



Deeper into Autumn

Principal Yuchi Hashimoto

Standing at the school gate to welcome the children in the morning, I feel either autumn's soft sunlight or chilly gusts of wind. It has indeed felt much colder recently. Soon we will be in the middle of autumn and its colorful splendor

As I write this, the number of COVID-19 cases has been dropping considerably. Of course, we must consider the threat of a sixth wave of infections, I hope that such a wave does not rise upon us and we can continue our educational endeavors without restriction.

The Nobel Prize in Physics

As I mentioned in morning assembly the other day, the Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded to Syukuro Manabe, a senior researcher at Princeton University.

He was awarded the prize for discovering how the rise in carbon dioxide in the air affects the rise in the Earth's ground temperature. His research became the basis for the modern model of climate change, which is used today to predict flooding and drought caused by global warming. Everything we know about global warming today, as well as the initiative for countries to severely slash their carbon emissions levels, comes from the findings he presented over 50 years ago.

He was able to win the Nobel prize because of his inquisitiveness and research. Many Nobel Prize winners, not only Manabe, were able to claim the prize because they researched about things they were interested in or curious about. It is clear that interest and curiosity are very important things.

In a conversation with a former researcher from a Japanese university, Manabe had this to say.

"It is important, not only for students and young adults but teenagers as well, to put yourself in a different environment."

Even for a grown adult such as myself, it is very important to experience different surroundings.

Our school has children from many different countries, and I believe that this is a place where children, with varying backgrounds, can immerse themselves in a truly unique environment.

Family Reading

Family Reading this year will be from Tuesday, November 2 to Saturday, November 6. Please take this opportunity to read books together as a family and experience the joys of reading. Perhaps your family will happen upon a wonderful book that you will end up enjoying for the rest of your life. I surely hope so.

Month

Date	Day	Events	After-school
1	M	Committees	—
2	Tu	Family Reading Begins	—
3	W	Culture Day	—
4	Th	Higashimachi Juban Challenge begins	—
5	F		—
6	Sa	Family Asobi, Family Reading ends	—
7	Su		—
8	M	Club	—
9	Tu	Higashimachi Juban Challenge: Request Lunch	—
10	W	4 periods	—
11	Th	Student Assembly (School Anniversary Assembly)	—
12	F	4 periods	—
13	Sa		—
14	Su		—
15	M	Evacuation drill, Higashimachi Juban Matsuri video presentations and performances go online	—
16	Tu		—
17	W		—
18	Th	Music Assembly	—
19	F		—
20	Sa	Saturday school (5 periods with lunch), Higashimachi Juban Challenge: Select lunch	—
21	Su		—
22	M		—
23	Tu	Labor Thanksgiving Day	—
24	W	Higashimachi Juban Matsuri video presentations and performances go offline	—
25	Th	2022 G1 health check, 4 periods	—
26	F		—
27	Sa		—
28	Su		—
29	M	Committees	—
30	Tu	Substitute event for Summer Camp (G5)	—

Notices

*Video Presentation and Performances

As mentioned before, the School Performances have been replaced by presentations and performances. Videos of the presentations will be uploaded on the school's website from Monday, November 15 to Wednesday, November 24.

*Emergency Evacuation Drill

The emergency evacuation drill on Monday, the 15th will practice evacuating for an anticipated earthquake. The drill will be carried out by Grades 1, 2, 6 and 3, 4, 5. Students will learn what to do when an earthquake occurs and practice following *o-ka-shi-mo*.

*Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Monday, the 29th. The lunch for that day will be fish with ravigote sauce and Julienne soup from France.

*After-School Play (*Hokago Asobi*)

There will be no after-school play this month as a measure to prevent infection from COVID-19.

Educational Counselling

November's Goal

"Let's Join Forces and *Yarinuko*"

Naomi Naito
Educational Counsellor

Since October, the students have been putting a lot of effort into the Higashimachi Juban Matsuri. Students are preparing for their videos in unique ways, such as organizing their research on traditional-looking paper or reading aloud passages in front of backgrounds they made themselves. In November, the Juban Sports Challenges will be held during recess. The students must surely be looking forward to watching videos of their friends' talents.

