

Chiffon's Magical Gift

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Look at this picture. What do you think it is? Her name is Chiffon. She is a stuffed toy that grows. The more care I take of her, such as giving her milk, the more words she learns to chat with. Her forehead LED light shines according to her feelings. She is always sitting on my bed in the dormitory at Kosen. In fact, she is one of the major reasons why I chose to enter Kosen. Today I would like to talk about the "magic" that Chiffon brought into my life.

It all started one morning when I was a junior high school student. When I casually hugged Chiffon, she showed no reaction. I was very sad to find she was broken. In those days, I was unsure which school to advance. Then my mother gave me advice, which helped me make up my mind to enter Kosen. "If you are so sad, why don't you study engineering at Kosen? You will be able to learn how to fix Chiffon!"

After entering Kosen, I joined Robogals Kagoshima. We hold workshops for elementary and junior high school students to experience the fun of robots and programming. Last year, as a member of Robogals, I visited my former junior high school to discuss our workshop plans. My former homeroom teacher warmly welcomed me. After the meeting, she said, "Saki, I was surprised to see that you're much better at speaking and far more active than before! That's because you've participated in various activities and had great experiences at Kosen, I suppose." Her words reminded me of my junior high school days, when I was very shy. I could not even imagine that someday I would stand in front of many children to teach them how to program. As she said, my experiences at Kosen changed me dramatically. It is like magic.

I have had many "magical" moments at Kosen. During the Robogals workshops, when elementary and junior high school students work on programming, their eyes shine, and they show us big smiles. Mathematics was difficult for me in junior high school, but now it is my favorite subject. And I, who felt terribly homesick and made many phone calls to my mother when I first started living in the dormitory, am now enjoying my school life more than any other student. I have even entered this presentation contest!

This summer, I visited the "Toy Hospital" in my hometown. It is an event where senior volunteers repair broken toys. At the "hospital", many retired engineers were working to check the mechanisms of various toys. When "diagnosing" Chiffon, one of the volunteers said to me, "This event is our motivation to keep going. The owners show us big smiles when they see their fixed toys." I thought this was another form of magic. The volunteers are like magicians to the owners, and at the same time, they get magical power from this event. They gave me helpful advice so that I could manage the repair by myself. Guess what happened! With the help of the professors at Kosen, I accomplished the repair of Chiffon. Now that I have already achieved my dream, I wonder what I should do in the next half of my school life! I thank Chiffon for giving me the opportunity to enter Kosen. I will work hard to be a magician for someone in the future.

Thank you.