

**At the end of the second trimester, 2024, let's look back on the 2024 school year.**

**Our sports day, which remarkably saw sunshine during a typically rainy season, started under cloudy skies. It was a day filled with exciting competitions, thrilling matches, and wonderful performances. Thank you for all so many unforgettable moments.**

**Summer was incredibly hot, yet the club activity camps, the long-distance swimming practice and camping practice in the physical education course, and the cultural festival (Torikoma-Sai) all became memorable events. All of them were remarkable, but the Twice dance during the evening festival was particularly outstanding. Thank you for these wonderful memories.**

**About ten days ago, the eleventh graders returned from their school trip. I believe they were able to deeply learn about the history and culture of Okinawa, and I hope that they will apply lessons from the past to new experiences in the future.**

**I would like to talk about two things today.**

**First, let's talk about Okinawa for a bit. It is a great pity that Shuri Castle burnt down in 2019. Many people there have been trying hard to rebuild it. I have heard that we will be able to see a rebuilt castle in fall, 2026. Historically speaking, Okinawa, without military power of its own, has been caught in struggles between powerful nations, and it chose to live as a foreign-trade nation for a long time. Its history as Okinawa Prefecture began when it was designated as such by the Meiji Government in 1879. During the Pacific War, countless citizens were killed during the dreadful Battle of Okinawa, and some of those deaths may have been caused indirectly by prejudice toward Okinawans, who had traditionally been discriminated against by many people on the main islands of Japan. After a 27-year occupation by the allied nations, Okinawans chose to rejoin Japan, despite all the complex feelings they must have had regarding the Japanese government. I hope the school trip gave you a chance to reaffirm your identities as modern Japanese who have a rich past to be proud of. And I do hope it offered wonderful opportunities for you to start thinking about where you have come from and where you will be going, as well as about what you will pass on to the next generation and how you might be able to change society for the better.**

**Second, the year 2024, which began with a major earthquake on the Noto Peninsula, is drawing to a close. Disasters have been frequent across Japan, the economy hasn't improved, and prices have surged as the result of such influences**

as the war in Ukraine. Our surrounding environment hasn't been favorable. The political scene is stagnant, and there are doubts about whether Japan will play a role worthy of its honorable position in the international community. Conflicts have been arising all over the world, in East Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Central Africa, increasing threats to security. The universal challenges faced by humanity, such as hunger, poverty, and environmental issues, still lack concrete solutions. In this VUCA era, I strongly hope that those studying at Komaba will become future leaders who contribute to building a better society and a better world. Instead of expecting people to do something for you, think about what you can do for others. Complainers do not have the power to change the world. It is those who live earnestly, with aspirations, who can change society. Dedicate yourself to learning, club activities, and school events, and cultivate a strong and flexible spirit in both body and mind.

Today, I have told you two things: first that we should find a guide for tomorrow by taking lessons from the past, and second that you should live earnestly, with aspirations, so that you can change society for the better.

One more thing, to the twelfth graders, Koma 77, who have been preparing for the Common Test for University Admissions. It's around the corner; actually there are just 24 days to go, which is five days longer than last year. Now is the time for you to concentrate on studying more than ever. Do what you can do today for the sake of your own futures. After the Common Test, your focus will shift to the second examinations for individual universities. You will have plenty of time, nearly forty days, before taking them. Don't be afraid to set high goals for yourselves.

In closing my speech, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I do hope the year 2025, Reiwa 7, will be a much more peaceful one for people all over the world.

Thank you very much.

2024年度の第2学期を終えるにあたり、今年度を振り返ってみましょう。

雨の季節の中で晴天に恵まれた運動会は曇り空の下で始まりました。競技や試合、素晴らしい演技が目白押しの日でした。たくさんの忘れられない瞬間瞬間をありがとう。

猛暑の夏、クラブ活動の合宿や体育コースの遠泳練習とキャンプ実習、そして文化祭（都駒祭）が記憶に残るイベントとなりました。どれも素晴らしいものでしたが、中夜祭での Twice ダンスは特に印象的でした。素晴らしい思い出をありがとう。

10日ほど前に、2年生が修学旅行から帰ってきました。沖縄の歴史と文化を深く学ぶことができ、過去から学んだことを今後の新しい経験に生かしてほしいと思っています。

今日は2つのことについてお話します。

まず、少し沖縄についてです。2019年に首里城が焼失したことは非常に残念なことです。多くの人々が再建に尽力しています。2026年秋には再建されたお城を見ることができると聞いています。歴史的に見て、軍事力を持たない沖縄は強国の狭間で苦しみ、長らく貿易国家として生きることを選びました。沖縄県としての歴史は、1879年に明治政府によって県に指定されたことに始まります。太平洋戦争中、恐ろしい沖縄戦で多くの市民が犠牲になりました。歴史的に差別されてきた沖縄人に対する本州に住む多くの人たちの偏見も影響したかもしれません。27年間の連合国による占領後、沖縄は複雑な思いを抱えつつも、日本に再び加わることを選びました。修学旅行が、誇るべき豊かな伝統をもつ現代日本人としてのアイデンティティを再確認するとともに、将来どこへ向かい、何を次の世代に伝え、どのように社会をより良く変えていくのか考えるきっかけになることを願っています。

次に、2024年は、能登半島での大地震で始まり、間もなく終わろうとしています。日本各地で災害が頻発し、経済は改善せず、ウクライナでの戦争などの影響で物価が急騰しています。政治情勢も停滞しており、日本が国際社会での名誉ある地位に見合った役割を果たせるのかどうか疑問視されています。東アジア、中東、東ヨーロッパ、中央アフリカでは紛争が多発し、安全保障への脅威が増しています。飢餓、貧困、環境問題など人類共通の課題にはまだ具体的な解決策が見つかりません。この VUCA（変動性、不確実性、複雑性、曖昧性）の時代において、駒場で学ぶ皆さんがより良い社会と世界を築くリーダーになってくれることを強く希望しています。誰かが何かをしてくれるのを期待するのではなく、自分が他人のために何ができるかを考えてください。不平を言う人は世界を変える力をもっていません。志を持ち、真面目に生きる人こそが社会を変えることができるのです。学習や部活動、学校行事に全力で取り組み、心身共に強く柔軟な精神力を育んでください。

今日は二つのことをお話しました。一つ目は、過去の教訓から明日の道標を見つけること、そして二つ目は、志をもって真剣に生き、社会をより良く変えることです。

最後に、共通テストに備えている3年生、駒77へ。大学入学共通テストは間近に迫っていますが、昨年より5日長く残り24日です。今こそこれまで以上に学習に集中すべきときです。自分の将来のために、今日できることをやりましょう。共通テストの後は、各大学の個別の試験に焦点が移ります。それまでに40日近くの十分な時間があります。自分に高い目標を設定することを恐れてはいけません。

最後に、皆さんが素敵なクリスマスと新年を迎えますように。2025年、令和7年が世界中の人々にとってより平和な一年であることを心より願っています。