



Happy New Year

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

Happy New Year to the families of Higashimachi ES. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in all of our educational activities last year. Although the coronavirus continues into the new year, we hope to continue educating the children in ways that prevent infection. We look forward to working together with you all this year as well.

This year is the year of the tiger (寅 *tora*). The kanji 寅 is used only for the zodiac and for proper names. Tiger is the third sign after rat (子 *ne*) and ox (丑 *ushi*). The traditional Chinese zodiac signs originally depicted the life cycle of plants, with the year of the rat symbolizing new life germinating inside a seed and the year of the ox representing a stage of temporary stagnation inside the seed. The year of the tiger is when spring comes, roots and stems sprout, and plants start to grow. This third year in the cycle coincides with the third calendar year of the corona virus pandemic. We hope that this third calendar year of trudging through the pandemic will be, like the year of the tiger, a year of growth.

Incidentally, the tiger has long been considered a frightening and mystical beast, so the word *tora* appears in many proverbial expressions.

I myself may not have the answers (*tora no maki*) for raising children, but I do have the courage and devotion* to do my best for them.

Main Events in Term 3

January 18 (Tues.) – January 20 (Thurs.) Open School

The Kakizome Exhibition and the Open Morals Lecture will be held during the same week as Open School. Due to the coronavirus, classes will be divided into three groups and parents and guardians will have to attend during pre-determined times. Please contact your child's teacher if you are unable to attend during the scheduled times.

February 10 (Thurs.)	Parent-Teacher Conference for 2022-23 Grade 1
February 22 (Tues.)	International Assembly
March 7 (Mon.)	Parent-Teacher Conference (G1-G3)
March 8 (Tues.)	Parent-Teacher Conference (G4-G6)
March 8 (Tues.)	Grade 6 Send-Off Assembly
March 24 (Thurs.)	Graduation Ceremony
March 25 (Fri.)	Closing Ceremony
March 26 (Sat.)	Spring Break begins

*虎は千里行って千里帰る (*senri itte senri kaeru*)

January

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	Sa		
2	Su		
3	M		
4	Tu		
5	W		
6	Th		
7	F		
8	Sa		
9	Su		
10	M	Coming of Age Day, Winter Break Ends	
11	Tu	Opening Ceremony, (4 periods) 12:30 dismissal	
12	W	School lunch begins, (4 periods) 13:10 dismissal	
13	Th	Sekishokai (G1, G2, G5, G6)	
14	F	Sekishokai (G3, G4)	G6
15	Sa	Family Asobi (G3, G5)	
16	Su		
17	M	Committee	
18	Tu	Kakizome Exhibition begins, Open School	
19	W	Open School, Open Morals Lecture	
20	Th	Student Assembly, Open School	
21	F	Kakizome Exhibition ends	G4,G5
22	Sa		
23	Su		
24	M	Club	
25	Tu	P.E. Assembly (G3, G5), Emergency Evacuation Drill	
26	W	P.E. Assembly (G2, G6)	
27	Th	P.E. Assembly (G1, G4)	G3
28	F	Teacher Development Lesson (G2 Class 1, other classes dismissed at 13:10)	
29	Sa		
30	Su		
31	M		

Notices

*Emergency Evacuation

Students will practice evacuating in the event of a flood on Tuesday, the 25th. The drill will be done separately in Grades 1, 2, 6 and Grades 3, 4, 5. Students will practice following "o-ka-shi-mo" and learn how to behave during a flood.

*Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Monday, the 31st. The lunch that day will be paella and tortilla Española (Spanish omelet) from Spain.

*Open School

Open school will be held from Tuesday, January 18 to Thursday, January 20. Each class will be separated into groups A, B, and C, and times for visitors will be set. Please check the separate notice from the school for information about visiting times. Also, please contact your homeroom teacher if you are unable to come during the scheduled visiting times.

*Kakizome Exhibition

The Kakizome Exhibition will be from Tuesday, January 18 to Friday, January 21. The works will be displayed in the hallways outside the classrooms.

Educational Counselling

January's Goal "Let's be on time!"

Naomi Naito
Educational Counsellor

A new year has arrived and so has the third term, a crucial period before moving up to the next grade.

School is a type of communal living, and Higashimachi consists of unique grades with individuals from different homes and different backgrounds. Because of these differences, there is a lot for students to observe and learn. Students often will show adults unexpected skills, and we believe these skills come from their lifestyles and can help develop confidence and friendships. "Time" is something that is shared among oneself and others. By valuing each other's time, we can guarantee more fulfilling time for all of us.

