

**Welcoming the 105th Anniversary**

Principal Yoji Hatanao

There is a song I like called "Aki no Kehai," which means "signs of autumn," but recently there have not been any signs of autumn, and instead it feels like we have already dived into winter. The people on the streets are now wearing coats when just a little while ago they were wearing short sleeves. Even on the news, just as I think they are still talking about summer days, they mention freezing temperatures in Hokkaido.

We will be celebrating the 105th anniversary of the foundation of this school on Wednesday, November 14th. Higashimachi Elementary was first founded as "Tokyo City Higashimachi Primary School" on November 14th, 1913 (with 607 students, 11 classes, and 12 faculty members). The first principal, Principal Shintaro Nishimura, spoke to the children at the opening ceremony about giving their best at everything, and this became part of this school's tradition.

This school, even having experienced closure, has a unique history not shared with other schools. There are 19,591 public schools in Japan (as of May 1, 2018), but what school has a history like this one? On August 15th, 1945, the Second World War ended. The area around Higashimachi was bombed out and leveled to the ground, and people were living in wooden barracks lined up on the school grounds. In March of 1946, the school was closed. In December of 1954, nine years after the war, community members began demanding that Higashimachi be rebuilt, and in April of 1955 the school was reopened.

Afterwards, in 1981, the number of children in the area was steadily decreasing; by 2009, there were 58 students enrolled and for the 2010 school year there were only 4 new first graders enrolled. Residents were worried that the school would not be open for its 100-year anniversary in 2013. Even still, community members showed their love for this school by installing a well in the biotope and establishing community events. In 2012 the International Studies Program was established and now we see the number of students has significantly increased.

This month, we will be hosting the first ever Music Festival. Also, the school's annual Jump Rope Competition will be next month, and, as part of the International Studies Program, the International Assembly will be held in February. While valuing our traditions and adopting new educational standards, we will continue to lead and educate our children as they give their best in everything they do.

November

Day	Date	Event	After-school
1	Th	Safety lesson, Medical check for new students, 4 periods	X
2	F		3~6
3	Sa	Culture Day	
4	Su	Parent-Child Reading finishes	
5	M	Hakone Trip medical check (G6)	4~6
6	Tu	Hakone Trip begins (G6)	3~5
7	W	4 periods	X
8	Th		4~5
9	F	Hakone Trip ends (G6)	3~5
10	Sa		
11	Su		
12	M	Emergency Evac. Drill, Committee	5~6
13	Tu	4 periods	X
14	W	School Foundation Day, Student assembly	X
15	Th		4~6
16	F		3~6
17	Sa	Saturday school, School family play, Japanese culture time	X
18	Su		
19	M	Club	4~6
20	Tu	IPTM ①	X
21	W	IPTM ②	X
22	Th	Music assembly, IPTM ③	X
23	F	Labor Thanksgiving Day	
24	Sa		
25	Su		
26	M	IPTM ④	X
27	Tu	IPTM ⑤	X
28	W		X
29	Th	Music Festival rehearsal	4~6
30	F	Music Festival (for students), 4 periods	X

IPTM – Individual parent-teacher meetings

November's Goal

Educational Counselor Mr. Kazuhiro Kawai

Come together and get it done!

The first Music Festival will be held at the end of this month, and all grades will be doing their best to practice. Let's do our best individually and join forces with everyone to give a wonderful performance.

Higashimachi Music Festival

Music Committee Chair Yuichi Hatanaka

Until now at Higashimachi autumn events switched between the school performance and the art exhibition; however, this year, the art exhibition will be replaced by the Music Festival. Many people have said that the children at Higashimachi really do their best when singing and shared a desire to have a music event, so we are sure that the students at this school will be happy for a chance to express themselves musically.

It was written in an earlier issue of the school newsletter that I believe that students can learn about music by experiencing creating something beautiful with their friends. Because there are so many different languages spoken at this school, I believe we can teach students to overcome language and cultural barriers through music. At the Music Festival, the students, together, will show this in their music performances.

Parents and guardians may attend the festival on Saturday, December 1st. Each grade will perform one choral song and one ensemble performance. The students will show off their individual talents as they perform songs ranging from light, up-tempo pieces to grand ballads, so we hope you can attend and cheer them on.

Small Groups Math

Head of Math Classes Akemi Suzuki

This year, math classes in grades 3 to 6 are organized into groups according to lesson content and interest.

1. Conducting Class in Small Groups

Math has a rigid progression, and if someone falls behind it will greatly affect their studies in the future. Therefore, with fewer students, teachers can recognize any difficulties that may occur and offer individualized support. This way, individual students can understand the contents of the lesson and steadily advance in the subject.

2. How Groups are Made

Students are separated into three groups based on the results of a readiness test: *yukkuri*, *nobinobi*, *gungun* (lead by homeroom teachers and the Math specialist). The number of students differs with each group, and methods, topics, and issues are varied based on the group. Also, teachers are interchanged among the groups. By using materials and tools based on the children's interests, we can support them in establishing a solid understanding of the subject.

Inter-School Sports Day

6-1 Kenji Kurihara

6-2 Yuto Nihei

6-3 Erika Kobayashi

The Inter-School Sports Day was held on Tuesday, October 16th, at Yumenoshima Stadium, despite our concerns about the weather.

The students were no doubt surprised and nervous at the sight of the stadium and its race track, which was 4 times the size of Higashimachi's 400-meter track. However, the students, hearing the cheers from their classmates in the stands, participated in each event with confidence.

The students shared each other's happiness and disappointment, as if their friends' results were their own. By cheering each other on, they cooperated and gave their best for this year's Inter-School Sports Day.

Welcoming the 105th Anniversary

Vice Principal Natsuhiko Kondo

This school was established in 1913 as "Tokyo City Higashimachi Primary School," and the 105 years from then to now have not exactly been smooth sailing. In 1945, the school was completely burned down by bombing raids and not too long ago there was talk of closing the school because of a lack of students. It is because of the love from the community members, the cooperation and understanding from parents and guardians, and the efforts of those faculty members before us that this school was able to overcome these hardships and exist as the school it is today.

Now, this school, which has its International Studies Program and its numerous students from all over the world, has received the attention of many different people. There is no mistake that spending six years in an environment like this will be a huge benefit to these children as members of this international society. We will continue to put our efforts into improving this school for those members of the community who gave throughout the years their support, cooperation, and admiration.