

JAPAN ART MILE

A NEWSLETTER



INTRODUCTION

Grade 11IB students participated in Japan Art Mile, a collaborative learning project offered by International Intercultural Mural Exchange (IIME) Japan. Students worked on the assigned curriculum and also painted an art mural in partnership with Japanese students through an online forum.

THEME OF THE MURAL

“With eyes opening to COVID-19 as a new reality, our young generation is facing a unique situation which has not been experienced before. The students will work collaboratively to find new ways to find sustainable solutions to live COVID free in their foreseeable future. We will incorporate SDG # 12 (Sustainable consumption and production) in our theme.”

Students’ art work along with videos and pictures were posted on this educational online forum. They participate in a skype conference during school with their partner school in Japan. JAM team sent the half painted mural along with special commercial waterproof paints for us to paint the other half of the mural.

Even though our community was facing unprecedented times of COVID-19, yet, students stayed determined in completing all the tasks assigned to them. The level of determination and the quality of their work shows their sense of responsibility towards their school, community and this world.



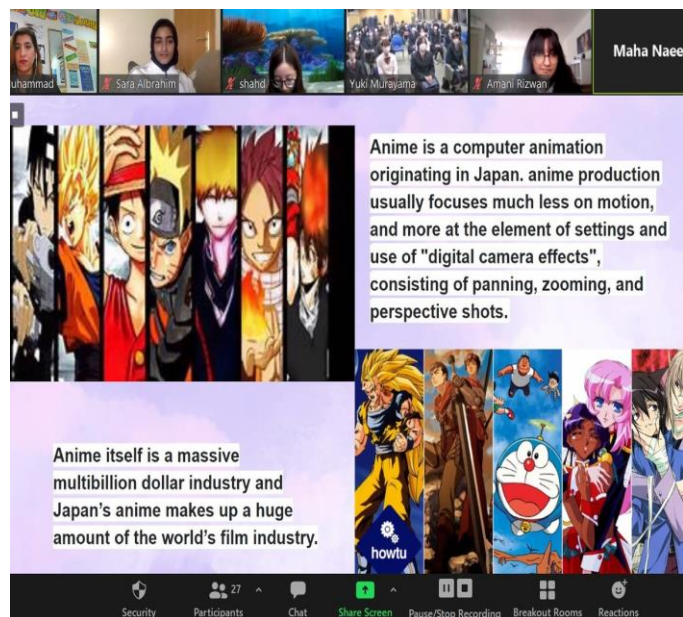
PROCESS

Toyojoshi Senior High School Japan got started on their half of the mural. When we received the mural, we were delighted to see what they painted as well as how well they were able to collect the thoughts and convey their message so wonderfully. With our excitement for the project at a full-time high, we had finally reached the point at which we could get started on painting the mural.

Ever since the month of August, we have been working in order to compile and comprehend the relevant information to the topic decided upon, sustainable solutions to living COVID-free in their foreseeable future." We have had a total of 2 online video conferences with our friends at Toyojoshi Senior High School Japan, in order to share our ideas on the topic. We also took the time to learn about each other's cultures and countries and were delighted to see that they found our culture as fascinating as we found theirs to be.

After discussing what elements we thought it would be suitable to add in the mural, our friends at

Before we could get our hands dirty and draw on the mural, we had to gather all



our ideas into one drawing. In order to do that, students prepared their drawings and sent them to the head of art at our school, so she could merge them into one cohesive drawing. After the final draft of the sketch was ready, we were ready to book the dates we would be working on the mural.

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PROCESS

We were all sent a form to fill out for the purpose of allocating dates that would be suitable for everyone involved while adhering to COVID-19 safety measures. On the first two days, we attended, we drew and sketched out the design on the mural. On the third day, we officially started painting our section of the mural. The painting was done with the same paints used by Toyojoshi Senior High School Japan in order to remain consistent. The process of painting took about 10 days to complete. With a whole lot of hard work, commitment, and perseverance, we were able to efficiently complete the mural art in just 2 weeks!

When we reached the final stage of writing our names and taking pictures with the mural, we were all sad that this artistic journey we had embarked on, had ended. Nonetheless, we are proud and delighted to see the result of our collaboration that we had worked on for a long period of time, and we are grateful to have worked alongside Ms. Saira, Ms. Hadeer, and our friends from Toyojoshi Senior High School Japan.



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WHAT DO THE SYMBOLS MEAN?



The mural was designed to have certain elements that represent different aspects to exhibit the message that the mural displays. Firstly, the cars inside the bike represent the eco- friendly transportation alternatives. The books inside the laptop represent the continuation of our education, which has been moved online, in which we take virtual classes due to the challenges that COVID- 19 has caused.



