



International Understanding

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

It is February, and the cold weather continues. I hope that everyone is washing their hands, gargling, and getting enough sleep to prevent catching influenza and other winter diseases.

Thank you to the families that attended our recent open school and lecture on morals education. The lecture was led by the Azabu Police Department's School Supporter, Yoshiyuki Kimura, who shared about changes in bicycle laws and what children should be aware of when using the internet. Last year, 40 traffic accidents involving elementary school-aged children were reported in Minato City, seven of which occurred in the Azabu district.

The Higashimachi Elementary student body includes many students from different countries. The school offers the English Support Course (ESC) for foreign children who plan to return to an English-speaking country in the near future. As a result, all students feel a natural familiarity and acceptance to English. Also, once a month, we serve "Human Rights Lunches," which showcase cuisine from the countries represented by the children at our school and includes additional information about the country on display at the school's entrance. Our goal is to give students the opportunity to learn about other countries through their food and culture.

At the International Assembly, the children respect each other's cultures and experience a sense of fulfillment by presenting what they learned in international studies class.

To deepen their understanding of other cultures, Japanese children must understand their own culture. Likewise, it is also a good experience for foreign children to learn about Japanese culture. Japanese Culture Time is held on Saturdays and promotes international understanding through *shogi*, *wadaiko*, and *sado* for the upper grades.

Date	Day	Events
1	Sa	
2	Su	
3	M	School assembly, Committees⑩, Safety lesson
4	Tu	Soccer Exchange (G3)
5	W	4 periods
6	Th	Student assembly, (Clubs①), Parent-Teacher Conferences for 2026 G1
7	F	Kanji Proficiency Test (Kanji Kentei)
8	Sa	
9	Su	Minato Rugby Lesson
10	M	5 periods, Clubs⑩ (G3 Observes)
11	Tu	National Foundation Day
12	W	5 periods, Measurements (G6)
13	Th	Student Assembly (Clubs②)
14	F	G5 Egao to Manabi Learning Experience, G3 Police station field trip
15	Sa	
16	Su	
17	M	School assembly
18	Tu	
19	W	4 periods
20	Th	5 periods, G4 Tag Rugby lesson
21	F	Family Asobi
22	Sa	
23	Su	The Emperor's Birthday
24	M	The Emperor's Birthday observed
25	Tu	6 periods for G2
26	W	5 periods
27	Th	Student assembly (Clubs③)
28	F	G6 Send-Off Party, 6 periods for G3

Please check your grade newsletters for dismissal times.

February's Goal

Let's beat the cold and keep exercising!



Notices

Emergency Evacuation Drill

There will be no prior announcement of the evacuation drill. Students will practice listening to the announcement and following instructions.

Kanji Proficiency Test

Friday, February 7 5th period

Levels 10-8 40 minutes

(Dismissal around 14:30)

Levels 7-2 60 minutes

(Dismissal around 14:50)

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day will be on Thursday the 27th. The lunch for that day will be handmade meat buns and corn soup from China.

Open Schoolyard

Water gate construction is being conducted on the weekends from December 1, 2024 to February 28. During this time, there will be no open schoolyard.

Club Activities

Akiko Hiraide
Extracurricular Activities

Children start club activities in Grade 4. By cooperating with club members, they are able to form bonds, develop their own individuality, and help improve their club. Teachers supervise the activities to ensure safety, but children participate and manage the club on their own initiative. Many children look forward to participating in activities that they came up with on their own.

This year, club introduction assemblies will be held in February. Grades 4 to 6 will have an opportunity to present about their own clubs to Grades 1 and 2, who can join in Grade 4, and Grade 3, who will join in April. Personally, this will be the first time to see a club presentation assembly, so I am very much looking forward to it.

Grade 3

Junichi Takagi

Following their slogan, "Replies, Greetings, Thanks, Positive Words," Grade 3 are more aware of other people's feelings and the words they use.

In integrated studies, they are drafting their own area safety map. They first observed local parks and roadways and identified potentially hazardous places with low visibility or easy access. They listened to teachers and adults and followed traffic rules, and many students shared what they learned with their group members.

Back at school, they summarized their observations with presentations that included pictures and key points.

This lesson taught students how to anticipate and avoid danger, and we hope they will use this skill in their daily lives.

We believe the efforts of the parents and guardians helped the groups work more efficiently, and we would like to express our gratitude for their contribution.

Japanese Culture

Miyabi Mishima

During Japanese Culture at Higashimachi, children learn *sado*, *wadaiko*, and *shogi* from local experts and enjoy cultural pastimes like *karuta*, *kendama*, *koma*, and *hyakunin isshu*, and calligraphy.

This year, we welcome our local experts and have Japanese Culture in Grades 5 and 6. The instructors for each activity are as follows.

Sado: Kaneko, Ishimoto

Wadaiko: Noda, Komine

Shogi: Sugawara, Ueyama

Through these experiences, the children will develop an appreciation for Japanese culture outside of their daily lives by experiencing the atmosphere of *sado*, the sound of *wadaiko*, and the thrill of *shogi*.

