## 2020 Hina Matsuri



## Written by John 2021 February 29

In February 2020, we worked with the FIFA to hold a cross-cultural café at Kasuisai. It was great time to get to know more of the foreign community while also getting the chance to visit an important location in Fukuroi and introduce that to people, some for the first time ever.

We gathered together at the city hall and rode on a bus to Kasuisai.

After we got the tickets organized and everything, we had the participants look around at the displays throughout the temple for the Hina matsuri festival. After a while, we gathered together in a separate room, introduced ourselves, played games and talked about differences in everyone's culture. It was a really rewarding discussion and although playing games was a little challenging because of the language barrier, I believe that everyone was able to enjoy themselves. My childhood best friend was able to come to Japan for the event and help me share about American culture with Japanese people and other foreigners in Fukuroi. She told me that coming to the cross-culture café was one of the highlights of her trip to Japan.

Helping Japanese people to learn about different cultures is so important for the internationalization of the country as a whole. Japan has a rich and beautiful culture that many people have a deep interest in learning about and understanding. When I first started to share

my American culture with people, it was hard to know where to start because there are many things that I just consider as normal, but are actually part of growing up in America. I enjoy planning and hosting events as a part of my job here as a Coordinator for International Relations and I hope to see many more people at our next event.



## 2020年のひな祭り



## Written By John 令和3年2月19日

終わると可睡斎内のひな祭りの飾りを見学時間に入りました。その後、部屋に集まって自己紹介をしたり、お菓子を食べながらゲームをしたりしました。皆さんはそれぞれの文化の違いについて会話をしました。やはり、言語の壁のせいでゲームをすることは少し難しかったですが会話はとても有意義で参加者の皆さんが楽しんでもらえて良かったと思いました。子どもの頃の親友もイベントの日に日本に来ることになったので一緒に参加してアメリカの文化を袋井在住の外国人や日本人と共有することができました。彼女は日本に訪問した時の最も良い経験の一つだったと私に言ってくれました。

国の国際化のためには日本人に異文化について教えることは大切だと思います。日本はとても美しく、リッチな文化もあり、多くの人は日本の文化を理解したくて学びたくて、深い

興味を持ちます。他の人とアメリカの文化を共有した時にはじめて、私がアメリカで育ったから普通と考えていた文化がアメリカのみの文化だと気づきました。国際交流員の業務としてイベントの企画や開催ができることはとても恵まれていて楽しめるところです。皆さんが次のイベントに参加して頂けることを期待しています。

