

Cultural Committee hosted an event

While the Typhoon No. 14 blew hard, this year's Cultural Committee event, "International Yose," was held on October 30th. Master Sanyutei Yuukichi rakugo comic storyteller gave a talk to us.

In spite of the bad weather, close to 70 rakugo lovers gathered at the event. Thank you.

After the greetings by the Principal, Master Yuukichi gave us interesting talks. He explained about Yosemoji characters using samples for audience. He also presented how to beat taiko drums.



According to the Master, bold characters are used to make blank white spaces look filled. The black characters themselves express seating areas in the theater which means the audience and the blank white areas means vacant seats. Yosemoji characters are written bold hoping that many people come to fill up the spaces to watch Yose. The Master told us that there are different types of taiko drums - ichiban taiko, niban taiko, and hane taiko. Each taiko drum has its unique role to play. Ichiban taiko is used to welcome many people, niban taiko is played just before the rakugo begins, and hane taiko is performed when audience leave the Yose theater. Also, he performed taiko drum to express sound of water, ocean, ghost, and snow.

Not only that, he shared many secrets of rakugo with us in such an easy way to understand. He told us that the more knowledge we have about rakugo, the more we can enjoy. He said that we can enjoy same rakugo story differently depending on our level of knowledge about rakugo.



For the second half of the event, he performed the day's main event, Classic Rakugo "Ido no chawan or porcelain in the well." Although he was the only performer, his performance was so excellent that we were able to imagine the view of the town and facial expression of more than one character in the story as if they were in front of us. His body and hand movement and changing tone of his voice enabled those effects. We very much enjoyed powerful and lively talk which is not possible to appreciate from a TV program.

At the end of the event, PTA President Arai gave a closing remark, "it was raining cold outside but now our minds are filled with good laugh and warm feeling." Visitors and staff were able to spend such a wonderful time.

We would like to plan an enjoyable event for next year and hope you can attend.

Thank you.

Cultural Committee