



## The 3 A's and the 3 I's

Principal Tetsuro Kawahara

It has been almost a month since the children entered school or moved up to their new grades. The first graders have gradually gotten used to school life and now play energetically during recess. Students in other grades are also showing a fresh, motivated attitude—calmly engaging in learning and physical activities, and enjoying their time with friends during breaks.

In April, I spoke to the children during the opening ceremony, entrance ceremony, and a school-wide morning assembly. I shared with them something I hope will become second nature: the three A's—"aisatsu" (greetings), "arigatou" (thank you), and "atokatazuke" (cleaning up after oneself). I also spoke about three I's that they must never do: "ijime" (bullying), "ijiwaru" (being mean), and "iyagarase" (harassment).

These concepts help children learn to consider others and are foundational for building good relationships and living in society. It is said that children grow through interacting with others, and school is exactly the place where such interactions happen. Naturally, there are times when children argue or fight because they cannot express themselves well. But through this, they learn to understand each other, make compromises, reconcile, and build relationships. They also learn important values like being considerate, being patient, enduring difficulties, and the joy of working together with friends. School is, in a sense, a small society. There are many things that can only be learned and experienced in a group setting. I hope that through these interactions, and by being mindful of the three A's and the three I's, our students will make many friends and grow as individuals.

Practice for the Sports Festival is also beginning. It is a great opportunity for children to learn the importance of teamwork and unity and to grow both physically and mentally. As we proceed, we will recognize and encourage each and every child.

We kindly ask for your continued support in managing your child's health at home so they can come to school full of energy.

## May's Goal

Let's be Careful of the Words We Use!

※Please see the Higashimachi website for the school newsletter, grade newsletter, and lunch menu. Paper versions are available upon request to your child's classroom teacher.

Date	Day	Events
1	Th	Safety lesson, G1 Fixed classes start, G1 Smile Support for arrival, Ear nose throat exam (G5, G6)
2	F	5 periods, School exploration (G1-G2), Farewell Ceremony
3	Sa	Constitution Day
4	Su	Greenery Day
5	M	Children's Day
6	Tu	Greenery Day observed
7	W	4 periods
8	Th	Physical exam (G1)
9	F	Clubs②
10	Sa	
11	Su	Minato City Rugby Class
12	M	Morning Assembly
13	Tu	Ear nose throat exam (G1-G4), Make up urine test collection
14	W	4 periods
15	Th	Committee Intro. Assembly, Eye exam (all grades)
16	F	B schedule 5 periods, Evac. drill②, Sports Festival committee activities 6 <sup>th</sup> period (G6)
17	Sa	
18	Su	
19	M	Morning Assembly
20	Tu	School-wide practice 1 <sup>st</sup> period, Make up urine test collection
21	W	5 periods, School-wide substitute practice
22	Th	
23	F	B schedule 4 periods, Sports Festival prep day, Sports Festival committee activities 5 <sup>th</sup> period (G6), School-wide substitute practice
24	Sa	B schedule Saturday School①, Sports Festival
25	Su	
26	M	Substitute holiday
27	Tu	Vision test (G1-G2)
28	W	5 periods, Bouldering Week begins, Vision test G3
29	Th	P.E. Assembly①, Vision test (G4)
30	F	Excursion (G1, G2), G3 6 periods①, Vision test (G5)
31	Sa	

※ Please check your grade newsletters for dismissal times.

## Notices

### ○Emergency Evacuation Drill

For May's evacuation drill students will practice evacuating from their classrooms to the schoolyard in the event of an earthquake with a magnitude of six.

### ○Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Wednesday, May 28. The lunch for that day will be jambalaya and chicken noodle soup from the U.S.A.

### ○School Newsletter, Grade Newsletters, Lunch Menu

In an effort to reduce paper waste, the school newsletter, grade newsletters, and lunch menu will be available online at the school's website from May. The newsletters and menu will also be available for download from the website. Paper versions are available upon request to your child's classroom teacher.

### ○Special Sports Festival Schedule

The special Sports Festival schedule will go into effect from Monday, April 30 to Friday, May 23. Please check the schedule, as there may be some changes from the original schedule. Also, there will be several practice sessions for Sports Festival, so please have your child bring a sweat towel and a water bottle.

### ○Applying for Smile Room (special needs class) and Special Needs Assistant (formerly Learning Support Staff) (from Term 2 of 2025-26)

Smile Rooms are classrooms designed to provide guidance in overcoming difficulties and improving children's learning at school. In addition, Special Needs Assistants (formerly Learning Support Staff) provide individual support during group instruction in the classroom. Parents who wish to have the above for their child in the future should contact their homeroom teacher or the vice principal **by May 12 (Mon).**

### ○Saturday Classes

This year, like last year, there will be Saturday classes five times. Last year there were three Saturdays that did not have substitute holidays. This led to issues such as more students being absent than usual on the following Monday due to illness, and school life not being settled that week. Therefore, this year, we have set up substitute holidays for two out of three of those days. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation for the health and fulfilling school life of the children.

### **\*May Open Schoolyard\***

May 31 (Sat) 9:00-12:00

## About the ESC Program

EST Naoko Murahashi

Currently, ten students from five countries are studying in the ESC (English Support Course). ESC students study math and English in separate classrooms with an EST (English Support Teacher), and for other subjects, they study with their classmates in the classroom while the EST interprets the lessons given by the homeroom teacher or specialist as needed.

