



A Pleasant Season

Principal Yuichi Hashimoto

As May begins, the days are becoming more pleasant. Like every year, the carp banners are hung over the schoolyard, watching over the children. Carp banners are said to be related to a Chinese mythological story related to dragons. The story is of a carp that climbed up a waterfall at the Yellow River in China, and in Japan as well carp banners are used as decorations from a story about growing up to be upstanding adults. The decorations are hung up by families in hopes that the children will grow up to be strong like the determined carp.

A month has passed since the Entrance and Opening Ceremonies, and after Grade 1 had their meet and greet, all the children seem aware of their new place in their new grades. For the first time in three years, there are no requests for people to refrain from travelling during Golden Week. Because of this, we will observe the status of infections and affect on our school activities.

Thank You for Attending the Parent-Teacher Conference

At last we were able to meet in person for the parent-teacher conference, and we hope that we can return to regular school activities as they were before the pandemic. If the status of infections continues as it is currently, we will still have parents/guardians take turns observing the Sports Day events on May 28 (Sat.); however, instead of separating visitors by individual grades, visitors will be assigned to either the upper-three grades or lower three grades. In addition, we are also considering increasing the number of athletic events. Sports Day will be a full, 6-period day with no school lunch. Please provide a packed lunch and water bottle (thermos) for your children.

Applying for Smile Room and Special Assistance

Since 2016, Higashimachi has had the special Smile Room classes for students who were concerned about their studies as well as their school life. The Smile Room helps students acclimate to social living and improve personal development.

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.

New applicants for the Smile Room from September or the individual support teacher should consult your child's classroom teacher, our school nurse, or the Vice Principal by Friday, May 13.

Month

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	Su		—
2	M	Committee ②, Heart exam (G1 and those requested)	—
3	Tu	Constitution Memorial Day	—
4	W	Greenery Day	—
5	Th	Children's Day	—
6	F		—
7	Sa		—
8	Su		—
9	M	Physical exam (G3/6)	—
10	Tu	Hearing test (G1①)	—
11	W	4 periods, Hearing test (G1①, G3②)	—
12	Th	Student Assembly, Urine test make-up (requested), Hearing test (G1②)	—
13	F	Hearing test (G5)	—
14	Sa		—
15	Su		—
16	M	Sports Day schedule begins, Club ②	—
17	Tu	Excursion (G3/4) ※Postponed to June 16, Hearing test (G2/6), Morning relay practice (upper grades)	—
18	W	Evacuation drill, Second urine make-up test (requested), Morning relay practice (lower grades)	—
19	Th	ENT exam (G1/5), Morning relay practice (lower grades)	—
20	F	P.E. Assembly (TEAMS, opening and closing exercises), Morning relay practice (lower grades), Duty meetings ①: G5/6 10 students (6 th period)	—
21	Sa		—
22	Su		—
23	M	5 periods, Duty meetings ②: G5/6 10 students (6 th period)	—
24	Tu	Morning relay practice (upper grades), ENT exam (G3/4)	—
25	W	Morning relay practice (lower grades)	—
26	Th	Morning relay practice (upper grades)	—
27	F	Morning relay practice (lower grades), Sports Day observation day for students, 4 periods	—
28	Sa	Sports Day, 6 periods, No school lunch	—
29	Su	Sports Day (substitute)	—
30	M	Substitute holiday for Sports Day	—
31	Tu		—

Notices

*Emergency Evacuation Drill

May's evacuation drill will practice evacuating in the event of an earthquake. Students will practice evacuating from their classroom to the schoolyard.

*Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Monday, the 31st. The lunch for that day will be jambalaya and hearty chicken noodle soup from America.

*Withdrawal for Materials and School Lunch

Materials fees and lunch fees for April and May will be withdrawn on Friday, May 13. For details, please refer to the May edition of your child's grade newsletter, the lunch menu, and the notice about school lunch fees.

Educational Counselling

May's Goal

"Let's follow the school's rules."

Naomi Naito
Educational Counsellor

A month has passed since we started our new grades and new classes, and we are sure students are gradually acclimating themselves to school. This month we want the students to apply the idea of following rules to their everyday behavior.

The word "rules" has a strict connotation; however, our rules at school are to ensure everyone's safety and peace of mind. The faculty strive to make students feel comfortable at school and guarantee their education as well as impart on them the importance and necessity of rules at school.

We ask that parents and guardians make sure that the things they bring to school are appropriate for their learning.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you for everything!

Here are messages from faculty and staff who transferred or retired this year.

I am grateful to have spent four years as vice-principal at Higashimachi. Every day when I walked around the school and looked in the classrooms I felt the warmth of the children when they greeted me with bright smiles. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for all of your cooperation. Natsuhiko Kondo

I was mostly in charge of the lower grades but I loved the honest and kind-hearted children who said hello to me even when they were in the middle and upper grades. Thank you to all of the parents and the local people for your help.

