

The 63rd Recitation and Speech Contest

The 63rd Recitation and Speech Contest was held on November 17th, 2013. Ms. Iinuma and Ms. Watanabe won a good performance prize in the speech contest and the recitation contest respectively.

Comment from Ms. Karen Ho, our ALT, who gave them lessons for the contest.

This was my first time coaching students for the recitation and speech contest. Naomi and Erina worked very hard during the Fall term to practice their English pronunciation, intonation, and delivery. Each student had their own challenges, which they have expressed below. They both did an excellent job confronting those challenges and learning from other contestants' performance. Naomi and Erina deserve recognition and a "pat on the back" for their patience, determination, and courage because it isn't easy to stand in front of a crowd and speak in a foreign language. I felt honoured to have worked with such students who have a strong interest for English and to have witnessed other student's English ability at the contest. My last comment is for Naomi and Erina: I hope that the end of this contest does not mean an end for practicing English—but a journey to strive for being better.



英語コンテスト暗唱の部 感想 1年6組 渡邊 絵梨奈さん

①練習で苦労したことは？

セリフとナレーションの区別をつけることです。また、エイミーと父親のせりふでも違いをつけることも苦労しました。

I had difficulty distinguishing lines from the narrative parts. Also, I worked hard to express the difference between Amy and Dad's lines.

②気に入ってる、工夫した、頑張った箇所は？

エイミーが目覚ましてからの父との会話が気に入っています。その場面を想像しながら暗唱しました。

I liked the conversation between Amy and Dad after Amy woke up. I recited it while imagining that scene.

③コンテストの感想は？

同じ年齢の人たちとこの大会に参加して、皆の英語力、英語学習に対する姿勢をすることができてとてもよい経験になりました。これからもっと英語のスキルを身につけたいと思います。

This contest was done among the students of my age and it gave me a very good opportunity for me to know the other participants' English competence and attitude towards English. I hope to improve my English skills from now on.

④今後の抱負は？

ネイティブの人々と楽しくコミュニケーションできる英語力を身につけたいです。ネイティブの先生方と積極的に交流していきたいです。

I want to master a good command of English in order to be able to communicate with foreigners. I'll try to have a conversation with native speakers.



英語コンテスト弁論の部 感想 2年3組 飯沼 直美さん

①練習で苦労したことは？

"r"と"l"の発音を区別すること。抑揚をつけて話すことです。

I tried hard on the pronunciation between "r" and "l" and intonation.

②気に入ってる、工夫した、頑張った箇所は？

最後の部分です。自分の意見を持っているけれどもなかなか言い出せない、そんな人へ一歩前に踏みだしてほしいという気持ちでスピーチをしました。

The part I like best is the last phrase of my speech, "Don't be afraid ...step forward." I spoke it with the feeling that I'd like the people who don't speak out their opinion to take a step forward.

③コンテストの感想は？

今回は非常にレベルが高く、私自身ベストを尽くしましたが受賞できませんでした。しかし、今年は去年よりも審査員や聴衆の目を見てスピーチすることができました。コンテストを通して成長したと思います。ご指導をくださったカレン先生や多くの英語科の先生方に感謝します。

The participants had a high level of English. I did my best, but I couldn't win the prize. However, I could look the judges or the audience in the eye better than last year. I think I've grown up through this contest. I appreciated Karen and a lot of English teachers for helping me.

④今後の抱負は？

英語力をより向上させ、自分の意見を英語で伝えられるようになりたいです。大学入試を控えているので苦手な文法をしっかりと勉強したいです。

I'd like to improve my English ability more and make myself understood in English. This year, I'll take an entrance exam for university, so I have to study English grammar much harder.

What I Hope to Improve

Iinuma Naomi

What do you do when people ask you to share your opinion? Do you speak out loud, or do you try to hide your thoughts in fear of being criticized? I would like to share an experience I had with this in the United States during my visit last summer. One night, my host sister said proudly, "Tomorrow morning, I'll cook a nice breakfast for you. I hope you'll enjoy it!" As she said that, I remembered what she had told me before: "I am good at cooking, so in the future I want to be a chef." With this in mind, I was very excited to try her cooking. The next morning, I went to the kitchen table happily, but I found burnt bacon and overcooked scrambled eggs on the plate. She greeted me with a big smile, "Let's start eating." As I tried to eat that terrible food, I wondered whether she would really become a chef in the future and I thought it was funny she talked to me about it so proudly. But over the course of my stay, I came to understand the reason after visiting an elementary school and a college.

