



Happy 2024

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

Happy New Year to all families of Higashimachi Elementary. The third term is the shortest term, but it is also an important term to prepare for advancing to the next grade.

We look forward to your continued support and cooperation as we did the previous year.

This year is the year of the Dragon. Of the twelve zodiac signs, the dragon is the only fictitious creature. There are many theories as to why the dragon was included in the Chinese zodiac signs; but some say it was chosen for its power and auspicious nature to help spread the zodiac signs.

December was Jump Rope Month, and this year we included group jump rope with individual jump rope. At first the children had a difficult time, but by practicing every day they were able to improve their jumping. It was very moving to see them progress and grow over the month.

Major Events of the Third Term

- Jan. 11 (Th) – 12 (F) Sekishokai
- Jan. 16 (Tu) – 26 (F) Kakizome Exhibition
- Jan. 24 (W) – 25 (Th) 5 periods, Open School
 6th period Open Lecture on Morals Class
 Topic Information Ethics
 Location Kokusai ABC Hall or Gym
 Lecturer Educational Network
 *Open to all parents and guardians
- Jan. 26 (F) *Kanji Kentei*
- Feb. 8 (Th) 2024-25 G1 Parent-Teacher Conf.
- Feb. 16 (Fri) International Assembly
- Mar. 5 (Tu) Grade 6 Farewell Assembly
- Mar. 6 (W) Parent-Teacher Conf. (G1-G3)
- Mar. 7 (F) Parent-Teacher Conf. (G4-G6)
- Mar. 22 (F) Graduation Ceremony
- Mar. 25 (M) Closing Ceremony
- Mar. 26 (Tu) Spring vacation begins

Date	Day	Events	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, Safety lesson, 4 periods	—
10	W	School lunch begins, 4 periods	—
11	Th	<i>Sekishokai</i> (G1/2/5/6), Social studies field trip (G4)	—
12	F	<i>Sekishokai</i> (G3/4), Measurements (G5)	—
13	Sa	Open Schoolyard	—
14	Su		—
15	M	Morning assembly, Tablet lesson, Committees, Measurements (G4①), Bouldering Week begins	—
16	Tu	Family Asobi, <i>Kakizomi</i> Exhibition begins, Measurements (G4②)	G3/4
17	W	4 periods, Measurements (G3①)	—
18	Th	Student assembly, 5 periods, Measurements (G3②)	—
19	F		—
20	Sa	Saturday school, Japanese Culture (G5)	—
21	Su		—
22	M	Morning Assembly, Clubs, Club Observation, Measurements (G2①)	—
23	Tu	Olympian Lesson (G3) Measurements (G2②)	G5/6
24	W	Open School①, Morals Lecture	—
25	Th	Open School②	—
26	F	<i>Kanji Kentei</i> , <i>Kakizomi</i> Exhibition ends, Bouldering Week ends	—
27	Sa	Open schoolyard	—
28	Su		—
29	M	Morning Assembly, Measurements (G1①)	—
30	Tu	Measurements (G1②)	—
31	W	Evacuation drill	—

January's Goal
"Let's be on time!"

Notices

Open School

The third Open School will be held this month on Wednesday, the 24th and Thursday, the 25th. We hope you can see how your children have grown after experiencing events like Sports Day and the Music Festival in the first two terms.

Kakizome Exhibition

Exhibition: January 16 (Tues.) – 26 (Wed.)
Location: Hallways outside classrooms

Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Wednesday, the 31st. The lunch for that day will be Singapore Chicken Rice from Singapore.

From the Nurse's Office: The Importance of Learning about Your Body

Saika Shimosato
School Nurse

In addition to injuries and illnesses, children come to the nurse's office for a variety of reasons, such as to have their height measured, to calm down because they are irritable, or just to talk. We tell the children that the nurse's office is not only a place to receive medical care but also a place that they can come to at anytime to learn about the body or if they have any concerns or problems.

The other day, a child in the upper grades saw a picture of an ear posted in the hallway and said, "Is this the inside of my ear? Gross!" Just as I was about to say that it's not gross and it's a part of their own body, they looked at the pictures and explanations carefully and I could hear them say, "Ah, but it's what's inside my own body...". Scenes like this make me believe that even something small can be a catalyst for a child to want to learn more, and that the experience is an important aspect of learning about the body. I hope that by studying the body, children will take the lead role as caretakers of their own bodies.

All grades will be learning about their bodies during January's measurements. I hope that the children can talk at home about what they learned at school.

Arts and Crafts

Yurie Suzuki

Arts and Crafts Instructor

The children of Higashimachi are always lively and engaged during art class. They can see each other more clearly since masks are no longer required and the partitions were removed. There is a renewed sense of appreciation for the days when we can partake in activities that we took for granted, such as talking with close friends and looking at each other's works. In art class, the children are encouraged to utilize their senses in their hands and bodies while interacting with interesting materials and exciting colors and shapes that are all around them.

Recently, after finishing their work for the 110th Anniversary, students have been working on finding their own unique colors and shapes. They were enchanted by the smell of wood and surprised to find something special in one another. Feel free to ask them for more details. You can also see the pictures of their work on our arts and crafts blog. We will continue to develop their abilities with expressive activities and further improve the quality of their education.

We understand that people are busy, so the children's works will remain on display in the school. We invite everyone to view their work after school and during open school.



Sekishokai

Hiroshi Yagi

Sekishokai and Kakizome Exhibition

Sekishokai, a traditional calligraphy event, will be held on Thursday, January 11 for Grades 1,2,5, and 6 and Friday, January 12 for Grades 3 and 4. The term "*sekisho*" refers to gathering together to do impromptu calligraphy as well as an exhibition of a master's calligraphy style to disciples and others. From this, many elementary schools host *sekishokai* events for students to gather and partake in *kakizome*.

Grades 1 and 2 will perform *kakizome* with pencils in their classrooms. Grades 3 and above will gather in the gym and do their *kakizome* with traditional *fude* brushes. Students in all grades will do their best to show the results of their practice during the end of the second term and winter vacation.

The students' calligraphy works will be on display during the Kakizome Exhibition from January 16 (Tues.) to 26 (Fri.). The exhibition will be held at the same time as Open School, so we invite visitors to come observe the students' calligraphy works.