

Popoki



Newsletter

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http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



May! The rainy season has come to Popoki's town. All the greenery is looking fresh and happy but Popoki dislikes getting wet. Even so, he uses a big umbrella and rain boots so that he can enjoy rainy days, too. What do you do in order to enjoy rainy days?

Popoki's Hot News!



"Popoki's Mask Gallery – Living the Covid-19 Pandemic"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjT1ZjVUsm8&t=3s>

Popoki's House

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8OCzg64oH8>

Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, *Kiyo-nyan*, sent the following piece of peace.



"I believe that a day will come when we can all laugh together about simple things. So for now, let's try to do what we can."

What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today? Please let us know by sending a message to Popoki's e-mail: [ronniandpopoki \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) !

“Please listen! We have these dreams!” Activity Report

Yukiko Esashi
Director, NPO Ohanashi Kororin

Many people say that as 11 March 2021, the 10th anniversary of the Great Northeast Japan Disaster, approached, they had more opportunities than usual to see photos and videos showing the tsunami and what happened on that day, but that every time they saw them, they felt depressed. Reflection is important, but I think what is necessary for the disaster area now is to live every day well, and to look forward to a bright future with hope.

So, I decided to plan this activity to have children talk of their dreams, giving local residents a chance to use that strong positive energy to encourage themselves. I thought that for the children, it would help them to seek out new possibilities and help to foster love for their home town.

The activity consisted of a questionnaire. Children who were one year old at the time of the Great Northeast Japan Disaster are now in fifth grade, and there are 248 of them in Ofunato City. I sent a questionnaire to all of them, and 244 children responded (response rate: 98%). Each person who returned the questionnaire was given a copy of Ronni’s “Popoki, can you draw feeling safe?”, and I hoped that through drawing they would think more deeply. I was grateful to be able to collaborate with Popoki Peace Project in this way.

The questionnaire had just 2 questions. (1) What is your dream? (Written with a maximum of 50 characters) and (2) What makes you feel genki and feel safe? (Draw a picture freely).

For (1), they gave concrete answers such as “dental hygienist,” “fisherman like my father,” “fire fighter,” “a pharmacist who helps combat COVID-19,” “pâtissier,” “run a ranch,” or “programmer.” Most of the children had a clear goal. Some of them responded in the context of social issues, saying, “world peace,” “the end of the COVID-19 pandemic,” or “end global warming.” It is encouraging to know that some want to respond to local needs, such as “make Ofunato a city where marine industries are popular,” or “help people who are disabled or who can not walk.”

In response to (2), they expressed themselves freely with drawings of televisions, video games, family and friends, hobbies, sports, scenery and other things. Although it is possible to could identify some trends, they were all different. I felt as if I could see their smiling faces in the vitality of the lines of their drawings.

I put up the surveys in an exhibition room in a public building so that local residents and visitors could view them. They were there from 11 March to 22 April. After the exhibit is over, I hope to post some of the responses in a public space, and continue to share the children’s genki with the community.

Poster at the entrance of the exhibit

聞いてください!

私たちはこんな**夢**を抱いています!



期間:令和3年3月11日 ~ 3月31日
9:00-22:00

主催:特定非営利活動法人おはなしころりん 後援:大船渡市教育委員会/神戸大学大学院国際協力研究科



東日本大震災から10年の節目となる令和3年3月11日を
むかえるにあたり、震災当時1歳だった大船渡市内全小学校の5
年生を対象にアンケート調査を行いました。

「あなたの夢は何ですか」の問いには文章を、
「あなたを元気にさせるもの、または安心させるものは何です
か」の問いには自由に絵を描いてもらいました。

子どもたちの明るい未来と希望を感じ取っていただきたいと思
います。

なお、展示にあたり学校ごとではなく、全校を混ぜて順不同で
並べてあります。



おはなしころりんのSDGs

4 質の高い教育を みんなに	11 住み続けられる まちづくりを	17 パートナリシップで 目標を達成しよう
		

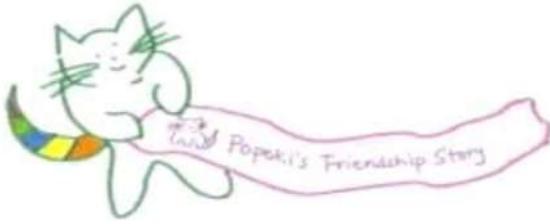
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Picture book present!
*Popoki, Can you draw
 feeling safe?*
 Drawing corner!