We hope to begin the new year fresh so the students can feel they truly completed their school year by March.

Japanese Kanji Aptitude Test (*Kanji Kentei*)

Nozomi Yamamoto
Head of Kanji Kentei

Minoto City subsidises the fee for the Japanese Kanji Aptitude Test (*kanji kentei*) as part of its financial assistance program for parents and guardians.

We hope that by taking the *kanji kentei*, students will develop their study habits and experience the success that comes from achieving an individual goal. Until the day of the test, we will review how to read, write, and use kanji, and we ask families to talk at home about establishing a strong foundation for studying.

※This year, the City is subsidising test fees for Grades 3 and up. Therefore, Grades 1 and 2 at Higashimachi will not take the Kanji Kentei.

★ Kanji Kentei ★

Date: Friday, February 4, 2022, 5th period
Dismissal times: Levels 10 – 8 2:25 p.m.
Levels 7 – 1 2:45 p.m.



Sekishokai and The Kakizome Exhibition

Misa Nojima
Head of Sekishokai and Kakizome

Sekishokai, a traditional calligraphy event, will be held on Thursday, January 13 for Grades 1,2,5, and 6 and Friday, January 14 for grades 3 and 4. The term “*sekisho*” refers to gathering together to do impromptu calligraphy as well as an exhibition of a master’s calligraphy style to disciples and others. From this, many elementary schools host *sekishokai* events for students to gather and partake in *kakizome*.

Grades 1 and 2 will perform *kakizome* with pencils in their classrooms. Grades 3 and above will gather in the gym and do their *kakizome* with traditional *fude* brushes. Students in all grades will do their best to show the results of their practice during the end of the second term and winter vacation.

The students’ calligraphy works will be on display during the Kakizome Exhibition from January 18 (Tues.) to 21 (Fri.). The exhibition will be held at the same time as Open School, so we invite visitors to come observe the students’ calligraphy works.

★ Kakizome Exhibition ★

Dates: Tuesday, January 18 – Friday, January 21
Location: Outside individual classrooms



School Lunch

Ayako Koide
School Nutritionist

Due to the spread of the novella coronavirus (COVID19), lunch time has changed significantly. Before, students could put their desks together and talk about the day's lessons or the school lunch while they eat; however, now, students must eat in silence. Of course, it is difficult for elementary students to remain absolutely silent during the entire meal, but families might be surprised to see how hard they try to eat quietly. School lunch now may seem like only half as fun because of that, but there are still many children at Higashimachi who feel their tummies rumble when the smell of lunch wafts from the school kitchen, who peak into the kitchen windows from the schoolyard, who share their thoughts about lunch during recess or after school, who ask to have the same meals cooked at home, and who just really enjoy school lunch.

There are 190 school lunches this year. Lunchtime is not just for taking in nutrients, but also a time to learn the names of dishes and ingredients and practice table manners. We strive to create lunch menus that excite the children as well as stimulate their understanding about food. These days it is difficult to learn about eating together, but we hope the students will learn many things from school lunch.

Every month this year, we have Japanese event lunches, local cuisine, international cuisine, and home-made breads and variations to offer eating experiences rich in flavor and atmosphere.

To pass along Japanese dietary culture, we continuously teach the students about how to place dishes, use chopsticks, and show proper table manners. We hope that families at home also practice these things when eating together.

Emergency Evacuation Drills

Naoko Kashima
Norihiko Saito
Educational Counselling

At Higashimachi, we have emergency evacuation drills once every month. We instruct the students to listen to the announcement, follow the rules (*okashimo*: *o* – no pushing, *ka* – no running, *shi* – no talking, *mo* – no going back), and think for themselves about the appropriate way to act. We practice disasters such as fire, earthquake, J-Alert, early earthquake warning, and suspicious people, among others.

From the opening words of the announcement, "*Kunren, kunren*," the students listen intently and think about how they are supposed to act.

Because of the novella coronavirus (COVID19), this year as well evacuation drills are carried out two grades at a time without all of the students assembling together. This is a way to adapt to the new school lifestyle. Families can learn more about this from the school's blog.

In April, parents and guardian submitted emergency pick-up cards for the school to use in the event of a disaster. This year, we were unable to conduct a pick-up evacuation drill, but should the need arise, we ask parents and guardians to respond to the emergency email sent from the school and come collect their children.

Lastly, please talk with your children at home about how to act during an evacuation, what to do if a disaster occurs on the way to or from school, and how to stay safe after school.

