

“Memories of a Love Letter”

In Fuchu City, we have adopted the “Joint Declaration for Zero SNS Troubles,” and we are actively guiding students to use social networking services appropriately. This is to help prevent students from becoming involved in problems such as bullying or crime, as well as to avoid negative effects on their learning and health. Thinking about recent SNS-related issues, I found myself recalling how I communicated and interacted with others when I was a middle school student.

This goes back to when I was in my second year of middle school. There was a classmate I had feelings for. I secretly wrote her name in my student handbook and quietly thought about how I might be able to start a conversation. One day, as summer vacation was approaching, I decided to take a bold step and confess my feelings in a letter.

Since it was the first letter I had ever written, I didn't know how to begin. I referred to a reference book used in my Japanese language class that explained how to write letters and tried to follow its format. I began with, “拝啓 (Dear...) お元気ですか? (I hope you are doing well).” However, because I was not used to such expressions, it somehow felt strange. Nowadays, I think it would be easy to find example phrases on the internet or even ask an AI. In fact, these days, love letters themselves may no longer be necessary. I wonder if today's middle school students even know the term “love letter.” A love letter, of course, is a letter used to confess one's feelings to someone they like.

I spent several days writing that letter. I rewrote it over and over again, trying my best to carefully express my feelings so they would be clearly conveyed. Just when I finally finished, I made a mistake in one character and had to start all over again. I wrote the recipient's name with great care, sealed the envelope, and prepared to mail it.

At last, it was time to post it. In my neighborhood, there was a small shop called “Tabako-ya” that sold various everyday items, including stamps. This shop became the first major hurdle. The reason it was such a challenge was that the shopkeeper had a remarkably keen intuition. With my heart pounding, I went to buy a stamp...

“(Me) Could I have one stamp, please?”

“(Shopkeeper) What do you need it for? It's unusual for you to be buying a stamp!”

At that remark, my face flushed, and I looked down in embarrassment.

“(Shopkeeper) What kind of stamp do you need?”

“(Me) Um... I'm not sure.”

“(Shopkeeper) I can't sell you one if you don't know. Is it for a postcard or an envelope? If you have it with you, show me—I'll put it on for you.”

I was so embarrassed that I felt like running away, but the shopkeeper said, “If you've got it, hurry up and show me,” and almost forced me to hand over the letter.

Thinking, “This is bad...,” I waited while the shopkeeper put the stamp on it. Then the shopkeeper said, “It's a love letter, isn't it? All the best.” I felt shy, but at the same time, a little relieved.

The second hurdle was actually mailing the letter.

The mailbox was located in front of the police box at Okunitama Shrine. I stood in front of the mailbox, took three deep breaths, and was ready to drop the letter in, but I hesitated and couldn't do it.

I walked away once, then came back and stood in front of the mailbox again. I repeated this over and over, pacing back and forth in front of it. The police officer at the nearby police box had been watching everything.

The officer finally spoke to me. Out of nowhere, he said, “It's a love letter, right?”

At that moment, I strangely felt convinced, thinking, “As expected of a police officer—he can see right through everything.” In the end, I wandered around in front of the mailbox for about an hour but could not bring myself to mail the letter. I simply couldn't overcome the second hurdle.

In today's terms, I suppose we would call it “koku-ru (告る)”. When you confess (koku-ru) your feelings to someone you like, how do you do it? Unlike in the past, there are now many different ways.

However, there is something important that has not changed, whether in the past or the present. When you use a medium—whether it is social media or a letter—instead of speaking directly to someone, it is essential to take your time to carefully think about what you want to say so that your true intentions are properly conveyed.

We now live in a very convenient world, and the use of digital media has increased significantly. Let me say it again: it is important to take time to think carefully about what you want to convey.

Principal

Yasuhiro Takashio

みんなで SNS 府中ルールを 守ろうこま!

Click!



八中だより



第6号

令和8年6月15日

府中市立

府中第八中学校

ふれあい
(いじめ
防止強化)
月間

〈学校住所・電話番号〉

〒182-0035 府中市四谷一丁目二八二七
電話 〇四二(三六四)一八八一

全校生徒数 698名

〈在籍生徒数〉 一学年 231名、二学年 249名、三学年 218名

★四谷小学校の6年生児童から「八中の校長先生こんにちは!」と声をかけられました。地域で顔見知りが増えています。素晴らしい! 素晴らしい!

