At one community center, I was able to teach the elderly how to craft towel animals. We made penguins, dogs, rabbits, and elephants! The smaller we could make the towel animals the cuter they became. These small animals created big smiles on people's faces.

After crafting the towel animals, different people began to sign Popoki's Peace banner. The Popoki book offered a way for the community members to feel connected with other affected areas in Tohoku. On the banner, a popular trend has been to trace the outline of one's hand. This has been a powerful way for people to feel connected. Seeing people excitedly trace their hands on the banner helped me realize that this community is not limited to Rikuzentaka, but the banner creates a community across a myriad of locations.





Above: Street view of Rikuzentakata







Above: Sunlight peaking through the clouds

Below: We are all one community



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 61 This month's Poga is about stretching!



- 1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
- 2. First, kneel on your right knee and stretch your left leg out to the side. Now raise your arm and slowly stretch to the left over your leg.
- 3. Now try the other side. Kneel on your left knee, stretch out your right leg and stretch over to the right.
- 4. Finally, kneel on both knees and stretch your arms behind you. You might want to try to touch your ankles!
- 5. Did it? It is time for the 'success pose.'

Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 61. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.



Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 6/25 Kobe YMCA 19:00-

6.29-30 Hiroshima Jogakuin College again!

- 7.1 Ronyan and Popoki talk about Article 9, Osaka Lawyer's Association.
- 8.6 Remembering Hiroshima
- 8.6 Popoki at Seminar for international understanding, JICA Kansai, Kobe
- 7.28 Popoki in Su City (Ishikawa Prefecture). Sakamoto ryokan, 10:00-12:00.
- 8.6 'Popoki doesn't forget the atomic bomb!' Kobe YMCA. 08:00~
- 10.14 World Article 9 Conference in Osaka

Popoki's Friends

6.27 Knowing our Constitution! Kobe YMCA 19:00-

Please help by folding paper cranes Memorial Event for those who died on 28 July 2008 in the Tokagawa flood

「都賀川水難事故犠牲者を偲ぶ会」

7月28日に都賀川で偲ぶ会を行い、地域の方々と一緒に慰霊を行います。

偲ぶ会 プログラム

7月28日(日)午後2時より

(会場は午後1時半から7時まで開放)

場所 都賀川公園

(「グルメシティ灘」の東側、甲橋付近)

- ごあいさつ
- 唱 (神戸市立長峰中学校 コーラス部)
- 奏 (甲陽音楽学院生)
- 献 奏 (浅田門下生)
- (神戸市立葺合高等学校 コーラス部)
- 終わりのことば



昨年の偲ぶ会の様子

Please make your cranes on paper that is 15cm x 15 cm. Please string them together in strings of 25 each. You can deliver them to Ronyan at Kobe University by 15 July.



折り鶴のお願い

7月28日の偲ぶ会の際に、子どもたちや地域の皆さんに折っていただいた折り鶴を都 賀川にかけたいと思います。折り鶴を折っていただきますよう、ご協力お願いします。

- ★ 折り鶴は 15cm×15cm の折り紙の大きさを考えていますが、お手元にある折り紙等、 小さいもの、紙を15cm×15cm程度に切ったもの等、お使いいただいて結構です。規定 はありませんので、ご協力よろしくお願いいたします。
- ★ また、折り鶴を糸でつないでいただければ、助かります。25個ずつ糸でつないでく ださい。
- ★ 作っていただいた折り鶴は、7月1日以降、灘区民ホールで随時預かっていただけま すので、そちらに預けてください。あるいは、当日 11 時から 12 時の間に偲ぶ会の会 場に届けていただいても結構です。

A sudden torrential rain caused the river to flood. Four people, including three children, lost their lives. This group wants to ensure that children are safe and that adults watch out for them.

