

ヒューストン近郊の学校訪問。



JAXAと協働して学校訪問を実施した。JAXAが選抜した現職教員の授業実践を行なったほか、学校施設とその活用工夫についての学習をしたほか、児童・生徒との交流をもった。

詳細を添付資料（４）に記載した。

NASAで開催された Space Exploration Educator Conference (SEEC)に参加



NASAが主催する宇宙を教育に活用する学会・研修に参加し、先進宇宙科学について学習した。また、全米の教育者、教材開発会社、科学者、研究者のほか、宇宙飛行士らと交流した。詳細は資料（３）として用意した。

写真左上：宇宙の教育活用のセッションの様子

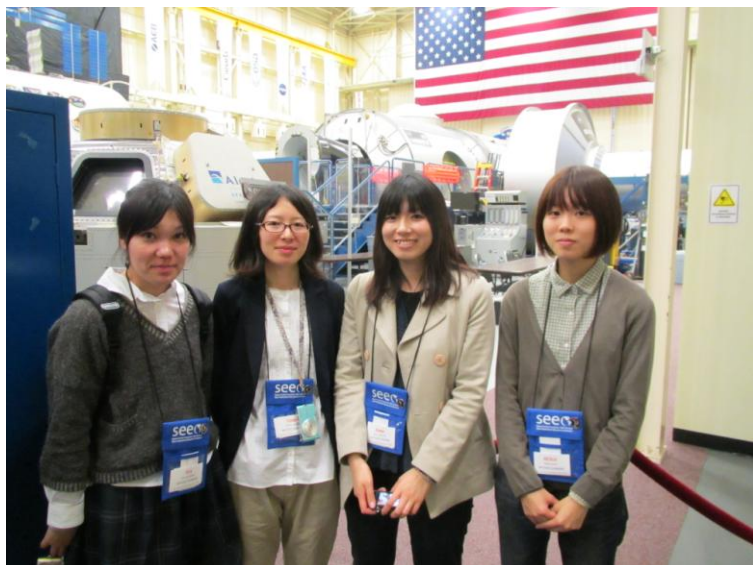
写真左中：研修修了証を示す島根大学の学生

写真左下：サターンロケットの見学

写真右下：アポロ宇宙計画の主任飛行管制官のGene Kranz（アポロ１３号まで）の講演後に握手をする本学の松本准教授



NASA施設の見学・研修の様子（平成23年度）



宇宙飛行士訓練施設のうち、宇宙ステーション内の活動訓練施設を視察したほか、訓練士からの解説および教育利用についての研修がおこなわれた。



宇宙飛行士訓練施設では、実物大の国際宇宙ステーション、およびそこで使用される機器類が設置されている。日本人宇宙飛行士を始め、すべての宇宙飛行士がここで訓練を受けているほか、次世代宇宙船のオリオンや CUPORA などの実機訓練やソユーズ宇宙船の操縦訓練がおこなわれている施設において実物を用いて学習できる。



NASAヒューストンで開発している地球外惑星および衛星探査用ロボットの開発チームから、開発の詳細やプロセスについてうかがうことができるほか、



教育利用をすすめるための教材および教育支援についての案内を受けた。また、開発チームには大学3回生がインターンシップで参加しており、こうした学生と触れることで、アメリカの大学教育とそこでの学生の主体的な学習努力について、学生のみではなく、引率する教員も考察する機会を得た。

学校訪問の様子



テキサス州ヒューストン市郊外、フリーポートにあるヴェラスコ学校区を訪問した。この学校区は貧困地域にあり、家庭にさまざまな問題をもった児童が多く通学している。予算に多くの制限があるなかで、コンピューターを積極的に活用した授業や、個々の児童・生徒に配慮した指導がされており、各教員のモチベーションも高い学校である。

オンライン・ラーニングは、個々の児童・生徒の学習進度に合わせたインタラクティブな学習プログラムが用意され、幼稚園の児童からすでに取り組みが進められているようすを見学した。また、図書館の利用促進を図るとともに、蔵書管理のみではなく、それぞれの図書の内容の他、個々の児童・生徒の読書量およびその質についてもコンピューターを活用し評価・管理していた。

こうした評価と管理は、児童・生徒の現状把握にとどまるものではなく、個々の児童・生徒の主体的な学びと努力を評価することと直結していた。学校生活の多くの場面で、児童・生徒の向上心を効果的に奨励する仕組みが工夫されていた。積極的な競争を奨励する一方で、機会の平等を保証するほか、競争を弱者排除につなげないための仕組みについてもうかがうことができた。

特に再チャレンジの仕組みや、多様な競争機会の提供による評価の多様性、障がいをもった子どもへの学習支援など、評価の固定化と単純化を否定する取り組みをみた。

さらに生活規範を学修させ、高いモチベーションを育むさまざまな工夫と、教育をめぐる理念とその実践へのアプローチの仕方について比較検討する素材と機会を得た。

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LEARNING JAPANESE

By SHANNON DAUGHTRY
shannon.daughtry@thefacts.com

LAKE JACKSON — Lake Jackson Intermediate School Principal John O'Hare was eager to have Japanese teachers visit his campus Wednesday afternoon, because not long ago he was in a similar situation when he visited a couple of schools in China to learn about their educational system.

