



## Kyōiku

Principal Yōji Hatano

The third term began and already it is February, the Contact Month. The Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education designated June, November, and February in each school term as Contact Month, a month to raise awareness of the prevention of bullying, truancy, and violence. It is not possible to eradicate these three nuisances without the cooperation of the families and community members.

When I was an elementary school student, there was a commercial for ramen noodles that used the catch phrases "I make it," and "I eat it." This commercial was thought to promote negative stereotypes about gender roles in domestic duties, and was eventually pulled. These days, I believe that at schools, PTA events, and community events, the idea of "This is my job, and this is your job," has followed the same fate as that commercial.

Naturally, childhood education does not end at the school. It involves the efforts of families, schools, and communities doing their parts, cooperating with each other, and developing a child's mind and body. This way of thinking can reinterpret the Japanese word for education *kyōiku* from a combination of "education" and "development" to a new combination of "shared development."

When children are participating in community events, they learn many things from the community members that they would not ordinarily learn at home. They develop autonomy and consideration by casually interacting with people outside of their homes, listening carefully, and thinking about others first. At last year's community festival, someone told me that there were two girls from Higashimachi who thanked everyone and then went home, showing everyone how mature they had become.

On the 20th of this month (Sat), the PTA is hosting a mochi-making party (*mochitsuki*). The PTA has been very helpful with the planning and preparation for this event. At this event there is surely a chance for the children to learn something.

### Notice

Our 19th principal Takeo Enomoto passed away on Tuesday, January 5.  
We would like to express our deepest condolences to the survived.

## February

| Date | Day | Event  | After school |
|------|-----|--|--------------|
| 1    | M   | Safety Instruction Club (Gr. 3 Observes)   | 6            |
| 2    | Tu  |  | 3            |
| 3    | W   | 4-pr. day  | x            |
| 4    | Th  | PE Assembly (Gr. 135)  | 5            |
| 5    | F   | Kanji Test, 5-pr. day, P.E. Assembly (Gr. 135)   | x            |
| 6    | Sa  | Japanese Culture   | x            |
| 7    | Su  |  |              |
| 8    | M   | Committee  | 5            |
| 9    | Tu  |  | 4            |
| 10   | W   | Newspaper Company Field Trip (Gr. 5)   | x            |
| 11   | Th  | Foundation Day   |              |
| 12   | F   | Student Assembly   | 2            |
| 13   | Sa  |  |              |
| 14   | Su  |  |              |
| 15   | M   |  | 3            |
| 16   | Tu  | "Family" Photo (school wide), Open School, Animal Class (Gr. 2)  | 6            |
| 17   | W   | "Family" Photo, Open School, Open Schol, Open Lecture on Morals by Mr. Hoshiyama, Special Guest Speaker from Temple Uni. (Gr. 4) | x            |
| 18   | Th  | Music Assembly, Emergency Drill, PTA Meeting for New Gr. 1   | 4            |
| 19   | F   | Koto Special Lesson (periods 3-4)(Gr. 5)   | 5            |
| 20   | Sa  | Jump Rope Competition, PTA Mochitsuki Party  | x            |
| 21   | Su  |  |              |
| 22   | M   | Club, Family Meeting   | 4            |
| 23   | Tu  | Visit from <i>Manabi-no-Mori</i> Kindergarten (pr. 23) (Gr. 1)   | 5            |
| 24   | W   |  | x            |
| 25   | Th  | Club Speeches, National Diet Field Trip (Gr. 6)  | 6            |
| 26   | F   | Gr. 6 Send-Off, Farewell Bento Lunch, Pr. 5 Health Class (Gr. 1)   | 3            |
| 27   | Sa  |  |              |
| 28   | Su  |  |              |
| 29   | M   | Committee  | 6            |

## February's Goals

School Guidance, Hiroki Mine

### Using Polite Language

There are good manners even between friends. Let's use polite words and build better friendships.

## **The International Assembly**

### **Head of International Studies Ayana Kuroe**

The International Assembly, which originally began with the intention of sharing among the grades what they have studied, has entered its fifth year. To all those that were able to attend the presentations during the busy work week, we extend our deepest thanks.

In December, it was decided which study topics the students would use for their presentations. Starting in January, practice began in earnest in preparation for the performance.

In recent years, the presentations have not only been about displaying the high level of English at Higashimachi, but also about students learning how to teach and help each other in the process of preparation. This has been possible because of the unique division of International Studies classes here. Rather than presentation by class level, the format is by homeroom, and so students have the opportunity to share in English communication with their classmates that they would not otherwise have. And so, the students moved forward by teaching and supporting each other. While it only happens once a year, it is a precious opportunity to encourage the growth of every student.

## **Reach for the Goal! Jump Rope Competition**

### **Jump Rope Competition Leader Chitoka Yamaji**

On Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, it is time once again for Higashimachi's Jump Rope Competition. On the school grounds, the voices of students counting together as they try to beat their group jump rope records can be heard, while individuals with their jump ropes and record cards can be seen asking their teachers and friends to count their jumps for them. Everyone is working hard to reach their goals in time for the competition.

In December, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders presented the various techniques to the other grades at the morning P.E. assembly. Their lithe and agile display of technique showcased blinding speed and mastery, so much so that everyone thought, "I want to do that too!" The P.E. assembly held in January was a good chance for everyone to demonstrate how well they can perform the group jump rope.

Facing up to the challenge, both individually and in groups, has brought friends closer together and fortified the strength of the classes as a whole throughout the month of practice. In the end, this is what is most important about the Jump Rope Competition: the deepening of bonds.

Faster, better, stronger, here comes this year's Jump Rope Competition!

## **4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Halfway to Coming of Age**

### **Head of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Noriko Uda**

At the time of their entrance ceremony, there were only 40 students, but since then their number has grown and now the fifty-eight 4<sup>th</sup> graders are two classes strong, and full of energy day in and day out.

In their integrated studies class, the students reflected on their growth until now, and thought about what their futures will be like. And so, the fruits of their labor will be presented at their "Halfway to Coming of Age" ceremony.

The purpose of this study was for the students to consider themselves ten years from now, and develop their self-awareness and think about their hopes for the future. From the students' perspective, growing from ten-year-olds to twenty-year-olds is a path with many turns. Adolescence, various encounters, laughing, crying, worrying, all of these things and more await them as precious moments along their way. It is my hope that the students will use these coming years in a positive and meaningful way.

While thinking of the future, each and every student will strive to give form to their hopes and dreams during the course of this study.

## **Educational Consultation**

### **School Counselor Hiroko Tanaka**

This year the consultation room is open every Tuesday with Ms. Tanaka and every other Thursday with Ms. Ichinose, who are here to listen to what students have to say. Also, to be a better listener for the students, the school counselors take many opportunities to observe students in their classes and school life.

During recess and after school, students may come to the consultation room, where they can talk about anything from friends and family, to study subjects and school events. All topics are open for discussion. From listening to students we realized that having the chance to talk to someone about something out of the ordinary, or just having a good listener to talk to, is an important experience that energizes the minds and bodies of students. We will endeavor to create a space that students will feel comfortable and free to visit at any time.

We are always willing to listen to parents and family members as well. If you have any concerns about your child's behavior, feelings, or growth, please feel free to consult with us. Please be sure to contact the school beforehand via telephone, or consult with the homeroom teacher to schedule an appointment. Together we can try to understand the feelings and actions of the students and think about how best to overcome any difficulties.

Through consultation activities at school, it makes us happy to grow closer with students and see them growing up in a healthy manner.