

Elementary School (The lower grades)

Great

“Everyone is healthy, energetic and powerful!!”

3rd Grade, Kakinohana Elementary School by Nanana Nakamoto

I was researching and thinking what I should write about Okinawa.

Speaking of Okinawa, it has a beautiful blue ocean, blue sky, Okinawa soba (Okinawan noodles), Okinawan cuisine, and Okinawan comedians. There are also exciting festivals, such as Eisa (one of Okinawa’s traditional performance arts), the Naha Great Tug-of-War, and Hatagashira (banner) performance, so I often go to such entertaining festivals.

I especially like the Okinawan songs. One of the songs my grandma taught me is “Thinsagu nu Hana” (“The Balsam Flowers”).

I also like the sound of Sanshin (a three-stringed Okinawan musical instrument). Whenever I hear the song, I cannot stop dancing. Sometimes people tell me to “Calm down” because I dance everywhere.

When I am thinking about Okinawa what I like so much about it, I feel proud because there are many great things about Okinawa.

However, I was surprised to hear that Okinawa was the first place as the land of longevity.

I asked myself what is the “the land of longevity”?

Longevity means that people have a long life span; therefore, I want the elders to be live happily, healthy, powerful, live to a great age, and I also want them to make Okinawa active and happy.

My grandma is 78 years old. She is very active and works everyday. Sometimes we visit a club for the elderly and I spend an enjoyable time singing, exercising, and finger playing at the club. Sometimes I cannot keep up with old people when I join in with their activities. I was surprised about it that they are very healthy.

I helped out in the organization of the Kajimaya (windmill) celebration (Okinawan tradition celebrating the 97-year-old people) through a Boy Scout event. I was surprised when I saw the scene that two aged people who reached their 97th birthday got into an open car and many people including their families who had windmills paraded through the town. I thought they are amazing because they have lived such a long life with good health. I want to live a long life with good health and I also want people to celebrate Kajimaya for me with a parade when I reach that age. I wish people in Okinawa work with good health and live long and wish that Okinawa will get first place in the rankings again.

I do not understand Okinawan dialect, so I want to learn it as soon as possible. This is because it will be more enjoyable if I can talk with the old people in the club in Okinawan dialect. I want to be happy through dancing and singing songs while learning many things from the old people, and then I want to leave Okinawa where people can live together happily.

I wish many people visit and enjoy the lovely, healthy and longevity of Okinawa to spend a great time with the old people. I wish that all the visitors to Okinawa get

the energy and the spirit. I want them to like Okinawa because I really love Okinawa.
I feel very proud to be born in Okinawa.

Mensore (welcome) to the longevity island of Okinawa.