Students learn math according to the Japanese curriculum using translated textbooks. During *kokugo* time, students study both English and Japanese (for Grades 1 and 2 only). In English classes, students learn language skills similar to those studied in *kokugo* in order to maintain English proficiency appropriate for their grade. In Japanese classes, students learn vocabulary and expressions necessary for school and daily life.

Our school provides an environment where students can develop the mindset and attitudes necessary for the global world of the future. We hope that all students will be proud of their own cultures as well as be able to understand, accept, and respect others and different cultures.



## School Fees and Lunch Fees

Office Administrator Shun Takayama

Fees for the first term (including transportation) will be deducted on June 10 (Tue). Please refer to grade newsletters for details.

In addition, starting from April 2025, Minato City will provide all supplementary learning materials to all children free of charge. Please see Minato City website for further details.

Additionally, school lunch fees will be covered by Minato City. There is no charge to parents, however, in order to reduce food loss, we ask that those who plan to be absent for an extended period of time notify us of the length of absence and submit a report of absence.

We ask that you inform us of any changes in the length of your absence.

## ***Thank you for everything!***

### Messages from transferred or retired teachers

Thank you for your support for the last 4 years. I was always inspired by the cheerful and lively children at Higashimachi. The next school I will be at is Azabu Elementary School. This year will be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for that school, so I will be involved in an anniversary event again. The school is near Higashimachi, so if you see me on the street, please say hello.

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

Thank you for your support in my vice principal position for 3 years. I remember that in April 3 years ago, I had just become vice-principal and was not sure of what to do, so I played with the children during recess. From April, I will be at Minato City Konan Elementary School, in the neighborhood, so I hope to continue to support Higashimachi.

Vice Principal Takehiro Kitahara

I spent 4 enjoyable years with the bright and energetic children of Higashimachi. This school has an international class, and I made many new discoveries that I would not have experienced anywhere else. It was a fruitful time in my career as a teacher. Thank you for all of the memories and for all of your help.

4-1 Nozomi Yamamoto

I have always tried hard to keep studying and working hard with children no matter what age I am. For the first term I was a math instructor for grades 3-6, and for the second and third term I was the homeroom teacher for 4-2. It was a very fun and fulfilling year. Thank you very much.

Math Teacher, 4-2 Kazuo Sugimoto

I came from Nagoya four years ago and started a new challenge in Tokyo. It was a fulfilling four years with many hard times and many fun times. Now I will start a new challenge back in Nagoya. I hope that you too will take on various challenges and grow. Thank you very much.

4-3 Hiroshi Yagi

Although I was only here for a short one-year period, I was able to have a wonderful time with everyone at Higashimachi Elementary School. It was a joy to see the children working hard in their daily classes and events and growing steadily every day. Thank you very much for your support for the past year.

3-2 Mai Sato

There's a line in the B'z song "ultra soul" that goes "It seems like it will end without even a scratch." (unofficial translation) Even if something is difficult or painful, when you overcome it, the scars you get from it will become a medal of your efforts. Every day is a challenge! Let's do our best so that we can shine together. Thank you for the past three years.

2-2 Hirotaka Ishino

Thank you very much for the past four years. I looked forward to seeing everyone in the music room every day. Please keep in the mind the mottos of our classes, "Be proactive and cooperate" and "Listen" and continue to enjoy learning. Your singing voices will always resonate in my heart. Thank you very much.

Music Teacher (G3-G6) Miyabi Mishima

Steve Jobs is said to have said, "A grateful heart nurtures people, and a grateful heart polishes itself." I loved watching everyone play from the fourth floor. Seeing everyone overflowing with joy made me happy, too.

Support Specialist Noriko Yamaguchi





Nice to meet you! よろしくお願ひします。



I'm from Shiba Elementary School in Minato City. For the children's smiles, I would like to create a safe and enjoyable school for the children together with their parents and the local community. Thank you very much.

Principal Tetsuro Kawahara

I came from Mita Elementary School next door. This is my sixth year as a vice principal in Minato City. I love singing, reading, and eating. I will do my best to make the children at Higashimachi happy. Thank you for your support.

Vice Principal Koichi Wakebe

I am from Kita City Oji Daigo Elementary School. As I am also a first grader at Higashimachi, I would like to have fun and try many new things together with the children. Thank you for your support.

Grade 1 Teacher Sayuri Kashiwado

I am happy to have met everyone at Higashimachi Elementary School. I look forward to working hard together with the children while having fun. Thank you very much.

2-2 Nao Iguchi

I am from Nishitokyo Keyaki Elementary School. I would like to do my best to help the children express their thoughts and ideas freely and to help each other improve. Thank you for your support.

3-2 Hiroko Fujimoto

I look forward to learning and having fun with the children at Higashimachi Elementary School. Thank you very much.

3-3 Hideyuki Ando

I am happy to have had the opportunity to meet the bright and energetic children at Higashimachi Elementary School. I hope to have fun with not only the fourth graders I am in charge of but with everyone at the school. Thank you very much.

4-2 Keisuke Hata

I will be a fourth-grade homeroom teacher. I am happy to have had the opportunity to meet the children at Higashimachi Elementary School. I look forward to learning with the children and cherishing their smiles.

4-3 Yumiko Shinya

I will be in charge of music for grades three to six. I look forward to learning music in a fun way with the children at Higashimachi Elementary School. Thank you for your support.

Music Teacher Yoshiko Nakajima