

## Seeds of Kindness Sown by the Teacher

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I was looking forward to the day of the open house. I raised my hand many times and did my best to answer questions. This time, in the ethics class, we discussed kindness with everyone in the class.

Various ideas came up, such as being considerate, being kind, carrying heavy things, holding the hand of elderly people, and so on.

Then, when everyone's hands were no longer raised, Ms. Yukiko Shindo who is my homeroom teacher asked, "How about using what you are good at to help others?"

For example, someone who is good at dodgeball can protect someone who is not good at dodgeball. I kept thinking about what I could do to help.

At that time, there was an event called "Wakuwaku Toy Park" at school.

We showed each other the toys we had made in the life class and played with the first graders.

I made a small air canon. I folded a piece of paper, put it up on the table, and set it as a target for the air canon.

However, my idea of how to play did not work.

The wind from the window or a person passing by would cause the paper target to topple over immediately, and the power of the air canon could not be demonstrated at all.

When I was having trouble, a friend who was good at crafts came over and told me to roll up the paper into a ball, put it in the barrel of the air canon, and shoot it out.

I did exactly that and the paper ball flew away with great force, much to the amazement of everyone around me.

My air canon attracted a lot of attention, and the first graders had a lot of fun with them. Of course I was happy that everyone could see the power of the air canon and that they had fun playing with them.

What made me even happier was that my friend saw me in trouble and helped me out as they should have.

When I got home, I told my father and mother about this. They explained to me that what my friend did was what Ms.Shindo had said about helping others by doing what you are good at.

I asked them if I could do something like what my friend did.

Then they said, “Ms. Shindo complimented you on your action. She said you voluntarily throw away trash on the floor and work hard to keep the classroom clean. So we think that’s what you are good at, too. You’re already helping others by doing what you are good at, which is cleaning.”

In other words, the answer to what Ms.Shindo said about helping others with what you are good at was already inside me.

For me, cleaning was not something I did because I wanted everyone to look at me, but something I always take for granted. I didn't have to go out of my way to be kind to others, I was just doing what I was good at, and without realizing it, I was helping others.

In my class, Ms.Shindo calls out to me and everyone in the class every day.

She asks us if we are going to and from school in a safe manner, if we are getting along with our friends, etc. This is something that Ms.Shindo does instinctively. Even if this a normal thing for Ms.Shindo to do, her kindness is what helps us. And everyone in the class who receives her kindness spreads kindness, growing seeds of kindness.

My class is filled with the kindness of Ms. Shindo and everyone.

I love the class of 2B.