

Grade 2 ~Life Studies~

2-1 Asuka Takahashi

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A little less than 6 months have passed since the students began their journey as second graders in April. In life studies, the grade 2 students have built toys designed to entertain the grade 1 students.

Life Studies in September saw the students engaging in "Toy Making through Discovery and Design," in which they used familiar materials to build toys with their ideas and experiences after drawing a design by hand.

During this process the students had to think about what materials they would need (such as cardboard, plastic straws, bottles, and bamboo strips), and also how they would use the available tools.

While working on their projects, it was not uncommon to see looks of frustration as things did not always progress smoothly, but by consulting with friends and rethinking their approach, the students were able to complete their one-of-a-kind toys.

When it was time to share their toys with the 1st grade students, they began by introducing their ideas and design points. This experience was a deepening of exchange for everyone involved, and the second grade students became more like bigger brothers and sisters to the younger students.



About Small Class Math

Head of Small Class Math Akemi Suzuki

At our school, math classes are divided into two or three sections of focused study, which are taught by the homeroom teachers and the head of small class math.

Readiness tests are administered to the students to assess their needs, from which they are placed in groups matching their abilities.

Math classes are conducted using the following criteria as a basis for instruction:

- ① Subject matter should be relevant.
- ② Subject matter should be interesting.
- ③ Subject matter should be comprehensible.
- ④ Subject matter should leave an impression.
- ⑤ Subject matter should inspire creativity and development.

Rather than focusing solely on "question and answer," or "calculation practice," it is important for students to spend time considering their own answers, to cooperate with their classmates, and to find a deeper understanding of what it is they are doing and why it is important.

It is important for the students to have a sense of accomplishment, and to feel like they want to continue challenging themselves. So, it is with these points in mind that our math classes are designed and conducted.



November 14, School Opening Anniversary

Vice Principal Junichi Miyajima

In 1913 (the second year of the Taisho Era) on November 14th, the name *Higashimachi Jinjo Shogakko* (Higashimachi Elementary School) was given to the newly built school. Hearing the words "Taisho Era" may evoke feelings of an age long past, but it is during this era that the first Ginza department store installed its first escalator, and it is during this time that many modern reforms took place. The first principal, Shintaro Nishimura, chose "diligence" to be the school's motto, and school records from that time show the achievements of the students in both sports and academics reflect this sentiment. 4 years later in 1917 (Taisho year 6), on March 24th, the first graduating class of 164 students, 90 boys and 74 girls, departed from the school. Since then the years have marched steadily on, the baton was passed to the Showa and Heisei eras, and as of last year the school has graduated a total of 8,503 students.

The town changes with the times, and the people change with the town. Higashimachi Elementary has grown substantially since the introduction of the English Support Program, and the old look of the Taisho Era is gone as well. One cannot help but wonder if the tradition of our school motto "Diligence," has faded. Not at all. We still inherit that legacy that says "Diligence is cool. Earnestness is cool." The voice of all the students singing as one, the 6th graders giving their all at the inter-city swim meet and sports events - it is this strength, this dedication and earnestness, this beauty and style that move our hearts. We will continue this tradition of "diligence."

✂Being Prepared for P.E. Class

In the case that a student does not have their P.E. clothes at school, they will be permitted to participate in P.E. class provided their attire allows for flexibility and ease of movement. If a student repeatedly comes to school without their P.E. clothes they will no longer be able to participate directly, and be required to observe for the duration of the class. If a student does not have their gym shoes at school they may still be able to participate in class, depending on the content (e.g., mat exercises).

We request that you double check your child's schedule and ensure that they are prepared for all their classes.