The hands and hearts that are drawn and painted all over the mural represent the joining of hands and showing care and support for each other' s mental well- being and expressing kinship. Last but not least, the bird represents that together we can spread our wings to achieve a better and brighter future in peace.

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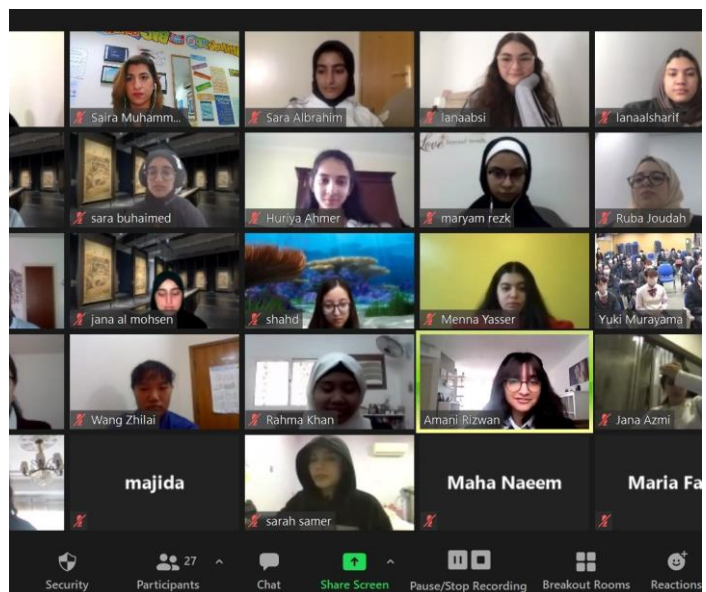
THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS



We went around and asked people a couple of questions about what they did and felt about the JAM project. The first question we asked was **How was the JAM experience?** The comments were all positive saying things such as *“the experience was unforgettable”* and *“It was a very pleasant yet challenging experience. The preparations and research was time-consuming, but the outcome was totally rewarding”*.

Secondly, we asked them **what their opinion was on the project**, the responses were mostly positive, but some of them also had some negative

Numerous students were saying that it was an eye-opening experience and that they *“have learned a lot from both Saudis and Japanese’ culture”* along with them loving the objective of the mural being about raising awareness about living in a sustainable world post COVID-19. But on the other hand, they have also mentioned how disappointed they were because their project could have looked a bit better since they *“didn't like how soft and cozy the design for the mural is as well as the colors. I had hoped for something more extravagant and impressive”*.

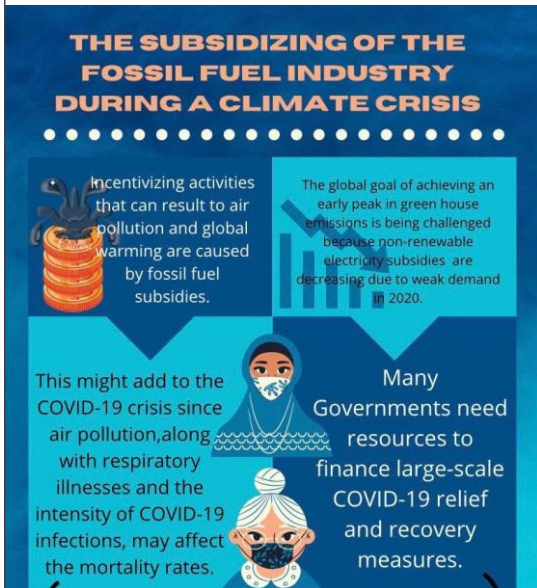


The third question was **what they thought of the process?** Everyone has said that it was good and the teamwork was amazing, but they have also said that it was tiring and time-consuming nevertheless it was all worth it.

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THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS



The final question we asked was, “**did you learn anything new?**” Most students agreed that **they have learned how to communicate with people from different cultures better,**

One student has said “*I have mentioned before that it showed me aspects of teamwork and allowed me to work off my limits. However, if we are talking about the information, I have actually learned much*”.

The students learned a great deal about the economic and environmental aspects to post- COVID possibilities and it never failed to make me realize that COVID-19 is not only a health threat but also an economic and environmental disruption globally. It has also allowed me to know that those disruptions can just be temporary since we did come with tones of solutions to raise awareness and limit plastic, electronic waste consumption.”



WRITTEN BY:

PROCESS: DEEMA KATERJI

WHAT DO THEY MEAN?: MAHA NAEEM

THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS: SARAH JUMAA