



## At the Beginning of the 2020 Academic Year

Principal Yoji Hatano

As the the COVID-19 (corona) virus was spreading violently around the world since November of last year, school closings and other measures to combat the spread of the disease were taken in March that greatly affected the children's education at school. This academic year, we have had to make great adjustments to school events in 2020, like postponing April's excursions and field trips. Parents and guardians will be notified of these changes in due time; however, because of the influence of the COVID-19 virus, it is likely that more adjustments will need to be made. Please pay careful attention to any notices from the school. Also, please register for the school's emergency email system.

We start the new school year with 86 Grade 1 students, 487 total students and 15 classes (three classes each for Grades 1, 2, and 5 and three classes for Grades 3, 4, and 6). Congratulations to you and your children for entering school and advancing to the next grade.

Now, at the start of the new school year, I would like to share with all parents and guardians some major revisions we have made to our curriculum. Previously, I would share this information at the parent-teacher conference in March, however, due to the school closing, I will inform you now at the beginning of the academic year.

- ◎ Changes to Report Cards: The new educational curriculum will go into full effect this year, and report cards have been adjusted accordingly. Until this year, students had been evaluated on 4 criteria, but from this year they will be evaluated on 3 criteria. Also, in accordance with the new curriculum, Grade 5 and 6 International Studies (国際科) is now a foreign language subject (外国語活動), and they will be evaluated like other subjects on whether they can accomplish the criteria "very well," "well," or "needing improvement." International studies for G1-4 will be evaluated as before via a descriptive assessment.
- ◎ Hakone Trip (G5): As mentioned in a notice to the parents and guardians, due to the availability of busses during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the 2-night 3-day trip to Hakone will be 2 days and 1 night for all Minato City schools. Although the Games have been postponed, because of the COVID-19 virus, the trip will remain 2 days and 1 night.
- ◎ Excursion (G1): In previous years, each grade would take an excursion in the first term, but because of the abnormal weather and the lack of stamina in the Grade 1 students, Grade 1's excursion has been abolished. In exchange, we plan to adapt a life studies field trip to include the aspect of an excursion.
- ◎ Speech Assembly: Instead of an opportunity for two students from each grade to give a presentation, we are preparing lessons that meet speaking and listening criteria in Japanese (*kokugo*) to ensure more students have an opportunity to participate in language activities.
- ◎ Home visits: Home visits were conducted during the summer holiday every year and then changed to every other year. Although home visits are related to education by allowing teachers to observe children's homes and surrounding environment, home visits were changed to every other year because of the weather conditions in the summer, and for the sake of the teachers who must walk outside. However, this year, we will not have home visits, and instead have them next year (2021), 2023, and so on.

Although there are several revisions, we, the faculty and staff, will do our best during the coming year. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

# Faculty and Staff Changes

## End of Term

Teacher	Shuheï Miyazawa
EST	Miyoko Furukawa
Specialist	Kanae Hinata

## Transfers Out

Teacher	Asuka Takahashi (to Oda City Kamata ES)
Teacher	Chitoka Yamaji (to Koto City Fukagawa ES)
Teacher	Hiroshi Kurokawa (to Koto City Dairoku Kasai ES)
Custodian	Yukari Koyama (Minato City Shirokane ES)

## Transfers In

Head Teacher	Junichi Takagi (from Koto City Sennan ES)
Chief Teacher	Yoshiyasu Tabe (from Oda City Akamatsu ES)
Chief Teacher	Tetsuro Fukushima (from Minato City Azabu ES)
Teacher	Mika Natsunaga (from Edogawa City Ukita ES)
Teacher	Yurie Suzuki (from Minato City Akasaka ES)
Teacher	Chisa Yoshimura (New hire) (Trainee)
Teacher	Kota Tobuse (New hire)
EST	Sean Alden Wood (New hire)
EST	Nanako Kojima (New hire)
Specialist	Miyuki Ito (Minato City Shirokane ES)



# 2020-21 Faculty and Staff Roster

Principal	Yoji Hatano	Vice Principal	Natsuhiko Kondo
1-1	Naoko Murakami	EST	Poe Mauldin
1-2	Naoko Kashima	EST	Yumiko Minowa
1-3	Mika Matsunaga	EST 1-1	Sheri Maeda
2-1	Leo Okajima	EST 2-1	Nanako Kojima
2-2	Misa Nojima	EST 3-2	Clint Yajima
2-3	Chisa Yoshimura	EST 4-2	Miho Lipton
2-3	Tetsuro Fukushima	EST 5-1	Christine Fujiwara
3-1	Motoki Takahashi	EST 5-3	Sean Alden Wood
3-2	Kota Tobuse	EST 6-2	Stuart Neilson
4-1	Kenji Kurahara	NT	Xion Li
4-2	Hiroto Sasaki	NT	Leonora de Guzman
5-1	Junichi Takagi	NT	Maria Sohara
5-2	Yoshiyasu Tabe	NT	Benjamin Thomas
5-3	Erika Kobayashi	Instructor	Rina Sato
6-1	Shizuka Muramatsu	Instructor	Sae Sugenoya
6-2	Yuto Nihei	Instructor	Michiko Mizuarai
Music Teacher (2-3, G3-G6)	Keiichi Hatanaka	Instructor G3-1 PE G6-1 H.E.	Noriko Sugihara
Music Instructor (2-1, 2-2)	Ayako Nagao	School Councilor	Nobuko Arai
Art Teacher (2-3, G3-G6)	Yurie Suzuki	School Councilor	Yuka Tamura
Art Instructor (2-1, 2-2)	Mariko Yamamoto	Custodian	Masahi Miyabe
Math Specialist (G3-6)	Akemi Suzuki	Custodian	Yoshiyuki Suzuki
Smile Room	Hatsuko Kurihara	Custodian	Eriko Kato
Smile Room	Saori Murakami	School Support	Wako Yamaji
Smile Room	Masami Hasebe	School Support	Aya Yoshizawa
Smile Room Specialist	Miyuki Ito	Admin. Assisant	Toshio Tanaka
School Nurse	Saika Shimosato	Librarian	Junko Suzuki
School Nutritionist	Ayako Koide	Library Assistant	Yuriko Sakai
Office Admin.	Akio Kida	Library Assistant	Keiko Kaneko

※The Smile Instructor Hatsuko Kobayashi married in March and from April will be referred to as Ms. Kurihara

