

**During Human Rights Week ...**

Principal Yoji Hatano

Tomorrow is the long-awaited Music Festival (for parents and guardians). The Music Festival was planned in exchange for the art exhibition to show off the students' expressive skills. Parents and guardians of students in grade 2 and above are already familiar with the rotation system for the School Performances last year; but, because there are so many who wish to attend, parents will only be allowed to attend the grade before their child's performance as well as their own child's performance. We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation.

It is now the final month of 2018 (Heisei 30) and December 10th is "Human Rights Day." It

is a day to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on December 10th 1948, and this year marks its 70th anniversary. Japan has established a "Human Rights Week" to end on Human Rights Day (Dec. 4th to 10th). At Higashimachi as well, "Human Rights Week" is observed from December 3rd (Mon) to the 7th (Fri).

To prepare for Human Rights Week, students in each grade write words or phrases that they are happy to hear from other people. They are written on paper with flowers drawn on them and then used to decorate the hallways, classrooms, and entrance "Human Rights Flowers." Then, at the Human Rights Assembly on the 4th (Wed), class representatives will present them to everyone. During the morning assembly on the 3rd (Mon), I will give a speech about human rights. After the assembly, the students will sing the month's song, "Sekai ga Hitostu ni Naru Made (Until the World is One)." Also, on that day, the school lunch will feature Russian cuisine as part of our monthly "Human Rights Day."

Human rights problems in the world affect women, children, the elderly, the disabled, social outcasts, the Ainu people, foreigners, victims of HIV and leprosy, victims of crimes and their families, and include internet human rights violations, abductions by North Korea, problems that occur from natural disasters, harassment, gender identity disorder, homelessness, and so on.

However, even now there still exist world human rights violations that affect people's lives and health as well as unjust discrimination. Recently, bullying and child abuse as well as cyber bullying have become especially serious problems.

During Human Rights Week, we hope everyone will contemplate the importance of thinking about other people's feelings, realize the gravity of respecting each individual's human rights, and act to ensure that others' human rights are adequately protected.

December

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	Sa	Safety lesson, Music Festival (for parents)	X
2	Su		
3	M	Committee, House Chores pre-lesson (G2), Human Rights Week	5 - 6
4	Tu	Student assembly (Human Rights Assembly)	3 - 6
5	W	4 period, PTA Standing Committee	X
6	Th		4 - 6
7	F	Human Rights Week ends	3 - 6
8	Sa		
9	Su		
10	M	Music appreciation (G5), Club, Children's Summit	4 - 6
11	Tu	Emergency evac. drill, UNICEF donations begin (till Thurs. the 13 th)	3 - 6
12	W	Tax Lesson (G6)	X
13	Th	PE assembly (G1, 2, 3), Lecture from Beijing Paralympic long jump athlete (G6)	4 - 6
14	F	PE assembly (G4, 5, 6) Area cleaning (G6,1)	3 - 6
15	Sa	Mochitsuki Taikai	X
16	Su		
17	M		4 - 6
18	Tu	Social studies field trip (G5)	3 - 6
19	W	Jump rope competition	X
20	Th	Music assembly	4 - 6
21	F	School lunch ends	3 - 6
22	Sa		
23	Su	The Emperor's Birthday	
24	M	The Emperor's Birthday (observed)	
25	Tu	Closing ceremony, 4 periods, Cleaning	X
26	W	Winter holiday begins	
27	Th		
28	F		
29	Sa		
30	Su		
31	M		

December's Goal

Educational Counselor Kazuhiro Kawai

Let's Clean the School

Already it is the end of the year. Have you been tidying up around you? Let's clean up our school and prepare for the new year by tidying up our lockers and desks.

Hakone Trip

6-1 Kenji Kurihara

6-2 Yuto Nihei

6-3 Erika Kobayashi

From November 6th (Tue) to the 9th (Fri) grade 6 students went on the Hakone trip. The difference from their 5th grade summer trip is that this time they were very aware that there were lessons to learn and they researched about Hakone before leaving on their trip.

