



## The Importance of Being On Time

Principal Yoji Hatano

Happy New Year to everyone.

This year is the year of the dog. The year of the dog is said to be the transition from the year of the rooster, a time for plants to bear fruit and then wilt, and the year of the boar, the time when new seeds appear, and symbolizes an important transition in the circle of life. Last year, all students had either entered or transferred to Higashimachi ES since it had initiated the International Studies Program. I hope to make this a year of growth and enrichment.

Now, what do you think the following numbers mean?

Grade 1	-	7,	3,	4,	2,	6,
Grade 2	-	6,	6,	8,	5,	10,
Grade 3	-	2,	3,	1,	5,	2,
Grade 4	-	3,	4,	2,	1,	1,
Grade 5	-	4,	9,	11,	5,	5,
Grade 6	-	4,	3,	3,	6,	5,

This is the number of tardy students during the last week of the second term. However, this does not include students who were tardy because they felt sick and either stayed home for a bit or visited a doctor.

From November of last year, tardy students (students who arrived at school after 8:20) wrote their names down at the school entrance. From this, we can see that students who used to be late or used to mosey to school started to hurry and arrive at school on time.

Before, I spoke about the importance of being on time with the students at a school assembly. "Imagine you are the president of a company and you were asked to take care of a very important job. Would you choose to entrust the job to Person A, a hard worker but cannot finish on time, or to Person B, an average worker but can finish on time?" Most of the children in front of me chose Person B.

Late is late. When we become adults, we can be trusted in any circumstance just by being on time. Also, if being on time is not that special of a talent, then is it not something anyone can do if they try a little harder?

Now, the 3<sup>rd</sup> term has started. The third term is 56 days long (55 days for 6<sup>th</sup> graders) and is the academic year's shortest term. The students will prepare themselves for the new school year by valuing punctuality and concluding the year.

With support from the parents, guardians, and members of the community, the faculty hopes to make this year a year ripe with accomplishments for the children. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and support for the new year.

## January

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	M	New Year's Day	
2	Tu		
3	W		
4	Th		
5	F		
6	Sa		
7	Su	Winter vacation ends	
8	M	Coming of Age Day	
9	Tu	Opening Ceremony, Cleaning, Safety Lesson, 4-pr. day	x
10	W	Sekishokai (G1-3), 4-pr. day	x
11	Th	Sekishokai (G4-6)	4-6
12	F	Enjoy Music Project (G4)	2-6
13	Sa		
14	Su		
15	M	Parent-teacher conference (5 <sup>th</sup> pr. for lower grades, 6 <sup>th</sup> pr. for upper grades), Kakizome exhibition begins	x
16	Tu		3-6
17	W		x
18	Th	Student assembly, Measurements (G6), Kanji test, AED practice (G6), 5-pr. day	4-6
19	F	Measurements (G5), Kakizome exhibition ends, Art appreciation (G2-6)	2-6
20	Sa	Mochitsuki Party	x
21	Su		
22	M	Emer.evac. drill, Committee, Measurements (G4)	5-6
23	Tu	Measurements (G3)	3-6
24	W	Measurements (G2)	x
25	Th	Music assembly, Measurements (G1)	4-6
26	F		2-6
27	Sa		
28	Su		
29	M	Club (G3 observes)	4-6
30	Tu		3-6
31	W	4-pr day (teacher development for G6-2)	x

### January's Goal

Educational Counselor Hiroki Mine

#### Be On Time

**Life is Time (St. Luke's International Hospital • S. Hinohara)**

In his "Lectures on Life," Dr. Hinohara asked the children "What is life?" After different ideas were shared, he revealed that "'Life' is proof of the time we have."

"**Life is time.**" Being late wastes your time as well as others' time, and therefore takes away valuable time from their lives. Being punctual says "I value you," and others will be able to depend on you. Let's make sure to keep track of the time every day.

