

The days are getting colder, the nights are getting longer, but I am still enjoying every moment at my school. Even when classes are tough, I enjoy getting to know the teachers and students at Konan Junior High.

My birthday was at the beginning of the month. I did not expect anything because I had only told a few teachers that my birthday was coming up. On the day of, I was surprised when class 1-2 sang “Happy Birthday” to me and handed me notes from the first-year students. I teared up reading the notes, and I have made a scrapbook out of them. Sometimes, if I feel lonely, I look through the scrapbook and remember how wonderful the students are. The girls’ basketball team also sang to me, and the boys’ team shyly gave me a cake. I feel so lucky to have come to Konan Junior High School.

I began exchange diaries with students. More than 90 students have signed up, and many continue to write to me! The students write interesting and funny things, and many of them draw cute pictures. One second-year girl drew a few pictures of me, and I keep the pictures in my diary! It makes me so happy whenever I receive an exchange diary back from a student. It has been fun for me to write and draw to the students, too. When I have free time, I decorate the notebooks to show students I care. I hope to continue communicating with students through these notebooks because I treasure the notebooks and the conversations I am able to have with students.

At the end of the month, I taught the students about Halloween. We talked about jack-o-lanterns, and trick-or treating, and Halloween decorations. The second year students practiced Halloween tongue twisters. I told scary stories to the first and second year students, and although a few students already knew the ending, many still enjoyed it. On Halloween, I dressed as a devil. Students would say, “Trick-or-Treat!” to me, and I gave them stickers. It was a fun and busy day, and it was a great way to end the month.

