

27th MILE Programme Dec 2016



My greatest takeaway was to enjoy the **simple pleasures** of life. In Kanazawa, outside of my host's home, there are little places where WiFi is readily available. On my first day, instead of constantly using my phone, I talked to my host's family. We even went to an onsen on my first night! After the experience, any

initial awkwardness and nervousness with my host family dissolved immediately. This experience also taught me to sit back and relax amidst a fast-paced lifestyle. My homestay allowed me enjoy the time I spent with people to make meaningful relationships without my phone. I even got to cook *okonomiyaki*, a traditional Japanese dish!





I learnt the Japanese are very **polite**. In KTC, the staff and students were very polite. Whether the teachers or students knew us or not, they would never fail to greet us good morning when we entered the school. My hosts friends even brought me out during the last few days of my stay to eat *yakiniku* at one of their favourite hangouts. Although we were barely able to speak Japanese in the nursery, besides telling them our name the children were ecstatic to see us. Knowing this, the children tried their best to converse with us in English. They sang for



Christine (my teammate) and I “Merry Christmas” and “ABC.” In return, we played with them “London Bridge is Falling down.” This taught me a lesson on how to treat people with respect regardless of what they could do for you.