

# The 9<sup>th</sup> Support Our Kids Homestay Program

# FRANCE

## Photo Report



June 2019  
Support Our Kids Committee

# OVERVIEW

## ■Program

Date : June 7, 2019 (FRI) ~ June 18, 2019 (WED)

※May 19 (SUN) : Orientation @ Tohoku Fukushi University

※June 7 (FRI) : 2<sup>nd</sup> Orientation @ Embassy of France in Tokyo

※June 18 (WED) : Closing Ceremony @ Lycée français international de Tokyo

Country : FRANCE (Chahaignes and Le Mans City)

Participants : 9 students (14~16 years old)

Content : Homestay

French Lessons

Visit to a local school

Presentation about Great East Japan Earthquake

Presentation on making Japanese Tea

Cultural Exchange

Activities

(Table Manner lessons, Petanque, Go-karting,  
meeting with UNESCO, Le Mans 24H

Sight-seeing

(Château du Lude, old town of Le Mans)

## ■Supported By

Embassy of France in Tokyo, UNESCO, ACO, Chahaignes, Le Mans Chez Miton, Collège Pierre de Ronsard, Val de Loir Petanque 72, AIRFRANCE, Canal Café, TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION, Mazda Motor Corporation, MZRacing, ITO EN,LTD., Association Franco-Japonais SAKURA, Spark Models, BTP CFA Sarthe, Lycée français international de Tokyo, TERRAMOS  
(titles omitted)

## ■Produced By

Mr. Yojiro Terada



# Orientation

Date : June 7 (FRI) 12:00~17:00

Venue : Embassy of France in Tokyo



- Opening Remarks
- Guest Introduction
- Guest Greeting
- Embassy Tour
- Student Introduction & Presentation
- Greetings by Minister Counselor Jean-Baptiste LESECQ
- Program
  - ①Schedule
  - ②About MAZDA/Le Mans 24
- Japanese Tea presentation
- Student Presentation
- Case Study
- Travel Insurance



I learned so many things from today's orientation. What stood out the most was Mr. Hirano's lesson and advice on how to do a good presentation. He said that there are 3 concepts to keep in mind to improve public speaking:

1. To stand out 2. Take active communication 3. Have respect

I would like to get closer to the people I will meet in France so I will try to do my best to do as he advised.





# Departure



We departed Tokyo and arrived in France. We've had wonderful encounters and discoveries during this time, which is with the supporters of Support Our Kids Project.



AirFrance who prepared a special check-in counter for us, Tully's Coffee Japan who donates to the homestay program and finally Julie & Georges who will help us with French and Japanese translations during our stay in France. It has been inspiring to actually meet the supporters and who help make this project possible.

I will not forget this gratitude, and will take this chance to learn and discover as much as I can in this program.

I looked back and reflected on our orientation yesterday, during our 11 hour flight from Tokyo to France. I also worried about language barriers, such as being unable to communicate with my host family, or if they will be kind. However, instead of worrying, I will take a positive attitude and do my best in this program.





# Château du Lude



I have always been interested in French history, especially the French Revolution. I was fascinated by the luxurious halls and modern bedrooms that imitate Chinese style in the Middle Ages, and a library that seemed to me like a fairy tale.



## Chahaignes June 9 ~ June 12 [Welcome Party] meeting host families

The day I have been waiting for has finally arrived, and it is the day we meet Our host families. I was very happy to meet such a kind family.

1. I didn't expect French homes to have basketball hoops.
2. The staple diet in France is bread.

I will try my best to learn as much French as I can, and to deepen my bond With my host family so they can be my second family.





## 【French Lessons】



We had French lessons today. Our lesson today was about self-introduction, learning dates and days of the week. French is a unique language and has a difficult pronunciation but our teachers were patient in teaching us. Though it is very difficult to understand, I felt such great satisfaction when I learned to understand words and sentences. I will try even harder tomorrow and actively ask questions to our kind teachers.



## 【PETANQUE Experience】



Petanque has a history of over 100 years and is considered a traditional French outdoor game. The team we played with consisted of about 7 to 15 year old kids, and was very surprised to see them play very well! The balls used in Petanque were unique, made of metal and quite heavy. It was difficult to control due to its weight, but the kids were very kind and patient in teaching us the rules.





## 【Table Manner Lessons】



We had table manner lessons today, while having lunch cooked by Naoko-san of Chez Miton. I understood the table setting and positions of forks and knives, but did not know about changing the utensils for each meal. I don't have many chances to eat French dishes in Japan so this lesson was a very valuable time for us.

Ms. Naoko's cooking was very delicious and would love to have it every day!

## 【Visit to a local school 「College Pierre de Ronsard」】



Today, we visited a local school for a cultural exchange and do a presentation about the Great East Japan Earthquake. One of my discoveries today was that teaching Japanese culture to others helped me realize and see the beauty of our own culture. The students we met actively embraced the difference of our cultures, which I believe is important especially in our present and globalized world. Our presentation today didn't go so well, as we were not able to finish and express our gratitude for France and everyone's support to Japan and this project. Though we failed today, it is also an opportunity to grow and improve. Once again, I would like to think back and review our roles as "Reconstruction Ambassadors". I believe focusing on our roles in this program will help us spend our time wisely, and not let go anything to waste.