For one of the unique Hakone trip activities, on the third day, they went on separate study courses. This year the students could choose one of the 5 courses to observe and experience. They were able to deepen their understanding since they researched and knew the information ahead of time and were actually able to observe and hear for themselves in each of the courses.

Over the 4 days, they were able to experience Hakone's history and nature. Also, living together as a group, they were aware of what they could do on their own and thought about what they should do and acted accordingly. Over the 4 days they learned the importance of doing their jobs responsibly, following the rules, and having fun.

Grade 6 students' class aim is "cooperation." We will teach them to lead Higashimachi by maturing into friends who can cooperate with each other.

Grade 3's No. 1 in Everything ☆

3-1 Shizuka Muramatsu

3-2 Yukihiro Tsubouchi

3-3 Yoko Yamada

What do the grade 3 students like now? Grade 3 students took a survey.

★The No. 1 Color★

... blue, followed by light blue, and purple.

This grade likes refreshing colors, don't they!

★The No. 1 Subject★

... art.

Art, the time they can put the things they imagine to shape.♪ We want to continue to cherish free inspiration.

★The No. 1 School Lunch★

... crispy salad.

Higashimachi's popular menu! At school, fried wonton wrapper is added to the top of the salad! It is very delicious, so teachers also like it.

★The No. 1 Rice Ball Flavor★

... salmon.

Thank you for making lunches many times this year. Homemade rice balls are made with love and very delicious.

★The No. 1 Enjoyable Thing to Do★

... play.

Play a lot! Use time to do what you like! It is very important.

There are only 4 months left as grade 3. By spending fulfilling days, we will teach them to mature and get ready for the end of the school year.

Jump Rope Competition

P.E. Leader Hiroshi Kurokawa

Last school year's Jump Rope Competition was in February but this year it will be held on December 19th (Wed).

Every day, students can be seen practicing on the school grounds. Some are practicing individually with their friends counting their jumps for them. Some are practicing in groups, keeping time by chanting together. Whether individually or in groups, all the students are practicing hard and giving it their best.

In the September P.E. assembly the performance group demonstrated the various jump rope techniques that are included in the competition. The demonstration began with simple techniques, such as the forward and reverse jumps. By showing off more advanced techniques, such as the difficult hayabusa, the on-looking students' excitement grew as they became eager to start practicing.

At October's PE assembly, long jump rope was held. It was the first time classes worked on it and was a good chance to decide their own goal.

Students set goals for themselves in the individual jump rope challenges, and they have been working hard at accomplishing them. In order to improve their class records, the students have had to communicate and cooperate together, fostering deeper bonds of friendship along the way. One of the charms of the Jump Rope Competition is how it encourages the growth of individuals and groups.

Through the Jump Rope Competition, the whole school is revving up strengthening their skills. It is possible for parents to observe. For times of each class, please refer to the grade's newsletter.



International Studies

I.S. Leader Shuichi Yamasaki

Beginning in 2002 (H. 14), Minato City began incorporating English language into public schools. In 2007 (H. 19), classes conducted in English were given the title of "International Studies," and to facilitate these classes a "Native Teacher" (NT) was assigned to each school to begin English instruction. One special characteristic of Minato City is the emphasis it places on English language classes held twice a week.

In addition to our schools implementation of the International Studies Program, international studies continues to use "proficiency-based learning." Depending on the students' English skills, we are working to improve their English communication abilities.

Besides international studies classes, there are other areas where English listening and speaking have been established, such as: the morning assemblies, committee meetings, lunch broadcast, morning meetings, and class greetings. In addition, every Friday morning during the morning meeting English letters and sounds are studied in "phonics."

This year, international studies teacher development lessons were held for 1st, 4th, and 5th grades. Homeroom teachers are working to improve their lessons by being actively involved and putting effort into improving students' English and not only leaving it up to the NT.

It is important to improve communication skills by increasing English vocabulary. It is also important to know there are many countries in the world. Realizing each country's cultural differences, respecting and cherishing international understanding is also important. In order to foster international people that can be active in the world, we will teach them to mutually understand cultural differences in our daily lessons.