

KIRA-chan ☆

(English name "Twinkle")

Created by Waka Onishi



Waka Onishi was born in 2010. She had a lovely sparkling smile. At the age of 6, she was diagnosed with neuroblastoma and became a patient of Dr. Kimikazu Matsumoto, the chair of SIOP Asia 2024.

Through Beads of the Courage of Shine On! Kids, a certified NPO, she gained "Believe and Be Brave!". During that time, she was inspired by the beads and created "fairies" related to childhood cancer treatment.



The main character of SIOP Asia 2024 was also created at that time. The character's motif was Surgery.

- The "surgery bead" is star-shaped, so she is a fairy of stars!
- She has two pairs of wings that resemble scissors for surgery.
- She is calm because people sleep during surgery.
- Her name is **KIRA-chan** because stars are twinkling (KIRA in Japanese ✨). (English name "Twinkle")

She had a dream.

"I hope this picture book will make everyone in the world smile!"

At the age of 12, she fulfilled her dream by publishing her picture book "My Precious Beads" in Japanese. That same year, after a battle with neuroblastoma, she passed away.

Since then, her thoughts and feelings have been passed on through her books.

In 2023, her picture book was published in English.

Her books are read all over the world and give people courage and smiles.

Useful links:

📖 Picture book "My Precious Beads" official website
<https://nijinoehonya.studio.site/beads>

📖 Picture book "My Precious Beads" official X (Twitter)
https://twitter.com/waka_ehon

📖 Beads of Courage® Program by Shine On! Kids (English)
<https://sokids.org/what-we-do/beads-of-courage/>

📖 Japan Broadcasting Corporation (Japanese)
<https://www.nhk.or.jp/minplus/0119/topic034.html>

📖 THE JAPAN NEWS by Yomiuri Shimbun (English)
<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/society/general-news/20230917-137132/>