## 【Last night at Chahaignes! Dinner Party with host families】



We had a dinner party with all host families during our last night in Chahaignes. Each family cooked meals to bring to party, and while we were doing so, it was a memorable time for me as we taught each other our own languages and felt a strong bond with my family.

This experience has taught me the importance of the desire to grow and learn. Learning French words, one by one, has been a fun experience.



My host family and I made crepes for the dinner party. The dough was stretched on a frying pan, and used a dragonfly shaped utensil that is different from what is used in Japan. After cooking, we put jam and syrup, instead of cream which is more common in Japan. It was a great time to spend with my host family, as we sang different songs while cooking. This last night have been a time full of fun and appreciation to everyone.





# Le Mans June 13 ~ June 17

## 【Go-kart Experience】



I was so nervous for go-karting today because our lecture only consisted of learning how to sit, and the position of accelerator and brake. However, as we started driving around the circuit, the more I started to enjoy being able to control the car. I realized that the science and physics I learned in school applies to how these cars are made, and that “craftsmanship” comes from easy and small things.

Although I was 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the race, I actually cooperated with another during our 2<sup>nd</sup> race to beat the 1<sup>st</sup> place driver, which made it even more competitive and fun.

It was also a memorable experience to start the race through the traditional “Le Mans” start!



## 【Lunch Party hosted by MAZDA】



Although our Great East Japan Earthquake presentation to MAZDA ended as a failure, we had discoveries and valuable lessons learned from this. In particular, we learned that one important thing to consider during a presentation is the audience. We were distracted by how long our presentation was going to be that we didn't consider the who we were presenting too.

Our final group presentation will be at the Farewell Party so we will take this lesson and finally make it a success.

We attended Mazda's lunch party today. The menu consisted of Japanese food such as cutley curry, miso soup and rice. Although French dishes are delicious, nothing beats home from your own country.





## 【Strolling through the old town of Le Mans】



## 【Driver's Parade】



## 【Dinner Party at Ms. Haruko's home】





# [ 24 Heures du Mans ]



Being able to watch the 24H Race at the Grand Stand seats made our experience even more valuable. I was extremely proud as we witnessed Toyota finished in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Hearing our national anthem in France made me even more proud of being Japanese.



I always thought the drivers were the key player in a race, until Mr. Terada taught us the importance of engineers. I learned that the teamwork between a driver and an engineer is the key.

I will never forget the moment we witnessed Toyota win 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 24H race. I also felt pride and excitement as they played our National Anthem at the awards ceremony.

Right after the race, we saw team members cry and hug each other, showing the massive effort they put into the race. Seeing adults who continue to challenge themselves was very inspiring, and hope that I can grow up to be like that someday. Continuing to do what I love and challenging myself, despite how old I get.





## 【Meeting with Mr. Le Saux — Deputy Director of BSP, UNESCO】



UNESCO seems to be famous for world heritage sites, but we learned their important role and purpose in the world. It is to help the world understand cultures, help others love themselves and others to create peace. I was very moved as Mr. Le Saux presented this during our meeting.

We also spoke about our own experiences during the disaster, and talked about each of our future dreams. I explained that I wanted to be a teacher, to help the next generation of youth which I believe will help with the reconstruction of Tohoku. Then, Mr. Le Saux commented that he was once a teacher and he wished me the very best so I can contribute in the future. I am very thankful for his encouraging words, and will do my best in the future.

## 【Spark Models Shop】



## 【Toyota Gazoo Racing Paddock】





## [Farewell Dinner Party]



I made a promise to my host family after the Farewell Dinner Party.  
*"I will keep trying my best and study French, and I will come back to see you again".*

My host family taught me French every day and this helped me realize the joys of learning and communicating in a new language. It also became a reason to my decision on working a career in a foreign country in the future. I also made this promise, because of the kindness, warmth and love they gave me, and want to reunite again in the future.



Mr. Terada hosted a farewell dinner party, inviting everyone who have supported us these past 2 weeks. This was a special day for us as it was the last chance to express our gratitude to everyone. Apart from everyone in France, I also spent most of my time with my team members. Even though our thoughts would clash from different opinions and the group would divide, we also had a great time together.

Which is why this night, and our last presentation was very important to us. Despite the failures and the hardships we went through, we all put in our 100% effort in making our very best presentation, together as one time.

Our time in France was made possible and special because of the love and support of many. You all treated us kindly and lovingly, and we will never forget the memorable time we spent together. Thank you so much!



# Closing Ceremony

Date : June 18 (TUE) 11:30~12:00

Venue : Lycée français international de Tokyo



This all began when I decided to take a small step in applying to Support Our Kids. From this small step, I ended up witnessing an even bigger world outside my hometown. This taught me that in achieving great things, all that is necessary is one small step. As you encounter many people who support you, the bigger your following steps became. The moment you achieve something, you see the joy, support and love that helped you. This is what the France homestay program was for me. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my family who supported this small step, my team who supported each other all the way, and to all of our supporters who supported us and the project. Thank you!!!

