



## Hot and Cold Up to the Equinoctial Week

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

As the hot summer steadily cools down, it is clear the seasons have begun to change. When it cools down, the mind and body are abated and the desire to create is stimulated. In Japanese, there are many phrases about autumn such as "autumn for reading," "autumn for sports," "autumn for art," etc. I hope the children too can find something to undertake this autumn and make it a fulfilling season.

The number of COVID-19 cases is decreasing, a new variant is still spreading, and it is unclear what to expect in the near future. Adults are being vaccinated, but children are not. At school, learning continues while taking measures to prevent students from being infected. Open School was scheduled for October, but since the event replacing the school performance will take place then and as a measure to prevent infection, we are sorry to inform parents and guardians that it has been cancelled.

### **Higashimachi Juban Matsuri: Presentations and The Higashimachi Juban Challenges**

As mentioned in a notice explaining the event that was sent to parents and guardians, the School Performance will be replaced by a new, experimental event called the Higashimachi Juban Matsuri. It is a combination of presentations related to the students' studies and the Higashimachi Juban Challenges.

The presentations will show the fruits of the students' daily studies. Through this format, I hope the students will be able to recognize their class's efforts and improve their presentation skills. The presentations will be available only to parents and guardians via the school's website.

The Higashimachi Juban Challenges will have 10 challenges that the students can choose from. Details about the challenges are provided on the back side of this newsletter. The school will provide updates about the event via the school's website and Twitter. We hope that, despite the many restrictions, the students will be able to recognize each others' strengths as well as the benefits of belonging to Higashimachi by showing off their talents and skills and enriching their school.

The event will be held from October to November. Since this is a new event, there will likely be questions or concerns as well as requests from the school. We greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation.

## October

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	F	Citizens' Day	
2	Sa		
3	Su		
4	M	Safety lesson, Clubs	
5	Tu		
6	W	Life studies outside lesson (G1)	
7	Th		
8	F	Social studies field trip (G6-2) Teacher development class (G4-1)	
9	Sa		
10	Su		
11	M	Social studies field trip (G6-1), Committees	
12	Tu		
13	W	Social studies field trip (G6-3), 4 periods	
14	Th	Planetarium field trip (G4)	
15	F	P.E. Assembly, Report Cards sent home	
16	Sa		
17	Su		
18	M		
19	Tu		
20	W		
21	Th		
22	F	Teacher development class (G1-1)	
23	Sa		
24	Su		
25	M		
26	Tu		
27	W	Evacuation drill	
28	Th		
29	F		
30	Sa		
31	Su		

## Notices

### **\*Tokyo Citizens' Day**

Tokyo Citizens' Day on October 1st (Fri.) will be a holiday. There will be no school.

### **\*Evacuation Drill**

The evacuation drill on the 27<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) will simulate an earthquake. The drill will be done in groups: Grades 1,2,6 and Grades 3, 4, 5. Students will practice how to act when an earthquake occurs and following the *o-ka-shi-mo* procedure.

### **\*Human Rights Day**

This month's Human Rights Day will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.). The lunch for that day will be Chinese shrimp and squid in a chili sauce with corn soup.

### **\*Open School**

Open School was scheduled for October 18 (Mon.), 19 (Tues.), and 20 (Wed.), but has been cancelled as a measure to prevent infection. We appreciate your understanding.

### **\*After-School Play**

As a measure to prevent infection, after-school play for October has been cancelled.

## Educational Counselling

### October's Goal

### "Let's Train Our Minds and Bodies"

Naomi Naito  
Educational Counsellor

Little by little the days have become more pleasant, and it is the perfect season for training our minds and bodies.

Keeping preventative measures in mind, we are improving on ways for students to exercise and move their bodies. For example, the energetic kids come back from recess dripping in sweat even though the weather is a little chilly. We teach the children to wash their hands, wipe off their sweat, and even change their clothes after moving their bodies a lot.

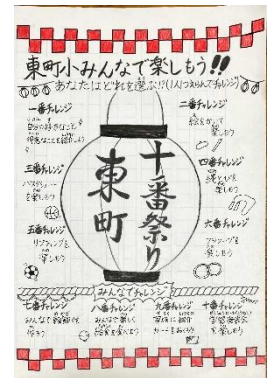
This month there are a lot of chances for children to show off their skills and talents. The faculty as well will use this month as a chance to encourage the students to open up their hearts and build confidence in themselves.

