

'Live with pleasure'

This was the quote Mr. Toshiro Kanamori wrote down for the 2nd and 3rd bilingual classes as a wish. With his magnificent handwriting he wrote with his Japanese brush, that his interpreter translated into Dutch. This all happened on the 11th of September, when sensei Kanamori came to visit class V2B and V3B at the Comenius Collage Lijstersingel. He gave them an extraordinary lesson.



Before the introduction from J.P. van Neven the class had seen a very interesting documentary about Mr. Kanamori. It was called "Children full of life". This documentary was about the second year he taught his class at a Primary school nearby Tokyo. He had already taught them a year before, so they became a very close bond. This impressive story shows us how Mr. Kanamori teaches.

Enjoyable learning

Before we discovered the real story we got a fascinating explanation. He explained us how children of 6 years old learned the difference between left and right. Firstly we had to raise our right hand and we saw that the distance from our middle finger to our elbow was a long piece while the distance from our thumb to our pink was smaller. This 2 lines

made a character 𠄎. We also did this with our left hand. Then we got a long line to our elbow and a small line from our thumb to our pink 𠄏.

Nevertheless it is logical that this was not the point. The sensei described us that the only way you can learn correctly is when you know the meaning of the definition or thing that you are learning. This method makes learning more enjoyable too.



Friendship in characters



Secondly he gave a short demonstration with the volunteer Jens. He acted if he had a backache and Jens gave him a hand. After that, Mr. Kanamori dramatized crying while Jens comforted him by giving some solace. The sensei explained us that the character of friends derived from the two arms of the left and right characters. You can see that in the picture on the left. Actually you see two hands which are connected. 'Friends are connected and they help each other in difficult times, but with friends you can also experience amazing pleasant times' the sensei quoted.

Very important hands

Though the hands in the character above do even more than only comforting your friends. Some examples are: helping, playing, giving and *writing*. The last one is very important as Mr. Kanamori informed us. When we write something others can read it later and they can learn from our texts. Kanamori read us a beautiful short story from his own book. It was a real romance story about a boy of 10 years old who fall in love with by a single *hand* touch. He explained us that the boy did several movements with his hands. He gave her a pencil, touched her hand and wrote his story down.

Impressive stories

After this moment our lesson became more emotional. The sensei began with a short introduction. He read us the story of a girl who was scared to go to school. That is why her grandmother struck over her stomach every morning. In the end she had the courage to go to school. Her grandmothers' hand was a wonder hand.

He asked us if we had that experience once too. A boy named Jordy had this experience and that's why he announced to us about his disease.

Approximately a year ago he was informed that he had the illness IBD. It was a very arduous time for him, nevertheless he explained us that we all helped him in this terrible period. Jordy concluded with the sentence: 'When you help someone, the person you help will be much more aware of it than you.' Afterwards the class was very proud of him, that he had the courage to tell this in front of the class with other unknown people.

Another comparison is the story about a girl in Mr. Kanamori's class. When she was very young her father died, but she never had the courage to inform her classmates. Once a boy in her class had written about his bitter tragedy, she finally was able to tell her story. This was very hard for the girl. Luckily there was Mifuyu, she help the girl and gave her many hugs.

This all was the cause of the magical method of Mr. Kanamori. He gave his students note books, in these books they could write down their stories and feelings. In the end they often shared this with the whole class. Consequently there is an improvement in the communication, cooperation and assisting your classmates in difficult times.

These sad examples all have to do with hands because the children are comforted and supported by their family and friends. *'As long as one child is not happy no one can be happy'*.

Love and Hope



Though, the sensei gave the children not only a wish as a present, but also an origami folded crane. He explained us that this crane meant love and hope. This is an result of the story of Sadako Sadaki. She was a brave girl who got a disease of the atom bomb in Japan. She got leukaemia and Sadako knew she would die. Surprisingly she started to fold origami cranes. That gave her hope. After her dead a statue from her and a golden crane was unveiled in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Sadako has become a symbol of the impact of nuclear war. She is a heroine and because of her there is a peace day on the 6th of August.

A singing Kanamori

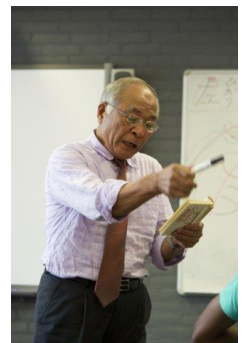
Mr. Kanamori really likes Holland as a result of their friendship. About this he wrote a small song for the class and he sang it. He said to us: *'We let people live and they let us live'*.

Conclusion

The visit of Mr. Kanamori is something that probably will stay in our memory forever. This day we have learned how important friends are along with the magnificent words; love and hope. Furthermore we got informed about how considerable hands are.

I recommend that Mr. Kanamori should visit more schools all over the world with the result that everyone can learn his brilliant way of learning and teaching.

***'Live with pleasure'* - Mr. Kanamori**



Written by:

Céline Mulder

V3B

23-9-2012

An extraordinary experience

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to inform you about what happened in class when Mr. Toshiro Kanamori came in.

Toshiro Kanamori is a very famous Japanese teacher who developed his own way of teaching his pupils. He has a really personal teaching style. His pupils have to write down every thing they have on their mind and don't really want to tell the whole class. Every day he asks some pupils to read their stories out loud in front of the class. Because of this, nobody has secrets and everyone can share their happiness or pain. 'When one child isn't happy, nobody can be.'



Before the visit

Approximately a week before the visit of Mr. Kanamori, we had to prepare some things in class. At geography, we had to search for information about the Japanese teacher and we had to make up some questions we could ask him.

A week later it was 'the big day'. The entire school was finished after the fourth hour except our class, but we had lunch with the whole class while watching the documentary: 'Children full of life'.

The visit

After that, Mr. Toshiro Kanamori and his translator came in. The interpreter could translate Japanese to Dutch and also the other way around. There was a lot of media which made pictures and recorded a video.

Mr. Kanamori started off with a description of the Japanese characters which meant 'Left' and 'Right'. A lot of teachers can't explain to children why these characters belong to these meanings, but Kanamori can. He gave us a lot of examples of things you can do with your hands, like: writing, making music, comfort someone, etc.

Next, he narrated a story about a boy who touched the hand of a girl and he immediately fell in love with her.

Once in his class, he had a girl who told a story about her father. She was only 3 years old when her father died and never dared to tell the class about it, but with the help of Kanamori, she had the courage to tell it. The entire class was moved because of it and also others told their stories.

And at last, our pupils were able to ask the teachers questions about his school and his experiences



My opinion

I think this is a 'once in a lifetime' experience that you can never have another time in your life. It was so unique that just our class could meet him, because only a few classes in Holland can meet Mr. Kanamori.

I also learned a lot about his teaching style and what he does with kids. Mr. Toshiro Kanamori is a really cheerful and pleasant man and I think there have to be more people like him!

Merel Lelieveldt, V3b

