



Haf a A d a i

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The Magic of Words · Words that Touch the Heart



The great influence of words is an issue and phenomenon that is often discussed in the public eye. A casual remark can cause discomfort to the other person and sometimes leave that person unable to recover. It is common for bullying to occur at school and in society in general. On the other hand, words can also cheer us up and give us unexpected strength.

We often feel that words have magic power, both good and bad. For those of us in the school site, words are undoubtedly the greatest means of education.

Suppose a teacher continually points out a child's shortcomings. What would happen to the child? It is easy to imagine that in many cases, the child will lose confidence, lose motivation, and become desperate. The same is true in the relationship between parents and their children.

There are many forms of discrimination in the world. Racism, sexism, occupational discrimination, status discrimination, and the list goes on and on. It is no exaggeration to say that this is a serious problem that can lead to wars between countries. In the case of familiar things, the discriminatory consciousness is expressed in verbal expressions such as discriminatory terms and hate speeches. It may be something that is inherently present in the human mind, but it cannot be condoned. I think it is the right thing for human beings to try to eliminate it somehow, or at least keep it out of the public eye.

At the Japanese School of Guam, there seems to be some discriminatory remarks among the children. We, the dispatched teachers from Japan, unfortunately lack understanding of the meaning of the English word and have difficulty noticing that the word itself is being uttered, and for this we apologize. On the other hand, many of our students' families speak English as their main language, and many of students communicate in English. Since we are a Japanese school, we encourage our students to use Japanese as much as possible in order to acquire Japanese language skills, but it is difficult to force them to do so. Thus, there have been cases where, for example, the F-word has been uttered without our teachers' knowledge. Naturally, children become restless. It was often difficult for them to concentrate in class. We were informed of this fact through our native teachers, and we instruct our children individually and to the group as a whole that it should not be used. I would like to ask you to please instruct your children as well at every opportunity.



In any case, we would like to use nice words that empower people. At the recent World Baseball Classic (WBC), Otani's words to the players became a topic of conversation. "I understand your admiration for Major League Baseball players, as do I. But we must win this war. But we came here to win this game. So, just for today, let's stop admiring them." I think

these words were truly wonderful. Perhaps it had a great impact on them. The Japanese team won the championship.



For the happiness of mankind and for the future of the children of the Japanese School of Guam, we would like to use these wonderful words that resonate in their hearts.