Originally, we had hoped the students would be able to see everyone's efforts in the same space and at the same time. However, this time, we will guide the students to open up their hearts, join forces, and carry out the Higashimachi Juban Matsuri to the end, regardless of time or place.

What to See in the Presentations and Performances

Grade 1

Grade 1 students will use the dialogue from "*Waka wo Hanasou*" to talk about themselves. They are working on speaking in a loud voice at an appropriate speed so others can understand them. Please look for the *aki no ousamaboushi* they will be wearing during their presentation.

Grade 2

Grade 2 will introduce the moveable toys they made for Life Studies. They made the toys with everyday materials and thought of rules and targets so everyone can enjoy playing with them. They will explain how to play with their toys and what ideas they put into making them and even show themselves playing with the toys in real time.

Grade 3

Grade 3 will be performing a song and presenting their reading skills (*ondoku*). The students have been using not only class time but all *renraku* time every day to practice for the musical performance. For *ondoku*, they chose a text from their reading assignments and thought about how to read the text as well as background and props.

Grade 4

Grade 4 will present a quiz they made based on what they learned about Japan's prefectures. In *kokugo*, they learned the kanji for all prefectures, including the stroke number, stroke order, and how to read them. In social studies they learned each prefecture's geography and industry. The students researched one prefecture and presented their own quiz questions.

Grade 5

Grade 5 students will present about what they learned in their integrated studies lessons about rice. There are a lot of dishes made from rice throughout the world. The students chose a country based on their favorite dish and researched about its culture and history. Please watch to see the results of each student's efforts.

Grade 6

Grade 6 students chose to present about one topic from either *kokugo's* "*Yamanashi*," social studies' lessons about historical figures, P.E.'s 2021 Higashimachi Olympic races, or integrated studies' topic about kindness. Please watch to see everyone doing their best.

Presentation and Performance videos for all grades will be available for viewing on the school's website.



Grade three went on a town exploration as part of their integrated studies class. The students were very excited to learn outside of school after such a long time, so we made sure to go over how to walk on the street in large groups before departing. Even though the students live in this area, there were many places that students had not visited yet or even places that they recommended, and the students could be seen carrying out the expedition and learning on their own. The students are now working on making photo collages about the stores and locations from the exploration as part of the "Our Town, Our Higashimachi" unit.

Aside from this lesson, we can see many students setting goals for themselves and their presentation and performance, making decisions based on ideas from their *ondoku* group members, offering various suggestions and ideas, working independently on their class duties, and in general taking on their responsibilities. The students will carry out the rest of the year making good use of that ambition and motivation.



School Opening Anniversary

Vice Principal Natsuki Kondo

Higashimachi Elementary, which celebrates its 108th anniversary, opened its doors on November 14th, 1913 as Tokyo City Higashimachi Primary School. The 108 years up to now have not been exactly smooth sailing for the school. From being razed by fire bombings in 1945 to facing consolidation due to the lack of students, the school has faced a few perilous challenges. Having overcome these obstacles, Higashimachi as it stands now exists thanks in no small part to the understanding and cooperation of the loving parents, guardians, and community members as well as the contributions from our predecessors. Higashimachi's first principal, Principal Shintaro Nishimura, often spoke to the children about doing their best in everything and that sentiment is reflected in Higashimachi's slogan, "*Isshokenmei*."

Today, Higashimachi receives a lot of attention from all types of people as a school with a diverse student body that includes twenty percent of students from foreign countries and a school that has a rich, international spirit. No doubt, six years in an environment such as this will prove invaluable to the children who are heading off into the globalizing world. The faculty and staff will continue to contribute their efforts into educating children to give their best in everything they do and to further improve Higashimachi Elementary, a school that has flourished by the affection and devotion of a community that has supported this school throughout its entire history.

