

Greetings from the President's Office

2020.3.30 NO.23

Looking forward to watching

From my accommodation in Akita, I can enjoy overlooking Akita Prefectural Central Park, Chuo Park, such as an athletic field, an indoor playground. Beyond them, I can see the runway of Akita Airport. The scenery will be different in appearance every season as well as day and night. To enjoying the view from my room on a sofa with beer in the silence, I feel like as if I was in a landscape painting.

Various sports events are held in Chuo Park from spring to fall. During the outdoor sports season like baseball, soccer and track and field, people gets excited and a big cheer arises, I cannot sit still in my room, I grad my sunshade hat and hurry out of my room.

My favorite is track and field, especially 100M sprint, 200M sprint and 800M replays of junior high school boys because I used to do the same at the same age of them in Tochigi prefecture.

It was more than 60 years ago, I got a bad cold and it developed into bronchitis in May, which was right after I became a junior high school student. Since then, I was frequently absent from school with endearing fevers. By the time I became the second grade, I became energetic enough to go back to school, however, I could not keep up with the English class and PE education at all, which started in junior high school. All my classmates were learning some English sentences along with the textbook, on the contrary, I needed to learn alphabet at the time. I became so desperate and made my mind in two things: to memorize the whole things of the English textbook by rote learning and to keep jogging around my house every day.

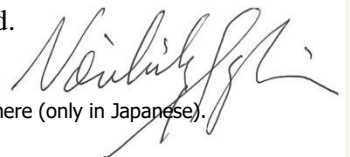
That made me achieve a good record in the 100M run, 12.00 second. It was the best record on the school grounds and my regional Nasu County competition. I participated in a competition named National Broadcasting Track and Field that competed fro the time nationwide with the aid of NHK Radio. I ran a 11.80-second 100M sprint, which resulted in the second best in the middle school section at Tochigi prefecture.

As for my English learning, I could not keep up with classes at the beginning, but the English classes did not become uncomfortable any more later at junior high school and high school as I planned by rote learning the whole textbook. As you see, I went to the US for my grade school and earned a Ph.D. And got opportunity to teach business in Washington State University and University of Illinois for a decade, but I had never studied English in the purpose of these preparation. My strategy "Rote learning" which I invented in my school days worked very well.

Due to the influence the COVID-19, AIU is still refraining from any events with a lot of people such as club activities in order to prevent a spread of infectious diseases. I am wondering how kids like elementary school students are spending their days under the circumstance of an emergency school closure. Taking a positive side, this would be a good opportunity for them to make a plan of daily study and to try to implement it by their own, and to develop it to their habit.

The season of the track and field is coming and I hope everything will be back to normal as before and looking forward to a day to watch young energy sitting on the lawn in the athletic field.

This article was originally posted on Asahi Shimbun local version dated March 30th, 2020. Read the original article here (only in Japanese).
<http://www.asahi.com/area/akita/articles/MTW20200330051550001.html>



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