

Feb.17.2022

Kohei Sasai

English Day Opening Address

Good morning everyone!

How are you doing?

Now, we are reaching the end of this school year.

I hope all of you have good health and live a satisfying KUAS life.

And I wish your success, that you will achieve the top level of your goals.

I always say to you, “you must be mindful to speak to anybody with your warm heart.”

「言葉の中に情があるか」

All the time, I think about this very deeply in my life.

Now, the winter Olympics is being held in Beijing.

Every day, we have heard of the huge success of Japanese top athletes in Skating, Skiing, Snowboarding, Ice hockey, Curling and so on.

Yuzuru Hanyu is one of the greatest figure skaters in the world.

As you know, he won two Consecutive Olympic Golds in Sochi and Pyeongchang.

He strove for his third straight Olympic Championship this time.

He skated bravely, and made history with his quad axel jump at the Beijing Olympics.

Several media sources were reporting about his valiant effort.

The International Skating Union acknowledged that Hanyu, at age 27, was the first skater to attempt a quad axel in an ISU-sanctioned competition.

But Hanyu failed to successfully land the notoriously difficult jump and ended in fourth place in men’s figure skating on February 10, dashing his hopes for a third straight Olympic gold medal.

After the event, he said “It was clearly a better axel than in my last competition.

While I did feel that I was still a little away from success, in my mind I felt that I did the quad axel.”

He entered the free skate mired in eighth place after a disappointing short program on February 8.

He needed a near-perfect skate to keep his medal hopes alive.

But Hanyu felt that trying to land the risky quad axel was even more important than winning a third consecutive gold medal, a feat that hasn’t been accomplished in nearly a century in men’s figure skating.

His obsession with the jump stems from his mentor, Shoichiro Tsuzuki, who described the axel as “the king of jumps.”

Hanyu said that even though he did not succeed in landing a quad axel he put forth his most complete effort ever and added, “I feel I put all of my pride into this Olympics.”

I am impressed in his prideful words for himself.

“I did the quad axel.”

“I feel I put all of my pride into this Olympics.”

He remembered to pay honor to the New Olympic Champion, Mr. Nathan Chen.

I was deeply moved by, and learned from his dignity and his way of life.

Everybody, please seek the true way of your life with your Passion, Challenge, Respect, and Team work through your school life.

“Be a professional someday! So we get started now!!”

Good luck!

Thank you very much for your listening!!