



Learning Through the School Performance

Principal Yoji Hatano

We are halfway through the second term, and the school performances are in November. At Higashimachi Elementary, each grade puts on special performances and plays, and this year has no shortage of either. This year will be a first for the 1st and 2nd grades, and the last for the 5th and 6th grades at Higashimachi Elementary. I hope this to be a memorable time for all grades.

School plays and performances are a combination of education and the arts. The Japanese term for school play, *gakugeikai*, is a combination of the words "learning" and "art," (*gakumon* and *geijitsu*, respectively), and is an opportunity for students to express the fruits of their studies via music and performance. The children are taught to focus on the following three points:

- ① Cooperate to create something together
- ② Practice with all your heart and enjoy playing
- ③ Obey the rules and quietly watch.

By "playing" I hope all students will try their best in the following:

- Understand the story and characters
- To speak in a loud, clear voice
- Behave appropriately.

Furthermore, we are leading the lower, middle, and upper classmen to exercise these skills:

- [Lower] • Minding your places
- [Middle] • Effective Pausing
- [Upper] • Overlapping dialog
- Thinking beyond the script

As we move ahead towards the school performances, I hope this will be a chance for us to encourage the children to work towards completing a goal while cooperating with their peers and put on a performance on their own.

[Opening of Special Support Classes]

A notice was distributed to parents of 1st to 5th graders explaining the Minato City Board of Education's announcement on October 16 that "Special Support Classes" will be opened in all elementary schools in the city. These "Special Support Classes" will begin next academic year. The classes will be conducted at the school for those students who require special assistance one to eight hours a week. For further details, please contact the school nutritionist, Mrs. Yamagishi.

November

date	day	Event	After School
1	Su		
2	M	Safety Class, Board of Education Visitation, Committee	4
3	Tu	Culture Day	
4	W	Speech Assembly ㊤ (3-1), Research Class, 4-pr. Day (not 3-1)	x
5	Th	Speech Assembly ㊥	6
6	F	Speech Assembly ㊦ Evacuation Drill	2
7	Sa		
8	Su		
9	M	Turn In Parent-Child Reading Card	3
10	Tu		5
11	W	4-pr. Day	x
12	Th	Student Assembly	6
13	F	School Performance	x
14	Sa	School Performance, School Opening Anniversary	x
15	Su		
16	M	Club	5
17	Tu	Grade 1 Life Studies Field Trip	4
18	W	Research Class (4-2) 4-pr. Day (not 4-2)	x
19	Th	Music Assembly Grade 1 Life Studies Field Trip preliminary date	3
20	F	Individual Parent-Teacher Conference(Gr.6)①	2
21	Sa	Japanese Culture	x
22	Su		
23	M	Labor Thanksgiving Day	
24	Tu	Individual Parent-Teacher Conference(Gr.6)②	6
25	W		4
26	Th	Music Assembly Medical Exam (4-pr. Day, not gr. 5)	x
27	F	Roppongi Academy Research (4-pr. Day)	x
28	Sa		
29	Su		
30	M	Individual Parent-Teacher Conference ① (5-pr. Class)	x

November's Goal

School Guidance Counselor, Hiroki Mine

Combine our Strengths and Persevere

We will be thorough and diligent when doing our committee jobs and class duties.

Second Grade ~Life Studies~

Grade 2 Teachers Akiko Adachi
Ayana Kuroe
Mayu Yamaguchi

A little less than 6 months have passed since the beginning of school in April. As second year students, they are becoming more like older brothers and older sisters, and have engaged in Life Studies and Japanese Culture as new subjects.

Life Studies in September saw the students engaging in "Toy Making through Discovery and Design," in which they made "Wind-Powered Cars" that even first year students could have fun playing with.

Using common, everyday materials such as Styrofoam trays and plastic bottle caps, students built one-of-a-kind cars. After testing the cars they built, the students would listen to advice from their classmates about how they can improve their designs, such as making the car lighter or making the sails bigger. This process allowed them to create cars that could operate smoothly.

It is our hope that by sharing and playing with the first year students, the second year students can deepen their connections while learning how to be like bigger brothers and sisters to the younger students.

With the School Performance on the horizon, the students have begun practicing in earnest. Everyone is eager to do their best!



About Small Class Math

Small Class Math Head Teacher Akemi Suzuki

No matter the subject of study, a strong command of language is always a necessity. In math, it begins with thinking on one's own, using diagrams and equations, cooperating with friends and finding common ground, and through this process it is possible to deepen one's understanding of the subject. To satisfy instructional requirements and maintain interest, students 3rd grade and above engage in proficiency-level oriented mathematics studies.

In the course, the students take readiness tests to determine their ability level, from which they are divided in to groups matching their needs. These groups have either two sections (their homeroom teacher and the small class teacher), or three sections (two homeroom teachers and the small class teacher), in which they will regularly rotate. We endeavor to satisfy students' individual interests and curiosity by using various materials and tools which excite their desire to learn and improve their abilities.

If you would like to see more of what the students are studying, please visit the Higashimachi home page or have a look at the bulletin board outside of the Small Class Math classroom.



Passing the Baton of History ~Celebrating the School's Opening~

Vice Principal Junichi Miyajima

In 1913 (the second year of the Taisho Era) on November 14th, the name *Higashimachi Jinjou Shougakkou* (Higashimachi ES) first became known. The number of classes at that time was eleven, not much different from today. Unlike today, there were 607 students enrolled when the school opened, nearly twice the current number. The school building itself was two stories tall and made of wood, while the playground was covered with gravel. What were the lives of the students like back then? It is hard to imagine it now, but there were no chimes or broadcasts, and of course no TV either. But even so, the students had a lively school life. It is said that they excelled in sports, winning awards in swimming and track and field tournaments. They overcame the difficulties of the Great Kanto Earthquake and the Pacific War, and formed a bond with a sister school in Korea, thus beginning the era of international understanding through cooperation at Higashimachi. It is also in these early days that the first cross-grade "School Families" were created.

Fast forward to the present, the unbroken history of the school shows the legacy that has been left by the previous generations. From the enthusiasm for various sporting events like the "Jump Rope Competition," to the rich international atmosphere, and the School Families which continue to this day. It is our sincerest hope to continue passing the baton of Higashimachi's history onward into the future.

Congratulations to Higashimachi Elementary School, to its one-hundred and second anniversary!