



The School-Wide Excursion with Wonderful Children

Principal Hatano

On March 8 (F), blessed with pleasant weather, the school embarked on an excursion to Mori Park. Having all the students riding the train at once is a difficult task, so grades 1, 4, 5, and 6 were grouped together, and grades 2 and 3 were grouped together and the two groups traveled separately. I travelled together with grades 1, 4, 5, 6, and there were several instances where they truly impressed me.

The first thing that impressed me was the first leg of the trip from the school to the station. The 5th and 6th graders took the 1st graders' hands. Because of the number of students, some of the 6th graders had a 1st grader in each hand. Even still, not only on the street, in the station as well, they made sure to stay out of other people's way and walk close to the edge of the corridors.

Later on, when they rode the trains, they let transferring passengers go ahead, refrained from running, and stood where they would not be in the way after boarding. Along the way, the train became very cramped with passengers. At times like that, you would normally hear someone say "Ow, ow," or if the train lurches suddenly someone might cry out. However, there were no such sounds from the Higashimachi students. It was impressive to see the 5th and 6th graders say so many nice things to the 1st graders like, "Hang in there," or "Here's a spot, come over here."

At the park, the students gathered in their 12 families. The 6th grade leaders took care of the underclassmen while playing dodgeball, tag, and the Japanese version of "red light/green light" (also known as "statues," "creepy up," or "Grandmother's footsteps"). Afterwards, the families ate their *bento* lunches, but I was pleasantly surprised to see 5th graders collecting some neglected garbage after everyone had cleaned up.

On the way home, thinking the 1st graders must surely be exhausted, the 5th and 6th graders let them sit down despite their own tiredness. That's not to say all the 1st graders were able to sit down. So the ones who should sit down took a seat, and the ones who could not sit down were kindly explained "Oh, so-and-so's tired so let's let him/her sit down."

While riding the train, I remembered being told by the other teachers at Higashimachi that the children are very good at riding the trains. However, the children on that train far surpassed my expectations. On this excursion, I witnessed Higashimachi's tradition of vertically integrated activities, of lower classmen learning from the upper classmen. As teachers, it is our duty to preserve this tradition for future generations and give them an opportunity to become leaders.

June

Date	Day	Event	after school
1	M	Day off in Lieu of Sports Day	
2	Tu	School family bento lunch	3~6
3	W	Theater Outing (Gr. 6)	x
4	Th	Music Assembly, Dental Check (Gr 36) Health check for pool (follow-up)	4~6
5	F	Waterworks Caravan (Gr 4, pr5~6)	3~6
6	S	Area Assembly	x
7	Su		
8	M	Committee Gr 5 Spinal Check	4~6
9	Tu	Gr 6 PTA Meeting	3~6
10	W	4-period day (4 pr.)	x
11	Th	Healthy Teeth Assembly, Safety Guidance (Gr 1), urine analysis (city office)	4~6
12	F	PE Test (periods 1-3)	2~6
13	S		
14	Su		
15	M	Swim Class begins, pool opens	4~6
16	Tu	PE Test (absentees, morning recess)	3~6
17	W	Emergency Evacuation	x
18	Th	Student Assembly, Area Cleaning (Gr 34), Korean Faculty Visit	4~6
19	F	4 pr., research class (Gr 6, pr 5)	x
20	S	Japanese Culture ②	x
21	Su		
22	M	Club ③	4~6
23	Tu		3~6
24	W	Open School, ESC PTA Meeting (3rd Pr)	x
25	Th	PE Assembly, Open School, Explanatory Meeting (afternoon recess), Safety Guidance	4~6
26	F	4-pr day	x
27	S		
28	Su		
29	M		4~6
30	Tu	physical exam	3~6



June's School Goal

School Guidance Counsellor, Hiroki Mine

Greet everyone you meet at school with a warm greeting.

Be sure to greet everyone, including visitors to the school.

Thank you very much!

Messages from faculty members who have retired or transferred



From the families and community members who helped make the 100th year anniversary event a great success, to the attention on the "English Support Program," and the subsequent increase in student enrollment. These things and others bring up fond memories for me.

From now on, I will be cheering for Higashimachi's continued development from the background.

There are many things I am grateful for in these past 3 years. Thank you very much. To everyone, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for all the help and support.

Former Vice Principal Nobutaka Aoki

To all the parents, community members, and those involved with Higashimachi Elementary, I would like to say thank you.

These have been the most fulfilling years of my teaching career, and for that, please allow me to express my joy and deepest gratitude. Beginning in April, I took up my new post as the principal at a school for Japanese students in Milano. My experiences as Higashimachi are proving to be quite useful here. From the bottom of my heart I am thankful for having the opportunity to work at Higashimachi Elementary in Minato.

I pray for the continued growth of Higashimachi.

Former Principal Atsuko Shinozaki

Higashimachi is such a special place. From Zouressha to We Are One, I had fun working with all of the students from all over the world and often found myself becoming a student and learning about all of the different cultures and experiences of my students. I hope to visit the school and see everyone's smiling faces.

Former EST Tricia Terao

From the Art Room

Head of Art Miku Kobayashi

On May 7th, a **very** large truck arrived in the Higashimachi schoolyard. Today was the Fire Department Sketching Assembly.

The eyes of the First Graders brightened as they gazed upon the deep red of the fire engine. "Maybe like this?" said some while holding a red crayon. "I drew the tires!" said others while holding a black crayon.

Sitting in the summer-like sun, sweat on their brows, drawing papers before them; it was a game of stare-down with the fire engine. Their faces were seriousness itself. "I did it!" they would exclaim, and a smile would appear.

At the end, everyone said a big "Thank you very much!" to all the visitors from the Azabu Fire Department. Perhaps,



from this experience there are some first graders who will want to be firefighters when they grow up!

About Swimming

Head of Athletics Miyuki Kadono

「Pool! Pool! ♪It's our pool! ♪」

The days are getting hotter. On the 15th (Monday) it will finally be time for swimming instruction to begin. This year, 1st~4th grade will have lessons only with their classes, while 5th and 6th grade will have lessons together.

In the lower grades, just changing into their swimwear can be a hassle. Please take the time to have your students practice changing at home.

The goal for the lower grades is to have fun while getting used to the water, and to practice floating. The upper grades will practice swimming longer distances at a relaxed pace. I also hope to see students setting personal goals and working to achieve them.

All children love the pool. Released from the pull of everyday gravity the water buoys in the most pleasant way while we play and practice swimming, all while under the watchful gaze of the instructor.

In the second semester, the 6th graders will be our school's representatives in a swimming exhibition. Nearby schools will gather and the participants will show off what they have learned. It is my hope everyone will do their best for the exhibition!