全国大会を終えて

宮崎県立五ヶ瀬中等教育学校　３年　平城理絵

　高円宮杯に出るまでの４ヶ月間は、私にとって一生の忘れられない思い出になりました。夏休みは、原稿を覚えるのに日々苦労する最初の大きな壁がありました。それを乗り越えて、県大会出場を目標に必死に発表練習をしました。この時は、全国大会など夢のような話だと正直思っていました。

県大会に出場が決まり、より熱心に練習するようになりました。発音やイントネーション等、細かなところが気になり始め、完璧を求めて、毎日練習を重ねました。この時期は、練習を心から楽しめて、弁論を自分のものにしていった時間でもありました。県大会では、地区大会の時に見に来ることができなかった家族に弁論を聞いてもらうことができ、私の思いを伝えることができたのが、何よりも嬉しかったです。

そして、全国大会。夢だった舞台に自分が立てたことが、私の自信につながりました。全国の中学生のレベルの高さに驚き、良い刺激を受けることができ、これからの英語の勉強にもっと力を入れたいと思うきっかけにもなりました。また、大会を通して、全国から集まったの人たちに、私の伝えたかった思いを伝えることができとても満足しています。

今では、いつも練習をしていたあの場所が懐かしく、あの時間が懐かしく、先生のたくさんのアドバイスが懐かしく、あの時に戻りたいと思うほどです。全国大会へ行くことができて、私が今こんな風に感じていられるのは、決して私一人ではできなかったことです。たくさん支えて下さり、応援してくださった先生方、家族、友達、そして共に戦い刺激しあった仲間たちに感謝の気持ちで一杯です。最高の経験ができました。ありがとうございました。

中学校英語弁論大会を終えて

宮崎県立五ヶ瀬中等教育学校　教諭　石橋　貴子

県の代表として選ばれた平城理絵さんは、努力を惜しまない生徒で、毎日練習に励む生徒でした。全国大会の決勝予選大会では、今までの練習の成果をしっかりと出すことができ、県代表として堂々とした素晴らしい発表をしました。結果的には決勝大会への進出はできませんでしたが、彼女の表情からは、ここまで一生懸命努力してきた達成感を感じ取ることができました。

私自身も今回の全国大会で多くの発表を聞き、大変刺激を受けました。自分にしか語れないテーマを、思いを込めて英語で伝え、観客の心を動かすスピーチの在り方について深く考えさせられました。また、出場した中学生の持っている表現力や英語力の高さにも驚かされました。

最後になりましたが、このような素晴らしい機会を与えてくださった理絵さん、理絵さんのご家族の皆さま、金松先生をはじめとする英語科の先生方、関わってくださいましたすべての方々に心から感謝いたします。本当にありがとうございました。

Gokase Secondary School

3rd Grade Rie Hiraki

Fitting in, Standing out – I am me

Nine years ago, my family moved to Japan from Korea. At that time, I was six years old, and my brother was only two years old. My father could speak a little Japanese, and he got a job. My mother attended a Japanese language school, and my brother and I entered a nursery school. I was so insecure then because I cannot speak and understand Japanese. But I gradually learned Japanese in the nursery school and I was able to speak almost perfectly in half a year.

At first, we were confused with the language and culture. Looking back, I think cultural differences was the most difficult thing that I experienced when I came to Japan. Japan and Korea are neighboring countries in Asia, yet they are significantly different from each other. For example, in terms of lifestyle, language, way of thinking, customs, and so on.

Initially, telling my thoughts in Japanese by imitating my friends was painful for me because I could not tell my friends what I was thinking well. However, I was glad that I was able to speak Japanese little by little. I felt that my improving Japanese language skills increased my laughter, and I enjoyed it a lot.

In elementary school, I got more opportunities to know more about Japanese culture. I became so interested in cultural differences and new situations that I aggressively challenged various things in school such as *Sobauchi*, making buckwheat noodles, and joining the students’ committee. In my personal life, I interacted with many Japanese people from diverse generations through the cram school, the piano and dance lessons, English conversation and so on. By communicating with a lot of people, I gradually became accustomed to life in Japan.

However, I was very scared to say that I am a foreigner. I felt bad when people looked at me with eyes saying “She is a Korean.” I hated that I was different from everyone. I was especially concerned about what others think about me. I think it was my biggest problem at that time.

During that time, I relied so much on my parents. They comforted me and helped me to solve my troubles. While I’ve seen my parents struggle because of differences in social relationships and cultures, they never give up. In all of my hardships, I always have reliable parents. They were always strong. I am proud of my parents. The struggles and challenges we experienced helped us to be who we are today.

Last summer, I studied in Canada. Even there, I felt great cultural differences. However, the people I met there actively asked me about Japan. They tried to understand the Japanese culture even if it is completely different from theirs. I was delighted with their great interest and at the same time, I learned about Canadian culture.

As a result of my study abroad, I got interested in the culture of the world. Nowadays, overseas migrants and tourists are increasing in Japan. Under such circumstances, it is important to have an interest in the cultures of other countries, to actively understand it, and at the same time, to spread Japanese culture more. I strongly wish for more Japanese to incorporate the culture of other countries in their everyday lives.

Because of my experiences, I learned to value who I am. I am now more confident to share Korean culture to my classmates. Someday, I’d like to live in a society where foreigners who live in Japan can answer with confidence who they are. Thanks to my family, and the people around me, I can proudly say that ‘I am Korean’.