



CJSS Newsletter

Canterbury Japanese Supplementary School

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PARALYMPIC ATHLETE



Today we had 3 paralympic athletes visit us, and held a meeting with the children. They were in traffic accidents as children, and have lower body paralysis, lost a leg, or lost both legs. They talked about their bitter experiences to the children without any concern. They were all very young when the accidents happened, and they did not necessarily

speak of it as success stories, but that it was the result of them pursuing what they loved. They spoke in a very kind and easy to understand way for the children, and it was a very meaningful time for them. I think the reception was varied from the year 1 to the year 9 students, but their stories were definitely impactful on them all. A number of parents were also present, and even from an adult's standpoint they were an inspiration, and I think it was overall very educational. When watching them, they made us view obstacles not as a minus, but as a plus to their own strength. I certainly felt that they must have worked very hard in order to get here. Finally, the children were allowed to touch the gold medals, saying things such as "Wow, it's heavy!" and "Is this real?" From the parents there were a lot of questions along the lines of "Is the whole thing made of gold?"

Their biggest goal seems to be the Beijing Paralympics in 4 years time. I hope that we can all support them in this challenge. Once again I applaud these 3 athletes! Thank you.

Children, be careful of cars!

Parents, be careful when driving!



Hiraku Misawa

Born in Matsumoto, Nagano prefecture. Loses leg below left thigh at age 6 due to a traffic accident.

Starts skiing at age 8. Has natural motor nerves for swimming and baseball etc. Joins the JPS Alpine Skiing Para-Alpine team during year 9, and participates in world competitions. At age 15 he studied at Mount Hutt College in Methven for 3 years. Participating in the 4th event at the Pyeongchang Paralympics.

Akira Kanou

Born in Abashiri, Hokkaido prefecture. Starts experiencing various sports after damage to his spinal cord due to a car accident in the 3rd grade, and in the 7th grade he starts skiing. Studied at Department of Welfare System Engineering, and currently belong to Maruhan. Participated in 4 consecutive winter Paralympic alpine skiing competitions since the 2006 Turin Paralympic games. Wins gold in the Super-G and bronze in the downhill, sitting at the 2010 Vancouver Paralympics. Due to his accomplishments at the 2010 Vancouver Paralympics, he won the Hokkaido Honor Award on June 10th 2010. On March 8th 2014, he won gold in the men's downhill at the Sochi Paralympics, becoming the first Japanese athlete to do so. Acceptance of the purple ribbon in the Spring of 2014.

Takeshi Suzuki

Born in the Fukushima prefecture. Both legs amputated due to a traffic accident. Starts skiing at age 9.

Following graduation from Surugadai University in 2011, continues to be active as an official.

Participated in 3 consecutive winter Paralympic alpine skiing competitions since the 2006 Turin Paralympics.

Wins bronze in the giant slalom, sitting, at the 2010 Vancouver Paralympics. Awarded the lifetime achievement award. On March 8th 2014, he won bronze in the men's downhill at the Sochi Paralympics.

On March 13th, also at the Sochi Paralympics, he comes third in the men's alpine ski, winning the gold medal.

17 years before he got the gold medal, on March 13th, was also the day that he was in the accident, and I had a mysterious feeling that the tragedy of the accident turned into the joy of the gold medal. Received the purple ribbon in the Spring of 2014.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4Xbt6Y8gwg&index=2&list=PLziXyqUNslvqP_UzfU0v0c4QfRkQekZJa&t=21s

All of us at the Canterbury Japanese Supplementary School are supporting you! Do your best!

A message to the parents.

We brought this up at the school information meeting, but we are asking again. We are aware that the school opening on Saturday is an important meeting place for parents. However we sometimes see that parents get so absorbed in the conversation that they forget about their children. Please do not lose sight of your children. Just last week, there was a case of a lower year level student standing alone in the dark saying "Mum's not here." Please make sure that children are within sight of their parents. Also when letting children play during class times, please be aware of the time and place.