Popoki's Interview



* We have started a new series of interviews with Popoki's friends in different places. We are asking about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. This time we have a report about children in Japan.

As you might know, more than a year has passed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Japan is now facing the 4th wave of infection. Osaka, whose government originally took aggressive action, formulating its own model for an infection warning system, has now surpassed Tokyo in the number of active COVID-patients.

A year ago, my coworkers and I were doing our best to restart in-person classes safely. Thanks to classroom changes and parents' cooperation, we have had no incidents to date. Instead, I think our small community English school is stronger than ever. As a teacher, this last year has been difficult and surreal, but I wanted to check in with one of my classes, a group of 3rd and 5th grade students whom I met for the very first time online to see what they think. The following interview occurred half through questionnaire and half in-person.

Besanyan

At any point in this last year, were you afraid of the virus? Specifically, what was scary? Why?

A-nyan: Yes, I was scared when there was a COVID-19 infection at the school I go to. When that happened, we only had a single day off from school.

Y-nyan: I'm scared of the mutant viruses because young people are also easily infected.

S-nyan: People dying is scary.

A-nyan and Y-nyan go to the same school. Y-nyan heard that some parents had become infected. S-nyan's parents heard the same, but at her school, there were neither any official announcements nor any days off which she thought was a headache.

What do you do when you feel scared?

A-nyan: I go to bed.

Y-nyan: I mask up when I'm at school or at a place where there's a lot of people.

S-nyan: I listen to my favorite idol songs. I calm down. Not really happy songs or sad songs, but cute songs like those from Strawberry Prince.

What do you think about COVID now?

A-nyan: I hate it.

Y-nyan: I'm angry.

S-nyan: I want it to hurry up and disappear.

The girls said they were frustrated that they can't go anywhere or do anything and they've heard that it will be like this for another two years.

What do the people around you think? (Who? What? Why?)

A-nyan: My father wishes it would go away soon.

Y-nyan: Dad wants the pandemic to end.

S-nyan: My friends want corona to go away and make this norm of a mask life go away.

Y-nyan admitted that her mom says a lot of lot of bad things about Chinese people now. S-nyan remarked that her mom told her not all Chinese are bad.

About a year ago, the three of you met together for the first time online. Can you please explain how the internet helped you become friends?

A-nyan: We chatted and made video calls online.

Y-nyan: There were a lot of troubles, but I did my best to enter class on time.

S-nyan: We called through Skype.

In person, the girls excitedly reminisced about when we had online lessons. When the teachers would log off, there were many times the girls would stay online. "Sometimes we thought about calling you", they said, but in reality, it seems they have completely forgotten about when they did call the school's Skype. We definitely scolded them for it, but it is touching that even in an online environment the girls would want to build a relationship with us. Also, it seems that the girls were impressed with Skype's selection of "Demon Slayer" GIFs and would send them to each other. It seems that through that, despite their age gap, they were able to find common ground. Even after my company returned to in-person lessons, the girls continued to chat and video call. Therefore, becoming friends.

What did you think of our online classes? What did your school do last year? How was it?

A-nyan: I thought it was fine to have online classes. At my elementary school, there was only one time we went online for practice, but we couldn't do anything at all with it.

Y-nyan: Whether a classroom or online, it was fun. With my elementary school, we stayed home until June last year, but then all of our classes have been in person.

S-nyan: We had online classes called Teams, but because everyone from other schools tried to enter at the same time, in the end only 4 students could enter. Online is OK but in person is better.

A-nyan and Y-nyan's school tried a system called Just Smile Drill whereas S-nyan's school tried to use a system called "Teams". According to S-nyan, it was decided that other schools within Osaka prefecture were to use it at the same time, thus the network became congested and, in the end, only 4 students could enter their "classroom". After that one-time experience the girls' schools both gave up.