In the elementary school classes, when the teachers said to their students, "Any volunteers?" most students raised their hands and the student called on answered proudly. Even when the class was going to finish soon, the children's eyes were bright as they appealed to the teacher to call on them. I was impressed by how positive American children were. By the way, what do you think of Japanese elementary school students? Japanese students are different from American students. In the same situation, few students would have raised their hands and made eye contact with their teacher. They would think that if their answer was incorrect, their friends would make fun of them.

Moreover, at the American college, each student displayed his or her own originality. One girl wore a T-shirt with a celebrity's name on it. Another girl wore blue tights with many colorful animal pictures on it. In Japan, parents might have said to their daughters, "You have really poor taste. That does not suit you at all!" But in America, nobody criticized those girls. In a discussion at the college, a lot of people expressed their opinions and there was no silence. In America, originality is really respected. So any ideas, no matter how impractical or silly they may sound, are esteemed.

I don't know whether my host sister will eventually become good at cooking or not. But I have found that speaking proudly and openly is common in America. People give credit to those who face challenges with confidence. I think Japanese people can really learn from this attitude in Americans. Now I'd like to tell you this: If you have your own opinion, please speak out. Don't be shy about expressing yourself in front of people. Don't be afraid of making mistakes; nobody is perfect. Please have a little more confidence in yourself and speak out proudly. If we do this, we can change for the better. Let's take a step forward.

Thank you.

「国際理解・国際交流」をテーマに — LHRの一コマ

2月21日金曜日、LHRの時間に、本校ALTのカレン先生が、「国際化」をキーワードとして友人へのインタビューや自身のALT研修での「ほうとう作り」体験などから、様々な Internationalism を紹介してくれました。

1. What is Internationalism?

In Webster dictionary, internationalism is *“the belief that it is good for different countries to work together”*. This is a broad definition and I thought the meaning of the word, “internationalism” may vary from person to person(人によって違う), depending on their life experiences. So I asked some of my friends about what they thought internationalism means to them. Here is a summary of their responses:



Internationalism is...

Megan: “All the country’s *food and culture.*”

Anya: “The most accessible way for people and society to grow and evolve(発展する) and move forward. It’s about learning from each other...only through dialogue and becoming familiar with things we don’t understand. *Internationalism is knowing ourselves better and how to live in harmony together.*”

Alejandra: “*The development of globalization and how we’ve become more interdependent (相互依存) with each other.* We are more than a world of cities, we’ve become a world of nations. In order to build stronger relationships between nations, we depend on internationalism to guide us through that.”

Ayane: “The word of the heart. *To be honest to people in foreign countries.*”

Yukimi: “Making friends from all around the world. When I was fifteen, I went to California for an exchange. When I was there, I could only say, “Thank you”. I felt so shocked because I couldn’t express my own feeling or thinking. So I thought I need to study more hard in order to communicate more closely to people. When I came back to Japan, I thought *English is not only a subject. It’s the way to communicate with people, and for me, it’s a way of life.*”



“Internationalism is the sharing of our cultures, beliefs, and every day lives. It is learning how to see one thing from many different angles.”

2. Karen’s experience of internationalism in Japan

When I first came to Japan, a group of ALTs and I went to the mountains of Yamashiro and we learned how to make a traditional style of Hoto noodles (ほうとう:ここでは「みみ」). We were taught by these women who have worked in a Hoto restaurant for a long time. Although they didn’t speak any English, they patiently taught us how to make something they’ve made for many years. They showed us exactly how many times to knead the dough (生地をこねる), how to use the wooden roller to roll out the dough and how much pressure to apply onto it. They also taught us how to shape the noodles and cut them. Basically, they taught us everything they knew about cooking these traditional style noodles.

This experience for us foreigners was an international one. As you travel and experience different cultures, you will come to realize that the people in those countries are experts in what they do. It is because they are experts that it is important for you to learn as much as possible from them. Therefore, this experience is exactly what internationalism is: *it’s the passing (伝えること) of one’s culture, whether it’d be food, customs, beliefs, and religion, from one culture to another.* The most important thing about this experience is that we’re sharing it together. It’s a dialogue, and interaction (対話、ふれあい), and a sharing (分かち合い) of our daily lives.

