

「Email Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama (61) December 28th, 2015 Issue」

[Hang in there, teachers!!]

Hello, I'm Omori, mayor of Okayama.

My essay was posted on a column called "Memory of Learning" on "Living Okayama" of December 27th issue.

On the column, I wrote about a teacher, Inoue sensei, whom I had a great influence and was given confidence of being myself when I was in an elementary school. I would like to send cheers to teachers of today. This is a contribution of my essay like the last newsletter and I hope you can take some time to read this.

■■ Quotation from "Learning Memory" from December 27th issue of "Living Okayama" ■■

"Learning Memory"

In terms of "learning", I vividly remember my teacher, Inoue sensei, when I was in 5th or 6th grade at Okayama City Shikata Elementary school.

People may not be able imagine but I was not good at speaking in public and was "introverted". My report card always said that I should act more actively. I had never raised my hand during a class when my teacher asked students for an answer. I answered in shaky little voice only when my teacher told me to answer. So I attracted little attention in the class. Now I work as mayor of Okayama but I imagine that not many people remember me then.

One day, there was an IQ test at the school. We were to answer which number is bigger

looking at the numerical expression of addition listed from left to right. It was a test of speed and accuracy and surprisingly I was the first one to finish it. Because I was introverted, I couldn't raise my hand to show that I was finished. When I was hesitated, I happened to meet my eyes with Inoue sensei so I timidly raised my hand. I remember that after I did it, no one raised their hands for a while.

Inoue sensei went through my answer and confirmed it was all correct. He shook his head as if he was saying "really? You can do it, Mr. Omori". When I saw him, I felt like he gave confidence to me whom I felt I was a mediocre person in every way.

It was not that I changed at once after that but I'm sure that the confidence I got then became my point of origin as I think back.

A word or behavior of teacher means so much for children who receive education. Hang in there, teachers, for the children of Okayama!!

Masao Omori

Mayor of Okayama

■■■ Quotation ends ■■■

Only a few days left this year. This newsletter is the last one of this year.

This winter is said to be warm but it is getting colder in the morning and night so please take good care of yourself. I wish you a wonderful New Year and hope for your continued support for Okayama city. I would like to make this as my year-end greeting.