Is it different now? If so, how? What do you think?

A-nyan: It was scarier last year. It's a little different now that vaccines have been made.

Y-nyan: We went less to school last year. I'm sad. Now, despite the emergency order, people are still going out.

S-nyan: At first, people thought it was normal – that it was like a cold or like the flu. It is different now, but I think people care less now than they did last year.

Last year was there something you wanted to do, but couldn't? Is there something you still can't do because of the coronavirus? What?

A-nyan: My gymnastics exhibition was cancelled.

Y-nyan: We should have been able to visit my grandma. My cousins can go by car, but my family would have to travel by plane, so we couldn't go.

S-nyan: We still can't go swimming in the pool or travel. My school cancelled the sports festival.

I asked the girls if there was anything they didn't want to do that got cancelled. They couldn't think of any, but right before the pandemic started in December, S-nyan went to Europe because her family was thinking of resettling for school. She doesn't consider it exactly relevant to the question, but she hated the idea and would have rather gone to Hawaii. However, no matter what, they can't go until the pandemic is over so they don't know what they will do now.

If you could go back in time one year and say something to the whole world, what would you say?

A-nyan: I want to say “Going out is forbidden!”

Y-nyan: I want you to give the vaccine to as many people as possible.

S-nyan: I want to tell Chinese people, “Don’t come to Japan”.

I was a little surprised by S-nyan’s answer and asked her to clarify. She is under the impression that during the Lunar New Year Chinese tourists didn’t visit Japan as much as they normally would, but rather there was a general increase in tourism.

Did mommy or daddy’s job change because of the coronavirus? If so, how? What do you think about that?

A-nyan: It didn’t change.

Y-nyan: Dad’s job changed to teleworking.

S-nyan: Their jobs changed to teleworking, but I think it’s a good thing that they don’t have to go outside.

During “Stay Home” what did you do with your family?

A-nyan: Made dinner with both parents. Apparently, both of her parents are good cooks.

Y-nyan: Parents were still busy so did nothing.

S-nyan: Watched a lot of movies. Looked at pictures from before COVID. She thought that once it’s safe she’d like to go to those places again. Dad had to leave earlier.

Now there are many students who want to study in Japan, but aren’t allowed to come to Japan due to the coronavirus. Do you know that? What do you think about that?

A-nyan: I want the country’s representatives to think about the foreign students too.

Y-nyan: It’s really sad.

S-nyan: I know about it. I want COVID to go away and them to come study in Japan as soon as possible.

In this last year has your image of other countries (any country) changed? If so, how have they changed? Why?

A-nyan: Because there are countries with many cases, I became a little afraid of them.

Y-nyan: I saw on television that there are few people that are going out.

S-nyan: It's changed. I think it's cruel that in places like the U.S., people are punching people of Asian descent and telling them "Go home!"

People living in various countries will read this interview. Is there something you'd like to say to them?

A-nyan: It's a time of perseverance. I'll do my best.

Y-nyan: I want you to strategize against the virus. For example, in Hawaii because people have been vaccinated, more people are not wearing masks and the cases are increasing.

S-nyan: There's still problems, but let's give it our all.

Right now everyone's school schedule is as follows.

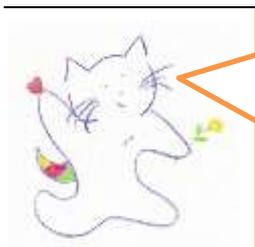
At A-nyan and Y-nyan's school, 1st period is studying at home and then they go to school during 2nd period. 3rd and 4th period consists of in-school classes. When that ends, they eat lunch and go home where they will study for 5th and 6th periods. From May 21st, school will return to its normal schedule.

At S-nyan's school too, there are classes until 4th period then the students eat lunch together and go home. However, students there go to school from 1st period. Her school will return to its normal schedule on May 24th, but P.E. will be done outside instead of in the gymnasium.

The girls also reported that homework has not increased, and they have heard nothing about summer vacation.

