

## Class Window

## Grade 1

Grade 1 Class 1 Naoko Murakami

Grade 1 Class 2 Naoko Kashima

Grade 1 Class 3 Mika Matsunaga

The adorable Grade 1 students have finally arrived at school. They have gotten accustomed to coming to school with a mask on, checking their health in the hallway, and quickly putting their things away every morning.

We are now reviewing the hiragana and numbers lessons they learned during their self-studies at home. They quietly write the hiragana and cheerfully share their work with the class.

During recess, they work up quite a sweat playing *onigokko* and *darumasanga koronda* nicely with each other. Some students have memorized their classmates' names and tell us who they have become friends with.

During lunch, some students were at first worried they wouldn't be able to eat all of their vegetables, but they cleared their plates once they tasted how delicious it was.

The students will all be together in July. We will help them spend their time with peace of mind while observing social distance.



## School Nurse

## The Children's Smiling Faces

Saika Shimozato  
School Nurse

After three months the children's smiling faces have returned to Higashimachi. During the school closure, without seeing the children or hearing their voices, the school felt lonely and foreign. Once school started, I could see the children cheerfully playing in the schoolyard and was able to smile again. Be that as it may, combating the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is going to take a long time. I believe it is important to not be swayed by fear or sensationalism, but to remain calm and grounded in accurate information and to diligently do our part.

We took body measurements in June. Body measurements also involves lessons about physical and emotional development. I explained to each grade how to avoid infection from droplet spread and person-to-person contact. The lower grades learned the correct way to wash their hands; the middle grades learned where viruses and germs lurk; and the upper grades learned about preventing heat stroke. All grades could be seen intently listening to my lesson.

I will continue to watch over the children to ensure they can have a safe, peaceful time here at Higashimachi. Please continue to check your child's temperature and health condition before they leave for school.



## School Route Inspection

Junichi Takagi  
School Route Inspection

At Higashimachi, we conduct an inspection of the school routes to ensure students can come to school and return home safely.

This year, as part of our measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we conducted the inspection from the viewpoint of locating places that children play before and after school that could be crowded.

The following ideas were discussed after our inspection:

- Crowds often form when waiting for crosswalk signals.

- Narrow sidewalks crowd easily

- Parks are crowded when children play there

Taking these into account, we will instruct students on the following points:

- Keep distance from others when waiting for traffic signals

- Avoid crowding narrow sidewalks

- Avoid touching others when playing in the park



To guarantee the children's safety, we ask families to talk together about how to avoid crowding before and after school.

## *Subjects Window*

## **PE and Music**

Yuto Nihei  
Head of PE  
Keichi Hatanaka  
Music Instructor

Due to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we have had to make major adjustments to PE and music class, their activities, as well as our methods of instructing.

Instead of the usual PE activities where all the students share the same ball, students will do individual activities that use hula-hoops, newspapers, and jump ropes. Also, when doing iron bar exercises in gymnastics, each student will use one iron bar to observe social distancing and allow the children to practice safely. Pool classes usually begin in June, but they will not be held this year. We will continue to provide adequate support and appropriate conditions for the students' health.

In music class, we are currently unable to do the activities we usually did that involved everyone singing together and playing the recorder and melodica. Of course, classes that focus on other instruments is possible, but, in June, the students spent time in music class doing activities that trained their sense of tone and rhythm. For example, to improve their sense of rhythm, students practiced clapping in time to a rhythm. The students tried clapping along to different patterns with a drum machine to clear 10 levels on a "rhythm card," and different abilities could be seen in different grades. For example, the lower grades could clear one level by clapping along with their classmates' clapping, while the upper grade students had to clap along while also focusing on the timbre. The children are becoming more aware of the sense of unison while clapping together.

These activities are the result of reevaluating our lessons in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. This difficult situation that limits the kinds of activities we can do will continue for a while, but there is a lot we can do, especially now. We hope to show the children that in any situation, we can transform dire situations into opportunities for innovation by adopting new methods and approaches.