## Sekishokai·Kakizome Exhibiton Japanese Department Misa Nojima

On January 10<sup>th</sup> (Wed) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will have their *seikishokai*, and on January 11<sup>th</sup> (Thur) 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have their *seikishokai*. The meaning of "Sekisho" is "a gathering where one must write impromptu characters." It also means, "In the Edo period a master had a disciple and others would gather for a calligraphy exhibition." From then on many elementary schools "gather and conduct 'kakizome' exhibitions" and "seikishokai's."

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will do 'kakizome' writing in their classrooms. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older will gather in the gym and work on brush writing. All grades from the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term and during winter vacation will do their best to demonstrate their accomplishments in their writing. Their writings will be displayed in the "kakizome Exhibition," so please take a look when attending the parent teacher meeting.

### ★ "Kakizome Exhibition"

Exhibition Period: January 15<sup>th</sup> (Mon)~ 20<sup>th</sup> (Sat)

Exhibition Place: **1<sup>st</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup> grade** in the hall way in front of each class room.  
**6<sup>th</sup> grade** Annex 1<sup>st</sup> floor

## Grade 4's are becoming upper graders 4-1 Teacher Hideko Teramoto 4-2 Teacher Hiroki Mine

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders are off to a cheerful start to the 3<sup>rd</sup> term. They can be seen playing jump rope, tag, and ball games in the cold season's northern winds.

From the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term the 4<sup>th</sup> graders are very cheerful but they are preparing themselves for their big goals and for becoming upper graders.

○ Follow the example of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

○ Successfully complete the "4<sup>th</sup> grade's study presentation."

Last year we worked on "half the coming of age ceremony" this year we will have a "4<sup>th</sup> graders' study presentation."

Until now the study topics were separated (reading, jump rope, singing, and research study presentation) It is a meeting where students get to enjoying watching one another grow by announcing together and presenting what they have learned. From April they will become 5<sup>th</sup> graders and will be part of the upper grades. All the 4<sup>th</sup> grade children love Higashimachi ES. For Higashimachi and with the help of upper graders, they have become excited to be the example for many lower graders. With the power of all 73 4<sup>th</sup> graders they will give their all and aim to become respected upper graders in the next 3 months.

## We Love School Lunch ♪ School Nutritionist Ayako Koide

Delicious smells waft through the halls, causing waves of grumbling stomachs. At recess, curious faces peer into the kitchen from the schoolyard, and curious minds come asking about the recipes for their favorite dishes. To be certain, many Higashimachi students love school lunch.

In a single year, we have 195 school lunches. We want to design the school menu so that it makes students excited about school lunch, gets them interested in their diet, and makes them think of meals as more than just a time to take nutrition. In summary, "school lunch" should be another opportunity for students to learn many new things.

With the increase in the number of students at school, we have had to alter our techniques, but we still strive to deliver a variety of cuisines from across Japan, around the world, and even home-made bread from our very own ovens. All this serves to create school lunches with an abundance of flavors and a unique atmosphere.

Also, with the International Program at our school, there are students from many countries all sitting at the same dining table. In order to teach students about Japanese food culture, it is necessary to learn how to serve and arrange dishes, how to use chopsticks, and how to follow the correct manners during mealtimes. Please take a moment to review these lessons at home with your children during their meals.

## Answer for Art Art Instructor Miku Kobayashi

If there was no time in the elementary school schedule for art class... If this was a world without art what kind of life would people have? Sometimes I like to think about it. Maybe if we are unable to respect the personality of others and acknowledge them we may no longer be able to understand one another. Maybe we would become people who stop noticing all the beautiful things around us. Maybe everyone would have the same things and the world would become a boring place with no originality or creativity. This is all "maybes" but I think this is probably what would happen.

Time for art has been decided, so there is no "answer." If there are 40 people, there will be 40 ways of thinking, and 40 different "answers" will be given.

Children go through the process of finding their own answer, looking for creative ways to search better, sympathize with their friends' thoughts, realizing better colors and shapes, and recognizing the difference. "Maybe" is a completely different world, there is not very much fulfillment there.

Children do not fear making mistakes; they try to search freely and spontaneously for their own "answer." Art class is time for children to enjoy creating. Teaching them to strengthen their ability to find art's "Answer."

### UNICEF Donations

This year the students raised **¥66,160** in donations. Thank you for your support.