

**Joso Excavation Wells**

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

Although students do not usually enter it, our school has a biotope. We make use of the biotope in life studies, science, and environmental education to observe the biotope's ecology. At this time of year, countless tadpoles inhabit the biotope, and we can see killifish and dragonfly larvae too. There is one more important thing in the biotope – the *Kazusabori* well. *Kazusabori* is a traditional method of digging wells by hand from the Kazusa region of Chiba Prefecture. This method uses the elastic qualities of bamboo and is powered by humans. The large waterwheel-like wheel used for digging the well still remains today. This well was dug in 2010 with the cooperation of the local community, PTA, children, and teachers. The other day, I watched a DVD that documented the digging of the well. I was moved to learn that so many people worked so hard to complete the well. As a matter of fact, the well at one point could no longer draw any water due to deterioration of the well. However, with the cooperation of the Minato City Board of Education, repairs were made and water could be drawn from the well again. This well water is not for drinking, but it is used for watering the plants in the biotope as well as for disaster emergencies.

On a final note: Sports Day is scheduled for May 18. Like last year, the event will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions. This year, in order to make it even easier to view the events, the classrooms on the second floor will be available as viewing spaces with the help of the PTA. We appreciate your cooperation.

May's Goal

Let's Be Careful of the Words We Use!

Date	Day	Events	After-school
1	W	Safety lesson, Special Sports Day schedule, Hearing exam① (G5)	—
2	Th	PE Assembly, Hearing exam② (G5②), Farewell Ceremony	—
3	F	Constitution Day	—
4	Sa	Greenery Day	—
5	Su	Children's Day	—
6	M	Children's Day observed	—
7	Tu	Committees②, Heart Exam I (all grades)	—
8	W	4 periods	—
9	Th	Committee Intro. Assembly, Make-up urine test in	—
10	F	Evac. Drill, Hearing exam (G3), Sports Day duties① (G5, G6)	—
11	Sa		—
12	Su		—
13	M	Morning Assembly, Hearing exam (G2)	—
14	Tu	Sports Day school practice①, ENT exam (G3, G4)	—
15	W	Sports Day school practice②, Hearing test (G1)	—
16	Th	Music Assembly, Sports Day school practice③	—
17	F	Backup Sports Day school practice, Make-up urine test in (if required), Sports Day student meeting② (G5, G6), 5 periods	—
18	Sa	Saturday School①, Sports Day, Bring lunch	—
19	Su		—
20	M	Day off for Sports Day	—
21	Tu	Bouldering Week, ENT exam (G1, G5)	—
22	W		—
23	Th	ENT (G2, G6)	—
24	F	Club②	—
25	Sa		—
26	Su		—
27	M	Morning Assembly, Hearing exam (G3), Committees③ (for July)	—
28	Tu	G1 Excursion, Vision exam (G6)	—
29	W	G2 Excursion, Vision exam (G4)	—
30	Th	Student assembly, Eye exam (all grades), Family Asobi①	—
31	F	Excursion (G3, G4), Hearing exam (G1), Hakone trip health check (G6)	—

Please check your grade newsletters for dismissal times.

Notices

Emergency Evacuation Drill

May's evacuation drill will practice evacuating from their classrooms to the schoolyard in the event of an earthquake.

Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Monday, May 27. The lunch from 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 Day Schedule

The special Sports day schedule will go into effect from Wednesday, May 1 to Saturday, May 18. Please check the schedule, as there may be some changes from the original schedule. Also, there will be several practice sessions for Sports Day, so please have your child bring a sweat towel and a water bottle.

Applying for Smile Room (from Term 2 of 2024-25)

Smile Rooms are classrooms designed to provide guidance in overcoming difficulties and improving children's learning at school. In addition, learning support staff provide individualized assistance in the classroom. Parents who wish for their child to attend Smile Room or have a learning support staff assigned to their child in the future should contact their homeroom teacher or the vice principal by May 15 (Wed.).

About the ESC Program

Currently, 14 students from 7 countries are studying in the ESC (English Support Course). ESC students study in separate classrooms with an EST (English Support Teacher) during math and kokugo time. For other subjects, ESC students study together in the classroom with their classmates while the EST interprets the teacher's instructions.

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

Our school is blessed with an environment of international understanding that fosters a mindset and attitude necessary to thrive in the global society of the future. We encourage all students to be proud of themselves and their own cultures as well as understand, accept, and recognize other cultures.

School Fees and Lunch Fees

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

School lunch fees will be paid by Minato City. 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.

Since we adjust the amount of food ordered and prepared, we ask that you inform us of any changes in the length of your absence.