

Reinforcing Measures Again for the Second Term

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

The second term starts today, and I happy to see the children return to school without incident. Like last year, this year's summer vacation was restricted due to measures to prevent infection, but the children were able to spend their vacation safely thanks to the efforts of families and community members.

The current COVID situation with the more infectious variant spreading has forced us to reevaluate how to proceed from here on. As outlined in the email from the Minato City Board of Education (幼稚園、小中学校における2学期開始以降の感染症対策の取組の強化について), Higashimachi will strengthen its measures to prevent infection. We ask families to keep their children at home and join classes online if anyone in the household is not feeling well.

Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Olympic Games were held in the first half of the summer. Although there were various opinions about hosting the games, I would like to talk about Shohei Ono's comment about hosting the games in an interview after winning the gold medal in Judo. After expressing his gratitude for the events being held, he added that he hopes that viewers were able to feel something from watching his match. What do you suppose that "something" is? It seems like there is a deeper meaning to what he said. Perhaps he wanted us to feel that over the year the games were postponed and it was uncertain whether they would be held or cancelled, he continued to practice, overcome his uncertainty, and clench the gold medal.

Right now, the Paralympic Games are being held. The chance for students to observe the games has been cancelled, however, the athletes are still doing their best. Even though we can only cheer them on by watching them on TV, Minato City schools will continue to learn about the Olympic and Paralympic Games and show their support by broadening their understanding of the culmination of the athlete's efforts.

Second Term's School Performances

The School Performances was scheduled for November 19 and 20 while observing measures to prevent infection. However, in addition to the sudden increase in the number of COVID cases, it has been determined that it would be difficult to practice for the performances and avoid crowding. Therefore, it has been decided to cancel this year's performances. This does not affect the Saturday classes or substitution holiday scheduled. At this time, ideas for a substitute event for parents to observe are being considered.

September

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	W	Safety lesson, Opening Ceremony	
2	Th	School lunch begins	
3	F		
4	Sa	Saturday school, Japanese culture time	
5	Su		
6	M	Committee, Measurements (G1), Summer project exhibition begins	
7	Tu	Measurements (G1, G2), Swim Meet (G6)	
8	W	4 periods, Measurements (G2),	
9	Th	Measurements (G3), Swim meet substitution day, Summer project exhibition ends	
10	F	Measurements (G4), Parent-teacher conferences (G1-G3: 14:00) (G4-G6: 15:00)	
11	Sa		
12	Su		
13	M	Measurements (G5), Club	
14	Tu	Measurements (G6), Swim Meet (G6)	
15	W	Evacuation drill, Measurements (G6)	
16	Th	Student assembly	
17	F	Swim lessons finish, 4 periods	
18	Sa		
19	Su		
20	M	Respect for the Aged Day	
21	Tu		
22	W	Waterworks Caravan (G4)	
23	Th	Autumnal Equinox	
24	F	Teacher Development Lesson (G6-2) ※4 periods for all classes except G6-2	
25	Sa		
26	Su		
27	M		
28	Tu	Life Studies off-campus lesson (G1)	
29	W		
30	Th		

Notices

*Emergency Evacuation Drill

The emergency evacuation held on the 15th (Wed.) will simulate a fire at the school. The drill will be held in grade pairs: 1-2-6, 3-4-5. The students will practice following *o-ka-shi-mo* and how to evacuate in the event of a fire.

*Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Tuesday the 28th. The lunch will be maple toast and salmon stew from Canada.

*Perfect Attendance Awards

There are schools that award students a "Perfect Attendance Award" for not missing a single day their entire 6 years at elementary school.

Perfect attendance awards were originally intended to reward students who achieved perfect attendance by maintaining a healthy lifestyle. However, as more students attended school (or were made to attend school) despite their health condition for the sake of a spotless record, the purpose of perfect attendance has been lost.

Please understand that for these reasons Higashimachi does not offer an award for perfect attendance.

*After-School Play

As a measure to prevent infection, there will be no after-school play.

