

**In the year 2018, we have suffered from many natural disasters, including the heavy rains on Kyushu Island and in the Chugoku district, and the huge earthquake in Hokkaido. People there still are striving to restore the lives that they had been living before. We can only hope that they are able to recover as quickly as possible, not only economically and socially but also physically and emotionally.**

**We have also witnessed a number of very good things, one of which was that Professor Tasuku Honjo, of the University of Kyoto, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He discovered a substance, PD-1, which apparently is a protein that operates as a brake on the immune system, and this has opened a way for cancer immunotherapy. I watched Professor Honjo give a memorial lecture on the day before the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony, a lecture in which he said that a book his mother had given him in his childhood, a biography of the renowned Japanese bacteriologist Hideyo Noguchi, had inspired him to study medicine. He also said that immunotherapy faces many challenges but would be able to help conquer cancer by the end of the 21st century. That is wonderful news for the human race.**

**Boys and girls, I would like to talk about two things at the end of the second trimester, 2018.**

**First, to twelfth graders,**

**there are just 24 days to go before the Center Examination, and you need to concentrate on your studies more than ever. Do what you can do today for the sake of your own futures. After the Center Examination, your focus will shift to the secondary examinations for individual universities. You will have plenty of time, almost forty days, before taking them. Don't be afraid to set high goals for yourselves. I am sure that you will be able to make it. Be ambitious, boys and girls. I do hope each of you will live up to your own personal potential. Believe in yourselves. The possibilities for you are infinite.**

**Now, to everyone,**

**you may at times feel in low spirits. There will surely be hardships and, perhaps, bitter experiences. When it is hard striving to solve your problems all by yourselves, please don't hesitate to talk to your teachers, or the School Counselor, or to me. Don't let the word principal scare you. And I hope all of you will be gentle and kind to one another, not ignoring your friends, not speaking ill of them. Every student deserves respect. Don't come down so hard on your friends. As I have often told you, it takes only a moment to destroy a good relationship, and it takes very long time to become reconciled with one another. And, in this trimester, I have heard that several students were offended by our teachers' words. On their behalf, I would like to say they never meant to do that. But we should be even more considerate toward our students. I sincerely apologize to you that we made some of you feel uncomfortable. I do hope it won't discourage you from talking to us.**

**Second, and last,**

**The government has restarted reclamation work at Henoko, in Nago, Okinawa, for a facility to replace the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. It has been arguing with the Okinawa Prefectural Government for nearly twenty years. While the Henoko replacement may be a reasonable compromise, the total number of military facilities in Okinawa will remain unchanged, and opinions are divided as to whether or not it will reduce any of the burden Okinawans are forced to bear.**

**It is only less than 20 months to the opening of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020. The government has wanted to make more flights possible at Haneda to meet the increased need that is anticipated, but much of the airspace over Tokyo is under the jurisdiction of the United States Forces Japan, which is headquartered at Yokota Air Base in Fussa City, and flights through that space are significantly restricted. Fortunately, however, it was reported in 2017 that the U.S. government had given its approval for the creation of “new commercial flight routes in U.S.-controlled airspace over Tokyo’s Haneda airport.”**

**There used to be an extremely large number of U.S. military facilities in Tokyo, but most of them had already been returned to Japan by the 1970s. These include Camp Oji, Kita-ku; the Grant Heights Dependent Housing Area, Chiyoda-ku; Chōfu Air Field; and Tachikawa Air Base. We have still seven facilities in Tokyo, including Yokota Air Base; the Tama Hills Recreation Center, Tama-shi and Inagi-shi; the New Sanno U.S. Forces Center, Azabu, Minato-ku; and the Iwo Jima Communication Site, Ogasawara Archipelago. The gross area is equal to 259 Tokyo Domes. In other words, Tokyoites face a dilemma similar to that faced by Okinawans, and we should all consider how it might be best to try to deal with this dilemma.**

**Today I talked about two things; first, “Aim high,” to twelfth graders, and “Don’t hesitate to talk to your teachers,” to all of you, second, that we face the dilemma similar to that faced by Okinawans. In closing my speech, I would like to say that I was very much impressed by the Light Music Club’s performance on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month, and the Dance Club’s performance on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I’ve been very happy since I was able to see the way you are during the performances, which I didn’t know through your daily school lives.**

**I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I do hope the year 2019 will be a more peaceful one for people all over the world.**

**Thank you very much.**

**950 words 黄色の網掛け部分は割愛**