



葛飾中だより

10月号

〒344-0123 春日部市永沼 2250-1 TEL 746-0002/FAX 746-5260

生徒総数524名 全学級数 17学級 URL <http://www.schitnet/kasukabe/jhkatsushika/>

学校教育目標「自ら考え実行する生徒」スローガン『笑顔あいさつあふれる 夢 実現 葛飾中学校』 I am Omar

I'm Elbatesh Omar. I like DIY, I'm good at cooking, my favorite anime is Conan and I don't like garlic. When I introduce myself like this, some people look unsatisfied. Some people care more about where I was born than what I like or don't like. I'll tell you just in case. I was born in Egypt. My parents are also Egyptians. I came to Japan when I was 6 because of my father's work. Many people who meet me for the first time ask, "Where are you from?" Then, they say "Egyptian people are bla bla bla." I'm glad that they're interested in Egypt. I'm proud of the country I was born in and the country I have grown up in. But does my nationality define who I am?

Watching TV recently, I discovered that prejudice toward foreigners is a problem around the world. Foreigners can be refused to receive a job offer without any reasons. Even if they get a job, they may be treated unfairly. Foreigners can be denied entry to shops or hotels. Shops can be vandalized because the owners are foreigners. Such prejudice is not just on TV. I see similar situations in my daily life. Last year while playing with some friends in a park, one of the friends said, "Oh, those men are foreigners. Run away from them!" I didn't understand why we had to run away. They were just walking.

I am also a foreigner in Japan. When I wasn't good at Japanese, some of my classmates often said to me, "You are an idiot" and "Don't come close to us". I didn't understand the meaning at the time, but I realized that those were malicious words. All I did was cry. I didn't know why they said such things. I studied Japanese because I wanted friends. My Japanese became better and better, and one day, with courage, I asked my classmates the reason. They answered "It's because you're a foreigner." It's wrong to change how you treat someone based on his or her nationality, without knowing or even trying to know their personalities.

I have made a huge effort to reduce the differences with my classmates. I studied Japanese hard, took school lessons seriously, and even ran for class leader. By making great efforts, people have accepted me. By communicating with each other, they learned about me. Gradually, they started to see me as Omar, not as a foreigner. I never stop my efforts to be me. Besides, I want to make a better world. What I can do is to treat everyone kindly and with respect. My power alone is not enough. But if I can get your help, the world will be full of love and respect.

Stop discriminating people based on where people come from. Let's see each as one person. I think that discrimination can be solved by finding common points rather than focusing on the differences. When you see me as an Egyptian, you may feel distant from me. But when you see me as Omar, who likes Conan and hates garlic, I'm sure that you can feel close to me. If you like Conan, you and I can become good friends. Now, let's hold hands with each other.

Kanuma Haruka (girl) 3rd grade
Kasukabe Katsushika Junior High School

Take Action, Help Me

Imagine one day you wake up and there are no birds in the sky, no cats on the street, and no fish in the sea. Horrible, right?

My school has lots of green places. Last year, one sparrow came into my classroom by mistake. It flew over our heads, troubled, lost. Some of my classmates and my teacher drove it out with a broom. It flew away through the window. Sometimes, at my school, sparrows bump into the glass with a loud "Bang!!" Then they fly away as if nothing had happened. I love these silly lovely birds, but I feel sorry because such a big building is in their playground. I guess they just want to be free to fly. I searched for a good place for them to live. They live anywhere in the world. They eat anything, for example plant seeds and worms. Sparrows are super-ordinary birds we can see all over the world. However, the number of sparrows in Japan has been decreasing in the last 20 years. Moreover, in Europe three hundred million birds vanished between 1980 and 2010. This unbelievable fact shocked me. It also made me wonder, "Why are they dying?"

One of the most famous endangered species in the world are sea turtles. I have seen them before in Okinawa. They enjoyed swimming in the sea freely. They were large and so sweet. I was impressed when I spent time with them. I will never forget it. However, sea turtles are on the IUCN Red List, which means they are about to become extinct. There are some reasons. One is that they eat garbage accidentally. The other is humans sometimes capture or kill them, because they get in the way of the fishing industry. The number of sea turtles is decreasing because of us.

What we can do, as a person living in this world, is to know that human behavior affects other species. We must take action. When I go to a beach, I can't help picking up garbage. I can find so many plastic bottles, so many plastic bags every time. Those are the weapons that kill sea creatures. We can walk with our feet and we can hold things with our hands, so it's very simple for humans to throw the trash in the trash cans at the beach after all fish can't do that. By doing this, we can prevent sea creatures from eating garbage. We can save important creatures and the sea by ourselves. It is a very little thing that anyone can do. Now, as I said before, we must take action.

Our friendly neighbor, the sparrow, is threatened. They are losing their food and living places, because humans develop the farmlands and pave them to live conveniently. Humans can live anywhere, but other creatures can't. However, I think both humans and animals should live comfortably. We have to be conscious about the changing situation for creatures around us. I can't influence adults or children to change their mind, but I want to tell all the people listening to this speech about this situation. I want to improve everyone's lives by thinking together. To save the birds that are right next to us is the first step to save endangered animals all over the world.

If there are no sparrows, creatures will die, and if all creatures die, we are next. So, if this is important for you, I need your help.

Choose love, adopt a dog

Do you have a dog? I have a dog. She is a seven year old Chihuahua. Her name is May. She doesn't like going for walks, and barks happily when I get home. She likes children very much. When I lie down on the sofa, she always approaches me. She is healing me every day. Really cute. She is family. I don't want to think what would happen if she was gone. If an owner gives up on keeping a dog, the dog becomes a stray dog and is eventually taken to an animal protection center.

Have you ever watched "A protective dog"? Do you know the program? It was a close contact with a dog that will be protected from now on. In this case, the owner had so many animals that he couldn't take care of them. This is a fine example of the abuse that humans can inflict upon animals. Once we have a dog, we have to take care of it until it dies. There are four types of protected dogs. The first are dogs that can no longer be kept due to the owner's circumstances. The second are dogs that have been determined by pet stores and breeders to be not fit for sale. The third are lost dogs. The fourth are dogs that have been rescued from negligent owners. All of them have been taken over by protection centers. Protection centers are called shelters. They look for foster parents for dogs.

If you want a dog, where do you go first, a shelter or a pet shop? I have a friend who adopted a dog from a shelter. She went to the shelter many times looking for the dog of her dream. When she finally found it she took it home and since then they have never been happier. My friend loves that dog very much. The number of people adopting sheltered dogs have decreased because they see sheltered dogs as broken or used products. Just as humans, dogs have their own individuality and soul. My friend is very happy to have adopted a dog and the dog has never been happier.

Dogs are as important as human lives. "I want to keep it because it's cute." I ask you. "Are you confident in taking care of your dog's life?" Please forget the idea that keeping a dog is easy. If it is abandoned by the owner who loved it, in the end, it disappears with pain.

What can I do to make protected dogs more popular? In the near future, I would like to visit animal welfare organizations and shelters to comfort the injured and scared dogs. I'm young but I have a lot of love for dogs. I wish dogs all the happiness in the world. I take care of my dog. I want you to protect your dog's life. After all, and I think everyone will agree with me on this one, there is no doubt when I say that dogs are humans' BEST friend. Let's show them that humans are worthy of their unconditional loyalty.