



The School Song

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

Last year at the 110 Anniversary Celebration Ceremony, I talked about the school song, and I would like to continue talking about that here.

My favorite line from the school song is "*Tanoshi no manabiya / Waga manabiya.*"

I thought the phrasing sounds a bit stiff; but I learned that 110 years ago, these words were considered gentle, lovely expressions. The author of the lyrics was Shigeru Kuzuhara, sometimes referred to as Yusan Kuzuhara. As a composer of children's songs, his exemplary works include "Yuhi," "Mura Matsuri," and "Tonbi." "Mura Matsuri" was the official song of the Ministry of Education and included lyrics like "*dondonhyarara, donhyarara,*" while "Yuhi" has the lyrics "*gingin giragira yuhiga suzumu.*" Perhaps you have heard these songs before? According to my oldest daughter when she was in Grade 2, the original lyrics to "Yuhi" were "*kinkin kirakira,*" but they were changed because *kinkin* is sunrise and *gingin* is sunset. This made me realize how sensitive Kuzuhara was about words.

The school song was composed by Kosei Komatsu, who was also quite a special person. He accomplished two firsts in Japan: he wrote and composed Japan's first opera, *Hagoromo*, in 1906; and held Japan's first choral competition in 1927.

What the two people have in common is that they both published many works in a children's magazine for children's stories and songs called "Akai Tori," which was founded by Miekichi Suzuki, who had the most significant influence on the early days of children's literature and music.

It is deeply moving to think that the gentleness heard in the formality of the school song comes from their understanding of childhood education that led to the creation of such a beautiful school song.

I hope everyone will remember this when they hear the children sing the school song at events.

October's Goal

Let's do our best through and through together!

Date	Day	Events
1	Tu	Tokyo Citizens' Day
2	W	Safety lesson, Rakugo lesson (G1-G3, gym, 5 th period)
3	Th	G6 Inter-school Sports Day
4	F	Committees, G4 Minato Science Museum field trip
5	Sa	
6	Su	
7	M	School assembly, Clubs
8	Tu	
9	W	
10	Th	Student assembly (Decoration Committee), Evac. Drill (morning recess)
11	F	4 periods, Prep. For School Performance, Report cards out, Student-teaching ends
12	Sa	Minato Citizens' Festival
13	Su	Minato Citizens' Festival
14	M	Sports Day (national holiday), Minato Citizens' Sports and Athletics Festival
15	Tu	
16	W	4 periods
17	Th	Music assembly, Evac. drill substitute day
18	F	
19	Sa	Open Schoolyard
20	Su	
21	M	School assembly
22	Tu	
23	W	
24	Th	Student assembly (Library Committee)
25	F	4 periods
26	Sa	
27	Su	
28	M	School assembly
29	Tu	School Performance rehearsals, Grade 2 six periods
30	W	
31	Th	School Performances (for students①)

Please check your grade newsletters for dismissal times.

Notices

Emergency Evacuation Drill

The evacuation drill will simulate an earthquake and aftershocks that occur during morning recess.

School Performances

The School Performances will be held this year for the first time in a while. For many of the children this will be their first school performance, but since part auditions have started in each grade the children have grown more excited about the event. They are practicing acting as well as singing to make sure they are confident enough to give their best performance.

The viewing day for families is Saturday, November 2.

Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Monday, October 28. Lunch for that day will be goulash from Hungary.

Report Cards

Beginning this year, comments for "Special Subject Morals" will only be included in the second term report cards.

October's Open Schoolyard

October 19 (Sat.) 12:00 - 15:00

Committees

Tomoko Muto
Special Activities

Grade 5 and 6 students are part of committees where they contribute to the improvement of life at Higashimachi. This year's nine committees are Health, School Lunch, Broadcast, Environment, Assembly, Library, Sports, Decoration, and Steering. Committees work all over the school, and even students in other grades are aware of their duties. We look forward the improvements initiated by our committees.

Applying for Smile Room and Classroom Assistants

Yoshiko Saita
Smile Room Head Instructor

We are accepting applications for Smile Room, which provides individualized instruction for particular learning challenges and a classroom assistant to provide individualized support in the classroom. Parents and guardians who wish to apply for these services may consult with their child's teacher, the school nurse, or the assistant principal by **Thursday, October 31**.

Music

Miyabi Mishima
Music Instructor

In music, students learn about expression and listening through sound. Expression is only possible when there is a producer and a receiver. It is easy to focus only on "expression," but we believe that "listening" as receivers is even more important. It is only when our friends listen to us that we can do our best to express ourselves. Listening means thinking about and caring for the other person.

As the music instructor, I also believe that it is my role to create classes where children see the value of listening. I listen for merits in the songs each grade encounters and create classes where



children learn from each other, moments that make their hearts flutter, and lessons that make them feel valued for who they are.

Educational Counseling

Kumiko Shoji

Higashimachi guides children in utilizing their natural strengths and goodwill and supports them as they overcome challenges and grow, and we are available to help families with their children's education and time at school as well as any concerns about childcare.

Counselors

There are two school counselors.

Thursdays: Counselor Han

Fridays: Counselor Wakan

Merits to Counseling

- Peace of mind
- Clarity
- Information
- Classroom and recess observations
- Help in communicating changes in the family

Those who wish to receive counseling may contact their child's teacher, the school nurse, or the vice principal.