Popoki in Print

'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)
- R. Alexander. "Remembering Hiroshima: Bio-Politics, Popoki and Sensual Expressions of War." *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Vol.14:2:202-222, June 2012
- *Article 9 is at the base of Peace with Popoki" Kodomo to Mamoru 9 jono kai News, No.66, 2012.5.12
- > "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
- K. Wada. "Conversations with Ronni Alexander: The Popoki Peace Project; Popoki, What Color is Peae? Popoki, What Color is Friendship?" *International Feminist Journal of Politics* Vol.13, No.2, 2011, 257-263
- S. McLaren. "The Art of Healing" (Popoki Friendship Story Project) *Kansai Scene*. Issue 133, June 2011, p.10. kansaiscene.com
- R. Alexander. (2010) "The Popoki Peace Project: Creating New Spaces for Peace in Demenchonok, E., ed. *Philosophy after Hiroshima*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp.399-418
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- "What is Behind 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' 1st in a series in "Tosabori Life" No.19 2010.10:4 (In Japanese)
- HORIKOSHI Takeshi. "Kokusai no mado" (article about Palestine) Kobe YMCA News No.604 2010.9-10, p.3
- "If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine" THE YMCA No.607 June 2010, p.1 (YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper)
- Hiroshima and the World: What Color is Hiroshima? Chugoku Shimbun Peace Media Center, http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20100312140608602_en 2010.3.15
- FM COCOLO 76.5 'Heart Lines' 2010.1.9 Japanese Interview: Ronni on Popoki in Palestine
- "Human Rights, Popoki and Bare Life." In Factis Pax Journal of Peace Education and Social Justice Vol.3, No.1, 2009, pp.46-63 (http://www.infactispax.org/journal/)
- Nishide, Ikuyo. "Popoki, What Color is Peace? Lecture by Ronni Alexander." "PPSEAWA" (Pan-Pacific and south-East Asia Women's Association of Japan), No.63, 2009.12, p.5
- 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
- Yuiotte...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
- New Books: *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* '(Rebecca Jennison) "Cutting-Edge," Vol.35 2009.6, p.3
- > '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
- 'Popoki, What Color is Trash?' Kobe YMCA News, 2009.1.1. No.592. p.2
- 'Tomodachi ni Natte Kuremasenkai,' RST/ALN, 2009.2.22
- Popoki on the radio. http://www.kizzna.fm/ Click on 6CH to hear the program and reading of Popoki in Japanese
- Yasashii kara hito nann desu Exhibition Organizing Committee 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights.' Hyogo Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Institute. 2008.10. ¥500. For information contact: blrhyg@osk3.3web.jp
- * "KFAW College Seminar: What Color is Peace for Women? Thinking about Peace, Violence and Gender with Popoki." Asian Breeze No.54 October 2008, p.8 (Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women)
- Kobe Shimbun "Human Rights Declaration Exhibition Panels: 6 Local Hyogo Artists Illustrate all 30 Articles" 2008.10.8. p.10
- *An Interview with Dr. Ronni Alexander." *The Newpeople*, Pittsburgh's Peace and Justice Newspaper, Vol.38 No.9, October 2008, p.5
- "Nuclear Security is In
- ➤ Human Security Dr. Ronni Alexander speaks about Hiroshima and Nagasaki." *The Newpeople*, Pittsburgh's Peace and Justice Newspaper, Vol.38 No.9, Oct. 2008, p.4
- 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

Text: Taiki

Editing: Taiki Papa; Supervising: Taiki Mama

Illustration: Taiki Translation: Ronyan

I first met Popoki just a year ago at 'Nada Challenge.'

Last year I was a guest, but this year I joined the other Popoki Peace Project members on the 'Nada Challenge Mini Stage' as a participant. (The illustration is of this year's Nada Challenge).

As a guest, I thought, "It looks like fun. I wish I could join them...."

And this year I was able to join the Popoki group as a member.

It was even more fun than I thought it would be when I was a guest, and I was really happy. I want to keep on being with Popoki's members from now on, too.

From Taiki

PS: Where am I in this drawing? (Hint: You can find the answer on Youtube!)



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 have recently published a new 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

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 and Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2 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

Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

http://popoki.cruisejapan.com

From within Japan, please use our Postal account or Postal bank account:

Account Name ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト神戸

Postal Account number: 00920-4-28035

Postal Bank (Yuucho Ginko) account number: Branch No.:099;

Branch name: 009 店、special account(当座) 0280350



thank you from POPOKI!