## Juban Challenge

Erika Sasaki  
Presentation Committee Chair

For the Juban Challenge, each student will show off their talents and take on challenges on their own. As they take on the ten challenges, we hope the students will feel the joy of being a member of Higashimachi Elementary. Students get to choose one challenge from *Ichiban* to *Rokuban* challenge to do on their own. *Nanaban* to *Juban* challenges will be done by all Higashimachi students.

<i>Ichiban</i>	Show us your talent!
<i>Niban</i>	Draw a picture!
<i>Sanban</i>	Shoot some baskets!
<i>Yonban</i>	Jump rope!
<i>Goban</i>	Juggle a soccer ball!
<i>Rokuban</i>	Hula hoop!
<i>Nanaban</i>	Make circle art together!
<i>Hachiban</i>	Enjoy school lunch together!
<i>Kyuban</i>	Send your family a self-introduction card!
<i>Juban</i>	Enjoy everyone's presentations!



Even though it's the first time for the students to do this event, they are informed about the Higashimachi Juban Matsuri through picture shows and pamphlets. We hope all the students can enjoy this event.

## Student Committees

Misa Nojima  
Head of Extracurricular Activities

At Higashimachi Elementary, Grade 5 and 6 students are divided into 9 committees and carry out duties to ensure everyone has an enjoyable and enriching time at school. The committees remain active despite restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee Title	Main Duties
Health	Check water quality, Provide health information (posters, announcements, etc.)
School Lunch	Fill out nutritional board, Research about countries for Human Rights Day's meals, Remind students about lunch mats, masks, and washing hands
Broadcast	Morning broadcast, Dismissal broadcast, Lunch broadcast (prepare music, quizzes, story time, etc.)
Environment	Confront environmental issues (trash separation and reduction, power and water conservation, etc.)
Assembly	Plan student assemblies, Facilitate assemblies (now done via Teams or in individual classrooms)
Library	Help with book returns and lending, Tidy library, Book recommendations, etc.
Sports	Take out and bring in ball rack, Organize gym storage, Provide demonstrations of activities for P.E. assemblies, etc.
Display and Decoration	Seasonal decorations outside the principal's office, Display news on each floor, etc.
Steering	Greetings Campaign, Donation drives, Plan Grade 6 Send-Off Party, Steering, etc.

\*From October 11 (Mon.), students will join new committees for the second half of the year.

We believe participating in committee activities will awaken a sense of personal responsibility and offer them a chance to understand the importance of being a member of society, which will benefit them later on in their professional lives.

## **Online Classes**

Yoshiyasu Tabei  
ICT

When the state of emergency was declared in September of 2021, online classes were offered to students in accordance with the city's policies and as a measure to prevent infection.

One benefit of online classes is the ability to learn and feel the atmosphere of the classroom without having to actually meet anyone. Being able to choose online learning is due in large part to the support of the Board of Education as well as the understanding and cooperation of parents and guardians as well as the efforts of the children.

However, there are technical difficulties and other obstacles that hinder online learning from proceeding the same way as classroom learning. Also, although students agree to use their iPads only for studies, students have had to be reminded to avoid the temptation to use their devices for other purposes.

These devices allow us to access and share limitless information, work efficiently, exchange ideas, and organize ourselves. In order to better utilize these devices, the faculty is researching how to conduct effective lessons with the iPad and sharing useful techniques with the students. We greatly appreciate the cooperation and understanding of all parents and guardians.

## **Application for Smile Room or Individual Assistance**

Yoshiko Saita  
Special Education

Started in 2016, the Smile Room was opened for students who are concerned about their studies as well as their school life. Smile Room is set up to assist students in overcoming any difficulties they have in their studies or school life.

Also, parents may apply for the on-going program that assigns a special instructor to join their child's class and offer individual assistance if they wish to do so.

Those who wish to have their child attend the Smile Room from April 2022 should consult their child's classroom teacher, School Nurse Ayako Shimosato, Special Education Coordinator Yoshiko Saita, or the Vice Principal by Saturday, October 16.

\*Those who wish to continue having their child attend Smile Room or having a special assistant should also contact their classroom teacher or the Smile Room by Saturday, October 16.

