

県高校英語スピーチコンテスト西濃地区大会 出場

～1年生2名が出場しました～

平成27年度第9回岐阜県高等学校英語スピーチコンテスト西濃地区大会が10月3日（土）大垣南高校で開催され、小林 耕太郎君（1年生）、竹中 一沙さん（同）が出場しました。

小林君は“Won't You be Proud of Your Personality?”というタイトルで、多くのことに挑戦して個性に磨きをかけることの大切さ、竹中さんは“Life is Real.”というタイトルで、現実から目をそらさずに頑張る気持ちを発表しました。

英語スピーチコンテストの目的は、県内の高校生に英語で自分の考えや経験を発表する場を提供し、英語力の向上を目指すものです。今回の西濃地区大会には18名が出場しました。上位3名が10月24日（土）に開催される県大会の代表となります。

県大会には、各地区からの代表20名が出場し、最優秀賞1名と優秀賞1名の2名が11月15日（日）の全国高等学校英語スピーチコンテスト東海北陸ブロック大会に県代表として出場します。

今回の地区大会では、二人とも惜しくも入賞を逃しましたが、堂々と英語で自分の考えを発表することができ、自信を深めたとともに、ここに至るまでの学習は今後の彼らの英語学習に大いに役立つことと思います。今後の活躍に期待しています。



【参加者の感想より】

➤ 小林 耕太郎君

「このスピーチを通して、自分が伝えたいことを英語で話す力が身についたと思います。それは、日々の先生の熱い指導と、校長先生からの貴重な助言や提案によって得られたものです。入賞することができなくて、正直悔しかったです。この出場をきっかけとして、来年、再来年とスピーチコンテストに積極的に参加していきたいと思います。」

➤ 竹中 一沙さん

「今回、初めてスピーチコンテストに出て、度胸ができました。多くの人の前で話をするのは緊張しましたが、出場してよかったと思います。また、スピーチコンテストに参加して、多くのことが学べました。大垣商業で学んでいる生徒と友達になることができましたし、他の人のスピーチを聞くことは楽しかったです。」



【小林君のスピーチ原稿】

Won't You be Proud of Your Personality?



Ikeda High School

1st grade, Koutaro, Kobayasi

Do you think you have a unique personality? I think one's personality includes both good aspects and bad aspects. Some people are afraid that their personalities are too different from others'.

I lived in Bangkok for five years. People with different skins, languages, and cultures, live there. They respected and lived in harmony with one another. I found that way of life quite natural and loved it very much. One day, an incident made me think that I was unique. When I became a senior student in elementary school, all my classmates announced their dreams in class. It was a preliminary speech contest to choose one speaker from each class for the school assembly called "Yume Shuukai," or "Dream Meeting." It was one of the school events to encourage students to have their own dreams. As I expected, many classmates had cool dreams. For example, to be a professional baseball player, to be a professional soccer player, to be a doctor, etc. At that time, I wanted to be a comedian. All the students in my class laughed a lot. I said to them, "A comedian is a good job because making people laugh is a nice thing." In the end, on the recommendation of my classmates and teacher, I was chosen as the representative of my class and participated in "the Dream Meeting." I thought that I was chosen because I had a unique dream. I truly thought that making people laugh was a very nice thing.

I've had an inferiority complex for a long time. Most Japanese tend to think that it is good to be the same as others and bad to be different from others. One day I became sick and I went to a hospital where interpreters worked to help patients. One of the interpreters was able to translate my Japanese into English so quickly and smoothly. I felt he was cool, and I was very impressed. What a good job! Interpreters can help those in trouble and make them happy. I was sure that interpreters need not only language skills but also an ability to make others feel happy. Suddenly an idea hit upon me. I wanted to be an interpreter. I like to help people in trouble. I like English and I'm sure I have the qualities of an interpreter.

When I came back to Japan, I decided to join the Kendo club or Japanese fencing club in Fuwa Junior High School. Kendo is my favorite sport, and I had practiced it since 1st grade elementary school. Practice in junior high school was incredibly hard, compared with the one in elementary school. I enjoyed Kendo in elementary school, because it was for fun. In contrast, however, practice in junior high school was for competing. The practice time was very long and there was no holiday. At that time, I was not tall and was very thin. My instructor asked me if I would be able to continue to practice Kendo. To tell the truth, I wanted to quit kendo a number of times. In third grade, I stopped practicing because of an entrance examination. However, I suddenly recognized that I

became very strong both mentally and physically. I used to give up various things easily, but now, I will not easily yield to difficulties, and will instead continue to make an effort to overcome them. That will be my achievement. That means that we can change our personality through various challenges.

Some people give up on their dreams because they think they're too shy, or they have no guts. But people can change. I believe they can do anything they decide.

So, please be proud of your personality, and let's face our challenges to fulfill our dreams. Thank you for your kind attention.

【竹中さんのスピーチ原稿】

Life is Real

Ikeda High School
1st grade, Kazusa, Takenaka

Life is filled with lessons, hardships, heartaches, and joys. All these will ultimately lead us to our destination, our purpose in life. The road will not always be smooth. In fact, throughout our life, we will encounter many challenges.

Some of these challenges will test our courage, strengths, weaknesses, and faith. Along the way, we may stumble upon obstacles on the paths we are destined to take. In order to follow the right path, we must overcome these obstacles. We have to face them even if it is hard.

Some people compare life to a journey. In a sense, it is true. The people who we meet on our journey are people who we are destined to meet. Everyone comes into our lives for some reason or another. We don't always know their purpose. But they all play some kind of role. Some may stay for a life time; others may only stay for a short while.

My mother taught me many lessons which gave me deep insights into life. She always says, "Be positive and active." She is Malaysian and moved to Japan because of my father's job. At first, she could not understand Japanese at all. In addition, she was very puzzled over the difference in custom. However, with her friendliness, she made many friends and is enjoying life in Japan. I believe that we sometimes meet the people who will play an important role in our lives. I want to learn from my mother's way of life and take on things positively.

In Malaysia, I spoke to my friends in English. But coming to Japan with my family for almost two years, and now attending Ikeda Senior High School, I often face some difficulties because of the Japanese language barrier. It is natural that classes are done in Japanese. And the structure of Japanese is completely different from English. Sometimes I am afraid that I will not be able to follow these classes. I am too shy and nervous, and very poor at speaking in Japanese. In such a case, I remember my mother's words, and I try to be cheerful. I have been studying Japanese for almost two years, but it is far from enough to comfortably live in Japan. Sometimes, I feel uneasy, not sleeping well at night, and feel like doing nothing. But, I will continue to study Japanese as

hard as I can, because I have a dream to be an interior designer working here in Japan. I am sure this obstacle has some meaning for me and will help me to be strong. I promised myself that I will never give up and that I will overcome this difficulty.

When things don't always go well, we have two choices to deal with the situations. The first is that we can focus on the fact that things didn't go how we had hoped and let life pass us by. The second is that we can make the best of the situation. We can know that these are only temporary setbacks and find the lessons that are to be learned. As for me, I would like to take the latter choice. My mother made me think so.

I heard that some people have avoided living in the real world and have instead confined themselves to their room. They surf many web sites and enjoy the virtual world. Some people have become addicted to online games and later become depressed. To escape reality, some people become addicted to drugs or alcohol. With the help from their friends, the psychiatrist and family, I hope they will overcome their problems. I do feel sorry for them, but people must address their own problems. It is the only way to lead a healthy life with many joys.

So, don't be afraid to take the first step. We have the power to overcome these hardships. Doing so is our lifelong homework. This may be the reason why we are born. So why not live in the real world and enjoy it?

Thank you for your kind attention.