



The Hydrangeas Are Blooming

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

It is past the middle of May, and the rainy season is sure to begin just before summer goes into full swing. And if it is the rainy season, then that means hydrangeas will begin blooming. This year, without the threat of extreme heat like in previous years, practices for the P.E. Performances have been able to progress smoothly.

Recently, it feels like the hydrangeas have started blooming just when the sakura were in bloom, and just as the season changes we have to change our outfits. Perhaps it is my advancing years that make me feel this way.

About the P.E. Performances

The practices for the P.E. Performances going on in the gym or at the schoolyard make for a wonderful scene. Sports Day was usually held every year, however, because of COVID-19 and the efforts to combat infection, P.E. Performances will be held, which will be shorter in length, smaller in scale, and with fewer attendants. The content of the event was approved by the Minato City Board of Education. Please limit the number of viewers to two family members per child in each grade. Also, to prevent heat stroke, the students may take off their masks during their performance (this is not mandatory). Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Collecting Health and Attendance Cards in the Principal's Office

At many elementary schools, absences, tardiness, and early dismissals are recorded in the health and attendance cards and then taken to the nurse's office or put into a special drop box; but at Higashimachi, the children bring the card to the principal's office. Of course, there is a partition separating the children and the principal. At first, there were a lot of students who accidentally said they were from the previous grade, but now everyone can correctly say what grade they are in. I am also happy that many children have already remembered my name. I hope to have more opportunities for communication in the near future.

Swim Lessons

This year, in accordance with the city's policies and in an attempt to reduce the risk of infection, swim lessons will be held by class (as opposed to by grade) to avoid crowding and students will not be allowed to borrow or lend towels, goggles, or other effects.

June

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	Tu	Safety lesson	—
2	W	4 periods, Sports test begins	—
3	Th	Bicycle safety lesson (G3)	—
4	F	Vision test (G4)	G4
5	Sa	Saturday school, Family Asobi (G2, G6)	—
6	Su		
7	M	Committees, Vision test (G5)	—
8	Tu	Softball throw	—
9	W	Evacuation drill	—
10	Th	Dental exam (G3, G6)	G6
11	F	Scoliosis exam (G5, absentees)	—
12	Sa		
13	Su		
14	M	Club activities	—
15	Tu		G3
16	W		—
17	Th	Dental exam (G1, G2, G4, G5)	G5
18	F	Vision test (G5)	—
19	Sa		
20	Su		
21	M	Committee, Vision test (G2)	—
22	Tu	Vision test (G2, G6)	G6
23	W	Vision test (G6)	—
24	Th	Eye exam (all grades), G5 Summer Camp Explanatory Meeting	G4, 5
25	F	4 periods	—
26	Sa		
27	Su		
28	M		—
29	Tu	Long Family Asobi (G1, G6)	—
30	W	Regular medical checks finish, Long Family Asobi (G3, G5)	—

Notices

Sports Test

The sports tests begin Wednesday, June 2. The tests will be conducted while observing measures to prevent infection.

Emergency Evacuation Drill

For this month's evacuation drill, the students will receive instruction from the Azabu police about what to do in the event of a suspicion person.

Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Monday, May 28. The lunch for that day will be Korean bibimbap.

Educational Counselling

June's Goal "Let's Be Safe"

Naomi Naito
Educational Counsellor

The most important thing at school is safety. Safety involves doing our best, growing up, and having fun. Without safety, there is nothing we can take part in.

All of us at Higashimachi should pay attention to safety in order for us to have fun and grow up. Let's have a safe time at school by thinking about how to safely walk in the hallways and stairs and how to play on rainy days.

Long Family Asobi

Misa Nojima
Head of Special Activities

At Higashimachi, "Family Activities" (*Family Katsudo*) are held as a way for different grades to interact with each other. All classes from Grade 1 to Grade 6 are divided into groups called "families," and do play activities as well as clean together under the leadership of the Grade 6 members in the family. However, due to COVID-19, grades have had to remain separated and family activities were suspended.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still spreading. However, by reducing the amount of people participating in the activities and avoiding crowding, we decided to pair up grades (1 and 6, 2 and 4, 3 and 5) to continue family activities and give the students an opportunity to interact with each other.

In previous years, Higashimachi held its Higashimachi Festival around the end of June. The festival was an event where each class set up stalls where students can visit and play games. On the day of the festival, students in Grades 3 and above would divide into those working the stalls and those visiting other stalls and then switch, while Grades 1 and 2 would have the whole time to visit as many shops as possible. However, last year, as a measure to prevent infection, the event was cancelled, and although we considered having the festival on different days for different grades, it was decided that holding a festival while other grades were having class would be difficult.

This year, on the days we had scheduled for the Higashimachi Festival we have decided to have "Long Family Asobi," where each family will enjoy playing games planned by Grade 6 students. We hope the students will have plenty of time to enjoy interacting with other grades.

From the Arts and Crafts Room

Yurie Suzuki
Arts and Crafts Instructor

Art Class: A Time to Discover One's Qualities and Possibilities

In art class, students are introduced to tools and materials appropriate to their development and maturity. When familiarizing themselves with them, the students engage their senses to look, touch, smell, and even hear, immersing themselves in the colors and shapes. From their senses they are able to broaden their ideas and discover what feels good to them. For example, Grade 6 in previous years made a tree house they would like to live in, and many students found themselves thinking about the ideal forest for their tree house after smelling and feeling the wood they were using. By cutting clean through the rafters with a saw, or making curves in the plywood with an electric fretsaw, many students thought about how to utilize their tools and the qualities of the wood.

In that way, to actualize the colors, shapes, and images in their imagination, students choose the appropriate materials and through trial and error discover new ways of thinking and expression as well as find inspiration from friends and others around them. That is why in arts and crafts class, it is important for students to discover their qualities and potential by allowing them to interact with an abundance of materials and tools. Also, by observing the students and listening to what they say, we want to help each student understand themselves.

Renovated Tables!

As one measure to prevent infection, the tables in the art room have new table tops and partitions. We hope this will create a safe, comfortable lessons and improve the overall atmosphere of the art classroom.





Highlights from the P.E. Performances



Grade 1 will give an energetic dance to Hige Dandism's "Shukumei." Each column will do different dances and there are even formation changes. Please cheer them on!



Grade 2 has a cool dance to go along with BTS's "DYNAMITE." Different classes will be doing different dances at different times with large movements. Come see the results of their effort.



Grade 3 has an energetic, rhythmic dance to go along with the traditional African instrument, the nyatiti. Be sure to catch everyone student giving their all.



Through their *Isshin* dance, all of the students have come together to practice as one grade. It is an intense dance to a very energetic song. Please cheer them on.



Grade 5 will do the traditional Soran Bushi dance. They will execute each move forcefully and smoothly. Please cheer them on.



Grade 6 will do a performance called "Shudanbi," with marches, individual moves, and even a routine using pieces of cloth. The performance will show the beauty of 100 people coming together. Please cheer them on.

