

Minato City Combined Sports Event

6-1 Hideko Teramoto

In the deepening autumn, on October 18th, the Minato City Combined Sports Event began at Yume no Shima Stadium.

This year, the old school logo patches that had been used for decades were replaced with new ones. The students faced the day, ready to go above and beyond all the 6th grade classes that had come before them. Stretching out before them was a genuine article race track where they could dash in a straight line for 100m, and everyone ran their races with all their strength and heart. Each and every student demonstrated the results of their practice in all the events they participated in, and the whole event was a very satisfying experience for all.

Also, while on the field waiting for their turns, the students were happily chatting with participants from other schools, almost as if it was second nature to them. This was a valuable experience that the students would not have in their everyday school life.

3rd Grade

3-1 Shūichi Yamasaki

3-2 Hiroki Mine

It is in the 3rd grade that students begin social studies. Taking short field trips, the 3rd graders journeyed in and around Minato City and the school, and learned about the characteristics and establishments that surround us. They visited the City Branch Office and City Hall to watch and learn about the people working there and what they do. They also visited the observation deck in Tokyo Tower, where we could see the goings on of the city in all directions. Finally, the students put it all together in their very own newspapers about what they saw and learned. At the supermarket field trip, the students visited Naniwaya, where they had a chance to see the inner workings of the store from a perspective that is not generally open to the public.

In the second term, the students spent their integrated studies time on the topic of "Getting to Know the World." In the first half of the term they worked in groups, while in the second half they worked individually, to learn about the flags, foods, and cultures of countries around the world, which all culminated in presentations. They came to understand the customs and cultures of the world, were able to compare to Japan, and learned of the history and value that every country has.

The end of the second term is almost here. We want to continue encouraging each and every one of the students, so that they may come to the end of the term with a strong sense of accomplishment.

"Teacher, why do we have to study music?"

Music Teacher Keiichi Hatanaka

It is a healthy question, and one frequently asked by children brimming with curiosity. And certainly, it is a question asked of many teachers and parents regarding other subjects as well, such as math and English.

In math, we try to skillfully organize information in our minds, so it is necessary to cultivate the appropriate systems of thinking. For foreign languages, by learning the language of another country we can gain insights into and broaden our understanding of the backgrounds of those countries. Still yet, why do we study music as part of our formal education?

As for me, I believe the answer is in the following two points. Music is ① a tool for self-expression and communication between people, and ② it is a beautiful and moving experience that can be shared between friends.

All the students here at Higashimachi, regardless of where they originate from, sing together with feeling, listen to each other and match their breathing, and give their all during ensemble performances. It is often said that music is the shared language of the world, but especially at a school like ours where many languages can be heard, music helps to overcome barriers of language and culture to give the students a moving experience that they can share together.

International Studies

International Studies Leader Shūichi Yamasaki

Beginning in 2002 (H. 14), Minato City began incorporating English language into public schools. In 2007 (H. 19), classes conducted in English were given the title of "International Studies," and to facilitate these classes a "Native Teacher" (NT) was assigned to each school to begin English instruction.

Here at Higashimachi, beginning 5 years ago with the creation of the International Program, international studies classes were assigned by level. Students would be placed into classes that matched their English ability level for their grade, where they could improve their communication skills with their peers.

When the students are studying new subject matter in international studies class, they are not merely memorizing new words, but actually producing language through use of a "target sentence," which is practiced in various situations throughout a lesson.

While increasing English vocabulary and fostering communication skills are very important, it is also important to remember that there are many countries in the world, and to know and understand the cultural differences of those countries is an important step toward international understanding.

We want to encourage the growth of the students who can one day take to the world stage, and to that end, efforts are always being made to give students the ability to mutually recognize, agree, and accept others despite differences.