"I went to China one summer," O'Hare said as he exchanged business cards with one of the teachers — a cultural

tradition he learned while abroad. "But because it was in the summer, I didn't get to see class in session like they are today. This will be a great experience."

Twelve Japanese teachers and student teachers visited campuses across Brazosport ISD, taking the time to tour the schools, observe classrooms and even teach a couple of lessons.

The group came to the United States with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, that country's equivalent of NASA, said Javier

Educators from island nation tour, teach at Brazosport ISD campuses

Montiel, a bilingual teacher at Velasco Elementary and the group's guide for the day.

"They're learning to be teachers at the intermediate and elementary level in Japan," Montiel said.

Most of those visiting Brazosport ISD were from Kanagawa and Matsue.

They began their day at Lanier Middle School, Montiel said. After touring the campus, they taught a lesson on using a steamboat to one of the



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Lake Jackson Intermediate student Tommy Davis explains his lab work to Japanese teachers Katsunori Setuma, Yayoi Miyagawa and Junko Katamura on Wednesday during their visit to schools in the area.

■ See JAPANESE, Page 6A

JUMPING IN TO HELP



It's curtains for Stage 3

Water authority, Angleton drop to lowest drought level

By SHANNON DAUGHTRY

地元紙 1 面で報道された



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Lake Jackson Intermediate Principal John O'Hare gives a tour of the school to teachers and instructors from Japan on Wednesday during their visit to schools in the area.



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Lake Jackson Intermediate student Matthew Collard gets help folding his paper from Junko Katamura on Wednesday during an origami lesson.

folding pattern to students, telling them the symmetry they were practicing is similar to that in the solar panels they construct at JAXA.

"Origami is reflected in the folding system," she said as she folded the blue piece of paper in half.

By the end of the lesson, each of Raiff's students had a Japanese color-changing crane on their desk, similar to those created by a group of Japanese students that were passed out at the beginning of the lesson.

Each of Raiff's students also received letters from Japanese students, all of which included addresses in order for the students to correspond with one another.

"Want to know the bonus problem for your chapter eight test?" Raiff said. "Re-create this crane and you'll get bonus points."

Shannon Daughtry covers Brazosport ISD for The Facts. Contact her at 979-237-0152.

Conservative core at center of Senate debate

By CHRIS TOMLINSON

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst's leadership in the Texas Senate came under fire during a debate Wednesday when one of his Republican opponents for U.S. Senate accused him of compromising too much rather than standing firm on his conservative principles.

While Dewhurst is the perceived front-runner, former Texas Solicitor General Ted Cruz was the only one of his three GOP rivals to directly attack him during the debate in Austin. Cruz touted his own support among tea party favorites already in the U.S. Senate while accusing Dewhurst of being too moderate to represent Texas in Washington.

"He's a nice man, but his record is consistently been

that of a conciliator, it has consistently been that of a moderate," he said. "If you think what we need right now is a fighter, then I am asking for your support."

Dewhurst rejected the characterization and insisted that as a lawmaker he has a proven track record as a consistent conservative. As lieutenant governor, Dewhurst has presided over the Texas Senate since 2003.

The candidates are competing for the Republican nomination to replace U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who is retiring.

The debate took place at the annual conference of the Texas Association of Business, and the moderator was Bill Hammond, the group's president and CEO. Former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert and former ESPN football analyst Craig James also participated.

Rain

CONTINUED FROM COVER

inch below normal.

"That's not bad," AgriLife Extension Agent Corrie Bowen said.

Near-normal levels of rain continuing for the next couple of months will be beneficial to cattle ranchers and hay farmers, he added.

Although residential gardeners generally have had access to a steady supply of water, Krancevic and others particularly prize when it comes from the sky.

"When it comes to well water, some of it has actually become brackish," she said, "and the problem with city water is that there's chlorine and other stuff in it."

"If you compare 1 inch of city water to 1 inch of rainwater, it is amazing.

After an inch of rain, plants say 'Yes!' and after an inch of city water, they go, 'We'll live.'"

She agreed with Bowen that, although any rain in the area is a good thing, much more is needed because subsurface moisture remains low.

Even if rainfall were to go back to its historical average, that still wouldn't be a quick fix, Bowen said.

"If we can stay on course with normal rainfall, we still need to manage our pastures and grasses as if the drought was still ongoing," he said.

From everything Ed Barrios, with the Master Naturalist program, said he's heard, the prospects of returning to normal weather patterns aren't good.

"If the climatologists are correct, long-range forecasts are for a long-term drought," he said.

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