Educational Counselling

September's Goal

"Let's Get Back into the Swing of School"

Naomi Naito

Educational Counsellor

After a long summer vacation, the second term of school has begun. Let's go over the school rules. Students arrive at school between 8:10 and 8:20. They put away their things and are ready for the day by 8:25. Also, from 1st to 6th period, they are ready to start each period on time. There are plenty of more school rules besides just being punctual.

These rules may seem strict, but they are to ensure the safety and piece of mind of all 500 students and provide a strong foundation for ideal school life.

With the help of all parents and guardians, we hope to instruct the students to return to a peaceful school life.

From the Music Room

Miyabi Mishima
Educational Affairs

In music class, the students are instructed in lessons that allow students to learn independently and interactively to deepen their learning and experience the joy of musical activities.

Now, within the current restrictions for avoiding infection, we must think of how to conduct classes that will allow students to actively express themselves. Also, to ensure that students actively participate in the lessons, we believe it is important to create an environment where students feel safe to express themselves.

That environment includes a space where students can express themselves freely, listen attentively to their classmates, feel supported even when they make a mistake, build confidence and courage to take on challenges, notice their classmates' efforts and abilities, and find songs that make them feel good and enjoy music.

The children are mindful of measures to prevent infection during class. So, we feel it is important to react positively to the children's energy and desire to express themselves with appropriate praise and expressions. We will continue to work hard so that the children will be able to express themselves actively through music.

Summer Project Exhibition

Junichi Takagi
Educational Affairs

After the summer vacation, Higashimachi hosts a summer project exhibition. In previous years, there were fewer students, so the projects could be displayed in the hallways in front of the classrooms; however, with an increase in the number of students came an increase in the number of projects to display, and the exhibition was relocated to the gym, which is transformed into a mini-exhibition space.

Every year, students in all grades come to school with their projects they thought of and made on their own. Various projects that include crafts, recipes and cooking, and travel journals are on display.

Going to the exhibition with the students is a good time for teachers to see them enjoying the projects and works with their friends. Parents and guardians are also allowed to visit the exhibition. I am sure there are many who wonder what summer projects they can do with their children. Perhaps going to the exhibition will provide hints about what kind of projects and works there are, or how the projects change as the students advance to the higher grades. We hope you can come and see.

◆Dates: September 6 (Mon.) – September 9 (Thurs.) 9:00 – 16:00

◆Location: Gym

Term 2 has begun. The cherry tomato plants the children raised in the first term got very big and bore a lot of fruit. We hope your children enjoyed their summer vacation with them. Despite concerns about the weather, all three classes were able to have swim lessons. All of the children were able to work towards their own individual goals, such as putting their head completely under water or swimming 15 meters. During recess, the students can be seen playing in the schoolyard or gym and reading or playing with their notebooks in the classroom. In the second term as well, under the supervision of several adults, the children will be able to take part in the lessons safely and with peace of mind.



Learning in the ESC (English Support Course)

Yumiko Minowa
English Support Teacher

As of now, there are 36 students from 16 countries learning in the English Support Course (ESC). ESC students study math and language with their English Support Teacher (EST) and other subjects in their classrooms with their classmates (with the help of the EST).

In math class, ESCs use translated math textbooks and learn math based on Japan's national curriculum. During language classes (*kokugo*), they study Japanese and English. To preserve the students' English abilities and keep them at the same level as their counterparts in English-speaking countries, study topics and skills resemble those in Japan's *kokugo* class. In Japanese class, students start studying greetings, hiragana, and katakana, and learn phrases and expressions that are useful for their time at school. So that they can present their ideas in Japanese and understand their teachers and classmates, students focus on speaking, writing, reading, and listening to understand their classmates' ideas as well as ideas from books.

Higashimachi is ripe with a philosophy of global education that provides all students with the skills and attitude necessary to participate in the global society of the future. We hope all students will take pride in their own country's culture while recognizing and respecting the differences in other people's cultures.



