

Sena Chiba, 2012 Exchange Student wins English Speech Competition with Speech about her Exchange Experience



From Matsuura Taiji, English Teacher, Ishinomaki Schools

I was pleased to tell the impressive speech of one junior high student the other day. Her name is Chiba Sena fo Mangokuura Junior HS.

I heard her speech as the judge of the English Area Speech Contest on September 12th. Sena mentioned about your daughter's lessons and way of warm approaching in her first year.

In her second year, Andy and the family came to her school. You donated many books in the school library. Sena was very impressed by you and the positive volunteers. She wondered why you visited our devastated town.

This summer she went to your place Virginia where Taylor grew up. Sena mentioned how friendly welcomed them and appreciated your wonderful messages, saying " You will have a lot of good experiences through this exchange programs. "

Even though she spent a very short time with Taylor, she taught Sena the important thing in life. That is to live together peacefully and love people without borders. Taylor hoped to be a bridge between Japan and America. She hope to be the bridge between us.. She wanted to continue that your daughter started.

Listening to her speech, I was moved. In the meeting, many of them talked about their sad experiences in their lives. However from each experience, less students referred to the international friendship through the interacts. That was the future message now.

In Monou Primary School, where I works now, there were three American dolls for Mary, Emily, and Louise. They came to Japan from 1927 to 1990s to deepen the friendship between US and Japan. To our great regret, the war occurred. However, the young people learned from the books, picture books from abroad, and the exchange persons and messages over the lands and oceans.

Now I enjoy my life as the supporting English teacher in Ishinomaki Area : Higashi-hama, Ogino-hama, Mangokuura, and Monou Primary Schools. I also enjoy the reading picture book volunteer in Mangokuura, where Taylor loved to teach children very much. Autumn starts now, and the temperature is still over 30 degrees C.

With my best wishes to you and your wife, other family members,

Mr. Pine

( Matsuura Taiji )