Misa Nojima

Higashimachi is internationally rich. It is a treasure of my life to have met everyone with their bright smiles. Everyone's faces when they are concentrating in class, your cheerful voices at recess, and your kindness to your friends will stay in my heart. Thank you for the memories.

Rutsuki Matsumoto

When I think about it, there are so many things. Each event is irreplaceable and engraved in my heart. I am really happy that I was able to spend 6 years at and be involved with the children of Higashimachi. The experience enriched my heart. Thank you very much.

Yuto Nihei

It was only for a short time but the 3 months I spent with you are full of irreplaceable memories. I got power from everyone's smiles and cheeriness. I will continue to stay true to myself and remember my gratitude. I wish you all a wonderful life.

Hiroto Takizawa

I was happy being surrounded by the smiling children every day at Higashimachi. I also feel grateful to parents and to people living in this area for their warm attitude. Thank you very much. I will continue to support the children of Higashimachi.

Naoko Kashima

Thank you everyone who has made my time here full of fun and interesting experiences. Higashimachi has become my home school and it is sad to leave, but I will always have the memories of students and staff to treasure.

Stuart Neilson

みなさんと東町で過ごした二年間は、かけがえのない宝物です。自分を大切に、周りの人を大切に、自分の信じる道を進んでください。

I will always treasure the time I spent at Higashimachi. Be kind to yourself, be kind to others, and always follow your heart!!

Nanako Kojima

It was only one year but I was able to get to know many students. I made many good memories. Thank you very much.

Ito Megumi

After spending 2 years with children in Smile or at school lunch, I felt I wanted to spend more time working with children. Your bright smiles and kindness gave me the energy to take the next step. I will never forget meeting you. Thank you very much.

Miyuki Ito

The children of Higashimachi Elementary School were obedient and I enjoyed every year while I was at school. Also many parents would kindly greet me at school or on the street. I'd like to thank the cute children and the kind parents for 8 years of support.

Shizuka Matsumura

I'm very grateful that so many Higashimachi children and parents could use the counselor's room. I would feel very happy if you felt even a little bit lighter after leaving the counselor's room. I hope you will be *genki*! I'd be happy if we meet somewhere again someday!

Nobuko Arai

I am grateful for the 7 years I have spent at Higashimachi, after my retirement as a School Support Staff. I will always be cheering for Higashimachi Elementary School.

Kazuko Yamagishi

Thank you for everything! I'm happy to have met you all. Do your best and never give up. Always remember that tomorrow is a new day so let's try our best and soon enough we'll see the New Horizon. I wish you all the best.

Lee Xiong

Thank you for everything and good luck in the future.

Nathan Falls

I'm a new teacher in the school so I was very nervous when I started. Everyone was very kind and welcoming. Teaching in the school was fun. Thank you for everything and good luck for the future.

Rory MacDonald



Nice to meet you! よろしくお願ひします。



When I am in the staff room I hear the cheerful voices of children saying, "Good morning!" at Higashimachi. I hope to add to the creation of memories for the children.

VP Takehiro Kitahara

I am impressed by my new environment of hearing English on a daily basis. I would like to have fun and spend time with the energetic children.

3-1 Minako Odori

The children at Higashimachi are very bright and friendly. I want to make an environment where everyone feels safe so we can have fulfilling days. Thank you very much.

5-2 Ayaka Mitsuta

It must be fate. I'm so happy to meet such cheerful and bright children here at Higashimachi.

As a 2nd grade HRT, I am not only looking forward to spending time with the 2nd graders but also everyone at the whole school.

2-2 Eriko Shinjo

I traveled over the sea from the Izu Islands! I'm looking forward to school life with children who have cheerful greetings, bright smiles, and adaptable.

1-3 Hirotaka Ishino

I will do my best to quickly fit in with this lively Higashimachi Elementary School.

Custodian Kazuyoshi Kubota

It has been 9 years since I worked here at Higashimachi. My aim is to make the environment comfortable and safe.

Custodian Akiko Takekuma

I'm still getting used to my new teaching environment. I want to get used to everything as soon as possible. Thank you.

EST Norie Okiyama

As a support teacher, I will help the cute grade 1 students in school life and studies. I will cheerfully do my best while using my many years of teaching experience.

Assistant Teacher Minako Nakajima

I will do my best to help children who go to Smile room as well as children who do not to live a life full of smiles. "Good luck comes to those who smile."

Smile room Specialist Kimiko Miura

If you have ever wondered "Can I talk about this?", I would be happy to talk to you. You can talk to me freely about anything.

School Counsellor Wakana Kawamura