



## Utilize Your Failures!

Principal Yōji Hatano

Before the summer vacation, there was concern about the late typhoons and a water shortage; but, by the end of September, more typhoons had landed this year than in any other year within the past decade.

In the world of sumo wrestling, there is a saying, 「負けて覚える相撲かな」, which roughly translates to "Sumo wrestlers lose and learn." With enough effort and the confidence that he can do his best, a wrestler from the second division (*kyūryō*) will gradually climb the ranks and enter the highest division (*maku-uchi*). However, it often happens that a *maku-uchi* division wrestler loses to his opponent – even one who is not a title holder – and then drops back down to the *kyūryō* division. But by focusing on and improving his weak points, he can defeat his opponents again and re-enter the *maku-uchi* division. By losing, a wrestler can know the limits of his own strength, ascertain what is necessary to win, and train to improve himself. In other words, there is a lot to learn from losing.

At my former school, the faculty discussed whether club and committee presentations were actually helping the students improve, since they are mostly formulaic and automated. We concluded that it is because the students are made to give a presentation without having an active role in its preparation. Should the students fail, a teacher might feel too sorry for them, or the teacher's lack of leadership might be blamed for their failure. To improve this, it was decided that when students are not freely involved with the process of a presentation, instead of forcing them to do something just to give a good presentation, let them fail and later think about what they should do next. Of course, we cannot use big events like Sports Day or the school performances to make them learn about failure, but it is important for teachers to include lessons about failure in everyday learning activities.

In school and at home, instead of preventing children from failing because we would feel sorry for them, we must encourage them to take on challenges they might fail at, to think about how to handle failure, and to comfort others who also fail. In order to do this, I believe we need to watch over the children and support their failures as part of their development.

## October

Date	Day	Event	After school play
1	Sa	Tokyo Citizens Day	
2	Su		
3	M	Safety Class, Club, Super Market Field Trip (3-2)	4-6
4	Tu	Vision Test (G6), Super Market Field Trip (3-1)	3-6
5	W	Emergency Evacuation Drill	X
6	Th	Committee Presentation ①, Vision Test (G5), 4-pr. Day, Teacher Development Class (4-2, pr. 5)	X
7	F	Life Studies Field Trip (G1), Vision Test (G4)	2-6
8	Sa	Minato Citizens' Festival	
9	Su	Minato Citizens' Festival	
10	M	Health and Sports Day	
11	Tu		3-6
12	W	4-pr. Day, Incineration Plant Field Trip (G4), Vision Test (G3)	X
13	Th	Committee Presentation ②, Dental Exam (G2, 5)	4-6
14	F	Open School, School Orientation Conference (for new Grade 1 Parents/Guardians) 15:30	2-6
15	Sa	Open School, Japanese Culture Studies, School Council	X
16	Su		
17	M	Vision Test (G2), Committee	X
18	Tu	City-Wide Sports Day (G6), Vision Test (G1)	3-6
19	W		X
20	Th	Music Assembly, Dental Exam (G1, 4)	4-6
21	F	School Route Inspection	2-6
22	Sa		
23	Su		
24	M	Parent-Child Reading Begins, Club	4-6
25	Tu	Substitution Day for City-Wide Sports Festival	3-6
26	W		X
27	Th	Committee Presentation ③, Dental Exam (G3, 6)	4-6
28	F	4-pr. Day, Teacher Development Class (1-2, pr. 5)	X
29	Sa	Oral Hygiene Festival (Takanawa Civic Center)	
30	Su	Science Festival (Azabu Civic Center)	
31	M		4-6

## October's Goals

Life Counselor Hiroki Mine

**Be the first to greet the people you meet at school.**

Greetings are a way to show others "I recognize that you exist, and I am opening myself to you." The psychologist Abraham Maslow proposed that a person's self-actualization and personal growth are heightened when he or she is recognized by those around them. The reason greetings are so stressed in the business world is because it urges both personal development as well as the development of the company. Greeting people stimulate personal development for all persons involved.