



## Human Rights

~Let's Think About What We Can Do~

Principal Yōji Hatano

Snow fell in November for the first time in 54 years. Looking back on previous school newsletters, all of the introduction paragraphs since July have been related to the weather – not because it is customary to include comments about the season's climate, but because the weather has been so abnormal. Further considerations regarding the weather are likely to be necessary, but the students' safety will always be our number one priority.

December 10<sup>th</sup> is International Human Rights Day. In Japan, the week following the 10<sup>th</sup> is Human Rights Week (December 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>). At our school, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>, students will re-examine their daily lives in regards to Human Rights Week.

Grades 1 and 2 will make posters and grades 3 to 6 will write slogans, all of which will be displayed in the entrance, class rooms, and hallways. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the Steering Committee will hold a UNICEF Assembly as a Human Rights Assembly. Also, on this day, a Russian school lunch will be prepared as part of our school's own Human Rights Day. The library will showcase books about life, friendship, and human rights, and this month's song for the morning assembly will be "Sekai-ga Hifotsu-ni Naru-made." By participating in these, students will have a chance to think about human rights for women, children, the elderly, the disabled, foreigners, and so on. We educators too will re-examine our school activities from a human rights standpoint and raise our own awareness of human rights.

I hope each family will take time to talk about human rights in their own homes. Some might feel that an abstract idea such as "human rights" might be difficult to understand, but we hope that students in each grade can think about what they can do regarding these two points:

1. Taking care of oneself
2. Taking care of others

They must not forget to balance these two. Furthermore, these days, the issue of human rights violations on the internet has risen. It is my hope that Higashimachi Elementary will be a place where students, teachers, parents and guardians will cherish others' rights in equal terms with their own individual rights, and can spend time in a pleasant and friendly manner.

## December

Date	Day	Events	After-School
1	Th	Safety Class, Human Rights Week Begins, UNICEF Assembly, Library Volunteers Decorate, Parent-Teacher Meeting ④	X
2	F	Parent-Teacher Meeting ⑤	X
3	Sa	Japanese Culture	X
4	Su		
5	M	Committee Meetings, Children's Summit, UNICEF Donations Begin	4 - 6
6	Tu		3 - 6
7	W	Enjoy Music! Project (G4), Human Rights Week Ends, UNICEF Donations End, 4-pr. Day	X
8	Th	P.E. Assembly (G1-3), Field Trip to Automotive Factory (G5)	4 - 6
9	Fr	P.E. Assembly (G4-6), Tax Class pr. 5 (G6)	2 - 6
10	Sa		
11	Su		
12	M	Club	4 - 6
13	Tu	Area Cleaning (G1,6)	3 - 6
14	W	Emergency Evacuation Drill	X
15	Th	Music Assembly	4 - 6
16	F	Field Trip to National Diet (G6)	2 - 6
17	Sa	Japanese Culture, Eiken Orientation 10:00, PTA Standing Committee Meeting 10:30	X
18	Su		
19	M	Tokyo Waterworks Historical Museum (G4)	4 - 6
20	Tu		3 - 6
21	W		X
22	Th	Closing Ceremony, School Lunch Ends, 4-pr. Day	X
23	F	Emperor's Birthday	
24	Sa		
25	Su		
26	M		
27	Tu		
28	W		
29	Th		
30	F		
31	Sa		

### December's Goal

Life Counselor Hiroki Mine

### Let's Clean the School



Kōnosuke Matsushita, the "God of Management," demanded his employees take cleaning seriously each and every time.

A person who thinks about how they can make their area cleaner and how they can make others happy, can win over the hearts and minds of others.

Matsushita saw that there is meaning in thinking about one's cleaning methods with earnestness and ingenuity. Perhaps he thought that, as a person's attitude during one situation reflects their attitude for all situations, a serious attitude can be reared during cleaning.