

ライオンズクラブ海外派遣高校英語弁論大会 出場



～1年生1名、2年生1名が出場しました～

第40回高等学校英語弁論大会（大垣・大垣東・養老・大垣南・大垣水都・大垣城ライオンズクラブ合同事業）が10月18日（日）大垣フォーラムホテルで開催され、辻 敬太君（1年生）、高橋 みきさん（2年生）が出場しました。

辻君は“Family is My Treasure”（家族は宝物）という演題で、家族への感謝の気持ちについて、高橋さんは“A Precious Gift from My Mother”という演題で母への感謝と将来への希望について、スピーチをしました（下記に原稿を掲載）。

ライオンズクラブ主催により40回目の開催となる今大会は、例年、参加者の熱意が高く入賞者はヨーロッパやアジアへ海外派遣されるなど、高校生の国際的視野を広くするために大きな成果を上げています。今回は西濃地区の高校に在籍する1・2年生22名が出場しました。

大会のテーマは、“Family”（家族）で参加者が自由に演題を選び、スピーチをしました。入賞者は来年の夏、1位がヨーロッパ、2位がアジア、特別賞3名がアジアに派遣されます。

辻君、高橋さんも惜しくも入賞を逃しましたが、身振り・手振りを添えて表情豊かに流暢な英語で堂々と発表しました。二人の更なる活躍に期待します。

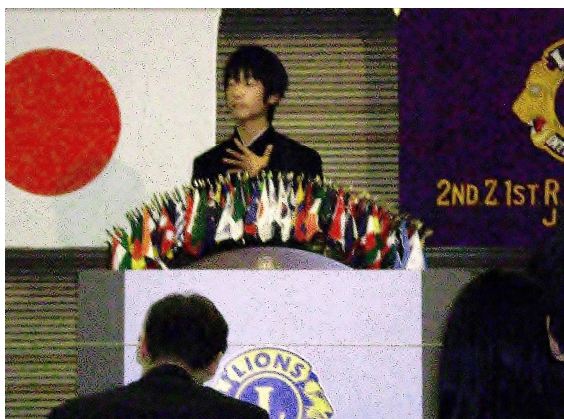
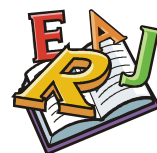
【参加者の感想】

➤ 辻 敬太君

「今回のスピーチコンテストに出て、英語力を上げることができました。また人前に立つことに、少し慣れることができました。このコンテストに参加して良かったです。」

➤ 高橋 みきさん

「英語のスピーチコンテストに初めて参加しました。5分間の英文を書くのも読むのも初めてでとまどうこともありましたが、先生と練習を重ねやり遂げることができました。賞はとれませんでした。自分にとって良い経験になりました。頑張ってたかったです。」





＜審査員のマーティン・スナイダー星城大学
教授から参加者へスピーチのアドバイス＞



【辻君のスピーチ原稿】

Family is My Treasure

Ikeda High School TUJI Keita

Have you ever thought about your family seriously? I think that a family is like air. We are not aware of it in our daily life, but we cannot live without it. The existence of a family is so natural that we often forget to be thankful for it. So, today, I will talk about the importance of a family.

My family is very lively. The reason may be that my family is very large and each family member is cheerful. We become the most cheerful in the evening, with all my family laughing a lot. It's like a festival. There are 7 members and a dog in my family. My dog's name is "Yuki." My eldest sister lives with my relative to go to a vocational school. This is my family structure.

My parents both work. They are very busy. My elder sister belongs to my high school's drama club. Club practice is very hard and long. It begins early in the morning and ends at about 8:00 pm. My mother takes her to and from school almost every day. My mother seems to be used to it, but she sometimes said that she was tired. My elder sister and I go to an English conversation school and my mother takes us to and from this school as well. I am grateful to her for this. She has a part

time job, has to do housework, and, in addition, takes care of us. It's definitely a hard job.

