



## Identifying and Conveying Correct Information Responsibly

Principal Yoji Hatano

Just before the summer vacation, there was some concern about having a cooler summer, but just after the break began we were hit with several days of intense heat. And right before the grade 5 students were to leave for their Hakone Summer Camp, the No. 6 typhoon made landfall, potentially jeopardizing the trip. Despite the fickle weather, the Hakone Summer Camp went on as scheduled and there were 8 summer pool sessions.

At last, the second term has begun. During this time, I am reminded of an incident that happened when I was a principal at another school. 10 minutes into 5<sup>th</sup> period after recess, I was told by the principal of the neighboring kindergarten that parents had arrived to pick up their children because they heard there had been gunshots fired and the culprit was holed up at the apartment building across the street. We had not checked if the story was true, but since it could endanger the children, classes having PE in the schoolyard or observing plants on the balconies were quickly moved inside the school building. The curtains in the main building were closed and the students in the classrooms facing the apartment building were evacuated to another school building. After that, I went to check for any updates. There were several officers dispatched outside, so I identified myself to an officer who seemed to be giving orders and asked about the situation. They were told that shots had been fired, but since the police were still confirming the situation, I made the students wait where they were. What surprised me is what came afterwards. Even though we had not sent out a notice due to a lack of confirmation, one or two parents started coming to school, saying they heard about a shooting incident. In an instant, 10 more parents showed up. After about 20 minutes, I had heard from the police that the culprit had been apprehended, but there might be an accomplice, so the children should remain waiting at school. When I went to inform the parents in the entrance hall, one parent said they heard from another parent that the culprit had been arrested and everything was fine, and then the other parents started to disperse to go home. Surprised, I warned them that there might be another culprit and, for the children's safety, they should wait in their rooms until we know it is safe. That incident has been a constant reminder of the surprising speed that information travels, and how important it is for that information to be correct.

It is not rare for information to spread like that. Especially in this age with cell phones and smart phones, it is possible for countless people to receive information in an instant. When one person passes on information to their friend, that information can spread much farther than they could have imagined. And sometimes, someone can embellish the story they heard and it no longer resembles what the original person meant to convey.

Also, when people want to be heard or believed, they will say that it's not just them but other people saying the same thing, as if to validate their story. Often times those stories can influence others or cause trouble for others. A mistake like that could result in a crime or even violate someone's human rights.

When passing along information, people want to hear the truth, so there may or may not be a need to pass it on. When receiving information, people want the ability to check its source and decide on their own whether the information is true or false. I hope to impart that skill and sentiment to our students.

## September

Date	Day	Events	After-school
1	Su		
2	M	Opening Ceremony, Safety lesson	X
3	Tu	School lunch, Summer Project Exhibition (15:00), G1 - 3 Parent-Teacher Conference (15:00)	X
4	W	Parent-Teacher Conference G4 - 6 (14:45)	X
5	Th		4-6
6	F	Swim meet (G6), Exhibition closes (12:00)	4-6
7	Sa	Emerg. Evac. observe (G1, 3, 5) Pick-up evacuation	X
8	Su		
9	M	Committee, Measurements (G6)	5-6
10	Tu	Measurements (G5)	3-6
11	W	4 periods	X
12	Th	Music assembly, measurements (G3)	4-6
13	F	Measurements (G2)	4-6
14	Sa	Neighborhood festival	
15	Su	Neighborhood festival	
16	M	Respect for the Aged Day	
17	Tu	Teacher Development , (3-2)Measurements (G1), 4 periods (except 3-2)	X
18	W		4-6
19	Th	4 periods	X
20	F	End pool classes, Clothed swim practice (G5)	4-6
21	Sa	Family Asobi, Japanese Culture, Open playground	X
22	Su		
23	M	Autumnal Equinox	
24	Tu		3-6
25	W		X
26	Th		3-6
27	F		4-6
28	Sa		
29	Su		
30	M	Club	4-6



## Notices

### September's Emergency Evacuation Drill

Grades 1, 3, and 5 will visit the evacuation area with the school's disaster prevention committee on the 7th (Sat). They will learn about what sort of preparations are made for a disaster.

Also, there will be a pick-up evacuation drill on the same day. More about how the parents can help will be explained at the parent-teacher conference.

### Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is on the 26th (Thurs). Lunch on that day will be maple toast from Canada.

### September's Open Playground

21st (Sat) 13:00 - 17:00

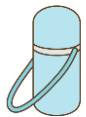
### Frog Day (Designated time for Employees to Go Home)

27th (Fri)

### Preventing Heatstroke (Faculty)

To prevent heatstroke, students are allowed to bring their water bottles (thermos) to class.

Faculty members are also allowed to bring water bottles to class and drink water during break time.



### Educational Counseling

September's Goal

"Let's Get Back into the Swing of Things!"

Educational Counselor Motoki Takahashi

The long summer vacation is over and the second term has begun. Let's double check what time we should arrive at school so that we can be on time for the morning assemblies and start the day off right.

## That was fun!" The Hakone Summer Camp

Grade 5 Shizuka Muramatsu  
Yuto Nihei



"What? A typhoon's coming!?" The news predicted a typhoon would reach Tokyo on the day we were to leave for Hakone. *We won't be able to make hoto noodles. We'll have to ask the children to bring their lunches. We'll have to delay our departure time.* That's how we started the day! As the weather gradually changed, everything cleared up just in time!

The trip was 3 days and 2 nights. Each child has different ideas of what was the most fun part of the trip. There were kids who enjoyed the different experiences. There were kids who had fun with their friends on the bus and in their rooms. We hope those 3 days will be their most memorable times in elementary school.

The teachers also thought this trip was fun. We asked the teachers what they enjoyed most on the trip.

*What was your favorite part of the trip?*

Principal Hatano: The test of courage. I didn't try to be that scary, but I'm sorry if I frightened anyone.

Mr. Takahashi: Making *hoto* on the first day. Making food with everyone in the middle of nature was the best.

Ms. Murakami: Hiking down Jukokku Pass was my favorite. I loved seeing the kids walk around and help each other.

Ms. Erika Kobayashi: I thought it was really nice hearing friends sing happy birthday when they woke up at 6 in the morning.

Mr. Miyazawa: I had a lot of fun hiking down Jukokku Pass playing on the athletic course.

We teachers enjoyed hearing the children talk about how much fun they were having and all the things they were looking forward to.

During those 3 days we could see this grade's ability to work as a group and get along with each other. We hope to see them progress even further and hope to enjoy the rest of their time together! We also look forward to having fun with them.

## Summer School

Keiichi Hatanaka  
Head of Summer School

This year's summer school was 3 days from July 31<sup>st</sup> (Tues) to August 2<sup>nd</sup> (Fri) and there were 9 guest teachers. The classes ranged from shogi to flower arrangement, and nutrition to science. The children enjoy summer school classes because they have a chance to experience things they would not do in normal class with instructors from outside the school. Thank you very much to the PTA members and members of the community that helped out.



## The Jubilant 2nd Graders

Akemi Suzuki  
Hiroto Sasaki  
Grade 2

Five months have passed since the second grade started. In the first term, they took the first graders by the hand and gave them a tour of the school. All the children were very kind to their lower classmates.

During Sports Day, they danced energetically for their performance they had practiced so hard for every day. Also, on their excursion, they chose their own routes at the Shinagawa Aquarium and did their group activities very well. In the second term, they will have their town exploration and the school performance. We hope to keep the children passionate about learning as they progress through the year.

