

#111

Tokyo Jogakkan Middle and High School

June 11 – July 13, 2022

Summary by organizer:

About 20 years ago, the late Machiyo Kurokawa, a graduate of this school, brought the school a clipping of the “Rose of Anne Frank” from the Holocaust Education Center in Fukuyama, Hiroshima, starting the “Rose of Anne Frank Committee” whose 80 or so members in grade 7 to 12 care for the roses and learn about peace. That committee displayed the panels for a month as one of their activities. The committee members arranged the panels in the school entrance lobby so that students, teachers, parents and other visitors to the school were able to view the panels every day. Because the panels were in a convenient location, many students could be seen stopping to look at the panels while passing between classes or during break times. Also, parents who had come to school for PTA events or conferences could be seen reading the panels. In addition, visitors to the school on library business asked for more information about the exhibit. Because the exhibit had so many photos, it was easy for the students to understand. While looking at the photos, students would read the text and discuss it with their friends. In this way, students who are not in the “Rose of Anne Frank Committee” were also given a chance to learn about the Holocaust and think about peace. We are therefore deeply grateful to NPO Global Project for sponsoring this exhibit, and at the same time apologize for the misunderstandings and miscommunication on this side that inconvenienced many people, including M. Takagi.

Comments

A small notebook was placed by the exhibition to allow visitors to leave comments freely.

The idea that Jewish people were persecuted just for being Jewish is too cruel, and seems inconceivable from our relatively peaceful life, so I was shocked.

I thought we must never forget the things Anne experienced when she was our age, and must never allow them to happen again.

Because of the invasion of Ukraine, there may be children who would experience something like what Anne did, so I hope it will end soon.

I think it would be good if peace would come to the world.

The fact that we continue to tell her story even after her death is a wonderful thing.

I hope that nothing like this cruelty will ever happen again.

I thought how sad it was for Jewish people that Hitler who had such a huge influence on history was only elected by 18.3% of the German people. I thought we must think about the importance of human rights to prevent this from happening again.

Anne was such a cute child.

I don't think I would have been able to have Anne's attitude of "I will live" if I had been in her situation. I was so surprised that she was the age I am now!

I admire people like Anne who have a strong will.

It hurt my heart to see how people could be discriminated against and killed in a way we could never imagine today. I thought that Anne was an amazing person because she could stay positive living in such difficult times. I thought what the Nazis did was too horrible, and I respect the people who survived.

I cannot forget that the young life of a 13-year-old was stolen. Anne left the hurt feelings that only she could know in her diary, but that allows her to pass her story to us, which is amazing.

I was glad to be able to know about Anne more deeply.

Discrimination is wrong.

We take peace for granted, but I hope our peaceful days can continue.

It was easy to understand.

We are studying Peace in grade 9 now, so by making connections with what I learned there I was able to deepen my understanding of this exhibit.

I hope we can stop having victims like Anne in the world, and the world can maintain peace.

Comments from the "Rose of Anne Frank Committee"

Because of the influence of the novel coronavirus, we had a long time when we could not do the kind of activities we wanted to. Against that background, the fact that we were able to put on this exhibit and get the school community to deepen its understanding of Anne's life and times was very valuable for the committee and was a really wonderful opportunity.

On the anniversary of Anne's birth, we borrowed panels that explained her life. The panels did not just show the secret annex, but had details about her life from her birth to her death. Anne's biography was on display. For me, the image of Anne being sent to the Concentration Camp is unforgettable. I had always felt sorry for Anne and the other Jews, but by reading the timeline carefully in this exhibit, with the explanation of the environment, I was forced to ask myself how they could have escaped their tragic fate. Also, the exhibition was more realistic than her biography so I really got pulled into the story many times.

Every part of this exhibit, from set up to clean up, was done by the committee members. Since most years the way we celebrate Anne's birthday is a display of books in the library, the large display this year had a big impact on our fellow students. I was surprised by the number of panels, but there was meaning and depth in each panel.

Next year for Anne's birthday I hope that in addition the library display, we can have another exhibit that will get many people to stop and think.