



## To the Next Stage Together

Principal Yōji Hatano

Last month, 22 graduate students left Higashimachi Elementary School. There were only four students when they attended their entrance ceremony. Six years later, in the spring sun, we welcomed 92 cute and energetic 1<sup>st</sup> graders, and the 2016-17 school year began with 412 students, 12 classes (three in grade 1, two each in grades 2-5). Congratulations to all on starting a new school year.

This year, taking advantage of all the good things in Higashimachi, we must focus our energy on re-evaluating our approach and working together to help further our school's development. The major points we have reviewed are as follows:

Name Tags: To ensure the students' safety throughout the school, all students will wear name tags.

Uniform Timetable: Friday and Saturday's timetables are revised so that the entire week's timetable is uniform.

Home Visits: To observe our students' areas, home visits will be conducted during the summer holidays.

New Building (Annex): The new building will be used for 3 – 6 grade small math class and ESC's language and math class. The Hall will also be moved, and the building will be called the Annex.

Revising the School Trip: This year, the school-wide trip will be done in pairs (Gr. 1-2, 3-4, 5-6).

Family Activities: We now have 14 families. For different activities, they will be sub-divided into groups A and B.

Japanese Culture: Grades 1 and 2 will do karuta, origami, and animal shōgi. In addition to those activities, grade 3 will do *hyakunin isshu*, and grades 4-6 will do tea ceremony, incense, Japanese taiko, and shōgi. At the end of the year, as part of orientation, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will participate once in tea ceremony, incense, Japanese taiko, and shōgi.

Participation in Events: Gr. 1, 2, and 6 will participate in the entrance ceremony, 5 and 6 in the graduation ceremony and the committees.

Special Assistance: This year throughout Minato city, special assistance classes will be held. After preparation, the classes are expected to start in May.

School Lunch: In addition to the increase of student lunches, as of March, 42 specialty lunches were prepared. The number is expected to increase and preparation has become difficult. We hope to speak further about this with parents and guardians.

There are many changes taking place, but with the cooperation and support parents, guardians, and community members, the faculty members will work together to conduct classes and school activities to our best abilities. We appreciate everyone's cooperation this academic year.

## April

date	day	Event	after school
1	F		
2	Sa		
3	Su		
4	M		
5	Tu		
6	W	Opening Ceremony, Entrance Ceremony (Gr 6 attends)	X
7	Th	Cleaning, School Lunch, Safety Course, Intl. St. classes start	4~6
8	F	Interviews, Grade 1 starts School Lunch (only milk) Health Checks (health survey, heart, questionnaire)	2~6
9	Sa		
10	Su		
11	M	Safety Class (Gr 1), end of Gr 1 short day (4 hrs), Gr. 1 (milk, bread), committee	4~6
12	Tu		3~6
13	W	Health Docs In, Parent-Teacher Meeting (pr. 6)	X
14	Th	Music Assembly, Measurements (Gr 3,6) Urine Test Materials Out	4~6
15	F	Measurements (Gr. 2,5) Urine Test In	2~6
16	Sa	Emergency Evacuation Drill	X
17	Su		
18	M	Measurements (Gr 1,4), club	4~6
19	Tu	National Aptitude Test (Gr 6), Medical Exam(Gr. 1,4) Bullying and Truancy Prevention Committee	3~6
20	W	Hearing Test (Gr. 3)	X
21	Th	Student Assembly (Family Meet and Greet) Eye Exam (Gr. 1~6)	4~6
22	F	Medical Exam (Gr 2,5), Heart Exam(Gr. 1 and others as needed)	2~6
23	Sa		
24	Su		
25	M	District Exploration (Gr. 3) Hearing Test (Gr. 2) PTA General Meeting (Pr. 6)	4~6
26	Tu	Ear-Nose Examination (Gr. 2,3,4)	3~6
27	W	District Aptitude Test (Gr. 2~6)	X
28	Th	District Aptitude Test (Gr. 4~6) Teacher's Farewell Assembly	4~6
29	F	Showa Day	
30	Sa		

## April's Goal

School Guidance, Hiroki Mine

### Let's greet others!

It's the beginning of a new term. We show our consideration for others by greeting them. Let's exchange heartfelt greetings with people at our schools and in our neighborhoods.