



An Enriching Athletic Life

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

The Winter Olympic Games in Beijing are over. While the number of medals does not necessarily determine the value of the athlete's efforts, Japan was able to acquire a national record of 18 medals. An athlete might be able to improve their skills and increase the number of medals they can win; but I believe that beyond that, the sport itself could become professionalized, which could lead to industries and organizations recognizing its significance and offering support.

I also watched the Olympics on my days off I was happy to see my favorite athletes compete live. Seeing all of the high-level athletes competing in this once-every-four-year event was truly moving. Even though there were some events that I only see during the Olympics and therefore do not fully understand the rules, I was able to enjoy them if I listened along with the commentary. Alas, the Olympics has that effect on people my age that makes us think, if just for a moment, that we can pick up again those sports we used to play many years ago.

Turning to a more formal topic, I would like to discuss the state of physical education. Although one purpose of P.E. classes throughout the history of elementary education has been to improve children's physical strength, the subject does not just stop at physical conditioning but also aims to promote good mental health and an enriching athletic lifestyle throughout the children's lives. To achieve this, children must be able to continue living healthy lives by experiencing different aspects of exercise and getting to know the joy of physical activities. Using the Olympics as an example, it is important for children to watch a sporting event, become curious about it, try it, and then stick with it. I believe that this is related to having an enriching athletic life.

Thank You for the Past Year

It is the final month of the school year. Thank you to parents, guardians and community members for your support in our educational endeavors.

This year, due to measures to prevent infection from COVID-19, school events were altered or scaled down and classes were held online. I would like to express my gratitude to the parents, guardians, and community members for their continued understanding and cooperation. Thanks to you all, we were able to complete the year without incident. After spending another year in the pandemic, the students have grown up considerably. I hope your families will take time to reflect on the past year, praise each other for the progress you have made, and think about what challenges you want to overcome in the year ahead.

March

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	Tu		—
2	W		—
3	Th		—
4	F		—
5	Sa		—
6	Su		—
7	M	Parent-Teacher Conference (G1-G3) 15:00 (online)	—
8	Tu	Grade 6 Send-Off Assembly, Parent-Teacher Conf. (G4-G6, 5 periods) 15:00 (online)	—
9	W		—
10	Th	Social studies field trip (G3)	—
11	F	Student Assembly	—
12	Sa		—
13	Su		—
14	M	Committees	—
15	Tu		—
16	W		—
17	Th	Music Assembly (Term 3 Song)	—
18	F		—
19	Sa		—
20	Su		—
21	M	Vernal Equinox	—
22	Tu		—
23	W	School lunch ends, Graduation practice (G5, G6)	—
24	Th	Graduation Ceremony (10:00)	—
25	F	Closing Ceremony	—
26	Sa	Spring vacation begins	—
27	Su		—
28	M		—
29	Tu		—
30	W		—
31	Th		—

Notices

*Parent-Teacher Conference

As a measure to prevent infection, the parent-teacher conference will be held online. Grades 1 to 3 will be on Monday, March 7th from 15:00, and grades 4 to 6 will be on Tuesday, March 8th from 15:00. Because of the conference, grades 4 to 6 will have 5 periods on Tuesday, the 8th.

*Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is the 22nd (Mon.). The lunch for that day will be handmade Chinese steamed buns (*nikuman*).

*Graduation Ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 24. Grades 1 to 5 will not have school on that day.

*Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony for Grades 1 to 5 will be held on Friday, March 25. Report cards will be distributed on that day as well. Please praise your children for their hard work over the past year. Grade 6 will not have school on that day.

Educational Counselling

March's Goal "Let's Wrap Up the Year"

Naomi Naito
Educational Counsellor

In March, Grade 6 will have 18 more school days, and Grades 2 to 5 will have 19 days left.

If you look at this as 18 more chances to grow up a little or 19 more days to make memories with your friends, you will notice a change in how you see the Graduation and Closing Ceremonies. The end of the year is where one can feel clearly the significant results of their efforts.

Everything that has happened over the past year – things you realized, things you achieved, things you contemplated – was a lesson you learned. The faculty will instruct and encourage the students to As we look back on the past year and connect these lessons with moving forward to the next grade.

Graduation

6-1 Erika Sasaki
6-2 Yoshiyasu Tabei
6-3 Hiroto Takizawa

There are 18 days left until the graduation ceremony, and the students continue to grow each day. We hope the children will treasure these remaining days.

While looking forward to graduation, the students are reviewing their studies over the past 6 years and wrapping up their final lessons.

In the second term,

the students took pictures for their graduation album and crafted their original song.

In February,

- the students decorated their classrooms with countdown calendars to make each day leading up to graduation important.
- they spent every day polishing their 650-character graduation essay.
- they hand-wrote letters to ask every teacher that has taken care of them over the years to contribute a graduation message.

In March,

- The students will sing their original song with all their hearts to Grades 1 to 5 at the Grade 6 Send-Off Assembly. They will also pass on the representative duty of taking care of the school flag on to Grade 5.
- they will perform "African Symphony" for their parents and guardians.

Then, for the graduation ceremony on Thursday, March 24,

their efforts will change to confidence and graduate with pride.

Growing Up

1-1 Chisa Yoshimura
1-2 Naoko Kashim
1-3 Tomoya Kobayashi

The Grade 1 students have grown from little children with their big, brand-new *randoseru* to students who take on anything from studies to play and everything in between. They are so happy to share their accomplishments with us, like improving their jump rope, eating all of their lunch, practicing the melodica, and improving their kanji. Only one month remains in the first grade but already we can sense that the Grade 1 students are already looking forward to Grade 2. Little by little they learn to do things on their own, such as being in their seat by the time class starts, making eye contact and facing friends and teachers when they are speaking, and properly opening and closing lessons without being distracted by other things. Soon the new Grade 1 students will enter school, and already they realize that it is their turn to teach others. These are the changes we have seen in the children over the year. Only one month remains until the end of Grade 1, and the students will wrap up their studies so that they can confidently move on to Grade 2.



Looking Back on the International Assembly



"From Head to Toe"

Grade 1 added their own gestures to Eric Carle's picture book and to give an adorable performance. They also drew the animal pictures hanging from their necks.



"Let's Go Shopping!"

Grade 2 used what they learned in class about the names of objects, how to ask for things, and how to appeal to others in their fun performance about shopping in various stores.



"Let's Be Animal Experts!"

Grade 3 presented quizzes they made in groups that included facts they learned about insects in science. They thought of their own questions, song lyrics, and gestures and created their own PowerPoint presentations.



"Tamagawa Waterway"

The students gave a performance that included lessons they learned about the Tamagawa Waterway in social studies and key sentences they learned in international studies class.



"Let's Go! ANPANMAN!"

Grade 5 gave a performance about loveable Anpanman and Yanase Takashi from their *kokugo* lessons. The students practiced numerous times to convey both humor and emotion.



"Our Best Memories"

Grade 6 looked back on their 6 years at Higashimachi Elementary, wrote their own script, and shared memories of each grade in groups.



