

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.6

~ Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM ~ Feb. 28th, 2022

How would you overcome unwanted results if you should experience them?

How did you feel when you heard that Ski jumper **Takanashi Sara** had made a public apology for being disqualified in the mixed team event at the Beijing Olympics? She posted a message on social media with a black picture after Japan finished fourth in the event. She wrote that she is deeply sorry for depriving the team of a chance to win a medal and for disappointing people who have supported and cheered for them.

She said she doesn't think she can take responsibility by making an apology, adding that she needs to think about her future career. She expressed gratitude for her teammates and staff for being on her side through to the end. She concluded the message by saying that **the wonderful sport of ski jumping should not create a scene of confusion but a scene of shared joy for athletes and teams.**

著作権に配慮し、画像を加工しています！

著作権配慮！

How about **Hanyu Yuzuru**'s case? He said "If efforts never lied, the one who practices the most would win time after time. But, of course, no matter how hard a person works, if they can't win, they can't win. And conversely, much younger athletes may overtake them. Therefore, efforts do lie. **But that doesn't mean these efforts are in vain. It is precisely because efforts lie that we are prompted to think about how to work hard in a different way, and find the correct direction in which to expend our efforts.** Isn't that the most important thing?"

Japan took the silver medal in women's curling following a heavy 10-3 loss to Great Britain in the final. "The color of the medal has changed from four years ago, but to be honest, I'm a bit disappointed," **Fujisawa Satsuki** said. **"But I'm really happy I could play until the final day with these teammates, and I'm so proud of the team."**

After the team collected its silver medals, Team Coach **J.D Lind** spoke proudly of the players who have helped bring their once-fringe sport to mainstream attention in Japan. **"The best trait of this team is how positive they are and how they work together through difficult situations. I only hope that everybody (in Japan) is proud of what they did and can relate to their spirit out there."**

著作権配慮！

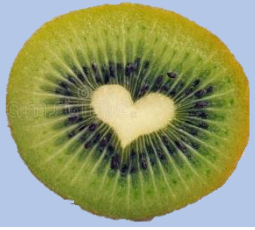
著作権配慮！

★ T's Power Song ★

This song reminds me of the high school graduation ceremony. High school students are especially likely to face a lot of difficulties in their school life; the relationship with your friends, your academic results and club activities, and entrance examinations for your own future courses. Of course, "you're only part of the way to reaching your dreams" like the lyrics of this song, but at the graduation ceremony you can be proud of your great efforts so far! <https://youtu.be/PRJoAPH0ZGo>

Everybody wants to achieve a great goal, and makes great efforts to do so. However difficult it is, you will try hard to achieve this goal if you're determined to aim for it. So, I say that you don't have to be afraid of making mistakes or of not achieving your goals because everybody understands your efforts and bitter disappointment if you fail. **Why don't you imagine you will succeed and keep on trying harder without worrying about unwanted results?**

I hope the KIRITAKA English Journal will be accepted by you! (Toru Hoshino)



Kiwi Corner



It has become February, and we have around a month left until the end of school! This year has gone by so quickly! In Japan, when it becomes February, what do you think about? Maybe *Setsubun*, where you get rid of bad luck before the new spring. Or maybe you're looking forward to



the two national holidays, National Foundation Day on February 11th, or The Emperor's Birthday on February 23rd. Around the world however, there is one famous event that is celebrated on February 14th. That's right! It's Valentine's Day.



In New Zealand, men give women gifts!

Of course, you may tell me, "but we celebrate Valentine's Day in Japan too!" Indeed, you do! But it's a little different here in Japan to the rest of the world. In many English-speaking countries, including New Zealand, Valentine's Day, men usually give red roses, chocolates, letters and other gifts to women, and women sometimes give gifts as well. I was very shocked when I first came to Japan, because on Valentine's Day here, only women give gifts, usually chocolate. Then

men are expected to give gifts in return one month later on White Day on March 14th. Most other countries around the world do not celebrate White Day, so I found it very interesting. There are a number of fascinating ways to celebrate love around the world. Let me introduce some of them to you.



Finland In Finland, February 14th is known as "Friends Day" (*Ystävänpäivä*). People meet their friends and send each other cards. In 2015, 3 million cards were sent on Friends Day.



A Finnish Friends Day card



Denmark In Denmark, friends and couples exchange handmade cards with pressed white flowers called "snowdrops".



Spain In Spain, the day of love falls on October 9th. It is celebrated by making and giving marzipan (マジパン) figurines called *macadora*. They are made by men and



A macadora from Spain

given to women. They also hold colorful street parades.

Is there anyone you want to give a Valentine's Day gift to? Or would you like to receive one from someone? Anyway, I hope you enjoyed this issue of Kiwi Corner! See you next time!

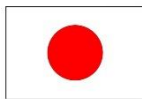
Following the theme of this month's Kiwi Corner, I want to introduce one of my favorite love songs. It is by a very famous British musician, and he wrote the song about his girlfriend at the time, who is now his wife. Give it a listen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Vv-BfVoq4g>

(Liam Campbell)

The Joseph Article (Storytime with Joseph!)

Another Cultural Lesson



There are **many differences** between **Japan** and **America**. This is one of the more obvious statements you will ever see me make. But it does bear some reminding. For example, the **food**, the **customs**, the **customer service**, the **way you drive on the other side of the road and car** here. The list goes on and on.

Recently, I taught a class to most of the 1st year students about the fact that all bathroom doors in America open by pushing or pulling the doorknob. I didn't know that some bathroom doors in Japan slide open. So, trying to open a sliding door by pushing or pulling it is a little embarrassing.

I have **another story** about cultural differences, but this story is about my friend Aidan. I'm telling this story because, "everything is funnier when it happens to someone else."

One evening, my friend Aidan and I went to a **nice sushi restaurant**. Aidan wanted to try a dessert and decided to order a bowl of lychee. Aidan has tasted the flavor before, but had never tried a real lychee before.

(A nice sushi restaurant)



Aidan: "This is what lychee looks like?!"

Joseph: "I guess so. It looks like a nut. Isn't lychee supposed to be sweet?"

Aidan: "Yes, it is. What should I do?"

Joseph: "Well, just try eating the whole thing, see how it tastes."

Aidan: "Okay. I will let you know how it is."



Aidan struggled to eat the entire lychee. It looked difficult to eat and not very tasty. It took him an entire minute to eat it. Just as he was about to eat the second one, our waitress stopped him and **showed him that he needed to peel the outer shell and eat around the pit**. It was very easy to understand why he made that mistake, but also easier to understand that lychee tastes better when you only eat the inside. I occasionally remind Aidan of that story and we both laugh about it still. Again, there are **many different things about Japan** and I'm sure I will continue to learn about those cultural differences.