Besides Hip-Hop and gymnastics, all of the extracurricular lessons have not changed.

Presently, the state of emergency declaration is scheduled until May 31st.

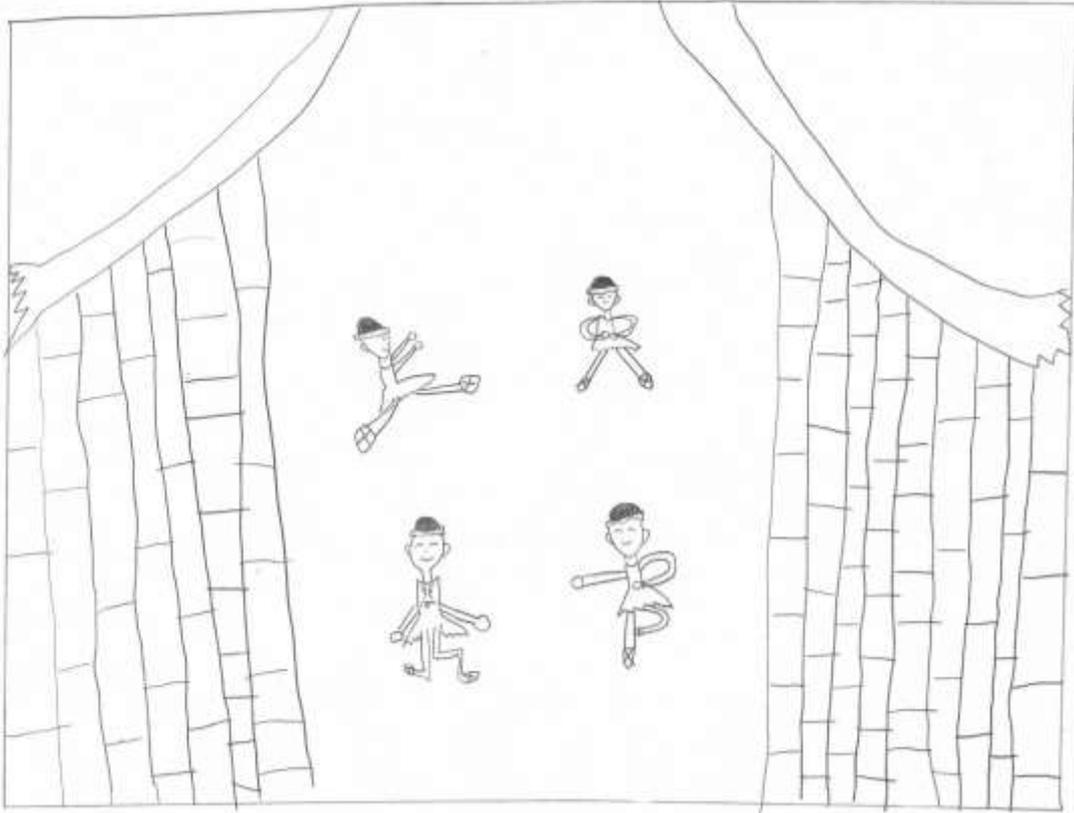


I want the COVID-19 pandemic to end soon, too! I want to meet people from every country and play with them, and to make friends with people from lots of different countries! There is not just one reason why COVID-19 spread around the world and not just one country is responsible. One thing I've learned from COVID is that everyone's health and genki are connected. What is important is instead of excluding people, we all join hands and work together to find a solution!

Think about what has happened over this year and draw a picture of your thoughts.



Aにゃん: Every day I fold laundry.



Yにゃん: This August, I'm supposed to participate in my ballet recital. It's special because it's an event that happens only once every two years.



Sにゃん: Me listening to my favorite idol songs.

POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 157 This month's theme is stretching our shoulders and lower backs!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, stand on your knees. Raise your arms and bend your elbows, so you look like a cactus. Now, keeping your chin down and head in line with your back, slowly do a shallow backbend. Come back, and try again!
3. Next, bring your shoulder blades together and take your right hand to your right ankle, your left hand to your left ankle! If it seems too far away, try raising your feet to your toes, or doing one side at a time. Hold for a few breaths, relax, and try again. If all else fails, just use your tail!
4. Okay! Now let's stretch our backs the other way! With your legs stretched out long, stretch your arms over your head and down along your legs, rounding your back and keeping your body long.
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: 2020.6.12 @ zoom* 19:00

Everyone is welcome. We always use the same link, so send an email if you need it.

8.4 15:00~16:30 Seminar for Multi-cultural Living Together: "Thinking with the cat Popoki about being and feeling safe, and making peace!" Online seminar, advance reservation required.

September ~ November In person Nada-Challenge!?!)

Reading Suggestions from Popoki's Friends

Otsuchi-cho (July, 2019). "Ikiru Akashi - Iwateken Otsuchi-cho Higashi nihon daishinsai kirokushi" (Testimony of Living: A Record of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture). Editorial Supervision: Otsuchi-cho Board of Education, others.

•アレキサンダー ロニー&桂木聡子 (2020)「被災体験後「今」を表現する : 絵から読み取れる被災ナラティブ」『国際協力論集』27(2)、17-32 (2020年1月発行) http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/infolib/meta_pub/detail

• Alexander, Ronni (2021) "The Meaning of Art in Disaster Support: Stories from the Popoki Peace Project" "Journal of International Cooperation Studies, 28(2), 1-22. http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/infolib/meta_pub/detail

Popoki in Print * Back issues of Popoki News: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html



- Alexander & Katsuragi. “Expressing ‘Now’ after Experiencing Disaster: Reading Disaster Narratives from Drawings.” *Journal of International Cooperation Studies*, 27(2), 2020.2.
- “Popoki Mini Peace Film Festival,” *Kobe YMCA News* No.652, July/August 2017, p.3
- 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)
- 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 Peace? 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
- 省窓 : Column in *Kobe YMCA News*, No.606, 2011.1, p.1 (*In Japanese*)
- “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
- ‘Yujotte...Kangaeru Ehon.’ *Asahi Shimbun* 2009.7.2 AKUZAWA Etsuko
- ‘Ujo 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 (No longer available)
- *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
- 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/>



What Popoki Means to Me

Shiro Nagashige(Shironyan)

Hello everyone!

I participated in the Po-kai for the first time in a long time. Ronyan and Satonyan, it's been a long time.

I have more than 10 activity sites, but Popoki is the origin of my activities.

After the meeting was over, the memories of the past activities came back, one after another.

Interacting with students at Semester at Sea, Hiroshima Memorial Event and Pittsburgh Skype Exchange in Kobe, Peace and Health Program at Hyogo University of Health Sciences.... At Kio University, every time I was energized by the brightness of young female students. Then, at the workshop at "Airin Kodomo no Sato", where I was inspired by, and learned from the children, and at the Palestine workshop, the children who were victims of the conflict hurt my heart. Among many memories, Mr.Takashi Morizumi's nuclear test photo exhibition workshop was shocking. When stupid human beings who are striving to develop nuclear weapons are finally stopped, it is painful to think that it may be the time when human beings have all been destroyed. However, I am convinced that it is important to continue to appeal for No More Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Once again, Popoki is undoubtedly the starting point for my activities. Young students set out for a new life when the time comes, but I believe that the spirit of Popoki will be taken over to the next Page.

Finally, I would like to share these words with everyone.

"As we overcome the global pandemic, have courage and confidence for the future!!!"

Thank you.



Photo of Popoki Memories



Semester at Sea
Ship "Explorer"
November, 2011



Remembering
Hiroshima
& Skype
August, 2011



Kio University workshop
June.



Hyogo University of Health Sciences
December, 2019



Palestine
workshop
March, 2010

Mr. Morizumi
Nuclear test photo
exhibition workshop
October, 2009



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: *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 outside of Japan

1. Go to your local Japanese bookstore: Kinokuniya, Maruzen, etc. (or their website)
2. Write to us at ronniandpopoki@gmail.com and we'll figure it out!

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 ronniandpopoki@gmail.com



Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

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THANK YOU FROM POPOKI!