In 4th grade elementary school, I lost a karate match. Then, my parents told me that I should not mind it and keep going. I was encouraged by their words. At first, I didn't like karate so much; my two sisters forced me to practice it. But thanks to my parents, I came to like it and still practice it very hard. My family is so nice and has supported me. I love my family from the bottom of my heart.

So, I was shocked when I heard the following two things recently. The first is that my friends do not know their families well and seem to be indifferent to them. When I told them stories about my family, they were surprised because I knew a lot about my family members. One of my friends said that he disliked his family because they were nagging. Another friend said that he hasn't spoken to his family recently. I was very surprised. Is my family situation that rare? Am I lucky? I don't know.

The second thing that surprised me was the news about family relations getting weak. Few families talk among each other. They seem indifferent to each other's existence. Some family members even use their cellphones even during meals. This is called “孤食,” or solitary eating. Many people feel lonely at mealtime. And many family members eat their meals separately because they are very busy. This is called “個食,” or “having a meal individually.” It is unbelievable. I think that I am very lucky to live with my family; they always support me and make me happy. My parents even give me many topics to start conversations with at mealtimes, even when they were very tired. Why do they do this? Maybe, they love their family.

When I have my own family in the future, I will do the same thing as my parents do. I will build a warm family. Family is important. Family is my important treasure.

Thank you for your kind attention.



【高橋さんのスピーチ原稿】
A Precious Gift from My Mother



Ikeda High School TAKAHASHI Miki

Do you have wings? I have wings. Can you imagine human beings with wings? One of my treasures is “the wings”, which my mother gave me. I will now tell you my story.

When I was a small child, I was a coward. I was not be able to speak to strangers, so, it took me time to make friends. Also in elementary school, I couldn't raise my hand and tell my opinion to the class. I was very afraid and even cried when I was called on by a teacher. My mother was always worried about me and used to say, “Don't be afraid. Have courage.”

But I was still shy even after I entered junior high school. However, when I started learning English, I came to like it and wanted to study American culture more. One day, I got to know about

the Exchange Students Program in America. I felt like joining the program but I had more anxiety than hope. I felt uneasy about the homestay because I couldn't speak English well. Also, I worried that my mother was against my participation of the program. I guessed she would say, "America is not safe. Don't you dare go to such a dangerous place?"

But, contrary to my expectations, she agreed with my going to America. She said, "It will surely be a good experience for you, Miki. If you want to try, I'll support you." I decided to apply for the program with her help.

In America, I learned the importance of having a positive attitude. I could make myself understood by speaking to the people around me very clearly. I could even enjoy a conversation and laugh with my American friends. If my mother had not pushed me ahead, I wouldn't have been to America and wouldn't have had such a great time.

In first grade high school, I wondered if I could run for an executive member position in our Student Council. I didn't have confidence in myself as a leader. However, my mother said, "Try it. Challenges are very important for you. Working for others is very valuable. You only have to do your best." Thanks to her words, I made up my mind to join the Student Council. This year, our school got designated as a UNESCO Associated School. UNESCO means United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. UNESCO Associated Schools work together to promote peace and international cooperation in order to realize the idea of UNESCO and promote education for sustainable development. I am very proud of my school and now volunteer to do activities in local communities for the people.

One day, I asked my mother, "Why do you always encourage me to try new things?" She said, "I was a coward like you when I was young. I have a lot of regrets. I should have stepped forward, but I couldn't. But you can. You have a future. I always want you to take a chance rather than being afraid of risks. "

Earlier, I told you that one of the treasures my mother gave me was wings. Yes. She gave me wings of courage. Thanks to the wings, I can fly to new worlds. She taught me the importance of challenges. I will keep these wings moving and departing from journey to journey.

Next, it's my turn. I want to be a person who can always support others, like my mother did. I'd like to convey the wonder of having a positive attitude. There might be some risks when you try something new. You might be hurt by doing it. But I believe it will surely benefits you throughout your life.

I believe supporting others is the key to my success and that it's the best way to show my gratitude to my mother.

Thank you very much.

